

Her Unwanted Mate On The Throne by Caroline Chapter 166

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Chapter 166 Unexpected consequences

"Doris! What on earth are you doing out of bed?" Beth tore Doris out of her half sleep and into the blinding daylight. She felt as if a cloud was all around her and fogging up her vision to the point that it was hard to focus on her friend. "How long have you been on this lumpy couch?"

Doris sat up when Beth helped her. "I woke up sick again. I feel so nauseous and dizzy all the time, so it kept me awake."

Beth froze for a moment until she lightly seated herself next to Doris. "I've been meaning to ask you about your symptoms."

"I don't think I was poisoned"

"No, no. That's not what I'm concerned about." Beth cleared her throat. "Have you and William been intimate yet?"

Doris felt her cheeks flame instantly, as well as a bit of shame swell up inside her chest to the point where she wanted to choke. Beth quickly silenced her. "You don't have to say anything. I just want to know if you were... careful during those times."

A new sort of panic formed to replace all that tried to scare her before. "Careful?" Doris whispered.

"Yes... with protection...?" Beth said gently as if she didn't know how else to explain without going into gory details that would make Doris melt into the floor.
1

It was like all their heated moments flashed before her eyes and one thing was missing. One obvious thing that made her want to scream. Doris dropped her head in her hands. "How could I be so stupid?" She mumbled. 2

Doris's mother had never taught her the first thing about sex or when to be careful, she learned all of that from books but somehow her mind didn't consider the consequences for her own actions in the heated moments. Why hadn't it crossed her mind once? Why did she live so blissfully in ignorance to her consequences? 1

It was like a light went off in her head when Beth mentioned protection. How stupid could she be? How stupid

"No, no no. This can't be happening!" Doris closed her eyes tightly and prayed it was all a dream. That her symptoms weren't because of her careless behavior. 2

"It'll be okay, Doris... the prince will make sure you're taken care of. He wouldn't leave you in the dark on this!"

"I know he wouldn't but, I'm not ready to have a baby with him, Beth. I'm still confused on half of the things I feel when he's in the room, how am I supposed to be the mother of his baby?"

Beth rubbed Doris's shoulder soothingly. "I know this wasn't what you planned, but perhaps it's a sign."

"A sign of my stupidity?" Doris sunk deeper into the couch.

"You weren't the only one who forgot, Doris. William is much more experienced on these things and knew better-so don't you dare try to blame it all on yourself for this." Beth wrapped her arms around Doris and trapped her in a hug that tried to erase all of her horrible thoughts. "Haven't you ever wondered why wolves have so many children? They rarely care for things like protection."

"I just... I suppose I can wipe the idea of freedom away from the palace out of my future. If I have his baby, he will make me stay."

"Do you truly want to be free from him? If you had the chance, would you leave right now even if there wasn't a possible baby?" Beth asked.

Doris stared down at her hands. Would she be able to get up and leave right this moment? Would she be able to forget the way his blue eyes turned to storms whenever he was worried about her?

"I-I don't know." Doris admitted. "I don't know if I could, even though it's all I ever wanted. I hate these walls and I hate this palace, I want to be free from all of this but now... "

"Love changes us." Beth whispered. "It changes what we want in life and it changes who we think we are."

"Freedom is all I've thought about for the past five years. I swore to myself I wouldn't let anyone change that dream for me. And now...*" "Now it feels as if it's changing?" Beth asked gently. "That's love knocking down all of your past plans you had for yourself, because now there's someone else on your mind."

Doris felt her wave of dizziness start to pass. She dropped her head against Beth's shoulder. "What am I supposed to do now? William won't want this, Beth."

"You're his mate! There's nothing else he would want more."

"A war is about to brew between him and his brother. I don't think a baby is going to make him happy right now." Doris said bitterly. She glanced at the window and watched the snow fall slowly.

"There's a possibility it isn't a baby, we won't know for sure until we have you checked." Beth stood and went to the stack of bags by the door. "Do you want to go now before we leave—" "No, he should be here soon. I'll have to... find a way to tell him after we're settled at the new camp." "I just came from the servants quarters and all of the staff has already been divided. Surprisingly, William had a lot more followers than I expected." Beth laid out warm clothes for Doris to change into. "I heard that they sent ahead quite a few groups to set up a new camp area for his army."

"They've already got it picked out?" Doris asked.

"Oh yes. Apparently they've been talking about this since you all returned from the north. It's been claimed for days—hopefully there's a good place for you all to rest when you get there."

"And you." Doris bumped Beth lightly with her hip and smiled.

William's guard showed up an hour later to take their things to the stables. Beth held Doris's hand tightly as she walked with her down the palace halls for what felt like the last time. For all she knew, it very well could have been the last time either of them stepped into this palace.

For some reason, that didn't sit right with her.

William stood tall by the carriages that lined the cobblestone path. His eyes found her instantly, she wondered if he could sense her nearby as she always sensed him.

He said nothing as she approached, only held out his hand to help her into the carriage. The uncertainty thickened in her stomach, she wondered how long she could keep it from him or if she would blurt it out the second she opened her mouth.

Beth scooted in close followed by Patrick and William on the other side. She gripped Beth's hand tightly when the carriage lurched off. It felt as if her insides were about to come right out of her from the movement alone.

"Are you alright?" Beth whispered. Doris nodded quickly and glanced up to see William watching her with those stormy eyes. He said nothing, but his eyes asked so many questions that she didn't want to answer at the moment.

"How long until we get there?" Beth asked quickly as if she could sense the building tension that crowded the small area.

"We should be there within an hour. It's not far but the roads are covered in snow." Patrick said, oblivious to the air around him. 1

Doris tore her eyes from William's and stared out the window for the rest of the trip. No one else said anything besides Patrick making small talk with William about things they had to ready once they arrived. Doris couldn't have felt further from her body.

Once it rolled to a stop, she was the last one to get out. William's grip tightened on her as he set her on the ground. His eyes searched every inch of her for some sort of injury that wasn't there.

"William, we need you to look this over before we approve it." Patrick called from behind him. William narrowed his eyes slightly when their gazes met. "We'll talk soon." Was all he said before he left her by the carriage with her friend.

Beth let out a long breath. "He's intimidating, I swear a hole was going to burn through you in

that carriage."

"How did he know something was wrong?" Doris whispered and followed her friend through the camp. It had several large tents set up and a large fire in the middle of it all. They were brought to one of the bigger tents near the center of the camp.

"Wolves can sense when their mate is under distress. Plus, it was obvious from how pale you are. You don't look well at all."

Doris brought her cold hands to her face. "I suppose there's no use in trying to hide it, then."

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Chapter 167 A new worry

Doris paced the small tent for what felt like hours. The dirt on the floor marked her small path she took back and forth where she wasn't a step out of rhythm. She wasn't even sure how much time had passed since they arrived at the camp, but she knew William would come for her soon and she would have to tell him.

Briefly, she wondered if it was possible for her to keep it a secret until she was positive that she was with child. But the thought of him finding out that she hid it from him was worse than telling him now. At least if she was wrong, he could let go of his worries.

What if he didn't want this? She couldn't imagine that he would. He'd lived his whole life being free and living for no one but himself-now she threatened that lifestyle for him. She remembered all the times he told her she didn't matter or that he didn't need a mate. What would he say to this?

Beth left her to her own thoughts soon after she settled in. It was wise for her friend to leave before he got here. If only she could disappear too. It would be so easy to take her packed bag and leave in the middle of the night with one of the horses

"Doris." A deep voice startled her right out of her thoughts as it always did. Doris turned to see William by the entrance. His arms were crossed over his chest as he watched her pace like a pathetic fool.

"William." Doris cleared her throat and forced her shaky hands to remain still at her sides. She knew he watched every move she made as if he was calculating it all in his mind. She was not his prey, she would be stronger than that.

William crossed the room and seated himself on the edge of the bed near her. She wanted to force him to stand and face her, but him sitting almost made her calmer. As if he wasn't as big as he was before and she could handle him now. "Do you want to tell me what's wrong or do I have to force it out of you?"

Doris picked at her nails silently before she finally went to sit next to him. "Okay. I don't know how to say this because I'm not even sure of it myself." Doris started. He remained silent and she tried to pretend that she was alone just so she had enough nerve to say it out loud-even with his eyes burning into her. "Beth thinks I might be with child." She blurted out.

Silence. Deafening, awful silence filled the room. Doris pinched herself to remind herself that this moment was real and she wasn't drowning in her own misery alone. She opened her mouth to say more, but nothing would come out.

"When did you discover this?" William finally asked. He hadn't moved an inch towards her. It sounded as if he was holding his breath more than anything. Perhaps he was about to choke on the information.

"I'm still not sure if it's even true but Beth thinks my nausea and dizziness these past few days might be the symptoms of pregnancy but she isn't positive yet either."

"Past few days?" William stood. "Why didn't you tell me you were sick?"

"I thought you had enough to deal with, William. I didn't want to add to your long list."

William dropped to his knee in front of her so he could be eye level. She leaned back a little to take in his full expression. Worry? Dread? She couldn't tell what he felt in the slightest-and she hated that. "You shouldn't have hidden that from me."

"I thought it would have passed but it comes and goes at least once a day. I didn't, this was the last thing I would have guessed it was." Doris hesitated. "What does this mean?"

"It means you're not going anywhere near the battlefield. I should have you taken to where they have Daniel."

"William." Doris sighed and took his face in her hands. She could see his mind spinning faster than his mouth and that was always dangerous. "What does this mean?"

William gripped her hands but didn't move them from his face. "It means we will get you checked and it means I will do everything to keep you safe. If anyone looks at you strange, I'll rip their head off before they can explain themselves."

Doris rested her forehead against his own. Slowly she felt her worry start to burn away but never completely. "I wasn't sure how you were going to act."

William stayed silent.

"Tell me what's going through your mind to distract me from my own." Doris whispered.

"I'm thinking about my father." William said quietly. "I wonder how he felt when he learned his mate was with child-with me."

"I'm sure he had the need to protect her too."

William kissed her palm before he stood. "I'm going to go see if the medical tent is up yet. They might not know for sure, but they must have something that would help." He grumbled.

"William--"

"I just need a minute." He said before he left her. Doris watched the entrance for eternity wondering if he would pop back in. It wasn't until it grew dark that she realized he had truly left her when she needed him the most.

"Doris, I brought you some dinner." Beth announced loudly since there wasn't a door to knock on. She entered with a large tray of food that made her starving and sick all at once. She couldn't decide if she wanted to eat everything on the tray-or shove it all in the garbage.

"Thank you Beth." Doris forced herself to finally stand. Her legs felt like jelly and it made her want to fall instantly back into the bed and sleep until the war was over. Until all of this was over.

"How did he take it?" Beth whispered as she handed Doris a plate. She glanced around the room as if to make sure he wasn't in here with her hiding.

"I'm not sure. He seemed fine at first and then he left. He said he needed a minute and never came back."

"He did? I saw him across the camp a few hours ago but I haven't seen him since."

"Perhaps he left me here." Doris mumbled and sat herself down again to pick at her food. "I honestly don't know how he felt."

"He probably just needs to process it. I'd give him time." Beth kissed Doris's head and then left the tent. Doris finished her food and got ready for bed. 1

Doris woke in the middle of the night when she felt something wrap around her body.

"Shh." William whispered against her ear. She relaxed in his grip and it was then that she noticed his hand on her stomach. 1

"Where were you?" Doris asked.

"I had a few things to deal with." William grumbled against her hair. It felt like forever since he had slipped into bed with her. She wasn't even sure that they were going to share beds or not while they were here, but she melted into him as if no time had passed at all.

"I thought you decided to leave." Doris whispered. He stiffened behind her.

"Leave my mate and child?"

"Me." Doris said simply. His grip tightened on her and he flipped her over to face him.

"I would rip up the earth to find you. You can't get rid of me." William trailed his hand down her side. It was almost distracting. 2

"Is this what you want? I didn't think you would have wanted a-child with someone like me."

"You mean you didn't think I would want a child with my mate? There isn't another person ! would have rather it be." William said quietly, just for her ears.

Doris traced her fingers across his chin. "I know what has been running through your head since I told you. You're thinking of your parents."

William turned his head away. "She died shortly after I was born." 1

"That wouldn't be us, William." Doris whispered.

"You can't guarantee that, and neither can I. My father never looked at me the same and never got over his broken heart. I don't want to feel the same about my child if you were gone."

Doris sat up. "I can take care of myself now—"

"So could my mother. She was a rogue and she was poisoned at a place where she felt safe."

William said. His eyes were angry and sad and she wasn't sure how to tame it.

"We will take it one day at a time, then."

"You won't go near this battle, promise me that." William demanded.

"I won't. I promise." 2

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Chapter 168 A dangerous decision

"Prince William!"

William's hold tightened on Doris and woke her. She felt his warmth leave her the second he unwrapped himself from her. It almost made her beg him to come back and cover her entire body with his own.

William's hair was a wild mess as he threw on a coat over his bare chest and tossed back the tent flap just enough so that she remained hidden from view.

"Luna Queen has sent this for you. One of her messengers left it this morning."

William took the letter quickly. "Thanks." He said before he closed the flap.

Doris scrambled out of bed and pulled on her thickest sweater before she met him across the room. He didn't even seem to acknowledge her presence as he tore there the letter to get it open. A bit of sweat formed on his brow, the only sense of weakness he would let free.

"Dear Prince William," he mumbled, "I'd like to have a private meeting with you before you send your army towards our own. I feel we can come to a mutual understanding and resolve this before it gets out of hand. Yours, The Luna Queen."

William stared silently at the letter before he threw it in the fire that had grown dim. It flickered brighter but quickly grew out before it could catch any of the flames. "She's too late, I already sent my army to theirs in the middle of the night."

"So it's started already?" Doris whispered. William moved around the room like his own fire as he got ready. It was almost hard to concentrate on anything when he looked that determined.

"Yes. They should already be aware that it's started. I wonder if she sent it before or after." William grumbled. "I would bet after just to try and mess with my head. She always wants to act like she has the upper hand."

"She might have sent it after to mess with you, as you said. I wouldn't trust her motives. You're the only thing challenging her direct path to the throne and she knows that." Doris said. She pulled on warm pants and boots. Out here, there was no use for beautiful dresses but she missed them anyway. For just a short time, she had gotten a taste of what it was like to wear a few.

"I don't trust her, I never have. She wants to meet this afternoon by the frozen lakes." William ran his fingers through his dark hair. "That's one place that's out of the way from all of this, but also too close to our camp here. I don't want her to come here if I don't show."

"Are you going to meet her?" Doris asked.

"I don't want to. But I know she won't let it go if I don't."

"I could come with you—".

"You will. I don't want you out of my sight. Knowing Luna Queen, she might try to lure me away from here just to get the one thing I care about."

William glanced out of the tent and called out to a guard nearby. She felt her mind drift away as he demanded a small group to ready themselves. A wave of dizziness passed by the time he focused back on her.

"Are you well?" He asked.

"I am." Doris cleared her throat. "Just a bit hungry."

"I will make sure you eat before we leave. I want to get there before she does in case she tries to get the higher ground." William started to leave the tent before he paused. "The medic will be by tonight to check you. I asked her to do it late so we don't pull too much attention."

Doris let out a long breath. "Okay-yes, great."

They left much earlier than Doris expected. Luna Queen didn't want to meet until noon, but they were almost there with over an hour to spare. Doris felt she was lucky enough not to feel sick after eating as much as she did before they left. If only she knew someone that had been in her shoes before and knew how to handle her sickness. 1

Someone that wasn't currently an enemy or estranged from her.

Her thoughts were so far away from her, she still hadn't fully processed what it meant to have a life growing inside her-if that was even the case. She couldn't see herself as a mother when she didn't even feel fully grown herself. There was

so much to learn and do that she hadn't got the chance to yet. She wanted to be the best version of herself before any baby came out of her. 3

Part of her feared that there was no good version of herself. What if she was always an uncertain mess that everyone tried to step on? That was no way to live.

Doris gripped onto William as they rode down the small hill towards the frozen lakes. He only brought a handful of guards with them and left the rest back at the camp to make sure no one arrived there while they were gone. It would be so easy to step a trap to an empty camp and William made sure that they wouldn't have the chance to.

It was eerily quiet. She didn't know what to expect, but something about the silence made her stomach turn. "William." She whispered.

"What is it?"

"Something feels off." Doris looked around at the frozen trees that hid miles ahead of them. A shiver passed over her skin and almost made her bones stiffen. "I don't know why, but it feels wrong to be here."

"It will be fine. Just stay with me." William said quietly, but he didn't have to raise his voice at all for her to hear him here.

Doris opened her mouth to respond, but felt at a loss for words. She couldn't describe what was wrong, but a feeling deep inside made her nervous. Why would she be nervous?

They slowed their steps and followed down a small path that ran along the frozen lake. Doris stared along the trees and didn't see any sign of life beyond their own.

"We can stay here and a few others need to scope out the surroundings to see which direction they will come from. We don't want to be unprepared." William called to his guards.

Doris felt as if their voices were muffled to her ears. Her insides turned as if she was in danger but she saw nothing. Was she slowly going insane? She wasn't sure.

"Take the path up--"

An arrow zipped past William and missed his head by inches. He pulled Doris off the horse with him faster than she could register and hid her behind a large rock. "William!"

"Stay here and do not move, do you understand me?" He demanded. Doris watched as one of his men had an arrow hit through his head. Quickly, she nodded.

William left her his cloak and headed back towards the eye of the beast. Arrows flew when he stepped out but not one harmed him. He didn't run, he didn't even try to shield himself from them. It was like he knew that they could never dare to touch him.

William shifted into his wolf and ran straight towards the flying arrows. His guards were close behind and Doris cringed at the sound of screams and wounded sequels that made her blood chill.

Her breath was so loud in her ears. She looked towards the trees but saw nothing. The screaming quickly died out and left her frightened when she didn't see William.

Slowly, she stood to get a better look. She promised William she wouldn't move, but that feeling was still throbbing inside her. Something was wrong.

A scream pierced the silence and she knew who it was instantly. William dragged Luna Queen out of the trees by her bloody arm and all she could do was scream for mercy. Not one of her men came out with her.

Doris quickly hurried to William and covered his wolf body with his cloak before he shifted back into himself. When he did, Luna Queen tried to stand but she was too slow. William grabbed her by her hair and forced her back to the ground.

"Where do you think you're going?" William snarled. He dragged her to the middle of the frozen lake where Doris was too afraid to follow. "Here, I thought you wanted to have a normal conversation."

"Let-Let go of me!" Luna Queen screamed. It was only then that Doris noticed how much blood covered her body. It was as if she had fallen in a pool of it. "You don't understand!"

"Explain it to me, then." William finally released her, but Doris knew that she wasn't going anywhere. "Explain it to me before I drown you in this frozen water."

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Chapter 169 On thin ice

Luna Queen thrashed against the delicate surface and all Doris could do was watch and hope they didn't both fall under. William cracked his shoe against the ice as if he wanted it to break open and take both of them somewhere she couldn't follow. Her insides screamed at him to get off the ice-to be careful, but the look on his face made her silent and steady. Just like he wanted her to be.

"You think you can take the crown after your bother has worked his entire life to be the next king?" Luna Queen snarled. Doris glanced around to see a few of his guards emerge from the trees bloody and vengeful. Only a few had been missing, but they looked even more angry than they had when they went in the trees.

All that anger looked right at the Luna Queen.

William laughed. It didn't sound friendly or nice, it made her skin crawl and stomach turn. (This novel will be daily updaed at) If he looked at her the way he looked at the Luna Queen, she would be begging for her life.

"Martin doesn't know what it's like to work a day in his life. He had you and my father put words in his mouth while he sat there like a puppet."

"His entire life has been dedicated to this role while you slept around and only thought of yourself!" Luna Queen gripped William's arm that held her. She glared up at him as if her stare could burn him to the core. A dangerous game on thin ice, Doris clenched her hands into fists until they turned white.

William tightened his grip and Doris could see the pain twist on the Luna Queen's face. "You know nothing about me. You killed my mother and despised me your entire life. Do you know how long I've waited to get my revenge? I've had dreams of ripping your head right off your body."

Luna Queen had a flash of fear across her face before she morphed it into something else. "Your mother was a peasant. She didn't know the first thing about being a queen or married to a king,"

"You took away her choice to learn! And you wanted me out of the way too for your perfect sons to have whatever they wanted." William shouted. A wave of invisible rage swirled around him. "You tried to kill me by sending me to the north because you underestimated my strength. You tried to kill me at the palace and here because you think I'm a fool. You think you're so untouchable because of your status, but here I am with your life in my hands."

"You don't deserve what you have. Don't you get it? Your father can't stand to even look at you and you never meant anything to him!" Luna Queen gripped the floor when he shoved her down hard against it. Doris swore she heard the sounds of cracking but it might have been her mind trying to make things worse.

"Your father hates you because of her." Luna Queen continued. "There is no hope for you back at the palace, this war is ridiculous. You think your father would ever let you rule the kingdom when you haven't proved yourself? You've always been a selfish child."

"My father hates me because of you." William snarled. "I would have been the crown prince if she lived. I would have been the better leader for the kingdom if my mother was alive. He hates everything about me because you killed the only person he ever loved."

Luna Queen had the nerve to laugh. Blood dripped down her skin and stained there like she was coated in paint. It made her look dangerous. "Your father was a pathetic fool that let something as stupid as having a mate steer his heart. I forced him to become the king he is today—"

"A terrible, selfish king that only cares for himself? He let his own people be treated horribly while he sits on his throne and watches them suffer. (This novel will be daily updated at)Only you would make things that terrible for our kingdom-and worse when you take the lead for your son." William stomped his heel on the ice again and this time Doris knew that it was cracking. It was so loud, it made her entire body shiver.

"William!" Doris called. If it broke, they both would go under. He had to know that, why was he risking himself for someone so awful?

William glanced up at her briefly before he looked back down at the mess beneath him. Luna Queen laughed again as if this was all one big joke that she was in on. It amazed Doris how someone who was so close to death, and still poked at the one who decided if she would get to live.

"I heard you have a servant as a mate at the palace. I suppose the saying that the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree is true, isn't it?" Luna Queen looked over at Doris but William gripped her chin and made her look back up at him. "You're cursed just like your father. I hope you're careful who you drop your pants for, or she might end up just like your mother."

William smashed her face down hard against the ice until it cracked open. He lifted her head and hit again and again until the ice split open and her head went under. Luna Queen thrashed wildly, making the ice break wider until her whole torso fell in.

The guards around Doris did nothing but watch. It made her wonder how many horrible things they were forced to witness over the years. She would guess that this wasn't the first time something like this happened.

William held her under the freezing water with a wild rage in his eyes. Doris stepped back even

though they were far from her. She couldn't stand it anymore, she looked away but the sounds still haunted her ears. It was as she was an inch away instead of across the frozen lake.

After a few horrible moments, the splashing stopped. Everything stopped. No struggling or grunting. Not boots kicking against the snow in hopes that he would release her and she would get away-there was nothing. 2

The guards around her moved and that's when Doris finally looked over to see William walking away from the body half in the lake. She looked so lifeless and still-Doris quickly looked away again before it burned in her memory more than it already had. O

"Let's get back." William grabbed her arm and forced her towards the horses without another word. "Deliver her to the steps of the palace. Let it be known that her attempts at killing me failed." He called to the guards around him.

A few followed them back to the camp while the rest stayed to remove the body. A part of her heart broke for Martin when he would realize that his mother was dead. She might have been a horrible person, but she was still his mother. He would mourn her even if no one else did.

William rode in silence back to the camp with blood still on his hands. He sat stiff under her hold and she knew all too well that he was disappearing inside himself like he did when they first met. She could feel him pulling away from her and she knew that no matter how tight she held onto him, it wouldn't matter.

They arrived back to the camp with it untouched from any harm. People were on guard but walked freely as if nothing was there to concern them all morning. How she wished she was among them instead of with William. There was only so much death her eyes could witness.

He slid off the horse and left Doris in the stables to get down herself. A close by guard hurried to make sure she didn't fall before he went after William with the rest of them. It was cruel in a way, that William had the power to crumble the mood of everyone around him with a simple look or action.

She could feel it now. The way her mind tried to blame herself for his actions when she did nothing but watch. Perhaps that was the problem, she watched. She watched it all happen and did nothing to stop him from something he might regret.

Would he regret killing the woman that tried to kill him several times and killed his mother when he was a baby?(This novel will be daily updated at) Doris knew the answer was no. He would never regret that-but perhaps he regretted taking away the mother of someone else.

Doris watched his back from across the camp as he disappeared into the main tent where they planned out the battlefield like a chess game. He didn't look back at her once.