

## A QUEEN

"Mistress?" Alex repeated the word, as if that was the nastiest thing that he had ever said. "Why do you think I will make you my mistress?"

"You know the answer of that," Althea said, she moved slightly, because she was being uncomfortable. She was dumb for bringing this topic up, but then how could she know where she should stand if she didn't ask him point blank.

"I don't know. I don't have any idea what made you think that I will make you my mistress." Alex tilted his head, he searched the answer from her little face. She bit her lip again.

"You... what the kiss meant for you?"

"An affection." Alex didn't even need to think twice before he answered that.

Althea fiddled with her finger, she felt her face was so hot, she must be blushing so hard right now and Alex could see that, the tip of her ears had turned so red and he wanted to tease her for that.

But then, the king held himself back. This was not the right time to tease her, because she misunderstood the entire situation and his intention.

"When you said that I am yours... what is that meant? Do you want to have... a relationship with me?" Althea lifted her head, she gathered her courage to see his face directly when she heard the answer that came from his mouth. "You know my situation... I couldn't be your equal, thus a mistress will suit me more..."

"See? I told you that you always think so little of yourself."

"I am being realistic here, Alex," Althea said. He would always complain whenever she addressed him as the king and now she became more comfortable to call his name after she learned about his true identity. "Let's see my situation..."

Althea said all the things that made her not suit for Alex, giving to his status, having her as a mistress was more than honorable. She had nowhere to go, no family to rely on and obviously, she didn't want to go back to Killian.

However, without Alex's protection, Killian would get his hand on her and her baby and probably, he would separate her from Jasmine.

She could endure the title as a mistress, as long as she could have his protection. This was the best solution for her. This was already great giving to her situation.

"You wanted to be with me because you thought I could protect you from Killian and you are willing to be my mistress for that."

Althea fiddled with her fingers again, she lowered her head, didn't dare to see him in the eyes when she spoke again. "I will not be a burden for you, neither I will complain. Please, let me stay here... let me and my child to stay here... if a mistress doesn't suit me, you can call me anything..."

"What do you mean anything?" Alex was holding back his rage, because he knew what Althea was trying to say. "Are you satisfied for being my plaything? That's why you accepted my kiss?"

"No... that's..." Althea felt her throat was constricted. She didn't want Alex to think that way because it would be an insult for him.

"So, what is it?" Alex lifted her chin and made her look at him in the eyes. "Tell me what you are thinking right now, Althea. Tell me how you feel right now."

"I am not worth it of you, Alex. Even a title of a mistress is too good for me."

Althea startled to see the anger in his eyes when she said that and she trembled when his hold on her hand tightened, he was mad. No, he was livid. He was so angry, He couldn't control what he was going to say next.

"I don't give a fuck about your situation and condition, Althea. You have the baby with him, it's fine with me. I love Jasmine too and she will be my daughter." Alex cupped her face and pulled her closer. "You are not my plaything, neither you are my mistress, Althea. You are my equal and I want you to be by my side."

Althea blinked her eyes, she was scared now. "What do you mean?"

"You are my queen. You will be the future queen of this kingdom. So, you need to stop to think of yourself less than that, do you understand me?"

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