

SPELLBOUND 141

Chapter 141 - Unknown

The moment Evie felt her bodice loosen up, a soft knock echoed behind the door, causing them both to freeze up and suddenly become motionless.

"Your Highness, everyone's been gathered and are waiting for you now." The voice on the other side of the door called out and Gavriel groaned under his breath.

Evie on the other hand was quick to turn around and had her back facing him. She gathered her long silvery locks to her front and looked back expectantly at him, arching a perfectly formed brow.

"Please tie them up again so we can finally go. And make sure they're tied properly." she said as she glanced at the ribbons he had just untied not even a couple minutes ago. Gavriel let out another groan followed by a frustrated sigh before eventually doing what his wife had ordered him to do.

Evie bit her lips in order to hold back her smile. She was glad someone interrupted them just in time because she could not rely on herself to stop him. Though embarrassing, she had to admit to herself that her self-control with him was practically nil. Heaving a sigh, Evie then faced him and grabbed his hand before dragging him out of the room. She knew he was reluctant from the way he dragged his steps – and deep down, so was she – but there were more pressing things that await his decisions. Their fun time will have to wait until important matters were settled and the problems cleared off first.

When they arrived, the discussion had already started and seemed to be going on in full swing.

"What are we going to do with the emperor?" Duke Henry asked Gavriel as soon as the prince took his seat. "I believe this is now the time to execute him. Before his son returns to retrieve him."

Gavriel observed the Duke, looking astonishingly cool and calm. "Did you forget that Caius is still alive? If we kill him, Caius will be crowned emperor immediately since he's the crown prince."

Gavriel explained as a matter of fact. The rules of vampire monarchy had been unchanging ever since time immemorial. The emperor would only be replaced once he dies. Once the emperor dies, the crown prince would automatically be crowned an emperor even without conducting the official ceremonies or coronation. So, in order for Gavriel to take back his throne, Lorcan and the crown prince both needed to be killed.

"I am aware of that Your Highness. However, if we kill Lorcan now, we will have one obstacle less to deal with. That would only leave us with the crown prince to deal with next."

"We understand where you're coming from, Your Grace," Zolan was the one who responded this time. "We are certain that the crown prince and the guardian would return here in a few days after they realize that Prince Gavriel is not in the forbidden lands anymore. However, If Caius discovers that the emperor is dead, I am certain he would not return to Dacria anymore. It would be more likely that he would return to the imperial palace as the new emperor. Once that happens, it would be harder for us to end him. This is the easiest and fastest route to take down both of the fake royals. We must not let any one of them return to the capital."

"H-how about we just end him and spread the word that he's still alive?" Duke Henry insisted on his idea, looking anxious. "There is no way for Caius to find out as long as no one here betrays us!"

"Calm down, Your Grace." Zolan placated the duke.

"I cannot. I do trust your judgements and plans, especially His Highness' ability but... I cannot help but worry that something will go wrong right at the critical moment and the emperor end up escaping. We cannot give him even a small chance!"

"Duke." Gavriel's voice echoed through the crowd, firm and commanding, causing everyone to fall quiet. His calm and observant eyes gleamed as he fixed his gaze on the duke. "Tell me, could it be that there is something suspicious you noticed here in Dacia in the past two days that I am gone? And that's why you are like this?"

Duke Henry looked surprised at what the prince said but eventually, he wearily slumped back into his chair and pressed his fingers into his temples. "Yes, my wife and I noticed something strange. It was as though there is something invisible roaming around in the castle. My wife even had accidentally heard it herself that the emperor was talking to someone even he could not see. I don't know what it was, but I have the strange feeling that something unknown and invisible is helping them."

Gavriel's men looked at each other. "Actually, Leon has reported on the same issue, Your Highness." Zolan informed Gavriel. "He told me that something strange happened during their escape. He said that the soldiers were already prepared to stop them as if they already knew that they were coming before Leon and the princess could even leave the castle. Leon is confident that there was not enough time for the soldiers to prepare so far in advance. His conclusion is that it seems as though someone teleported from the castle to the walls to prompt the soldiers immediately."

"I agree with Leon's claim Your Highness. The events happened too fast." The duke added. "I was watching through the windows during the chase. The soldiers were far behind Leon."

Hearing those words, Elias who had been quite quiet all this time remembered that period before the war happened. When he had to check to the hallways outside the princess' room because he felt as though someone was there.

"Uhm... Your Highness..." the butler finally spoke. "I don't know if this is related but I have noticed something similar since before that war started. I always felt as if there were someone just outside the princess' door but whenever I check, I see no one." He reported and Gavriel's forehead creased hard into a frown.

"It seems this needs to be investigated immediately. And the one who could give us an answer would be the emperor or the soldiers who received the orders from the castle." Zolan said as he looked at Gavriel.

Chapter 142 - Presence

"So does this mean an unknown invisible creature is spying on us right now?" Samuel, who was leaning against the door asked, his brows raised.

Everyone went quiet until the duchess answered him.

"I believe whatever this invisible thing is, it isn't here right now. Based on my observations, I find that it is quite obvious whenever that presence was around. Because its presence is quite strong." Aurora explained.

Elias nodded in agreement. "I support the duchess' claim. I think it could hide its body completely but not its presence. It has been more than three times that I have felt this strong presence. Its

presence was so obvious that it was as though someone was standing just outside the princess' door. So, I often peeked out to check but only to find no one there."

"Why have you not said anything about it before?" Gavriel's voice was controlled but the look in his eyes made Elias feel goosebumps. "What if this thing has been after my wife all these times?"

"I... forgive me Your Highness. I was not certain of what I had noticed, and this was the first time I've ever experienced something this strange. I thought it was just... I always hear the humans always talk about ghosts and stuffs. And since some of them actually even believe they really exist, so I thought that maybe, there is a ghost wandering around in Dacia." The butler frantically explained. "I actually tried to observe and investigate but the presence has a tendency of suddenly disappearing when the princess steps out of her chambers. Also, I have never felt its presence inside the princess' room as well. It's like it only stays outside of her door. That was why I thought it was probably just a harmless little ghost wandering about in the hallway. There never were any other disturbances."

Zolan pinched the skin between his brows. Somehow, the talk was getting more and more weird and almost nonsensical. However, they needed to take this very seriously because even Zolan felt that whatever this thing was, smelled like big trouble. He sighed before turning to Evie. "Princess," he looked at Evie and asked. "Have you been feeling anything unusual lately? Or did you feel this presence hovering about or observing you too?"

Evie blinked and she creased her brows before she opened her mouth and spoke. "I do sometimes feel as though someone was just outside my door... especially when Gavriel is not with me. But I always thought it's a vampire that was ordered to be stationed by my door guarding me. So, I never did pay much attention to it."

"During the war with Caius, when you were alone in the castle... did you feel someone by the door all those times too?" Elias asked Evie.

Evie blinked and thought for a while. "I did feel like someone was standing guard by my door. But didn't I have someone guarding me during those times? Especially during the battle?" Evie asked, assuming that it was so.

Elias's eyes widened. "No princess. No one was guarding your door those entire time. All the soldiers were called out to join in the battle. There were still a few guards left, but they were stationed around the castle... not on the inside. I was the only one left to guard you, but I wasn't by your door!"

Evie did not know this but the vampires guarding her were stationed quite far from her door. They usually stand by the far end of the hallway where they could still see the princess' chamber's door. The reason was because of the vampire's strong hearing sense. They needed to stay away to give her privacy. However, even from that distance, the vampires could hear loud noises like screams and loud thuds very clearly.

The room fell silent. Gavriel's face was now getting darker. It was as though a storm cloud had come and decided to live over his head.

Evie tried to recall everything that had happened, and she always thought that someone was guarding by her door every time and would leave in a flash the moment she heads out. "But... if this invisible being was always there, why didn't it do anything to me? There have been many times

that opportunity would have presented itself, but it never did do anything, and I don't think I felt any danger." Evie explained thoughtfully.

"Well, this is getting more intriguing and suspicious." Zolan sighed, massaging his temples. "I guess our best choice now is to get the answers from the emperor. However, I need to just confirm one last thing." The man looked at the four people who had already felt this presence before one by one. "Are you certain that right now, no one is spying on us here?"

Evie stared at the door, before she looked at Zolan. "Now that I am paying attention to it, the presence is really very different. I can tell that someone is by the door right now but it's not that presence I always felt in the castle."

Samuel opened the door and Luc craned his head sideways to show himself. The man was by the door to watch in case someone was eavesdropping on this very sensitive topic they were discussing.

Zolan heaved a deep sigh of relief. "Alright. The most important matter right now is that this thing hasn't heard anything from this discussion. We are going to take extra precautions from here on." He said before facing Gavriel. "I'll go immediately and start the interrogation now, Your Highness. We need to find out what this thing actually is as soon as possible."

Gavriel stood from his chair, but Zolan stopped him. "No, Your Highness, leave the emperor to me. I'm afraid you'll kill him accidentally if you get involved in this. Leave this to me. For now, please go and get some rest. I don't think Caius will be here any time soon anyway."

Chapter 143 - Lie Down

"I don't think Caius will be here any time soon anyway." Zolan said confidently and Gavriel, though quite unwilling, could only agree, knowing that he barely stopped himself from killing Lorcan just moments ago. And Zolan was right, Caius and his army were still in the forbidden lands right now and even if the presence of this invisible being is true and Caius had already heard about what had happened here, Caius would still take more than a day to return even if he travelled back at full speed.

The group then headed out and Gavriel immediately went to speak with the Dacrians who were now stationed by the wall. Their arrows now pointed out of the walls.

As Gavriel gave out commands on how to carry out their defense, Zolan approached Evie who was waiting in the watchtower with Elias. He leaned over to Evie and whispered into her ears with a smile. "Princess, please make sure that His Highness do take some rest. He didn't rest for a second since he left you so I'm pretty sure he's really tired out now. I mean, he should be fine despite having no rest but, he was incredibly tensed with worry the entire time. I worry it might have taken quite a toll on him since this is the first time he went through something like this. I mean he had always gone through much deadlier battles, but I think this might be the hardest journey he has gone through yet. He used to be quite reckless but always incredibly calm. However, looking at him in the past two days until just moments ago was the worse sight of him I have ever witnessed so far. He was so worried to the point that he looked as though he was almost drowning. It's like he never really took a breath until he saw you safe. So, all of us would truly appreciate it if you made sure he rests. Even if it was just for a little while, okay?"

Evie felt her heart squeezed at what Zolan reported to her, and she nodded at him. "I will make sure he gets enough rest." She said and Zolan leaned away, smiling.

"Well then, I will be leaving His Highness' care into your capable hands from now. Please don't listen to him if he says he doesn't need any rest. That's all hogwash, and you know it." Zolan winked at her.

"Yes. Thank you for telling me this." Evie flashed a gentle smile before she looked at him with concern. "H-how about you and the others? I'm sure you guys need some rest too."

"We are fine, Your Highness. Do not worry. We are used to this and unlike His Highness, we actually took some rest when we were in the dungeons. Well then, I'm going to excuse myself now to deal with the bloody emperor." He said and after bowing, he leapt away.

Evie then slowly turned her gaze towards Gavriel and her eyes teared up from being overly emotional. He looked so cool as he stood there commanding his people like a king. He looked like he had no weakness at all, as if nothing could ever make him fall.

"Where are you looking at? Huh? My wife?" suddenly, the king from afar was suddenly right before her and his expression was already starting to be filled with mischief.

Evie stared at his glorious face, and she nearly tiptoed to kiss him. Instead, she quickly grabbed Gavriel's hand and dragged him towards the stairs. "Follow me." She said in a firm voice that cause Gavriel's brow to rise in surprise. His wife had such a commanding side to her, and it totally intrigued him to no end.

His lips curved up into a smirk when he realized she was dragging him back to their quarters. He did not bother to speak but he was biting his lips to hide his smirk from her.

When Evie closed the door behind him and started removing his cloak, Gavriel just froze on the spot with his eyes gleaming in excitement. He was anticipating to see what his little wife would do.

Once she helped him removed his jacket, he went on to kick off his own boots. Evie then proceeded to pull him into bed.

Gavriel almost pushed her and pinned her down as he could no longer contain his excitement. Who would have thought that this little wife of his would actually initiate their fun time like this? She was truly surprising him big time right then! Since when had she grown so bold? But whenever it happened, he was loving it!

Evie let go of his hand and faced him with serious looking eyes. "Lie down," she said and Gavriel raised a brow again. He bit down on his lower lip and released it very slowly. "Now, Gavriel." She added, this time firmer with a cute frown between her brows and Gavriel could only obey. Damn, this was getting so interesting and exciting. He thought. And she was so cute!

He laid down on the bed, looking at her in utter anticipation. His heartbeat was already racing and struggled not to pull at her so she would fall on top of him. He could barely wait!

When Evie climbed onto the bed as well, Gavriel swallowed hard. What will she do? Could it be that she is going to...

Gavriel's body started to get hot. Evie gazed down into his eyes and Gavriel nearly choked on his own breath when she slowly held his head up.

Gavriel anticipated a kiss but to his stunned surprise, that long awaited kiss did not come and the next thing he knew, his head was cradled in her lap. He blinked as though he was lost for a moment. Wait. What had just happened?

He looked up at her with a curious gaze when Evie started to run her fingers delicately through his hair and smiled down so gently at him. The feeling of her warm fingers and that breath taking look in her eyes as she gazed down at him made him forget that he needed to breathe.

"Sleep now, my love." She whispered as she planted a kiss on his forehead, causing his eyes to widen.

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Chapter 144 - Quickest Way

What just happened?! Did he hear it correctly? It seemed as if his wife had just told him to sleep. Did those words actually come out of her beautiful mouth? Gavriel was a little confused in his mind and held himself quiet and still for a while before he caught Evie's hand that was caressing his hair. He tried to school the look on his face as to not look so disappointed as he stared up at her.

"Wife," he called out gently as his eyes narrowed, "could it be that a certain blabbermouth had come by, telling you that I had been worked out and am tired to death?"

His question made her beautiful eyes widened in shock before she blinked and took his hand off hers and gently placed it on top of his abdomen. "Yes, my love. But even if the blabbermouth didn't say anything, I'd still be insisting that you should take your rest." She stated firmly as she resumed her careful ministrations on his hair.

"Evie, look at me. Do I look tired to you? At all??" he raised his brow and then lifted his hand to touch her face. "I am finally here and seeing you again, but now you wanted me to sleep?" his whispered in a low voice as he continued caressing her cheek. The look in his eyes even changed and he gave her that smouldering, irresistible look. "Could you at least give me something I needed first before putting me to bed?" he then wriggled his eyebrows mischievously at her.

His words were inviting and the way he stared up at her sent an electrifying current that had zapped all around her nerves and was now tickling her inside. God help me... Evie could only mentally roll her eyes and whisper inside her mind.

She opened her mouth and nearly gave in but somehow, she managed to hold her ground. It was because she was still worried. And maybe, she was a little paranoid as well. What if something suddenly happens again? This question was stuck in her mind, and she could not help but feel scared.

Because everything still seemed too good to be true. It was only a few days ago when they got separated, and it had not been even a week yet. Yet now he was suddenly here with her. And it even looked as though he had infiltrated the castle and rescued her so easily. He had even captured emperor Lorcan and took back the city again. Everything happened so quickly and smoothly as if it was all so easy to be accomplished.

Evie grew up hearing stories about wars and strategies. She knew how hard it was to recapture a city. It would have taken so much bloodshed. Even the initial plans they had involved sacrificing some of their own people's lives to succeed to their end goal. Of course, thanks to Evie's plans they could abandon the idea of sacrificing lives and thus came up with the current plans. But Gavriel executed his own plans so quickly and flawlessly, that it was baffling to even think of how he accomplished it.

Though this was something that should be celebrated, Evie felt as though she was afraid to let down her guard or be happy with him again even in this short moment they had together. She was afraid that if she allowed herself to be happy and loosen her guard even for a moment, something bad will happen again and she dreaded that. Especially right now when they are still in a tensed situation. The least that she could do was to make sure that her husband was in his best shape before another round of trouble comes barging at their door.

"My love, are you okay?" his deep voice pulled her attention back to him and before she could form any response, Gavriel let out a deep sigh. "I'm going to kill this blabbermouth for making you worry unnecessarily like this." He hissed.

"Oh no... please don't! You needed this blabbermouth more than I –"

"What did you just say?"

"I... I meant that these are critical times. So, you can't afford to lose him –"

Suddenly, Gavriel's large hand cupped the back of her head and pulled her closer to his face.

"Listen," his face became incredibly severe, "it's you I needed the most. More so during these tough times. Do you understand, Evie?"

The hardness in his voice made Evie swallow hard. But she nodded and Gavriel let go of her and slumped his head back into her lap with a soft groan. He closed his eyes and then sighed again. When he opened his eyes, he was calm again.

"I know you're worried about me, and you have no idea how happy I am that you are prioritising me this way. But my love, putting me to bed is not really the right choice right now." He said and Evie blinked. "You know why? Because I'm still full of vigour right now and I don't think I could even sleep. I would stay awake like this and just end up staring at you and feel the warmth of your fingers combing through my hair. I wouldn't want to sleep and miss out on this moment with you. This is the first time you have allowed me to rest my head on your lap and you expect me to sleep? What I am trying to tell you, my love is..." he paused, and his throat worked, his Adam's apple bobbing up and down and Evie did not even know why she swallowed hard too. "If you really want me to sleep, this is definitely not the right way. What you should do is let me use up all the vigour I have left until I end up collapsing on you in exhaustion and fall asleep in bliss."

Without averting his gaze from hers, Gavriel slowly reached out for her hand before kissed her fingers one at a time. His eyes smouldered through his dark lashes and continued in a hoarse seductive voice. "That, my love, is the best and quickest way to put me to bed. No, that's actually the only way to put me to sleep right now." Gavriel drawled out as he flashed his deadly attractive smile at Evie.

Chapter 145 - I Would Never

That smile!! Evie really felt that she had zero tolerance for it. The moment he flashed it at her, her brain just turns off and all logic and reason fly out the window. Now, looking at him smiling at her, the heat he caused was too much that Evie felt like her face was now being scorched and smoking hot. Was her husband always this shameless before? God help her... because there was just no way she could even resist him now when he was like this!

However...

"Of course, if my wife is not in the mood, and if this will put you at ease, I would rather just close my eyes and try my best." He said in mock surrender when Evie could not respond for a long while.

Evie could only face palm herself. The audacity of this man! She gazed down at him as she nibbled the inside of her lips. Seriously? He is finally going to give up now after saying all that heart moving and spine-tingling words to her? She arched an eyebrow and pursed her lips as she looked at her husband who was pretending to be all docile and meek.

The next moment, Evie moved, and she found herself straddled on top of him. Gavriel propped his upper body on his elbows, mouth slightly agape and looking at her in surprise. She then lunged at him and hugged him tight.

"I'm sorry," she muttered into the muscular chest her face was buried in, "you are right. I am just too worried. I was afraid something bad will happen if we... if we..." she struggled to continue her line, "what would I do if we... we do it... and then something happens and you're too tired out to even go and..."

To Evie's surprise, she felt Gavriel's body start to tremble. She pulled away, worried for his health... just to see that infernal man trying his very best to stop himself from bursting out in laughter. However, the next second, he exploded in loud raucous mirth.

"W-why are you laughing?" she pouted her lips and Gavriel quickly cupped her face with both his hands and gave her a couple of pecks on her pouty lips. As Evie huffed, Gavriel gently bumped his forehead against hers, still chuckling to himself.

"Because my wife is being so goddamned adorable right now." He said still smiling wide and then he let his back crash back into the mattress as he pulled her down in his embrace on top of him. "Alright my love, you have beaten me up well and good this time. I will yield to your demands and sleep now, but you will need to sleep with me... wait, I mean literally sleep with me. I know I will be able to fall asleep if we do this."

He then rolled over to the side and landed her next to him. When they were facing each other, with their arms wrapped around each other, Gavriel kissed her forehead before his gaze became serious. "I understand your fear my love. But know that I would never risk your safety over my primal desires. Even though I can't deny that I am madly..." for some reason, he did not finish his sentence and just flushed a little before he cleared his throat, "just know that I wouldn't be so stupid to be intimate with you if we were to be engaged in dangerous situations right after that. Understand?"

Evie pressed her lips tight, and she snuggled into his embrace, fully reassured. "I'm sorry." She whispered and he caressed her hair.

"It's not your fault. You are worried and scared and yet your husband is being damned..." he sighed, not finishing his line again, "Gods... I'm worried you'd get sick of me one day for constantly jumping all over you like this like a big bad wolf who is always hungry."

"I would never!" Evie exclaimed in a loud voice as she pulled away, causing Gavriel to blink. "How could I ever get sick of you? I am actually the who's worried about that! And I never hated it when you're all over me and wanting me. In fact, it makes me feel happy and I always love it when you..." Evie's voice tapered off when she realised what she was saying, and she flushed again. Gods! What was wrong with her brain? She then closed her eyes tightly in embarrassment.

Gavriel's lips curved up, his face beaming like the sun, looking so goddamned pleased. But then, he suddenly cursed under his breath before he was suddenly on top of her and staring down into her eyes. "I was trying so hard to listen to you and go to sleep but look what you did to me. I think that deep down, you might not truly want me to sleep. You actually want me to make love to you, right, Evie?"

The heat between them suddenly seemed to ignite. Oh no...

She averted her gaze away. "I... I..." she stammered, "I want you, too... I admit it... but..." she met his gaze and continued, "your health and wellbeing are my top priority at the moment, my primal desire is only secondary." Evie explained after letting out a gentle breath, eyes soft and tender as she looked at him.

Gavriel blinked, speechless. Did she just use his own words against him? A long sigh escaped his lips and he lazily fell back into bed again, chuckling softly. His little wife is getting better at bantering with him.

"Alright, alright... I give up. Did my seduction effectivity lessened without me realizing? I guess I really need a nap it seems," he mumbled as he shook his head. He then pulled her close to him and shut his eyes. He had positioned himself lower so he could lean his head on Evie's chest and placed her hands on his head. Gavriel nudged his head into her hands, indicating that he wanted her to continue stroking his hair the way she did earlier. Evie smiled and thought how he was behaving like a big, pampered kid.

As Evie started to caress his hair, Gavriel spoke in a low, lazy voice. "I'll sleep now... but prepare yourself once I wake up, wife. Because this big bad wolf will definitely ravage you like never be..." his voice had slowly tapered off and suddenly stopped. And just like that, the big bad wolf fell asleep.

Chapter 146 - Hard

It was already dark when Gavriel's eyes finally slitted open. However, he did not move a muscle and was not in a rush to get up from bed. Because after opening his eyes, his senses told him that there was a little warm and soft creature peacefully sleeping in his arms. He breathed in deeply and relished the warm weight he held.

He smiled and kissed her hair gently. The sight of her peaceful face had warmed his entire being and he could not help but feel incredibly satisfied and contented just by waking up this way with her in his arms. He could really get used to this. The thought of waking every day with her beside him warmed someplace cold and frozen, deep within him just made it all the more precious.

For a long while, he stayed there, unmoving, until Evie finally shifted and snuggled even closer towards him. And then, accidentally, her bent knee brushed against his groin. Gavriel had an immediate reaction from that sweet and innocent touch. He caught his lips between his perfect white teeth and bit back the groan that almost escaped his mouth.

Still, he did not move for another long while until he suddenly rolled away and lay on his back, panting as though he had just run a marathon. A long and deep sigh escape his mouth and he rose and leaned his back against the headboard. After glancing at Evie once again, he run his fingers through his hair and climbed off the bed.

He walked around the bed and stood on her side, staring down at her peaceful face, still happily asleep in her dreamland. Sighing again, Gavriel leaned down and tucked the blanket up to her neck, making sure she did not catch a chill. Then he kissed her cheek and whispered. "This considerate husband of yours will give you a little more time to sleep, my love."

Once he pulled away, Gavriel lit up the fire in the hearth, and the dark room lit up in a warm, reddish golden glow before heading out.

When he returned, he was wearing a robe and his hair was damp. He had gone to take a bath and he had really dawdled in the bath just so he would delay himself and tried extending the time as long as possible from returning to the room where Evie was sleeping. However ...

To his disappointment, Evie was still contentedly sleeping when he returned. He sighed again as he sat on the chair by the fire, staring mutely at her sleeping form. However, the man was growing impatient as time ticked by. He began to pace up and down the room and even created some subtle sounds in the hopes of 'accidentally' waking Evie up. His brows creased in a furrow before he approached the bed and bent over her.

"Wife..." he whispered, letting his breath fan across her face, "it's late. It's time for you to wake up now. Cause this big bad wolf is now dying of hunger."

He waited for a response, but Evie remained motionless. Not giving a single sign that she was going to wake up soon.

Dropping his head, Gavriel sat at the edge of the bed. Was his wife always such a sleeping log before? He could not believe this little wife of his was torturing him like this to no end. And she was even doing this unknowingly while she was asleep! Oh, for the love of god!

When he felt her shifting in her sleep, Gavriel's face lit up. However, to his dismay, Evie did not open her eyes. God help him... because he could not take it anymore.

"Very well, my wife..." he muttered to himself as he stood decisively. He removed his robe slowly as he looked down at her and let his robe fall to the floor. "This big bad wolf shall wake you up in a way you will never forget." His gaze glimmered and he quietly climbed onto the bed with a mischievous and thrilled smile on his face.

Completely naked, Gavriel loomed over Evie as he started planting kisses all over her throat in the gentlest and softest way possible. At that moment, he was like a naked pagan god who had fallen in love with a sacrificial maiden and was now worshipping every single inch of her.

He began to whisper endearments as he continued trailing kisses further down. His fingers carefully and slowly peeled off her clothes as if he had all the time in the world. When her skin was finally bared before his hungry eyes, he swallowed. Hard.

The golden light coming from the fire in the hearth kissed her skin and she looked incredibly breath-taking. His eyes worshipped her beauty and he struggled to keep himself in check to not pounce on her and just swallow her whole. Thankfully, this time Gavriel managed to easily tame his

raging desire and hunger. He would take his time and enjoy this moment. He wanted to know how long would he take to wake her up.

Gavriel's mouth returned to her throat before his tongue trailed down her collarbones to her breasts. He licked her nipples until they hardened. Still Evie had yet to wake up. But that did not discourage Gavriel, instead, he smiled even more in anticipation. This was really going to get good. He parted his lips and brushed his tongue over her buds, flicking then licking them again and again until they were wet and a moan finally escaped Evie's mouth.

"Hmm..." she moaned, and both her hands flew to his head, fingers entangled in his thick ebony locks. Without letting go of her nipple, Gavriel lifted his gaze, thinking that his wife was finally awake. To his surprise, his little mischievous wife was still asleep. However, her body was honest in its response to him, and he could only grin wider.

A wicked gleam flashed in his eyes and the big bad wolf began to stroke and suck her buds. His tongue danced in a swift yet clever rhythm. She moaned again but still did not wake up. But the moment Gavriel gently tugged her nipple, Evie gasped, and her eyes flew open.

Confusion and desire reeled her mind as she struggled to make sense of what was happening as she awoke. W-what's...

Evie took a while to register what was happening. Her eyes were wide as she looked down at the dark mop of hair hovering over her breasts and... oh my...!

He glanced up at her and his intense eyes made her catch her breath. With a cool and devious smile touching the corner of his lips, he let go of her nipple with a pop and playfully pinched her chin.

"I didn't know you were this hard to wake, my love." He said in a husky and sensuous voice.

A/N: Second chap will come later today ^^

Chapter 147 - This Way

As Evie became more alert waking up, she realised she felt the slightly cooler air waft across her bare skin refreshingly, helping her to clear the vestiges of cobwebs from her brain. Then Evie's lips suddenly parted in shocked surprise the moment she realized she was already naked. Her face became red and her first reaction was to roll away and bury her face into the pillow, and hopefully perhaps bury her body under the covers as well. However, as luck would have had it, Gavriel had too firm a hold on her. Thus, preventing her from moving much anywhere other than a couple inches to her left or right.

Gavriel stilled for a moment but when he realized that she was just embarrassed, Gavriel loomed over her and his mouth moved towards the back of her ear. "Why still so shy my love?" he whispered in a husky voice. He barely held back the chuckle that was threatening to rumble out of his chest. This lovely wife of his was surely an entertaining little thing.

Evie made an adorable whimper and she turned her head to look back at him. "Y-you surprised me..." Evie's voice died down. That was because the face she saw the moment she turned to look back was not his usual mischievous and wickedly seductive face. What she was staring at was a face that was dark and cold as ice, and it gave her the shudders.

The warm temperature suddenly seemed to become incredibly chilly. What could have caused the sudden change?

Curious and a little alarmed, Evie was about to rise when Gavriel's cold voice echoed. "Who did this?" he asked and Evie could hear the rising anger in his voice. No, his anger was already over the top. His bright eyes were already filled with rage.

Blinking, Evie slowly sat up and faced him. Her long hair had draped over to cover her breasts. "W-what are you –"

"You said you weren't hurt, Evie!" his voice became loud and there was a tone of censure in it. Evie finally realized what he had seen.

"Tell me. Who did this? Is it Lorcan?" he hissed, his jaws and muscles working because of his anger. "I'll kill him!" he declared in rage and he turned to climb off the bed when Evie quickly hugged him from behind, stopping him immediately.

"Gavriel, this is just a small bruise. It's just a very minor injury. My skin easily gets hurt and that's why I always get bruises even if the impact isn't actually that hard." Evie rushed to give her explanation, hoping to diffuse his anger.

Gavriel inhaled deeply. "Evie..." he called her name in a firm and controlled voice. If she was the old Evie, she would be flinching by now. But she was not the old Evie anymore. "I don't care if it's just a bruise I –"

"Trust me, this is only very minor. I got this by bumping against the door right before Leon and I escaped." Evie explained, persistently tightening her grip around his waist. She did not want him to run off on a crusade because for some minor reason, and might end up really killing the emperor. She would not want him to act out in anger. And besides, she was truly fine. Her bruise was nothing serious at all. "Don't worry okay? This will definitely disappear on its own in a couple of days. I promise, it's not really a big deal. I was such a clumsy idiot and -"

"You are never an idiot!" his voice hardened and Evie nearly smiled, seeing that he hated that she had called herself an idiot.

"I always fall and get bruises for no reason at all back home too, you know? That's why this is really nothing to me." Evie tried her best to coax him and when her words did not seem to be working this time, Evie's mouth suddenly landed on his spine.

Gavriel stiffened as if a deadly electricity just ran down his spine. She continued trailing kisses upwards until she reached the back of his neck. He was so shocked at what his wife was doing that he had even forgotten to breathe.

"Are you going to leave? I thought..." she whispered in his ear, letting her warm breath touch the sensitive parts, "y-you told me to prepare myself the moment you wake up." Evie knew that if she used this method, it would be a sure fire way to distract him from whatever he was focussed on at the moment. And she was a hundred percent on the money.

A helpless groan left Gavriel's throat and then he cursed up a colourful storm.

"F*ck Evie!" he turned and the next moment Evie was on his lap and he was on her, attacking her mouth as though there were no tomorrows.

Without any hesitation, Evie kissed him back, as wild as he gave. Then she opened her mouth, welcoming his warm and slick tongue as her fingers tugged hard at his dark hair, pulling him towards her. Her intensity surprised him – but it was a happy and thrilled kind of surprise. When Gavriel tried to pull his tongue out of her mouth, Evie drew it back into her mouth with an awkward suction movement.

A low and deep sound of surprise vibrated in Gavriel's throat. And what she did was the last strike that took down all other thoughts and emotions that was holding him back. All that was left now was her, his inexplicable desire for her and his love for her. Nothing else. His world was now just concentrated on them.

After the blazing kiss, Gavriel laid on the bed again. He turned Evie so she would be facing away from him. Then he started trailing kisses down her back. His lips lightly kissing the bruise on her back, as if trying to kiss away every little pain.

Moments later, they lay spooned together with Evie's hips tucked against him. Gavriel wrapped his arms around her as if he were protecting her.

He reached down and caressed her legs in a soothing manner all the while kissing her back. When he parted her thighs, Evie's eyes widened as she felt the pressure of the head of his sex against her entrance.

"Your back is bruised, love... so let me love you this way, okay?" he whispered.

Chapter 148 - Forever

"I want to make love to you like this, Evie." He whispered as he smoothed her hair then moved them away to her side. When her ear and throat were exposed, Gavriel's mouth licked and sucked the exposed skin.

Evie moaned in pleasure, not only because of the kiss and the gentle yet skilful ministrations of his fingers that were kneading her breast but also because he was teasing her down there with the head of his hard shaft.

Her mind and body were already on fire. And despite the strange position, Evie could not even protest. She was already so wet and her desire for him had already taken over her body, mind, and heart. Fully.

"Please say 'yes' love..." he continued whispering, as he teased her, rubbing his rock hard length against her already dripping wet folds.

An adorable moan escaped her throat and she nodded. Her eyes were fluttering in pure bliss.

She felt him smile against her throat and she braced herself for the upcoming penetration. But it did not come even after waiting. Instead, Gavriel continued his teasing. After a few more moments, Evie felt as though she would explode in frustration.

"G-gav... please..." the words stuttered and came tumbling out on their own and Gavriel, ever being the big bad wolf in their relationship, finally slid his length inside her warm inviting sheath. Evie waited for the fullness and the feeling of having all of him inside her but to her dismay, Gavriel barely penetrated her before he withdrew again.

"Please Gav..." she pleaded again and with a wicked smile on his face, Gavriel gently bite her earlobe and whispered in an erotic voice.

"What do you want me to do to you, my love?" he asked as her hips began to press back against him.

Gavriel was so pleased in seeing his wife's response to him. It was as if she could not wait for him to take her. And he was so damned happy. When she began to rock against him while uttering the words 'I want you, now', the bliss and pleasure in Gavriel's heart nearly burst out in utter happiness. He had sometimes thought and worried that his sex drive and desires were just too much for his wife to handle and that he should always hold back a lot for her sake. Sometimes he finds himself feeling sorry and a little guilty towards Evie after their lovemaking sessions. He knows he gets a little wild and overly enthusiastic and Evie is only human. Thus, it always lingers at the back of his mind if she would be able to take the vigorousness. But now that he was seeing her like this, where she too, was so hungry for him as how he was for her, Gavriel was even more ecstatic than ever.

"Take me now, Gavriel. Please." Evie continued, moving even faster like she was determined and more than eager to have him inside her. And Gavriel found that he could no longer hold back for even a second longer. He had far reached his limit of holding back to make sure she really wanted him to make love to her this way. He took another second and looked at her to make the final confirmation that she truly wanted this and was not just humouring him. Seeing what he needed in her eyes, he nodded to himself.

He pulled her legs and spread it wider before he slid himself inside her in one smooth motion. The delicious intrusion earned him a gasp and then groans from her.

Gavriel also groaned low in pleasure as he immediately started up a solid rhythm as he thrust deep inside her. Endearments came rolling out like hypnotic music from his lips as his fingers moved downwards to where they were both connected.

When he started stroking her bud, all the while keeping up his thrusting in that steady and delicious rhythm, Evie's moans grew in volume. She clenched her inner muscles down tight and it was Gavriel's turn to groan in utter pleasure.

His endearments turned into love curses as his rhythm increased its pace. Faster, deeper, harder. Until they both reached the very peak of their emotions and lust so powerful everything just disappeared into complete nothingness. And with that one last and vigorous thrust, they both shuddered as they reached and crested the peak together. Gavriel again spent himself totally inside her in a series of powerful spurts while Evie convulsed so hard the bed began to shake.

Gavriel took a long while to return back to reality. Still buried inside her, he lovingly lifted her head and kissed her long and deep on the mouth. He was never going to get over her. The way she tasted, the way her insides clamped down around him, the burning heat of her body against him, the way she made his heartbeat race into a frenzy, and the way she just made him so crazy for her in everything that she does... Gavriel knew for sure that he was already a lost cause. He would not be able to survive without her now. He just knew it. He was spellbound, completely, and he never wanted to be freed. Forever.

...

After making love with her for another round, Gavriel was finally sated. Evie fell asleep again, so the prince lovingly cleaned her up before he began dressing her. His face was contented and happy doing this simple task of caring for his wife. He loved it in fact. His face says it all.

However, when he saw the bruise again, his face darkened.

By the time Evie was all cozy and sleeping in bliss on the bed, Gavriel kissed her forehead and silently stepped out of the room.

He asked for not just one but two of his personal men, Luc and Levy, to guard Evie's door.

"Stay alert and if you notice anything suspicious, immediately secure the princess and come to me." He ordered and the duo nodded.

The moment he left their quarters, Gavriel's eyes turned a vivid bloody red, then the bluish flame took over as he flashed over to Lorcan's cell.

Chapter 149 - Single

When Evie opened her eyes, she was hungry. She called for supper and dug into it with gusto. After polishing off all of her supper – which was surprising – she immediately looked for Gavriel. When Luc and Levy informed her that he was with Zolan and was currently dealing with the emperor's interrogation, Evie asked the men to bring her to Leon instead. She wanted to visit the man who had protected her with his own life.

To her relief, Leon was doing amazingly well. He was already fully healed and was now back to his maximum vigour. She found that though he was of a big built, tall, and definitely strong, he still gave her the feeling of being adorable and a comfortable person to be around.

"I'm so glad you're alright, Leon." Evie told him, smiling happily. "If you weren't there for me all those times when we were facing the opposition, I don't know if..." Evie trailed off and looked up to the sky.

"You did extremely well in protecting yourself too, Princess. I had never expected that you would actually work up the guts to slash at the emperor's face." Leon chuckled mirthfully and sounded as if he were proud of her, and Evie chuckled along with him as well. Recalling that moment when Lorcan had launched himself at her, Evie was already gripping her dagger tightly within her sleeves. It was only because Lorcan was too focused on nothing else but her neck that he failed to notice her obvious stance and suspicious behaviour. Perhaps, he was too hungry or perhaps, he noticed but he did not expect that this frail and little human being would be able to ever come close enough to harm him nor did he suspect her dagger was poisoned.

But what happened in that moment made Evie realized how helpless she was. If she was unlucky and Leon was not there, there would be no way on earth that she could have escaped Lorcan's grasp. The thought scared her and still brought shivers running up and down her skin. And out of the blue...

"Leon, do you know a way for a human like me to become stronger?" she asked. Leon blinked and looked at her with surprise.

"You are already strong, Princess –" Leon replied slowly, apprehensive, and not quite knowing where she was headed with this.

"I'm not." She cut him off. "I want to be strong enough to at least save myself. I hate always being the damsel in distress." Evie explained while she stared at the floor, feeling a little upset at her helplessness.

"But I don't mind you being a damsel in distress my love." Gavriel's voice suddenly echoed, and Evie's head snapped behind her. "My damsel in distress." And he playfully winked at Evie, hoping to dispel the negative emotions he spied lurking in the depths of her eyes.

Gavriel was leaning against a wall in a cool and casual manner. After she looked at him, he pushed himself from the wall and approached her.

Smiling, Gavriel bent forward and tucked her hair behind her ear. "You know why?" he continued as his gaze gleamed with so much love as he stared into her amber eyes. "Because I love being your knight in shining armour." His irresistible mouth curved up and Evie blushed hard.

How could this husband of hers be so good in every single thing? He is just too good in everything he does, even in bed and now with his words too. How could she even stand her ground before such a man? She sometimes wondered if she was worthy to stand beside such a magnificent specimen of the male species.

"I understand your wish to become stronger... but," the mischief in his eyes slowly faded and his gaze became serious yet gentle, "please know that you are already strong enough, my love. You're a strong woman, Evie... you are stronger than what you give yourself credit for."

Speechless, Evie could only stare at him. His words were like a magic spell chanted, entering into the deepest chambers of her mind, heart, and soul.

After a long silence, Gavriel smiled again and he suddenly pinched her cheek, surprising Evie. "Besides, wife," he started, now mischievously, "If you grow even stronger to the point that you don't even need any rescuing anymore, what will happen to this little poor knight in shining armour?"

Evie raised her brows this time and looked up at him confidently. "You don't need to worry about my knight in shining armour because he is destined to become king. He'll become the most powerful and absolute king."

While the words that left Evie's mouth rendered Gavriel speechless as he stood still before his wife, the men who were already gathered around them were glancing at each other for a while now.

They had followed Gavriel to discuss about something pertaining to the war, yet here they were... did the prince just called them over so he could turn them into his personal audience to watch his romantic play with his wife? Good lord... they couldnt believe he was romancing his wife and flaunting it in front of their eyes? They did not know if they should laugh or cry. My dear prince... please would you be so kind to consider us single males who are very much healthy and normal and would also long for female companionship? Was their prince trying to kill them with frustration?

"I think we should leave now," Levy said through their secret conversation, rolling his eyes at the rest.

"Agree." Reed replied dryly, "I am absolutely not going to just stand here and watch this drama. I'm already dying with envy right now. Can I go to the brothel for a while, Zolan?"

"You can't, idiot." Samuel glared at Reed. "I know for sure that your 'a while' is equivalent to half a night. We are not in the position to indulge ourselves in fleshly pleasures right now."

"Yes boss, apologies." Reed could only sigh, not wanting to anger their big and brute leader. "That was just a joke. And just for the record, this is His Highness' fault you know? Come on... aren't you guys feeling any envy at all while watching this scene? Don't you guys also wish to have someone to be intimate with so romantically like this? Look..." Reed's voice slowly died down because of the deadpan expression of his comrades.

"Bloody hell," he sighed as his shoulders drooped, "I honestly pity all of you for not appreciating romance because you guys have been single for the rest of your lives... tsk... tsk..."

Chapter 150 - Tale

Finally, after realizing that Gavriel's men were watching her and Gavriel, Evie hid her blushing face from Gavriel. She realised belatedly that their conversation could be perceived as flirting and even showing off in front of his men!

"Your men are here, Gav." She said and the statue woke up.

Gavriel looked behind him and he cleared his throat. He had totally forgotten about them or the agreement they had to meet up to discuss on certain matters. He cleared his throat again before speaking, "Alright, now that everyone is here..." Gavriel started as if nothing happened. His hand slipped casually to the small of Evie's back before curling it possessively around her dainty waist.

He then proceeded to command each one of them, giving them tasks they needed to do to fortify the city's defence. When the men bowed at him and then left, Gavriel looked down at Evie by his side. "What do you want to do tonight, love?" he asked, his voice gentle and warm which was vastly different from the firm, commanding and no-nonsense one he used with his men.

"How about you? How did it go with the emperor?" Evie asked him back and Gavriel's face became a little serious. There was a cold and hard look in his eyes for a moment before he suddenly swooped her up and took her to the top of the watchtower.

When they arrived, there was no one else. He made her sit at the edge of the parapet as he hugged her from behind, making absolutely sure she was secure in his arms and in no danger of falling. Evie's feet dangled in the air as she faced the starry night sky. The stars were shining bright, and the cool breeze was blowing gently through their hair. As Evie watched the scenery before her, she held onto Gavriel's arms around her waist and when Gavriel leaned his chin on her shoulder, she reached out for his dark hair and caressed them softly. If there were anyone else watching, they would say that the scenery of his dark hair tousled by the wind and her silvery locks flying gently and sometimes intertwining with the dark ones of her companion, was more mesmerising than the scenery around them.

At that moment, the world seemed so quiet, so beautiful, and peaceful. It was as if the world was suddenly perfect. But she knew it was not. And she feared this quiet calm that felt too good to be true. She knew the future was uncertain. She wondered what will happen tomorrow and she dreaded that what if after this calm, a devastating storm fall would upon them again.

As she continued caressing Gavriel's hair in silence, a shooting star appeared, and she closed her eyes and made a wish. She wished that whatever happens in the future, the two of them will not be forced to leave each other ever again. She wished that no matter how strong this storm would be,

nothing would ever separate them again. That their bonds of love for one another would be strong enough to weather the storms that come their way.

"What are you thinking?" his soft whisper echoed beside her ear. Evie's hand on his hair paused for a moment in her stroking before she tilted her head a little and looked at him.

"I was wondering how you suddenly arrived to save me." She said, her brows creased a little with curiosity. "Could it be that you actually never left?" Evie was still thinking over this point as she remembered Gavriel appearing from behind them rather than from the front.

"I did leave, love."

"Let me guess... you actually ended up hiding in the dungeons."

Gavriel chuckled a little.

"Oh, I forgot..." Evie sighed, "Zolan did mention that you and your men really did leave and were even in the forbidden lands."

"Yes. We needed to mark out our trail so the enemy will know that we really left and also tracks that they would be able to follow." Gavriel explained. "It's a part of our plan. We need to leave our trails in the forbidden land as well to confuse them since we know that Lorcan would definitely send the dragon guardian to go after us. Our plan was to make them search for us there, hence delaying their return so we can prepare and plan properly for the war. But..." he paused for a moment, "this invisible thing ruined the plan and right now, Caius must already be on his way back here now."

"Did the emperor spilled everything out about it? Do you now know what is that invisible thing?"

"Yes." Gavriel replied and Evie was surprised. She wanted to know how he managed to make that haughty emperor talk but she held her tongue. And since Evie could not see Gavriel's face, she did not see the dark and evil look that flashed across Gavriel's eyes for a moment when Evie asked about the emperor.

"Would you tell me what it is? It's definitely not a ghost, right?" Evie shivered a little despite not quite believing in ghosts.

She felt Gavriel smile. "It's not."

"Then what is it? An invisible vampire?"

He laughed this time and Evie smiled too. Loving the sound of his chuckles. Did she ever told him that she loved it so much whenever he laughed so heart-meltingly like this?

"Keep guessing, love." He said in his mischievous tone and Evie was about to pout but she decided to continue the guessing game since he suggested it. One reason was because she wanted to keep on talking to him like this. Not wanting the night to end so soon so she could spend more time with him before trouble comes.

"Hmm... maybe, a creature who has magic?"

"Have you ever heard about them before?"

"The magical creatures?"

"Yes."

"When I was young, I had an old maid who used to tell me tales about creatures who could use magic. She said that long ago, they actually existed, and they used to live with the dragons and the other beasts in the forbidden land."

"What if I tell you that your old maid's tale is true? That it is a recounting rather than a myth?"

Chapter 149 - Single

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Gavriel chuckled a little.

"Oh, I forgot..." Evie sighed, "Zolan did mention that you and your men really did leave and were even in the forbidden lands."

"Yes. We needed to mark out our trail so the enemy will know that we really left and also tracks that they would be able to follow." Gavriel explained. "It's a part of our plan. We need to leave our trails in the forbidden land as well to confuse them since we know that Lorcan would definitely send the dragon guardian to go after us. Our plan was to make them search for us there, hence delaying their return so we can prepare and plan properly for the war. But..." he paused for a moment, "this invisible thing ruined the plan and right now, Caius must already be on his way back here now."

"Did the emperor spilled everything out about it? Do you now know what is that invisible thing?"

"Yes." Gavriel replied and Evie was surprised. She wanted to know how he managed to make that haughty emperor talk but she held her tongue. And since Evie could not see Gavriel's face, she did not see the dark and evil look that flashed across Gavriel's eyes for a moment when Evie asked about the emperor.

"Would you tell me what it is? It's definitely not a ghost, right?" Evie shivered a little despite not quite believing in ghosts.

She felt Gavriel smile. "It's not."

"Then what is it? An invisible vampire?"

He laughed this time and Evie smiled too. Loving the sound of his chuckles. Did she ever told him that she loved it so much whenever he laughed so heart-meltingly like this?

"Keep guessing, love." He said in his mischievous tone and Evie was about to pout but she decided to continue the guessing game since he suggested it. One reason was because she wanted to keep on talking to him like this. Not wanting the night to end so soon so she could spend more time with him before trouble comes.

"Hmm... maybe, a creature who has magic?"

"Have you ever heard about them before?"

"The magical creatures?"

"Yes."

"When I was young, I had an old maid who used to tell me tales about creatures who could use magic. She said that long ago, they actually existed, and they used to live with the dragons and the other beasts in the forbidden land."

"What if I tell you that your old maid's tale is true? That it is a recounting rather than a myth?"