

The Alpha King's Claim

Chapter 130 An Enemy Within The Court

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Serena

With fluid movements, Nicolette gestured for Lady Hanhenna's hands. She gave them, palm up.

Then, the former guided these same hands to submerge inside the fount. Lady Hanhenna bent forward and lowered her head in the process.

"Lady Hanhenna, please follow me," Nicolette continued. "Respect, devotion, courage, strength, honesty, and equality."

"Respect, devotion, courage, strength, honesty and equality." Lady Hanhenna echoed the words with sincerity.

I watched them in silence, happy that I get to see the ritual this close.

"These are our key values as a guardian. Accept them." The water that submerged their hands started to glow.

"I accept," Lady Hanhenna replied.

"Vow obedience to them." The water glowed even more.

"I vow obedience."

"Nurture them in your heart."

"I will nurture them in my heart."

Fully glowing as if the fount had a thousand spotlights underneath, Nicolette pulled her hands out

and turned to me.

“Queen Serena, as Lady Hanhenna’s queen, consecrate her person,” she instructed.

I didn’t know what to do or what to say and for a moment, I felt a rush of panic, but then a soft voice appeared inside my head.

‘Cup the water with your palm and wet Lady Hanhenna’s head.’

It was Nicolette.

We exchanged silent glances, and I nodded my understanding.

‘Thank you,’ I answered through telepathy, then went to perform her instruction.

“I consecrate thee, Lady Hanhenna.”

The water still glowed despite inside my palm, and I figured this one had a magical quality to it.

When it contacted my guardian’s head, the glow somehow spread into the rest of her body.

“Queen Serena, as Lady Hanhenna’s ruler, bless her duties as Guardian of Ehnrelil.”

I cupped more water and poured it on her head.

“I bless thee.”

“Queen Serena, as Lady Hanhenna’s ward, bestow upon her the key to Ehnrelil.”

For the third time, I did the same action.

“Lady Hanhenna, protect our people. Cherish them. Guide us in our travels. Oversee our realm.”

“I accept,” she replied, her voice still audible despite her face so close to the water.

The glow in her body brightened and became tiny dots all over her skin. Farryl and Kerus had this kind of quality too. Only just now I realized it had a deeper meaning other than just aesthetics.

The fount disappeared into the floor again. Lady Hanhenna straightened her spine and flashed a smile to me. Her face was dripping wet, but in a matter of seconds, the liquid dried.

“The ritual is completed. I will give the final blessing,” Nicolette stated before raising her arms in the air. “Lady Hanhenna, please kneel.”

Since my contribution has ended, I consciously stepped backward to give them space.

Nicolette’s eyes turned bright yellow as she started chanting these foreign words: “Suwey, anaka, nium to, lawke, sekosetun, daiuie, makani, yas, taum. Omas tas tagumi!”

The ceiling broke. A picture of the Universe appeared and from it, a beam of light emerged directly hitting Lady Hanhenna’s body.

I was in awe at the scene. It was as if I was looking at Aero and I when we were wedded and received this kind of cosmic treatment from the moon.

When the light faded, Lady Hanhenna stood up and faced the audience.

“Everyone, please welcome our new guardian, Guardian Hanhenna of the Kingdom of Ehnrelil!” Nicolette declared.

Claps were heard around us thereafter. I joined them and flashed my new guardian a proud smile. “Yeah!” someone shouted from below the platform, and I instantly recognized it as Adaen’s voice. The three of us laughed in unison with this, but it was Lady Hanhenna who went down to hug her sons.

While this was happening, Nicolette neared me and invited me for an embrace.

“It’s a pleasure to meet you finally,” she said as I accepted her invitation.

“I feel ecstatic to meet you too. Aero told me about you and when he mentioned that you once lived on Earth too, I instantly knew we would sync.” When we withdrew, I saw an even wider smile from her.

“Lucien also said the same thing, and I couldn’t agree more. We should schedule an informal meeting in the future. Coffee at Starbucks perhaps?”

“That sounds great, Nicolette.” I nodded with enthusiasm. “Just drop us a message anytime through Guardian Hanhenna.”

Her eyes twinkled. “I will surely do, but maybe after you give birth. Your babies are due soon, right?”

I looked down and touched my belly. Warmth filled me again as I was reminded of their pending entrance into this beautiful world.

“Yes, I believe it is very soon.”

“Great!” she exclaimed. “With luck, Lucien and I could visit when they’re born. I’ll bring my daughters too. They love visiting other realms and I’m sure Phanteon would occupy their curiosity.”

I giggled; the thought of this powerhouse family visiting made me excited for the future.

Then Nicolette’s eyes shifted behind me. “Serena, let me introduce the rest of the guardians.”

She pointed to each one standing on their podiums, naming them as she went, and I scrambled to greet them with a nod. I picked up the names Cecily of the Witch Realm, Xanthos of the Demon Realm, Atrius of the Mage Realm, and Dignos of the Spiritual Realm.

They all looked good and their ensembles matched the realms they guarded, except for Xanthos who was almost the twin of Hell Boy, but a more intimidating, scaly version of him.

Cecily and Atrius waved their hands at me while the others gave me a nod of acknowledgement.

“We are yet to convene and decide if Earth and the Celestial Realm need guardians,” Nicolette informed, catching back my attention.

I arched a brow. “Oh! So they don’t have guardians as of the moment?”

“Yes.” She smiled with no hint of worry at all.

I had been in and out of Earth and so far, no Earth guardian has met me or Aero to maybe establish rapport. To have one would be advantageous, especially to ensure no human would end

up in Viacronis to be a vampire’s juicer. However, that was another case. Vampires needed human blood, after all.

I thanked Nicolette for spending time with me, even just for a bit. With the promise for us to meet again, I went down the platform feeling thrilled and joined Aunt Adna and the others in congratulating Guardian Hanhenna.

While this was happening, I couldn’t help but notice High Elder Hadon’s rather reserved attitude.

His face was unreadable of any emotion. I couldn’t even tell if he was awake because he looked motionless from where he stood.

His eyes though were another story. He was actually watching us and watching us with contempt, the same way Geraden used to look at me.

And with that alone, I knew I had an enemy inside my fae court.

It wasn’t me to confront him directly though, so I ignored him until we returned to Ehnrelil, until

Lady Hanhenna's guardianship celebration ended, and until I left the palace that evening.

Finally, I could breathe easier when I arrived in Phanteon.

Using my heightened smell, I located my husband inside his manor, in the indoor pool specifically, soaking half of his body underwater while his head rested against the tiles, seemingly looking at the glass dome. With our bond, I already sensed his dismal mood since before the guardian ascension ceremony started, but now that I'm near him, I could really tell how affected he was with whatever problem he was keeping. He didn't even notice me enter. He had a faraway look in his eyes and this pinched my heart. I had seen Aero with many expressions. They were all embedded in my brain. But this here...this was new.

It was filled with sadness. Confusion.

Disappointment. Uncertainty.

I lowered myself to a kneel behind him and before my hands contacted his shoulder, I whispered:

"Penny for your thoughts?"

"Serena!" He quickly turned and faced me, looking stupefied.

Now close, I could definitely see the elongated shadow under the water indicating he was nude

from the waist down. That was expected and highly a turn-on, but I decided to ignore it for the time being. My husband's problem was my top priority as of the moment.

"Hey." I reached for his face and tenderly cupped it.

"You are lowering your guard too much. You didn't even sense me. Should I be concerned?"

Instead of giving me a reply, he grabbed my arm and pulled me inside the pool.

"Aero!" I cried out once my gown hit the water, but I couldn't complain further because his lips crashed with mine that instant.

I let him kiss me. Senseless. Hard. Tasting every inch of my mouth until we stopped for air.

"I missed you," he said while caressing my face.

I watched as his eyes turned warm—quite a big difference from the glazed one earlier, but I knew better.

"Hm, way to change the subject, Aero, but you can't fool me,"—I pinched his chin—"Now, tell me or show me what's bothering you or else you'll be spending another night without me."

He sighed, released me and returned to his earlier position against the tiles.

I heard him briefly groan before he answered my request by opening up his thoughts, allowing me to see everything he experienced, learn everything he learned, and feel everything he felt during

the time I was away.

I saw the dead body of his mother. I saw the younger version of Aero suffering. I saw his father's personal accounts and learned that his mother wasn't his real mother after all. And the highlight of them all was Elijah and the fact that he and Aero weren't truly brothers.

Shit. If this was a real book, I would have never seen this plot twist coming.

"Oh, my..." were my initial words. I looked at my husband, who showed a pitiful face. I felt his pain that instant. Despite the considerable size of my belly, I embraced him and kissed his forehead.

"Aero, I'm here for you. What is it you want to do? I'll help you."

[Table of Contents](#)

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[Previous](#)

[Next](#)