

Chapter 421 Austin’s Reward

Anthony's POV:

When the audience burst into cheers and applauded for Austin, I heaved a secret sigh of relief. "Austin's the hero of this war. He prevented our territory from falling into the hands of the vampires. I've decided to spare him for the crimes he committed before and grant him the military rank of general. I hope he will continue to work hard to protect the werewolves and gain countless more achievements!"

"Oh, my God!" The elders were all stunned.

"Mr. Jones is too open-minded. I never would've thought he'd be willing to spare Austin!"

"Yeah. It's already a great honor that he forgave his brother for his crimes. There's no need to promote him to the military rank of general, Mr. Jones. Aren't you afraid that he'll rebel again and try to usurp the throne?"

Hearing the elders discuss heatedly, I simply kept on smiling.

Ever since the day we got word that Austin had successfully pushed back the vampires, I had been considering bestowing him a military rank. I had given it a lot of thought before I finally made the decision. After all, such a move was bound to stir up trouble. Austin and I used to be sworn enemies, but ever since the war broke out, I was led to believe that Austin had completely turned a new leaf. I would always trust those I decided to use. This was my principle.

"Mr. Jones, such a reward is too good for a sinner!" An elder stood up, worry written all over his face. "Please think it over first!"

"I have already, and I trust Austin," I said firmly. "I believe he deserves such a reward."

Austin's POV:

Austin had already told me yesterday that he'd give me a reward at this banquet. Naturally, I thought that he'd give me some sort of property or maybe a handsome sum. Never in my wildest dreams would I have expected him to give me a military rank—a general, at that! Oh, my God! I couldn't believe my ears.

It was an incredibly risky move on Anthony's end. If I became a general, I'd be in charge of the army. It was just as the elders were saying. Wasn't he afraid that I'd rebel and use the army to destroy him?

A lump formed in my throat. Anthony's gesture proved that he trusted me completely. And I didn't want to fail his trust.

Seeing that Anthony's decision caused a commotion, I stood up, strode onto the stage and bowed to Anthony.

"Anthony, thank you for your trust, but I don't think I deserve such an honor! I'm already so grateful that you were willing to forgive me for my crimes."

Anthony gave me a reassuring smile. "Austin, I trust you and I think that you have the ability to command our troops. I won't change my mind."

Then, he turned to the elder who had objected just now. "Aren't I allowed to make my own judgments as the king? I know what you're worried about, but you're wrong. I know what I'm doing."

Anthony defended me even as the elders objected.

"The title conferring ceremony will be held another day. We shall gather again by then," Anthony continued, unfazed by the elders' looks of disbelief.

Seeing how resolute my brother was, I didn't try to refuse his offer anymore. Instead, I knelt down on one knee and said loudly, "Thank you for your trust, Anthony. I swear with my life that I'll be loyal to you."

When I finished speaking, there was a moment of silence, and then the audience burst into thundering applause.

"Stand up, Austin. I know you'll be an excellent general." Anthony helped me up and smiled at me.

I nodded and got on my feet. I went offstage and watched as Anthony awarded the other soldiers.

"Besides, there's one other thing I wanted to announce. I've decided to appoint the former Alpha of the Rainbow Pack, Jerome, to be my secretary general. He will assist me in handling government affairs," Anthony continued when he was done awarding the soldiers.

"Long live the king! Long live the king!" The hall echoed with cheers again.

Seeing the confidence on Anthony's face, I couldn't help but marvel. He was born to be a king. In the past, I had always thought that I was better at him. Alas, I was too arrogant back then.

Anthony's POV:

When the awarding ceremony was over, I said to the guests, "Now, I hereby declare the start of the banquet!"

As soon as I finished speaking, firecrackers whistled into the air and exploded in the sky, blossoming beautifully. The guests all cheered loudly, raising their glasses and spraying champagne everywhere. The atmosphere of the banquet was merry and lively.

"Hooray for peace!"

"Cheers!"

"Cheers to our soldiers!"

Austin suddenly became the focus of everyone's attention. The soldiers surrounded him and toasted to him merrily. Austin smiled and returned their toasts.

Seeing that everyone was so happy, I felt relieved. I retired to the VIP area and took a seat. Jennifer, Caroline, my mother, and Jerome all sat at this table.

"Jennifer, have eaten yet?" I turned to my queen with a smile.

Jennifer blinked at me questioningly. "Of course not, honey. We were waiting for you."

"Mr. Jones, let me propose a toast to you. I want to thank you for your appreciation. I promise I won't fail you!" Jerome stood up respectfully and raised his glass.

I also raised my glass in response. "Jerome, I trust you. You deserve this position. Cheers!"

I clinked glasses with him and downed the hard whiskey.

"Hey, Jerome, you shouldn't drink too much. As Godfrey's father and Anthony's secretary general, you should pay more attention to your image!" Jennifer stuck out her tongue like a child and nagged Jerome.

"I know, I know, my dear sister." Jerome chuckled and shrugged. "I have an image to protect now."

Everyone at the table couldn't help but burst into laughter.

"Anthony, I want to propose a toast to you." Austin's voice interrupted us suddenly.

"Austin!" Caroline exclaimed in surprise.

"Honey, hold on. Let me thank Anthony first." Austin winked at Caroline playfully.

I smiled knowingly and raised my glass. "You deserve it. Congratulations on becoming a general, Austin!"

"And thank you for rewarding me, Anthony!" Austin also raised his glass and clinked it against mine. I drank another round of whiskey.

"Ah." Austin let out a satisfied grunt after downing his drink. Laughing, he sat next to me. "This reminds me of the first time you drank. You couldn't hold your drink back then. What a mess! At the time, you nearly choked on your tears!"

"What?! Really?" Jennifer asked, her eyes sparkling with great interest. "How old were you at that time?"

"About ten. But Anthony thought he was a man and wanted to do something to prove it—such as drinking!" Austin replied with a chuckle.

I didn't think that Austin would suddenly bring up the past. Smiling mischievously, I looked at him and joked, "But who was the one who stole the alcohol? Mom found out and never let you hear the end of it!"

Everyone laughed and the atmosphere at the table was very harmonious. Jennifer also began to share interesting things about her childhood. I listened carefully and smiled encouragingly from time to time.

This event was one for the books. Austin and I had reconciled, and the war had come to an end. Next, Jennifer and I were about to bring new life into this world. The future was dazzlingly bright.