

His Sweet Little Mate by Obticeo Decatect

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Read His Sweet Little Mate by Obticeo Decatect

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Abby couldn't help but worry when whatever she tried to do only showed unsatisfactory results.

Not to mention there were only five more days until the ceremony.

Apart from her dress that had been finalized, everything else had been giving her a headache while Micah was still busy with his own things.

She had no one to openly discuss her worries or even troubles as she didn't feel that close to anyone else but her mate, who couldn't even find enough time to sleep, let alone eat properly or have a small talk with her.

Even the food arrangements, she thought would be dealt with the other day, posed a new challenge as the desserts and drinks she selected didn't compliment the main course at all.

The selection of flowers and the theme of decoration were another recipe for her headache, that wouldn't go away no matter what.

Now, to all of them, she could add this speech, that wouldn't be finished no matter how hard she tried.

She knew nothing about ruling a kingdom, or considering everyone while thinking about something, so obviously, her words would lack the sincerity Sherianne was aiming for.

Thinking all of this only worsened her headache, as her racing mind kept adding to her discomfort.

So when she found herself in the middle of this back garden, albeit, unintentionally, Abby succumbed to her need to cool her head off as she bee lined to the small bench at the far end of the back yard.

The evening summer air was crisp and refreshing, it prompted her to close her eyes as she enjoyed the sweet fragrance of the flowers carried over by the evening air.

The sun was almost up and there were not many people around, while her maid seemed to have realized she wanted to be alone, she didn't disturb her as she stood to the side silently.

However, just as she closed her eyes to bask in the serenity which was usually so rare in this palace,

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especially now with all the hasty preparations for their crowning ceremony, she heard a voice reach her

ears.

"We meet again," a man said from her left and she immediately turned around to find it was Ezgar.

But this time he bowed to her respectfully which prompted her to nod in response.

"I'm sorry, I couldn't recognize your highness the last time," Ezgar said as he stopped about five feet from the bench she was sitting on.

"It's okay," Abby said when she remembered Micah saying Ezgar was a good man.

She felt like correcting him that she was yet to be crowned to be worthy of the title 'your highness'.

Only she refrained from saying so when she remembered that he was actually Ruby's brother.

However, his next words surprised her. "And I also want to use this opportunity to apologize for my little sister's behavior the other day."

Ezgar sounded so sincere and business-like, Abby felt embarrassed for thinking he would take his own sister's side in this matter.

After all, she was his beloved younger sister, she could tell from the way his gaze was a blend of love and worry while searching for her the other day.

"It's okay, moreover it is not your fault that your sister..." Abby trailed off as she couldn't decide if she should discuss this with Ezgar. No matter what, Ruby was his sister.

On the other hand, Ezgar chuckled when she felt awkward talking bad about his sister.

From the look on her face, she couldn't tell to what extent he knew about the issue between her and his sister.

“Still, she did something she shouldn’t. She is in no position to try and make things difficult for you,” Ezgar said, leaving her dumbfounded yet again.

He was really made differently from his sister.

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Ezgar smiled when she didn’t say anything with her eyes

wide open.

He chose to drop the matter, when he realized it must be awkward for her to talk about his sister with

him.

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“Is it okay if I sit with you?” Ezgar asked, trying to change the topic. “This is such a nice spot, it would be a shame just to walk away without indulging in it.”

Abby welcomed his thought of wanting to change the topic, since she knew she wouldn’t be able to force herself to talk openly about the whole ordeal with Ruby, no matter who the other person was.

In fact, she didn’t even talk to Micah about it, even though her mate being a bit too preoccupied with several other things was the main reason for it.

But then, she didn’t think it was an incident huge enough to be brought to Micah’s attention when she could deal with it just fine.

“Yeah, this is a nice place,” Abby said, agreeing with him while moving to one side of the bench and then gesturing for him to take the other side.

“And I really didn’t expect to bump into you so casually like that,” Ezgar said as soon as he sat down.

What he meant was nothing about her was flamboyant enough to make him recognize her as the future queen.

Abby didn’t say anything in response to his words.

So it was Ezgar who spoke again to continue the conversation. “I still didn’t know your name, miss.”

Ezgar felt awkward to sit silently when Abby talked too choosingly, so even though he heard her name from his sister and the others, he still asked her.

And Abby could also tell that he was asking that question only to kill the awkward air that settled over her silence.

So she told her name and that was how their small talk went.

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Him talking or asking little details like how the capital was treating her and as such.

Abby soon found herself comfortable talking to him. The man always had this small yet encouraging smile on his face, as if he was talking to a small child instead of someone who had a serious altercation with his beloved younger sister.

He had a bright personality, and this rubbed off on her as she too smiled from her heart.

Soon their conversation delved into topics about the ceremony and Ezgar could immediately notice the small frown on her face.

“So how are the arrangements for the ceremony going?” Ezgar asked, and saw how Abby’s expression twisted into one of worry.

On the other hand, being reminded about the arrangements that had been the reason for her constant headache for the past ten days, Abby couldn’t help but feel her head throb in protest.

She didn’t know what to say and a sigh escaped her without her realizing it.

“What is bothering you?” Ezgar couldn’t help but ask when he noticed how the smile on her vanished slowly but surely as a frown shadowed her features.

The same exact frown that almost disappeared when he noticed her sitting on this bench earlier.

In fact, that was what prompted him to walk toward her, even though he wanted to apologize to her for not recognizing her and also about his sister.

Only now did he realize the reason for her frown.

So the arrangements for the ceremony were taking a toll on her.

But then it was understandable when it was obvious how important the event was.

On the other hand, Abby didn't know if she could talk to him about the ceremony or her worries over the difficulties she had been facing while trying to arrange everything on her own.

But then a strong gust of wind made her hair go wild and when she lifted her hand to readjust her hair,

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something fell down from her sleeve and landed near Ezgar feet.

It was the papers she stuffed in her sleeve after her lesson with Sherianne.

Ezgar picked up the papers and Abby couldn't stop him fast enough as he unfolded the papers and read her mediocre speech.

"Is this a draft for your speech for the ceremony?" Ezgar asked her, once he lifted his head from the

papers.

Since it was already obvious, Abby could only resign herself and nod her head.

Judging from her lackluster expression, Ezgar could guess this was one of the things bothering her.

"This is not bad?" Ezgar actually wanted to say it as a statement of encouragement, but it came out as a question.

"Thank you, but I know it's not up to the mark." Abby smiled at him.

But it didn't reach her eyes.

"How about I help you?" Ezgar said when he realized how much it was bothering her.

"Help me?" Abby asked, confused.

"Yes, with the speech, two minds is better than one. Don't you think so?" Ezgar asked, his signature smile brightening his face immediately. "Moreover, I know a lot about this kingdom and people, I know what would reach their ears, at least, if not their hearts."

Abby could tell he was sincere with his suggestion when he took effort to sell his pluspoints in herself taking his helping hand about this matter.

And his earnest expression was something she found hard to turn away from, and so she ended up agreeing to take his help. Text © 2024

“I think it’s better we continue this next time, it is already so late,” Ezgar said when he noticed it was already dinner time. “How about the same place and time tomorrow?”

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Ezgar suggested when Abby’s stomach growled following his first sentence.

After deciding upon meeting the next day, Ezgar took his leave.

Abby returned to their room and once again had her dinner all by herself.

Even when it was way past her sleeping time, Micah was still nowhere to be found and this made her

heart hurt a little in sadness.

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Just as they agreed, Abby went to meet with Ezgar in the same garden the next evening.

However, she was running a little late, and by the time Abby reached the backyard, she could see Ezgar already waiting for her.

She immediately apologized for making him wait.

“I’m sorry, I was caught up with the decoration finalization and made you wait,” Abby said as soon as she was within earshot of Ezgar.

She really thought it wouldn’t take too much time when Alyssa reminded her she still needed to decide upon a few things about the decoration after her lunch.

She spent all the morning choosing flowers and then decoration, and almost came up with a few suitable ideas.

She thought it wouldn’t take too much of her time to finalize since she already settled on an idea.

But she didn't expect it would take the entire afternoon, even though she was just 'tying up the loose ends' in her ideas for the decorations.

"It's okay, it's only been a few minutes since I came," the man said, smiling at her.

Abby could tell he was just being polite and then sat on the bench when Ezgar urged her to relax her feet.

"Come sit, so that you could rest your feet as well, while taking a breather first," Ezgar said.

And Abby noticed how thoughtful he was. He knew she was running here and there, taking care of a lot of things, so he was asking her to relax first.

"Thank you," Abby said, feeling genuinely grateful. "But we can start right away."

Abby knew she couldn't hog his time just because he was the one to suggest helping her.

He was the son of the former royal beta, so of course, it would be a blatant lie if he were to say he didn't have things way more important than helping a stranger whom he met just recently.

So she decided it wouldn't be polite to take up too much of his time.

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"Are you sure? You look really tired," Ezgar said, pointing at her dark circles that looked more obvious than yesterday.

"I just had a bad night, I'm okay," Abby said.

Ezgar didn't probe when she put it like that, for which Abby felt grateful yet again.

He had this sun-shine personality with the perks of easy going nature and reading the air. Abby didn't find it hard to talk to him as they soon fell into a comfortable chat.

But then when they started to compose the speech, they couldn't settle on a single idea.

It was too hard when they had to consider so many things.

“No, this doesn’t sound right,” Edgar couldn’t help but shake his head when the idea he came up with didn’t suit Abby at all.

Abby felt discouraged when nothing seemed to work for her speech.

They spent more than two hours but it wasn’t productive.

“I didn’t expect it would be this hard to string a few sentences together,” Ezgar said, making light of the situation when he noticed how the light in Abby’s eyes died out slowly but surely.

“It’s okay, we will come up with something, don’t worry,” Ezgar encouraged her again.

Seeing him like this, Abby felt her spirits lift up again.

But she couldn’t help but think how good it would have been if it was Micah helping her instead.

But then, Ezgar smiled at her again and she couldn’t help but see an older brother she never had.

She didn’t have a reason to envy Ruby until now. But she wouldn’t deny it if she was asked right now.

Ruby got a really good brother.

“We got this,” Ezgar told her again, when she just stared at him with this blank look as if she couldn’t take this set back.

But he was surprised when she smiled suddenly. Text © 2024

“Yeah, we got this,” Abby said.

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Ezgar let out a sigh of relief when she finally got out of her bad mood.

“I reckon we have to wrap up for today,” he said, as he stood up to leave

“Yeah, it’s already dinner time,” Abby said and stood up as well

Ezgar then bade her goodbye before saying he would spend his night thinking of more ideas for her speech.

Abby came back to an empty room yet again.

Micah wasn't back to dinner tonight either.

She thought of having the kitchen prepare a meal for him, but then discarded that idea when she thought it would only disrupt his plans for the night.

However, her thoughts were disrupted when both Alyssa and Reyna came to talk to her.

"What is it?" Abby asked them when they stood looking at each other's faces instead of saying what was on their minds.

"Lady Abby, we don't think it is wise enough for you to meet Mr. Ezgar so often," Alyssa said after hemming and hawing for a while.

"Yes, Lady Abby, it might give rise to rumors which would be hard to deal with later," Reyna took her fellow maid's cue.

When they put it like that, it made Abby fall into a deep thought.

She fell silent, prompting her maids to keep quiet as well.

What they said was true.

She didn't think much when Ezgar suggested he provide his help.

She just felt it was nice to finally have someone to talk to, other than Alyssa and Reyna, who weren't her friends.

While Micah always came late and left early in the morning. She didn't have anyone to talk to.

But then, within two days, Abby started seeing Ezgar as a brotherly figure she never had.

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Even her only sister, Hanna, had never given the warmth she got from Ezgar in their two short meetings.

Now, after listening to Alyssa and Reyna, she couldn't help but think it wasn't really appropriate to meet Ezgar like that.

However, the problem was; she had promised to meet with him the next day again.

Even though he suggested helping her, it wouldn't be pretty if she bailed out on him after making plans.

What should she do?

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Abby gave Alyssa and Reyna's advice a really long thought.

And after thinking all night, the girl decided it would only be detrimental to herself if new rumors started to circulate just days before the ceremony.

The elders were already unhappy with her. They wouldn't miss a chance to point their fingers at her yet again if she slipped up.

Not to mention, she couldn't afford to anger the people as well.

So Abby chose not to meet with Ezgar.

However, she knew it would be beyond rude to let him wait for her, because she knew he would do just that.

"Can you let Ezgar know that I'm busy today and can't make it to the meet up She asked Alyssa, who immediately agreed.

Abby just hoped Ezgar wouldn't feel upset with her for chickening out.

She didn't forget to teach her maid the excuse for her absence, though.

later?"

"Tell him I'm caught up with the preparations and since the ceremony was only days away,

I couldn't make it," Abby said after thinking hard.

Even though it sounded so lame, she couldn't come up with a better excuse than this.

However, she didn't forget to remind Alyssa to convey her sincere apologies as he had to make a wasted trip.

Alyssa returned even before half an hour could pass and Abby couldn't help but ask how he received the news.

“Mr. Ezgar didn’t look mad,” Alyssa told Abby. “He understood that you are busy with all the preparation.”

Abby felt a little relieved hearing Alysaa’s words.

She didn’t think Ezgar wouldn’t be able to realize what was going on.

It was so obvious when she sent a maid to deliver the news.

However, instead of getting upset over being turned down in this way, he chose to

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understand where she was coming from.

Abby’s impression of him soared even more now. He was really a gentleman. Nothing like his manipulative sister, just like Micah said.

“You can leave now, I don’t have any plans to leave the room today,” Abby said, pointing at the papers in her hands.

After sending her away, Abby sat at the table near the window and started to come up with ideas for the speech herself.

The ceremony was only three days away and she still didn’t prepare her speech.

But she had to rectify it by h o o k or crook.

However, nothing seemed suitable yet again and Abby felt like crying.

This was going nowhere.

It was clear the speech was an important segment in their ceremony.

Moreover, the entire capital would be there to bear witness for the ceremony, not to mention the guests that would arrive from all the nine packs, including her own pack.

What could possibly be deemed suitable for her to talk about in the ceremony?

No matter how hard she tried, she couldn't settle on an idea or thought and this made her head hurt again.

What should she do to overcome this hurdle?

After trying for the entire morning, Abby gave up and decided to wait until Micah to come back.

She reckoned it was better to ask for her mate's help on this, rather than relying on herself or the others.

So she focused on other things like her body posture, walking style for the rest of the day.

She practiced until she felt she did just how Sherianne taught her.

Even though it wasn't really easy, she could feel she was getting the hang of it once she put all of her focus on it.,

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Later that evening, she took her dinner early and then had the kitchen prepare a light meal for the King.

Only the man didn't come until it was too late.

Even so she waited for him to come without going to bed.

Even if she went to bed, she would just be tossing and turning on it anyway until Micah came.

So she thought it would be better if she just waited for him on the sofa.

Her plan was simple. She would ask him directly without overthinking and once he explained his idea, she would immediately stop bothering him.

However, she didn't expect him to return so well into the night or look so tired, she could feel his exhaustion hit her.

"Micah..." Abby felt her throat clogging in seeing him like that.

On the other hand, Micah couldn't really spare any time on things like even dinner when the reports he kept receiving from Alpha Samuel ended up taking most of his free time after his day-long meetings.

He was keeping in touch with Alpha Samuel just like they had agreed on before he left for the Capital with Abby almost a fortnight back.

He needed to be meticulous about every detail and if there was a new update on the rogues' situation, he couldn't miss it.

Because it would only disrupt all his plans.

So coordinating with Alpha Samuel was on top among all the other things.

That was why he had been cutting back on his sleep time and the rest as well.

"I'm alright, little one," Micah reassured Abby. "But why aren't you asleep yet?"

He tousled her hair as he asked her.

"I want to make sure you have something before going to bed," Abby changed the topic as she led him to the table where a plate of dinner was waiting for him.

But it turned cold long back.

"Let me reheat it for you! Abby told him. "It will be ready by the time you freshen up."

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16:33 Thu, 11 Apr Text © 2024

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"I'll take a bath before leaving in the morning, little one," Micah pulled her back. "I don't mind eating cold food. Go to bed first."

He sounded tired, so Abby didn't argue and just looked at him as if saying for him to eat first.

Micah gave in and ate before he hugged her to sleep.

However, Abby couldn't sleep even though she was in Micah's warm embrace.

There were only two more days before the ceremony.

It seemed only a miracle could get her out of this mess now.

Chapter 94 All night, the thoughts of her inability to come up with an idea suitable for her speech kept Abby awake. She tried so hard, but sleep just wouldn't come to her when the thought of failing Micah in front of so many people plagued her mind, leaving her anxious and fidgeting. But she couldn't even toss and turn in the bed, being locked in Micah's embrace, who hugged her to sleep after a hectic day filled with meetings, running here and there without reprieve. Her mate was fast asleep right now, yes, but he would wake up if she were to breathe a little too hard. After all, his senses as the King of the werewolves were no joke. Even in sleep, he would be so alert he could wake up in an instant if he heard the air blow in the wrong direction. As such, both her worries and the fear of disturbing his sleep resulted in a sleepless night for herself. But then, Abby didn't need to act too long when the King woke up about three hours later to leave for the day again. Abby didn't know what prompted her but she continued her act until Micah left and opened her eyes only when it was at least half an hour later. A long sigh escaped her lips before she chewed on them, thinking of a way to solve this problem, but ended up staring at the chandelier above her head until the remnants of the darkness were chased away by the bright sun. No matter how hard she tried, she couldn't think of anything else but asking for Ezgar's help again as she didn't know whom she could trust with such an important task. She couldn't ask Micah, even though she failed without even trying, while her maids weren't suitable for the task. The only person she was comfortable around other than these three before she met Ezgar was Dex, the royal g a m m a, who disappeared after they returned to the capital. Another long sigh escaped her when Abby remembered that there were so many things she needed to take care of, with the speech she was going to give on that day being the most troublesome issue on

her plate now. Chapter 94 With all these thoughts swirling in her mind, Abby ended up staying awake the whole night. Sherianne would kick a fuss up if she were to see her right now. Her face would have paled even more, thanks to her never ending worries and sleepless nights.

"This isn't going to work," Abby huffed, as she jumped out of the bed. She quickly got ready for the day and by the time her personal maids, Alyssa and Reyna, came to wake her up, carrying her breakfast, Abby was all set to go out, but not before taking her morning meal and medicines. "Alyssa, come with me," she told the girl, who immediately followed her master as they hurried to the garden. Even though it was a long shot, Abby couldn't find a way better than this to achieve her current goal; that was to seek Ezgar's help. After thinking all night, Abby concluded her only chance at finishing the speech was highly dependent on Ezgar's help. She noticed how he came

to the garden everyday around breakfast time and before the sunset. So, here she was, hoping for Ezgar to visit the palace and then pass by the garden. This time, she would ask for his help and hope he would not turn her down. And fortunately, the man turned up around fifteen minutes later. From the looks of it, he was taking a walk in the garden after having his breakfast. "Sir Ezgar," Abby immediately called him, as she approached him with hurried steps. "Lady Abby, how are you doing today?" Ezgar bowed to her as a greeting before asking about her well being in a voice so calm, Abby couldn't believe her ears. After all, she thought the man would definitely not be so nice to her after she stood him up the day before, if he didn't start scolding her the moment he saw her. But the man was actually asking her how she was doing, while all the hostile feelings Abby thought he would harbor were nowhere to be seen, as if her disrespecting him by refusing his helping hand didn't

bother him at all. In fact, Abby could see his face lighting up with the same bright smile that bloomed on his face the few times he met her before, giving off the older brother vibe. It was as if nothing had happened before. "Lady Abby?" Ezgar had to call her name twice because the girl went into a stupor calling his own name. After "Yeah, I'm good. What about you?" A still bewildered Abby asked back, as she pulled her lips into a small smile. 16.33 Thu, 11 Apr Chapter 94 Abby couldn't believe her luck when Ezgar agreed to help her readily and told her to meet him in the tutoring hall, where she had her lessons with Sherianne, after having her lunch. The girl couldn't thank him enough as she left to deal with other things that might need her attention so that she could go and prepare the speech with Ezgar's help later peacefully. And here she was, waiting for the man to appear, with all the papers and ink ready. It was Alyssa, who accompanied her again, but she didn't ask Abby why she was meeting Ezgar again. On the other hand, Abby didn't have enough time to worry over rumors and such when she had more important things to deal with first. A knock on the door prompted Abby to hit brakes on her thoughts as she could see Ezgar walking into the room after Alyssa went to open it for him. "Did I make you wait too long?" Ezgar asked as he settled on the chair across from Abby. "No, I just came as well," Abby brushed it off as she immediately delved into the work. "Did you come up with any ideas?" What Abby meant was Ezgar's words from the other day, where he promised to think of more ideas for her speech. The man could tell the same as he nodded his head. Abby offered Ezgar afternoon tea as they discussed his ideas.

"Why don't we add a few lines about your life back in your pack?" Ezgar suddenly said, catching Abby off guard as she paled a little. But because she had always been out of spirits when Ezgar met her, the man couldn't tell the difference, while Abby fell completely silent. "Since you are the beta's daughter, you can even add one or two points about how you helped your father before," Ezgar said again, assuming Abby would have been involved in the pack matters, at least, to a tiny extent. Being the son of the former royal beta himself, he knew how things in influential families work. "My father never took my help," Abby whispered. Her throat tightened remembering the reason he never even talked to her like a father should. "Oh, then we can't use it for your speech, being honest is more important, no?" Ezgar Chapter 94 made light of the situation again as he thought Abby's father was just a typical man of power, not listening to his mate or

daughters, He mistook her silence for her being sad over her father's narcissism, but Abby didn't dare to correct him at all. "I'm suddenly curious about your mother," Ezgar said, maybe because he wanted to change the topic. "She left me ten years back," Abby blurted out, and Ezgar was confused for a moment before she finished her sentence. "And this world." Ezgar felt his throat tighten with sadness seeing Abby's face wither further in seconds. He wanted to bring back the smile he wiped out mentioning her father, but ended up making her tear up. So he decided to avoid topics related to her pack as they continued to work. "Thank you so much," Abby told Ezgar, as she saw him out of the tutoring hall. "Pleasure is mine. Now, if you'll excuse me," Ezgar said, as he took his leave since it was already so late. It took them a whole day to finish the speech, but at last, they were able to agree on an idea and then worked around it to finally complete the task.

Abby could finally breathe out a sigh of relief. With this speech finished, everything was back on track. She left the tutoring hall with a small smile as she enjoyed her walk to their bedroom, however, her peace didn't last long as the thought of talking in front of so many people brought a frown to her face. Moreover, Micah was not back for dinner tonight as well. Seeing the empty room, Abby couldn't help but recall how she had fidgeted in discomfort when Ezgar asked her if she did not ask for her mate's help. "Why didn't you ask for King Micah's help?" Ezgar asked, looking genuinely confused. Abby felt sad when she couldn't even get a chance to look at his face properly for the past two weeks, let alone have enough time to chat about the preparations under her responsibility. Chapter 94 She forced a small smile as she told him the truth. "Micha has been busy with the ceremony as well and always returns exhausted. I don't want to overwork him by sharing my worries." Hearing her answer, the man fell silent and didn't bring Micah up again. Even when he asked about her friends, Abby could only resort to changing topics, yet again, not wanting to talk too much about her life from before.

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Holding open the paper that had the speech she prepared with Ezgar's help, Abby stood in front of the mirror in the cloakroom. In hopes to practice delivering the speech, she dismissed her maids' help when they asked her if she needed anything else for the night when she slipped into the cloakroom adjoining their bedroom.

However, not a single word would make it past her lips, as she could feel her throat drying at the very thought of memorizing every word and presenting it with no mistakes in front of thousands of people during the ceremony.

And, she couldn't s k i p it no matter what. If she couldn't even speak a few lines about the kingdom she was going to rule alongside Micah, how would she be able to convince them all that she was up for any challenge at all?

She needed to act brave even if she had forgotten the meaning of that word, not because she was afraid that they would find fault with her, but because her failure might cause Micah more problems.

Just like Ruby said and hoped for, she couldn't continue being a burden for her mate, who was doing so much for themselves to stay together, where he didn't even hesitate to start an internal war with his own royal council.

But the pressure she was trying to ignore was real as she could feel her whole body shivering just at the thought of facing so many people, including royal councilors like Arthur and the others who hated her with guts.

She looked upward as she closed her eyes which started to get blurry with tears of frustration at the thought of Arthur's actions from the moment they met regarding that manipulative bitch, Ruby's, house arrest by Micah.

"Stop thinking about all of them, silly girl. You need to focus."

Abby had to pep talk herself when the pressure started overwhelming her as it had been two hours since she locked herself in this cloakroom, wanting to practice delivering her speech.

She only opened her eyes when she was sure that she willed her tears back, as she looked at the contents of the speech with determination. She had to see the end of this.

"T- this K-kingdom..."

But, it wasn't as easy as a random thought of wanting to do something correctly slipping into your mind. It required more than courage and determination to pull off something

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you never did.

Or something Abby never even dreamed of trying. It was really pathetic when she thought back to the last time she actually tried to have a normal conversation with people from her pack.

In fact, she couldn't even remember ever talking to any of them after her own father and older sister branded her as a monster who killed her own mother.

No one would want to be acquainted with a person who was hated by their one family, when werewolves were known to live in groups, large ones to be precise, with a perfect hierarchical system in place.

And this hierarchical system also accounted for her desolation in a pack as big as theirs, as everyone was afraid to cross the beta of the pack and her father, Ryan, who had the backing of the Alpha James.

But then she could count the few times she was allowed to go out of the dark room, Hanna enjoyed confining her to, on one hand when someone was actually around.

Even though a few pack members tried to help her behind her father's back, by giving her food, they never dared to linger too long for her to actually say a word to them.

But now, she had to deliver a speech as the queen of this kingdom before thousands of people, who also had been waiting for Micah to find his destined mate for years.

Abby felt her forehead drench with sweat just at the thought of all those probing eyes that would be fixed on her among the thousands of curious eyes.

If she were to stutter like this, it would be the end of her!

But what could Abby do when she was so nervous? After all, it left her anxious and stuttering whenever she tried to read the speech out loud.

"G o d! How do I overcome this?"

Abby could feel her knees going weak the longer she looked into the mirror. She didn't even have enough courage to talk to herself, let alone before a crowd.

This is simply nuts!

She felt like crushing the paper and then throwing it far away before falling to her knees and crying her heart out. She felt suffocated at the need to act her part well and reach the expectations of all the people of this kingdom.

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She couldn't help but read the page long speech written by Ezgar again and again, but the moment she looked up and faced her own reflection in the mirror, every word she ever learnt failed her.

But then she couldn't give up and let her nerves get the better of her, so she could only force herself to practice and practice.

She had to ignore the fear that kept clawing up her throat, trying to block the words from leaving her lips, if she didn't want to embarrass both herself and Micah in front of the whole kingdom.

Abby didn't know how long she locked herself in the cloakroom, but around midnight, someone knocked on the door of her bedroom and she finally went out of the cloakroom.

She had been waiting for Micah to come, so when she heard the knock, she thought it was her mate.

“But why would Micah knock on the door?” Abby whispered to herself as she crossed the sleeping area and walked up to the sofa.

Reyna, who seemed to have been waiting for Abby to come out of the cloakroom since dinner time, so that she could accompany her master until she slipped into slumber, went to get the door.

She then heard her maid talk to whoever came before stepping back into the room and closing the door behind her. So it was clear it wasn't Micha who had come.

“Lady Abby, King Micah sent this for you,” Reyna called after her when Abby turned around to go to her bed, wanting to wait for Micah there.

“What did he send?” Abby couldn't help but ask as she turned around so quickly, and stumbled a little.

“Careful, Lady Abby. You can get hurt!” Reyna almost shouted as she threw her arms to support Abby.

If her maid hadn't been quick enough to break her fall and then steady her on her own feet, she would be sporting a sprained ankle during the ceremony.

“Thank you, Reyna,” Abby thanked her maid as she asked for the things Micah sent her.

This was the first letter he wrote to her, and she couldn't help but feel a little excited.

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However, her excitement dwindled quite fast when her maid presented her with a single flower and a small letter.

Abby quickly opened the letter and the contents of the letter were just what she had expected.

'I am caught up with something, go to bed early.'

He just wrote two short phrases and reading them, Abby felt her spirits plunging even more.

She had been down all evening, and when she thought Micah would come back and provide her the warmth and the support she had been so dearly craving, she was only left with disappointment.

Tears immediately welled up in her eyes, and she struggled to keep them at bay, just like she had been doing all evening. Property ©

Even though she felt like crying, she couldn't give into that urge right now, because she was afraid she wouldn't be able to stop once she started letting them out.

She looked behind her, at the bed. It suddenly felt so cold and empty, Abby felt her heart shrivel with sadness. She had been waiting for him all evening, but he didn't even return tonight.

Even though he had been busy for the last two weeks, he would at least find time to come bid her good night. And it always helped to lift her ever dampening spirits.

But when she wanted his presence more than anything, he couldn't make it to her.

She couldn't remember the last time she felt this desperate for something. She suddenly felt like running to Micah and seeking comfort in his embrace, because only he could make her feel better right now.

But she knew she couldn't do that. She didn't want to bother him while he was busy with his plans for the ceremony. She couldn't be that ignorant, only caring about herself and her own emotions.

However, she couldn't even bear to look at the empty bed, let alone lie on it all night, alone, feeling cold and desolate.

"Lady Abby," Reyna called when she noticed how Abby looked like she was going to cry any minute now.

On the other hand, Abby/immediately folded the letter in her hands as she looked at

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the yellow flower Micah sent her.

"I want to take a walk," Abby suddenly decided, as she quickly draped an outer robe over

her shoulders.

Reyna was still stupefied in her place, when Abby already walked out of the King's bedroom, but then she came to her senses as she ran after her master. But Abby prevented her from following her.

**

Abby was walking toward the bench in the garden that had been her sanctuary for the past few days when she saw someone walking toward the garden.

Upon a closer look, she realized it was Ezgar. She immediately turned around to leave but the man noticed her already.

Lady Abby!!!”

Abby heard him exclaim her name in the next moment.

Chapter 96 The flower Micah sent her was the same yellow flower she came to love after coming to the capital city. Abby could still remember how she found the garden surprisingly pleasant in the entire palace just because it was filled with these small yet beautiful flowers. She used to spend her time in the garden before the incident with Ruby and her friends happened, after which she fell sick and couldn't go to the garden to enjoy them again. But then Micah noticed that she liked them and started sending her these flowers. Now, he sent her the same flower and looking at it brought back all those memories, which in turn triggered the memory of what Ruby said to her in the very bedroom after their return to the capital, being summoned by the royal council. Suddenly, the air around her felt suffocating as she felt the walls closing in on her. She needed to get away from here, or else, her longing for Micah's embrace would only worsen and she would really run to him for comfort like she wanted to since dinner this evening. "I want to take a walk," Abby decided, as she threw the letter and flower from Micah on the table behind the sofa before sprinting out of the bedroom. She even prevented Reyna from following her, because she wanted to be alone right now. Abby felt she did the right thing by coming here when she saw the half moon hanging beautifully in the star studded night sky. Even the night air was refreshingly cool. And a smile, albeit a small one, finally formed on her lips after more than five hours. However, her luck wasn't really that great as her wishes weren't heard by the Moon Goddess at all when she finally reached the garden. Just when she was about to walk toward the bench she had been monopolizing for the past few days, she actually saw Ezgar walking toward the garden. "There goes my alone time," Abby whispered to herself, dejected. She usually liked his company, but tonight, she really wanted to be alone. Even if she told him the

same, with his personality, Ezgar would only try to stay behind and cheer her up. So she wanted to slip away before he could see her. But it seemed her luck had 1/5 Chapter 96 abandoned her since the moment she finished writing that speech, literally nothing went as she wished. Because the moment she turned around to make a beeline back to her bedroom in the exact way she ran toward this garden, she could hear his voice calling to her.

"Lady Abby!!!” Ezgar shouted as he approached her immediately, when he saw her walking in the garden, with his signature blinding smile in place. "I didn't expect to see

you at this hour. Seems like you really love walking in this garden.” Ezgar blabbered, looking around the almost dark garden, save for the little light that was being cast by the half moon high above their heads. The night sky was littered with stars as the clouds seemed to have gone on a vacation, leaving the view so clear, it was picturesque like a perfect spot for stargazing. On the other hand, Abby couldn’t help but recall Alyssa and Reyna’s warning about how nors would fly if she met Ezgar too often. Her own maids didn’t hesitate to point out how odd it was for her to meet a man in the broad daylight. If someone were to see them in the dead of the night, how would it look in their eyes? Abby didn’t even want to go there. So she wanted to bid good night to the man immediately. She knew it was the right thing to do, if she didn’t want additional problems. “I just came for fresh air. I was about to leave when you came,” Abby said, wanting to leave without any awkward scenarios. “Good night, Mr. Ezgar!” However, Ezgar seemed to have a different thought as he actually walked toward the bench at the far end of this garden. “I thought you would, at least, talk a little since we already met,” Ezgar said, stopping right in front of the bench.

It was clear he was inviting her for a short conversation, although he didn’t directly pressure her to stay. “I would have, if only it wasn’t so late,” Abby said, still standing in her spot. “It’s as you said, it was already late. Just a few more minutes won’t make much difference,” Ezgar said, as he settled on the far right end of the bench while gesturing to the other end for her to take it. 2/5 Chapter 96 His eyes were dancing with mischief as if he was asking her to stay up late together like an older brother would with her sister when they wanted to play without their parents knowledge. “I’m a little nervous,” Abby said, staring at her hands, which she rested in her own lap. She tried so hard but they wouldn’t stop shaking, until she had to wring them. But Ezgar noticed her discomfort and when he asked, she could only tell him the truth, even though she had toned down her actual situation a lot. “This is not little, Lady Abby,” Ezgar said, as he pointed at her hands, which turned red from all the abuse she inflicted on them. Even though Abby tried to leave, Ezgar convinced her it was a good idea to stay behind and talk when he noticed that she looked a little sad. So here she was, trying not to let out everything in front of Ezgar, who had become a brotherly figure in her mind. She knew how comfortable she would get everytime they shared a conversation and the same happened now, making her stay rooted to her seat. “What is bothering you?” Ezgar asked when she didn’t reply for a long time. Abby shook her head a little, wanting to avoid the question, but Ezgar wasn’t having it. “You clearly look anxious, is it about the ceremony?” Ezgar hit the nail on the head, leaving Abby speechless as she looked a little conflicted. She was afraid that she would look weak if she admitted how terrified she was about making some mistake. But then, Ezgar was not a person to jump to conclusions just like that. He didn’t judge her even once

even though she gave him a lot of reasons to. Be it refusing his help or not being able to contribute much to the speech she had to deliver in her own ceremony., Not once did he look at her differently, as the smile on his face always remained bright. Suddenly, Abby felt silly for overthinking when she was talking with Ezgar. “Yes, I tried practicing the speech, but I can’t get a hang of it,” Abby admitted as she Chapter 96 fisted her hands in her lap, preventing them from shaking. She then explained how she never did

something like talking in front of so many people, how she was afraid of embarrassing herself in front of thousands. Ezgar stayed completely silent until Abby was done with her monologue, only when it seemed like she didn't have anything more to add, did the man open his mouth again. So the thought of their eyes on you was the main problem here, right?" Ezgar summarized as he fell into a deep thought, while Abby hummed in response. "Why don't you imagine them as flowers instead?" Ezgar suddenly said when his eyes fell on the flowers in front of them. **** Talking with Ezgar really helped push down her fears a lot as Abby could feel a bounce her step while on her way back to her bedroom. However, the moment she opened the doors, she could see both Alyssa and Reyna waiting for her, and the girl's smile faltered a little. They seemed anxious and when Alyssa opened her mouth, she understood why. "Lady Abby, how could you go out alone at this hour?" Alyssa asked and Abby couldn't help but scold Reyna in her heart for snitching on her. Even though she was their master, sometimes, Alyssa could be so protective like a mother hen when it came to her safety. And right now, her maid was in her mother hen mode. Abby couldn't find her voice in the face of her worried expression, but her next question left her tongue

tied for real. "Where did you go?" Alyssa asked her. "What would we tell the King if something were to happen to you?" "Nothing happened to me, right?" Abby only responded to her second question, wanting to dodge the first one, However, Reyna wouldn't leave it alone. "Where were you, Lady Abby? I couldn't find you anywhere so I had to call Alyssa for help." From the looks of it, her maid seemed to have searched for her but couldn't find her. Chapter 96 Even though you could see the entire back yard from the bench Abby and Ezgar sat on, it wasn't easy to spot if someone were using it from a distance, especially at night. "I just took a walk, like I said," Abby said before hurriedly walking to her bed. Abby didn't know what came over her, but she didn't think telling either Alyssa or Reyna about her meeting with Ezgar was a good idea. For one thing they would 'scold' her since they would see it as a s t u p i thing for herself to do before the ceremony. And then they would overthink until it would leave herself second guessing everything and she didn't want to go there, because it would only mean an extra headache for her. Text content ©

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Just like what he wrote in the letter to her, Micah didn't show any signs of returning for the night even when Abby lay awake in the bed for another hour after sending her maids away to rest.

Alyssa and Reyna repeatedly expressed their concern over her disappearance in the middle of the night when she didn't reveal her impromptu meeting with Ezgar, until Abby couldn't take it.

Abby had to literally push the girls out of her room when they refused to leave, insisting on accompanying her since the King made it clear he wouldn't return tonight. Not to mention, their master's little stunt in the middle of the night.

“Lady Abby, one of us is supposed to keep you company while the King is away,” Alyssa stressed as Reyna nodded her head in agreement.

“I’m in the bedroom, with guards right outside the door,” Abby countered. “And I really want to be alone.”

Only when Abby asserted her stance did the two girls finally leave, even though they looked like they had more to say to her. Text content ©

Now, she was back to staring at the chandelier high above her head, thinking about Ezgar’s idea. He actually told her to imagine the attendees as flowers while delivering the speech.

“Even though the entire capital city would be at the palace on that day, you wouldn’t really be able to look at their faces clearly, they will appear just like this ocean of flowers before you, small and crowded,” Ezgar said, seconding his idea.

Abby remembered how she couldn’t help but point out the loophole in his plan. “But what about the elders who would be literally in my face?”

Ezgar laughed at her words. “Then think of them as statues.” He blurted out after giving it a thought.

Abby had to cover her mouth when an embarrassingly loud chuckle left her lips at his silly ideas, but when Ezgar explained how her fear was all in her mind and that she was giving herself too much pressure by overthinking things, Abby couldn’t help but feel how true his words were.

Thinking back to it, Ezgar’s advice wasn’t really that bad. Just like he said, she couldn’t really look at their faces clearly from such a distance. Not to mention her senses weren’t as sharp as the shifters.

“What you can’t see and hear won’t be able to affect you,” Abby repeated Ezgar’s conclusion out loud as she couldn’t help but think how true his words were.

“His idea is not really bad,” Abby whispered to herself as she finally slipped into a light yet peaceful slumber even though Micah wasn’t by her side tonight.

“Lady Abby, King Micah sent another letter this morning,” Reyna informed her the moment her master finished her breakfast, and saw how Abby’s face fell a little.

She could tell the girl was hoping to see the King this morning, but now it was obvious that Micah was still caught up with whatever he was dealing with until he couldn’t even take a moment to make a quick trip back to his own bedroom.

Even though they didn't read the contents of the letters King Micah sent to Abby, it was not really that hard to guess what kind of message she got once you took a closer look at her face upon reading it.

"Where is it?" Abby asked calmly as if she expected it.

"Here," Reyna dropped the letter and the flower in Abby's hand as she stepped back a little to give her space.

She remembered how Abby got upset receiving a similar letter from Micah last night, so she wanted to be prepared this time. If her master decided to take a walk again, she would accompany her today.

On the other hand, after receiving the letter and flower, Abby simply picked up her speech with her other hand, as she got ready to leave the bedroom.

However, after taking two steps, she stopped and turned around to look at her maid, who seemed confused as to what to do.

"What are you doing there, spacing out? Won't you accompany me to the tutoring hall?" Abby tilted her head as she blinked her eyes at her maid. She then saw Reyna scrambling to follow her as she proceeded to leave without her after shrugging her shoulders.

Abby looked at the three letters along with three yellow flowers as she sat at the small table near the window in her room after Alyssa took away her dinner plate.

The first set of the letter and flower were from last night, the second being from this morning, while the seal of the third letter was yet to be opened.

She just finished eating when a royal warrior came to deliver a third message and Abby couldn't help but feel a bit bitter at Micah for not returning on the second night in a row.

Even though she hadn't read his letter yet, she could pretty much guess what was written in there. After all, she had the experience of reading two such letters in the span of less than twelve hours. And when she finally opened it, she couldn't help but sigh in disappointment, yet again.

"Little one, I'm sorry I can't accompany you tonight. Sleep early,"

It was pretty much the same as what he wrote the previous two times, save for the third and extra line, where he wrote how much he loved her and how much he wanted to be with her.

But it wasn't enough to wash away the sadness that flooded her heart reading the first two lines of his message, which had been his only words to her for the past two days, even though not vocal.

After receiving the second letter this morning, Abby spent her day overseeing the preparations for the ceremony to keep herself busy. She even practiced her speech, just like Ezgar suggested and only returned to their bedroom before dinner.

She thought Micah would definitely make time for her tonight, knowing fully well how important the next day was for both of them. However, she was once again left miffed with his absence.

The girl couldn't help but feel her spirits dampen as she felt so down. She didn't want to let it discourage her, but she was attuned to his presence so much, she couldn't help but crave him physically. She could actually feel herself caving in from the pain and sadness over it.

The entire palace was bustling with people this morning as they all came to attend the crowning ceremony of their future

queen.

People from all over the kingdom arrived in the capital city particularly for this occasion, even though it was being held on such a short notice. Not to mention, it had been canceled once almost two months back.

Whatever the reason for either of the changes in the schedule, they were all ecstatic that the King was finally claiming his destined mate officially, giving them their future queen.

And today was also the day, they were all going to see their future queen for the first time, as Micah had literally hidden Abby until now, which made their spirits soar high and they all gathered in front of the palace even before the sun could

make an appearance on the horizon.

However, the scenario inside the King's bedroom was completely opposite to the lively atmosphere outside the palace gates, as Abby felt like the walls were closing in on her and she felt like crying.

"Where is the King?" She couldn't help but ask Alyssa and Reyna for the umpteenth time since she woke up.

And the answer she got didn't have any changes, yet again. "King Micah sent word that he would be here shortly."

They said the same thing for god knows how many times. Abby felt sick to the stomach just at the thought of meeting anyone. If she could, she wanted to hide in her bedroom and avoid this ceremony altogether.

Her hands were shaking badly while her legs didn't have any strength in them. Huge sweat drops rolled down her back drenching the beautiful gown Ella made for her.

Her maids dressed her up prettily in the pale yellow gown that flowed past her ankles, covering her from neck to toe, while a bunch of ornaments that seemed to be antique jewelry, passed down in the royal family of this kingdom, were lying in several boxes in front of her.

"Lady Abby, you need to choose a few to go with this dress," Alyssa said, as she tried to distract Abby who looked like she wouldn't hesitate to flee from the palace if a chance were given.

And she wasn't mistaken at all, Abby felt exactly the same. Only she knew she couldn't achieve that feat no matter what.

So, even though she felt like she wanted to be anywhere but here, she had to swallow it and look at the jewelry carefully, so as not to make a mistake, yet again.

"Take this out," Abby settled on a flowery bracelet that was endowed in diamonds after looking at the opened boxes for fifteen minutes when she heard a knock on the door.

Abby would have run to the door if she hadn't been feeling like she would melt to the floor at any given moment from tension and anxiety.

However, her face fell, yet again, when the person who followed behind Reyna into the room wasn't her mate like she had expected but a woman who seemed to be in her mid fifties with a small yet beautiful smile on her face.

On the other hand, everyone in the room, except for Abby of course, bowed to the woman solemnly. "Long live, former queen!"

The small idea of luring the rogues to attack the palace instead of any other pack or somewhere in the capital turned out to be a total success as Micah had been receiving several missives from Alpha Samuel confirming the same.

"The activity of the rogues increased near the borders of the capital compared to the last few times they attacked," Alan reported as he folded his arms across his chest, deep in thought.

Even though the rogues hadn't made an appearance, attacking the people or terrorizing anyone for the past few days, the royal warriors could still find one or two rogues patrolling near the borders recently.

Just like those pests did all those times they attacked the areas near the capital city, even though they never harmed a single soul, solely focusing on inflicting fear in the citizens' hearts. The royal warriors had been sending reports how they detected rogues from all around the capital city.

"Tell our warriors to exercise patience and not alert the enemies," Micah said the same thing he had been ordering them to follow since the announcement of the ceremony in the great hall.

Even the missives from Alpha Samuel all contained only information on how they could detect rogues mobilizing from every part of the kingdom and without even investigating further, Micah could cross his heart and swear that they were all heading to the capital city.

Just as he expected, their enemy had reacted strongly upon his decision. The ceremony wouldn't be so peaceful!

The flow of missives increased even more after the confirmation of the ceremony when he announced the fixed date to the public, keeping him preoccupied more than he imagined, and confining him to meetings all day long. He could barely find time to get a shut eye, let alone have a peaceful meal or find Abby in their bedroom to seek the comfort only she could give him.

To make things worse, his royal council wouldn't stop pressuring him that the time was not right for holding the ceremony so abruptly, when they didn't even approve Abby as the future queen of this kingdom. Text content ©

In their hearts, they were all convinced that he was only doing all this to appease his unreasonable mate, for whom also their king had even neglected the safety and well being of the people of this kingdom.

Arthur, the former king and his father, filled those thoughts in their minds and they couldn't stop for a second and think even when Micah tried to explain that his decision to conduct the ceremony had nothing to do with her.

Instead, they had been trying to corner him whenever they could find him, giving all the reasons why he shouldn't indulge Abby, who couldn't think of anything else but her own selfish desires.

Upon trying two or three times to stress that even Abby didn't know about the ceremony until he went back to their room after announcing about it in the great hall, Micah gave up and instead started focusing on his preparations to fight those rogues.

However, even on the day of the ceremony, when he was preparing to finally go and collect his mate so that they could go to the great hall together, Micah found out Arthur actually resorted to a new move to make things difficult for him.

“Father, how could you let mother leave her chambers when she had to recuperate properly?” Micah couldn’t help but ask Arthur, whom he had come to meet just before going to pick Abby up.

“How can you say that, son? Don’t you think she would want to get involved in her own son’s ceremony?” Arthur told Micah, his gaze and face blank, as if he couldn’t tell his son didn’t like his idea at all.

“But she is still recovering,” Micah pointed out.

Even though his mother was living just a building away from the king’s tower with his father, Micah didn’t think of letting

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Abby meet her yet, because she was in poor health.

Even when Arthur mentioned about his own mate formally meeting their son’s destined mate, the King didn’t think it was a good idea. He only mentioned her mother in passing to Abby as well.

Thinking about how his mother had been recuperating in the old tower for the past few years, Micah refused Arthur when he suggested letting his mother get involved in the ceremonial preparations, as it was a public event which was being held on a very huge scale.

However, Arthur couldn’t be bothered with any of his concerns as he came with a certain agenda in his mind.

“I understand why you are concerned. But today is such a big day in your life, a milestone if you ask me, so it is only right for her to attend the ceremony,” Arthur backed his own actions.

On the other hand, Micah couldn’t help but feel his already killing headache worsen even more at his father’s persistence to separate him and Abby.

As if he did not create enough trouble for him by instigating the entire palace against his mate, following which he and his fellow councilors had tried all kinds of methods to persuade him to drop Abby as his queen for the last fifteen days, he actually came up with a new move.

Since nothing was working in their favor, his father seemed to have decided to be ruthless until the end, not even considering the fact that the former queen’s health condition wasn’t really good.

"It's not as important as her health," the King bit out at the end, his hands balling into fists.

"No, my son. Meeting your mate is equally important and you have already delayed it enough," Arthur said, knowing fully well Micah couldn't refute him on this.

Yes, he had been delaying their encounter, because he wanted them to meet when everything had calmed down and Abby had adjusted to her life by his side.

However, that wasn't the only reason why he was reluctant to let them meet. After all, there was a small problem with his mother.

Chapter 99

"Former queen!"

Everyone around her bowed to the woman solemnly, leaving Abby shocked as she didn't know how to react for a second, not to mention how tense she was already.

She was also a bit disappointed that it wasn't who she was expecting. She thought Micah had finally arrived to pick her up for the ceremony.

But, when Reyna opened the door for the guest, it wasn't her mate but his mother, whom she never met but only heard of in passing.

Abby never thought of asking Micah too many details and just assumed he would find an appropriate time to introduce them both formally after learning about her health condition.

So she was stunned for a moment too long when she saw the former queen standing in the door instead of her mate. And calling it something unexpected would be really down playing the situation, since Abby wasn't ready

to meet anyone right now.

However, she knew she couldn't disrespect Micah's mother just like that, so the girl forced herself to smile at the woman, who was none other than her mate's mother, as she bowed to her quickly. Text content ©

"Greetings, former queen!" Abby couldn't help but thank God when she didn't stutter, which would have been even more awkward since she took her sweet time to greet her elder.

"Can I come inside and watch the preparations?" The former queen asked in a soft voice, after acknowledging Abby's clumsy greeting with a subtle yet graceful nod.

“Of course!” Abby almost shouted, out of nervousness, where she couldn’t help but chide herself internally. ‘Don’t lose it! Now, of all times, Abby!’

Taking a deep breath, Abby walked forward and welcomed her into her room, trying not to let her clumsiness mess up this impromptu meeting even more.

On the other hand, Micah’s mother didn’t seem to mind her clumsiness as she smiled a little more at his son’s mate before she proceeded to take in the preparations they were all fussing about.

She walked around the room a little before settling on the sofa near the window as she invited Abby to sit along with her.

“Thank you, former queen!” Abby thanked her, walking toward the single sofa opposite from hers when the woman stopped her.

“Why don’t you sit beside me and let me take a good look at you?”

“But…” Abby hesitated a little, thinking it wouldn’t look good on herself if Micah’s mother realized how nervous she became just after meeting her.

“It’s okay, you don’t have to be so distant with me,” she reassured her, and watched Abby slowly change directions and then settle beside her.

Silence descended upon them when neither of them talked anything for a while, plunging into an awkward situation, when the former queen finally opened her mouth. “Call me Neesha, you are being too serious using titles and all.”

“What?” Abby asked out of reflex, not expecting the former queen to be so amicable.

She was very different from Arthur, who could only find negative things about her, until it became an obsession to him and he swore to separate his son from his own mate.

And Abby thought, as his mate, of course, Neesha would also share the same sentiments about her. So when she came just now, her nervousness kept skyrocketing as she couldn’t help but anticipate a severe scolding from her, following in her mate’s steps.

“You seem quite nervous,” she pointed out and saw how the girl before her turned even more anxious. “Abby, you don’t have to be so nervous, it’s just a small ceremony.”

On the other hand, Abby didn’t know whether to laugh or cry at her words. She could tell Neesha was just trying to cheer her up, but only she knew how hard it was not to focus on her fears right now.

However, the patience Neesha exercised was no joke, as she softly yet elegantly navigated the conversation as she opted to praise Abby for her thoughtfulness in every arrangement she made for the ceremony.

“Your dress is pale yellow, I guess it is to compliment the yellow flowers you chose for the ceremony, am I correct?” The former queen didn’t holdback while admiring every small detail Abby put thought into and in no time, Abby relaxed around Micah’s mother.

However, she failed to notice how everyone in the room fell completely silent after greeting the former queen earlier or how they were all a little flustered as if they were looking at a ticking time bomb instead of their former queen.

If only Abby could put her focus on the people around her, she would have noticed how they were getting anxious with each second that passed or how a maid slipped out shortly after Neesha’s arrival.

On the other hand, Abby couldn’t help but get used to Neesha’s presence even more when the woman took the initiative to pick suitable jewelry for Abby to wear with her dress personally.

“The bracelet you were looking at before I came was very good, but it’s too simple for an occasion as big as this,” Neesha said, as she looked at the jewelry boxes, before her eyes lit up with genuine joy.

Abby could see that the former queen was really enjoying overseeing the preparations with her, almost like supporting her silently, when Neesha held out a flowery bangle that she deemed the perfect match for her beautiful dress today.

“See, this bangle is neither simple nor ostentatious, instead it is balanced, making it look more elegant,” Neesha said as she urged the maid servants around them to quickly help Abby wear the ornaments she chose carefully and meticulously.

Abby, on the other hand, couldn’t help but agree that Neesha’s sense of things like this was top notch after they were all finally done fussing over her.

However, before she could take a look at her final appearance, they heard a little commotion outside the room before someone came in bursting open the door without knocking first.

Abby was shocked to see it was actually Micah, her mate!

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“No, my son. Meeting your mate is equally important and you have already delayed it enough,” Arthur said, knowing fully well Micah couldn’t refute him on this.

"I know what I'm doing. Father, you better bring mother back first or else, her health might deteriorate further." Micah said, trying not to lash out at Arthur right now.

The palace had welcomed revered people from all over the kingdom to witness himself claiming Abby as his queen tonight, not to mention the rogue's situation. He needed to tread carefully right now, or else, it would be a recipe for another disaster.

Moreover, he couldn't afford to push Abby into the limelight by arguing with Arthur over what would look like a trivial matter of letting her meet Micah's mother in other people's eyes.

"I don't think walking around the palace and greeting some guests could do any harm to a shifter, no matter how sick they are," Arthur countered, not willing to take the hint or showing any hints to back down. "On the other hand, I reckon she may find it hard to accept your mate if she finds out her origin..."

Arthur trailed off and Micah couldn't help but fist his hands, realizing what his father meant by saying such words. And as if to clear any doubts over his intentions, Arthur waited a beat before finally saying what he actually came to say.

"Micah, you should tell your mother about Abby, everything. And you will understand why I'm adamant for you to reject her," his father said, slowly yet clearly, as he kept his face blank, betraying no emotion. "Once you see how she reacts, you can reconsider your decision to hold this ceremony."

It wasn't out of Micah's expectation, but hearing his father threaten him directly still didn't sit well with the King.

However, before Micah could respond to his father's words, someone knocked on the door of his father's study in the old tower, and the air carried over an urgent voice into the room.

"King Micah, sorry for interrupting you, but Madam Neesha has come to meet Lady Abby, and they are currently talking in your royal chambers," a maid said in hurry, making Micah jump to his feet in the next second as he dashed out, leaving the old tower promptly.

On the other hand, Arthur calmly followed his son with a light smirk on his face, knowing his son couldn't escape the trap he set, but he maintained a safe distance so as not to let Micah find out he was following him.

Once he got close enough to the door to Abby's bedchamber, where she was preparing for the ceremony, Micah

couldn't help but hush all the guards who clampered to greet him as they bowed to him.

+5

He then perked his ears to listen to what was going on inside, and couldn't help but realize how the two women were talking so harmoniously, as his mother fussed over her mate while helping her pick up the jewelry. It made him wish this serenity would last forever.

But when he remembered his father's words, the king couldn't help but snap back to reality as he too dreaded how his mother would react upon learning everything about Abby. Knowing fully well he couldn't let this go on any longer, he could only barge into the room, which left everyone inside quite shocked.

"Micah!" Abby was startled for a second when she saw that it was actually her mate, who had come.

Micah didn't say anything for a second, but then he saw his mate slowly walking toward him, her face lit up with a smile. He remembered how he wasn't able to see anything but a frown or forced smiles on her face for the past few days and felt a pang in his chest.

"Micah, Neesha helped me with the jewelry, she is so sweet," Abby told Micah sheepishly, once she was close enough to touch him as her mate took her into his arms.

"Yeah, you look beautiful," Micah told her as he held her hands, his face a mixture of worry and pity, leaving Abby confused with his perfunctory reply. He looked so distracted as if his beast was restless for some unknown

reason.

"What happened?" She couldn't help but ask when the King shook his head and then pulled her behind him as he walked further into the room.

He didn't stop until he was three steps away from Neesha, his mother, before his face turned serious all of a sudden when he ordered everyone to leave immediately.

"Everyone can leave."

Only then did Abby notice how odd this entire situation was, as she realized everything was so silent since the former queen graced them with her presence. Even when Micah came bursting open the door earlier, no one bowed to him, as if they were all too shocked to do it.

But when their king asked them to leave, they ran out of the room like their tails were on fire and Abby couldn't understand why they were having such a strong reaction.

Moreover, why did Alyssa and Reyna look so tense when they told her they would wait outside for her? What was going on?

She searched Micah's face, but couldn't find any answers as his face was completely blank, as if he was going to face something so dreadful.

Within no time, only the three of them were left in the room, but neither of them spoke while she could only look

at them in turns as the air turned a little weird over this silence,

And how shocked she was when Micah finally opened his mouth and uttered something so unexpected.

"Mother, please leave and go back to your room," the king said, as his grip on his mate's hand tightened a little.

"Micah, what are you saying?" Abby was so confused with this sudden turn of events she couldn't help but whisper to him softly, her eyes wide. Text © 2024