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## Chapter 431 The Celebration Ball

Skylar's POV:

The moment I stepped inside the church, fireworks exploded in the sky and bloomed colorfully. The honor guards began to play music. This signaled the beginning of the grand ceremony.

"Presenting, Mr. and Mrs. Dracula!"

My father and Crystal ascended to the thrones. As the ritual official had taught me before in etiquette class, I lifted the hemline of my dress and bowed slightly to my father.

"Father," I greeted respectfully.

"Please stand up." My father looked at me affectionately. Then he turned to the audience and announced solemnly, "I hereby appoint my beloved daughter, Skylar Dracula, as the princess!"

My father picked up the crown and carefully placed it on my head. The whole situation was so unreal that I suddenly felt a lump in my throat.

'Mother, can you see me from up there?' Tears welled up in my eyes. I hoped my mother could be proud of me.

"Your mother would've been so proud, Skylar." As though he had read my mind, my father said this to me in a low voice.

I nodded vigorously. "Thank you, Father."

"Here's to Skylar!" Crystal suddenly shouted and applauded.

"Miss Dracula!" Under the queen's initiative, the vampires in the church immediately burst into loud applause.

eyes trained on me. Such a feeling left me at a loss, but I tried to adapt to it.

After the ceremony, my father and Crystal led me out of the church. The crowd flanked our path and kept cheering as we made

The sound of firecrackers exploding sounded again and again. Standing in the middle of the crowd, I could feel countless pairs of

our way back to the convertible. When we were inside the car and on the way back to the royal castle, my father explained that he did this to make everyone more familiar with me as a princess and close the distance between me and some noble vampires.

Many cars followed us, in which the elders and other aristocrats rode. It was truly a grand scene.

As I sat in the back seat of the convertible, I realized that I wasn't as nervous as earlier. My father patted my hand secretly and I smiled. Then, I began to wave at the vampires on both sides of the lane with a big, warm smile.

"Miss Dracula!"

"Long live the princess!"

The cheers of the crowd were getting louder and louder. I felt relieved to know that I was welcome here.

But before I could get too happy, I heard other voices. Insults were hurled at me as some vampires doubted the purity of my bloodline, claiming a hybrid didn't deserve to be royalty.

hurt. I wasn't the one who chose my bloodline after all. Even I didn't want to be a princess in the first place.

Just then, my father suddenly raised his hand to signal the car to stop. He stood up from his seat and looked around at the crowd.

My fists balled up as I clenched my skirt tightly. What they were saying was true, and I couldn't deny the facts. But still, I felt

Seeing this, everyone quieted down.

"I know that some of you have been paying attention to the royal family, and I am open to your criticism. However, I don't want

anyone to doubt my daughter's bloodline. Although I had lost her for many years, Skylar is my child. I can promise you that she has Dracula Clan's blood running through her veins. Now that we've finally been reunited, I hope you won't spread any baseless rumors about her. Otherwise, you will be severely punished."

crowd all bowed to him reverently.

As soon as my father finished his words, he looked around the crowd with his bloodshot eyes. After a moment of silence, the

The air was once again filled with cheers and the voices of doubt quickly died down. Some of the dubious vampires from earlier

"What a wise king! We welcome you, Miss Dracula!"

even apologized to me.

vampires. After getting out of the car, my father took my hand and led me back to the hall.

"Now, there will be a whole day's worth of celebration. You are today's protagonist, dear Skylar," my father said gently. "To begin

Soon, the cars made it back to the royal castle after circling the city. I was now the princess admired by tens of thousands of

the festivities, you can choose your dance partner."

I nodded, but felt a little embarrassed. I didn't want to dance with a stranger! But I was a princess after all. I couldn't avoid age-old

Just then, a familiar handsome face appeared in front of me.

"Hey, Skylar, would you care to dance?" Thomas smiled at me gently.

Oh, thank God Thomas was here!

days of relentless training had paid off. After our graceful dance, everyone burst into applause.

I nodded and returned his smile. "Okay, Thomas."

traditions like dancing.

He held his arm out and I accepted it. Together, we walked to the center of the hall and started the first dance of the ball. All these

"Long live the princess! Long live Miss Dracula!"

Thomas' POV:

After the opening dance, Skylar invited me to dance with her again. I had no reason to refuse her, so we continued to dance.

We chatted lightly as we danced.

"Skylar, you look great!" I praised her.

"Why, thanks, Thomas." Skylar smiled shyly. But then she lowered her head and sighed with regret. "It's a pity that Jerome isn't

here to see how beautiful I am today."

"You must miss him very much," I said sadly.

I was stunned for a moment. Then, I recalled the day when I first met Skylar The man who had rushed to her side was Jerome.

I knew how much Skylar and Jerome loved each other. Unfortunately, as fate would have it, they were forced to separate.

"I miss him every day, but now that I'm a princess, all eyes are on me. My father won't let me see Jerome yet because the elders are watching my every move," Skylar whispered anxiously.

I could tell that Skylar missed Jerome very much. I had witnessed their love before, and they were always so kind to me and treated me as a friend. I couldn't help but feel sorry for them.

"Skylar, I might have a way for you to see Jerome," I whispered in her ear.

As we danced, I was mulling over what she had said when a thought occurred to me.

I led Skylar to the edge of the dance floor and said in a low voice, "Let's talk in private."

"Really?" Skylar's eyes instantly lit up. "But how?"

Skylar nodded and followed me quietly.

"Skylar, what if you left vampires' territory with me?" I suggested when we were out of earshot. "I'll take you to see Jerome."

Skylar's eyes went as wide as saucers. "What? Thomas, it's too risky. I'm afraid I'll just get you into trouble."

I shook my head to show that I didn't mind taking the risk at all. "We're friends, aren't we, Skylar? And you were willing to take a stand for peace. I long for peace as well. Plus, you've helped me out a lot. I've always wanted to thank you."

Skylar lowered her gaze, too hesitant to jump in. "But is it really feasible? My father would never agree. I can't just sneak away. Someone will find out soon."

"I'll ask Mr. Dracula if I can take you on a cruise within vampires' territory under the guise that you'll be more exposed to vampire culture. He'll definitely agree," I explained confidently. "You can also tell him that you since you've been cooped up in the castle for so long, you've gotten bored."

Skylar looked at me with her eyes wide open as though I had just shown her a magic trick. "Oh... God, Thomas, you are so smart!

I smiled. "I'm just doing this as your friend. It's not a big deal, Skylar."

Thank you!"

"No, it's a big deal for me. Thank you so much, Thomas. You're my hero!" Skylar looked at me gratefully.

"Don't thank me yet," I said with a smile. "Be careful or else the others might notice that something's brewing. Anyway, just call me when you're ready to see Jerome. I'll take you."

"I can go anytime. I just want to see Jerome." Skylar's eyes sparkled with excitement.