

THE KING

"Who are you? Are you coming from there?" One of the maids pointed at Alex's quarter, their eyes widened in shock.

"Oh, yes..." Althea was not sure what to answer the question, but thankfully, Thalia immediately approached the two of them.

She didn't know what she said to them, but all of sudden, their eyes widened and they looked shocked. Their attitude changed drastically and they immediately excused themselves.

"What happened?" Althea asked curiously, because the way they reacted to whatever Thalia told them didn't feel right. "What did you tell them?"

Thalia replied to her question sheepishly. "I only said that you are a special guest."

Althea didn't believe that. She knew there was something more that Thalia hid from her, thus she pressed more, but the maid looked trouble, which made her felt bad.

"I am sorry, I can only tell you that much," Thalia said apologetically. "Yes, he is someone of power."

Althea knew that Alex was not someone ordinary, but she didn't have any idea that he was very important to the point people were shocked to know that she knew him.

However, Althea didn't prepare herself for the truth.

Later that night, she was invited to have a dinner with Alex, near the fountain. The set up was beautiful and it felt a little bit intimate.

"Alex, may I know what position you hold in the palace?" Althea asked carefully, because she didn't want to appear as very noisy. She was grateful for his help and he didn't want him to be uncomfortable.

Alex knew this question would come, he put down his cutleries and looked at her, his gaze softened. "If I tell you that my position is very important, what are you going to do? Will you leave?"

Althea was not sure how to answer that. "I should leave eventually. I can't live here and also..." She glanced at Thalia and lowered her voice. "You didn't need to give me a personal maid. I feel so bad for her."

Alex chuckled when he heard that. "You shouldn't feel bad. She is a new recruit, she also needed you to learn about everything in this palace. You help her too, actually."

"Alex, you changed the topic," Althea said, pointed it out that he had not yet answered her question.

"I am not changing the topic, but I am thinking of how to answer that."

"Are you the king's advisor?"

"Do I look that old?"

"You should be old to be the king's advisor?" Althea didn't really know how the rule in the mainland worked, because it was so different from her former pack.

Alex chuckled when he heard that. "An advisor should be someone wise and wisdom is something that you got from experience, so yeah, I think it related to one another."

"I think you are wise enough for your age."

Alex smiled and placed his hand over his heart. "Thank you."

"And then? What is your position?" Her baby kicked in and she caressed her bump, she loved it whenever her baby made her presence known, because it was a reminder that she was not alone.

"Guess."

"If you are not an advisor, you might be..." Althea tried to think harder. "The royal gamma? The royal beta?" And Alex shook his head to all of her answer. "Or maybe you are the king...?" She said this because she didn't think she could find another position that suit him.

She thought Alex would laugh, but he simply smiled which made Althea was taken aback.

"You are the king?" She furrowed her brows, she still didn't believe what she just learned.

"I am."

Now everything made sense for Althea. The way those maids looked shock when they learned that she came from Alex's quarter and how Thalia didn't dare to mention Alex. She would know right away the moment she addressed him, but no, Thalia had never addressed Alex in front of her.

"Heaven..." Althea breathed shakily when she learned about it. She was not sure what proper reaction that she should have right now.

"This is the palace, not a heaven," Alex said lightly. "I want you to stay, Althea. I want you to be here, at least, until you gave birth to your baby. I have the royal healer that could help you during the childbirth."

Althea didn't know what to say about such generous offer, especially when she didn't have many choices. She didn't have money to afford to live on her own.

=====

"She had been crying ever since she returned from Killian's house," Abigail said, she was worried about Willow, because she had been locking herself up inside her bedroom and refused to eat. "What should we do?"

Brian shook his head. "I don't know."

"Go to Killian and talk to him, tell him to see her for a while. There is no way he completely didn't care anymore about Willow, they were in love before."

Brian shook his head again. "I think Killian is done with her. You can't force the two of them to be together."

And with that, Abigail exploded, she accused him not to care about their daughter and how her condition. She was so angry because Brian refused to talk to Killian, despite his explanation.

"He will listen to you, he looked up to you, at the very least, he will respect you enough to give in!" Abigail was hysterical at this point and now Brian could see how different her reaction toward their two daughters.

When Althea was accused of killing her own sister, Abigail was freaking out and used all of her power to hurt her, but when she learned that was not the truth, she was still standing by Willow's side.

"I will not do this for her," Brian said firmly. "She brought this up to herself, she is going to face the consequences of her decision."