

# Her Unwanted Mate On The Throne By Caroline

## Chapter 28

Why didn't you tell them what they wanted to hear

*Drops of rain* washed against her the waking Dexte from an already draful sleep. It was had to Flow here is even moment without WONYM

tout et sound she heard. Every Teak made her think she was coming for her, only to brin was nothing more than the old palace settling in for The night. Each time she heard Moottips, she bed until they faded down the hall and far y from her deer. When she did finally fel, it was new lar lang Achil in the air of rain from outside always woke her like a reset button for her Wome. When would they come for her

Doris hid finally gotten bertseerattar a few days of pwing in her own fear. Her cell door slid openi without a winning in the dead of night. Two guards stomped their way in and forced to up from her bed without a Word. Doris ped ind felt the Pressure of their hold anly tightenis ifta silence her. She clamped her lips shut and follored them dawn the hallway. They led her to 1 room that looked Hke a bigger cell than the one she'd just left Instead of bars, it had four stone wars. It was just as damp. but held na bed.

Instead, there was one chals in the center of the TOOT with chains around the an ts Jack Anthony stood with his hands clasped behind his back and chin held high. His long hair was thed back and he wore all black as if he were headed to traini with the royal guard. Something about the way he stared at Doris made it very obvious he wasn't

The quinds shared Doris inside and locked the door behind the Devils tried to keep her hands from shiling, she surlled them into tists at her sides in hope it would help. Jack marked her very IVE with his dark eyes, the side of this mouth lifted slightly in an unkind inner

"Chain her to the chair. If she gives us any problems, we'll mow her to the wall." He said the Temaved his jacket and set it neatly on a heak by the door. The two guards forced her to sit and wrapped thick chains around her wrists to the arms of the chair

"Please" Doris whispered, Jack tumed and Smacked her harshly across har check. Tears blurred her eyes the pain comesconds later, she Hele her entire body tremble and wasn't able to stop

Jack gripped her chin and yanked her head back to look up at him. "You know why you're here, don't you!" Doris pressed her lips together and nodded slowly.

too afraid to speak. "That's right, you poisoned that useless girl." Jack released her and leaned down to her eye level.

You want to know what I think? I think you meant that soup to be for my mother. I think you wanted her to be the one to wind up dead on the ground, but you got the bowls mixed up. Isn't that right?

"N-no! No, I would never poison anyone! Especially not Luna—" Jack hit her again with more force. For

second, her entire world spun around her until her sight straightened again.

"I was hoping you would have learned something in that cell, but I see you still can't help but lie." Jack

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Ticked a piece of lint of himself and glared down at Doris. I suppose I'll have to try some more drastic Tactics to wring the truth out of you, aren't I?

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"No please, I am telling the truth! I never meant to hurt anyone, I thought the soup had something Luna Queen was allergic to so I gave it to Melody. I didn't realize it was poison!" Doris tasted a bit of blood that dripped from her nose from his last hit. Tack stared at her silently as she explained herself, his expression was almost thoughtful-until it

"Did Prince Williarn ask you to poison Luna Queen?" Jack asked suddenly, the question startled Doris for a moment.

"What? Of course not— Jack didn't let her finish, he curled his hand into a fist and hit her as hard as he could. The chair tilted back from the force and almost sent Doris crashing to the ground, he grabbed the arms of the chair and righted her before she could. Her head ached in every spot, for a moment she couldn't see where he was standing

"I saw you hesitate, don't lie to me girl." He growled. "I know Prince William put you up to this, I heard from the other maids that you spent the night with him."

Doris parted her lips, a bit of blood leaked out but she couldn't remember how to form words for a moment.

Jack gripped her hair and forced her head back harshly until she was looking at the ceiling, she screamed from the pain of her hair almost being torn from her skull. "I'm going to give you one last try to tell me the truth before things get worse for

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Darin was no much pain, his words didn't make AHT BEDS. Why would he think Prince William had anything to do with this? Melody was the one that had gotten poison " P rince William didn't ask me to paisan anyone

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Jack released her head, and for a manent she thought he would let her go. For a moment she allowed herself to hope he'd finally heard her words and believed thern.

She was silly for ever thinking that

Jack stepped in front of her again with what looked like a small lighter in one hand and a cane in the ather. "I warned you not to lie. It would be a shame to ruin such a pretty face that I know Prince William must appreciate."

\*Please..." Doris begged, she leaned back away from his touch when he neared her. Jack tilted his head to the side as he studied her face. Without another word, he slammed the wooded cane down against her foot as hard as he could. She heard a crack before she screamed loud enough to wake the dead. She wouldn't have been surprised if it went right through her foot and pierced the ground, she was too afraid to look

"How about now?" Jack said through gritted teeth – "Are you ready to admit to me that you and William wanted to poison Luna Queen?"

Doris screamed again when he slammed the cane down a second time on the same foot. He threw the cane across the room when it snapped from the

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Puck rolled up her love brought the flame down to her expased skin. She shirieked and tried to lme way from him, he held her still. "Why are you probcting him? Prince William is notorious for only caring about himself. Did you know he didn't even shed a tear after what happened to Melody? He was probably happy to have her gone."

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Her skin turned an angry, blistering red near her wrist. She thrashed in her seat and begged. "Please, I don't know anything about the soup! Please!"

Tack flicked off the lighter and stepped away to look down at her and assess his own work. Her face was bloodied and bruised, her foot most likely broken and her arm was severely bumed in a small area. Every inch of her trembled, he took a

step back and waved at his guards. "Let's put her back and give her a few hours to think about all of this."

Doris limped back to her cell with a guard on each side of her and Jack leading the way. She would've glared at his back, but her face was too sore to do anything but remain neutral. She knew her foot must have been broken or badly sprained, her face must have been covered in dirt and blood and every ounce of her screamed for a doctor—but no help was offered. Not even a bandage.

Jack turned to look at her when he slid her door open. He lifted his chin as he stared down his nose at her. "Perhaps next time you will be more forthcoming with answers."

The guard pushed Doris into the cell before she

could respond, she tripped over her own injured leg and landed hard against the floor. She couldn't see a foot in front of herself. Her tears blurred everything around her and she dragged herself to the wall before she hugged herself gently in hopes it would help with the pain.

After a few minutes of listening to her own hollow sobs, an older voice broke the silence. "Why didn't you just tell them what they wanted to hear?"

## Chapter 29

I'm here to get you out of here.

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Derin glowed towards the voice and gripped the bars that separated their cells. She couldn't see *him* in the darkness, he didn't even know there

was someone close by. She flushed red. He must have heard all the nights she cried herself to sleep. Why hadn't he said anything sooner? "I'm not going to tell others. I'm quiet and quietly. "No matter what he does to me, it's just not right."

The older man stepped out of the shadows and came closer to Laris. "Even if it would save your life?

Even then. I believe in justice." Doris swallowed and leaned her side against the bars. She winced at the pain that ricocheted through her body. "Prince Waihim will judge fairly. I believe that."

"There is no fair justice in this kingdom under their ruling." The old man chuckled lightly to himself, but not at her. He looked kind, she wondered what he was doing in this prison. "Unfortunately. It's been like that for a long time. All they truly care about here is power."

They must care to find the real person that was responsible for what happened.” Doris said weakly. lately it only felt like she was trying to convince herself. It was hard to find hope in such a dark place. Her mind kept flashing with the sight of Melody’s lifeless body staring up at nothing. Half of her felt a bit of relief that she would never have to serve her again, but that half also filled her with an unbelievable guilt. She never for a second wanted

anything to happen to Melody, she wanted her to

make him happy until Boris could leave Now.. that clearly was never going to happen.

“What did happen if I may a?” The man hit on the ground closer to her. His face was pale and curious. His beard was a bit too long as if he’d been in here quite a while, the rest of him had dirt tossed his clothes and skin.

“Oh, well I suppose you haven’t heard if you’ve been in here.” Doris sighed and closed her eyes for a moment to block out the images. “I was serving soup to the royal members and the bowl that was meant for Luna Queen had been poisoned. I didn’t know it was, I mistakenly gave it to Prince William’s Lady Melody and she collapsed at Luna Queen’s party. In front of everyone it was horrible.”

“Hmm,” The man hummed as he took in her words. “I assume they think you did it, then?”

Doris nodded and brushed a tear off her bruised cheek. She could easily close her eyes and sleep for

eternity with the way she felt. “I wasn’t even meant to be there — Doris hesitated, she didn’t want to reveal why she wasn’t meant to be there. “I had the night off another had a maid injured herself and asked me to fill in for her.”

The old man frowned a little. “Were you close with the lady that was poisoned?”

“Oh, well. I was her Lady’s Maid, that’s all.”

“You weren’t friends?”

“I was taught that it was improper to be friends with a royal member.” Doris silently added that

Melody despise everything about Dars. She was aware that it bothered her when Doris inhaled around her. But this man didn’t need to know any of that, it was wrong to speak badly of the dead.

The old man hummed again and shook his head sadly. “They’re just people, like you and I.” “They’re royalty, I was born from nothing.”

"Being born from nothing doesn't mean you won't become something great." The old man said. Doris stared at him in silence for a moment before she smiled a little. It hurt to even do that.

"Did Jack do that to you?" He gestured to her injuries, Doris nodded, "And you still didn't tell him what he wanted to hear

Doris slowly lifted her attention to the old man when he used Prince Jack's name so casually. Who was this man? "It would've been a lie if I said what he wanted to hear. He wants me to admit to something I haven't done, or blame someone else

for it."

"Do you care about the person he wants you to blame?" The old man asked, his face curious.

Doris hesitated. She didn't want to admit she hated Prince William. "I... I just think that it wouldn't be the right thing to do regardless of how I feel about that person. Nobody deserves to be punished if they're innocent."

He smiled at her, Doris could see the moonlight shine on his wrinkled features. "You have a kind soul, young lady. I think it takes a lot of courage to remain true to yourself. Anyone else would have

chosen the first person they could think of to the

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"I wouldn't be able to live with myself if I will the reason one else was blamed." Doris sighed and rubbed her eyes

What if it really was the person they wanted you to blame?" He asked the question lightly, curious to see where her mind might wander.

"If it is, I believe the truth always comes to light but —" Doris thought back to the party. Prince William had been acting normally. He wasn't on edge or tensed. He was drinking and watching her but that wasn't something out of the ordinary. The bowl was meant for Luna Queen and he saw her give it to Melody and didn't even blink in time. "I don't believe it was who they said at all. I think the person would have come from the kitchens or been near all of the bowls before they were served."

His eyes traveled over each of her wounds. First the ones on her face, then the ones on her arms and legs. He looked more and more sad the longer he looked at them, but she didn't want his pity. She would heal eventually just as she had before.

The old man tilted his head as he brought his eyes to her own again, a small smile on his face. "May I see your broken foot? I want to help." Doris raised her brow's in question, she nodded her head and carefully brought her foot closer to the

bars for him. to see. He lightly touched her skin where it looked the ugliest. A large, purple bruise already bloomed around the wound. He took a sharp stone from the floor and sliced his hand open before she could even move and poured the blood on top of her wound.

The man touched his blood to the other wounds he had given her slowly the pain started to ease away from her and became something dull and manageable. She stared at him in shock-as well as a little fear.

"Are you a wizard? Or a vampire? How are you

The old man laughed a little and shook his head." No need to worry yourself, my dear. I didn't want to see a kind girl like you suffer."

"Your... your blood can heal people?" Doris asked. Her eyes widened with disbelief. "How...how?"

"Tell me, do you want to get out of here?" He asked suddenly, Doris gazed down at her bum that was now mostly gone.

"Yes... Yes of course I do, but I can't-they won't let me leave until they decide my fate."

A loud thud echoed outside their cells, they both silenced and turned towards the noise. Doris could hear her heart ram inside her chest as another bump sounded in the darkness. She couldn't see anything there were only small torches by each of the cell doors but the rest of the hallway was mostly in the dark.

A few moments later, a masked man appeared from the shadows and stopped in front of the old man's cell. "Ho har Chr I'm hara ta att af hara"

## Chapter 30

She doesn't belong here.

Doris winced quickly when the masked man touched her foot. She only winced a little from the pain of her foot, but it was quickly fine. He wore a black mask and dark clothing. He didn't tell her he was quite tall and well built but she didn't doubt his strength. "Who are you? How did you get in here! Doris asked, she glared at the masked man but he didn't look surprised at all. Did he know Helen? Had he planned this?"

The masked man ignored her and began to try and open his cell door. The old man glanced at Doris with sadness in his gaze. She wasn't entirely sure why he was looking at her that way. "I want you to get her out as well. She doesn't belong in here."

Doris parted her lips in surprise, she didn't expect him to actually want to help her get out of here. The masked man made an impatient noise and looked her up and down before dismissing her when he turned back to the old man.

"We don't have time for this, we only have seconds before someone realizes I'm here." He said, voice deep and rushed. She didn't recognize his voice at all. Not like she did when she heard Prince Daniel speak and realized exactly who it was when she saw his face.

"She doesn't belong in here." The old man repeated more firmly. The masked man paused what he was doing for a moment and locked eyes with her.

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would be able to get out of here even if he did. It door open before they can. The masked man glared at her as she talked. "Prince Jack will find you I'm one of the best here. He promised he would protect and interrogate me until I tell him what he wants. If I'm not in luck, he'll have the entire grounds searched for me until I'm found and I don't want them to find you

\* You must be Doris, aren't you?" "The masked man

asked after a moment of silence, he seemed almost impressed with her but she didn't know why. Perhaps he was only grateful he didn't have to find a way for her to get out of here as well

Yes. I'm Doris. She responded, nervously picking at her nails. Who was this man? How did he know her name?

She wished she had more time to ask the old man his story like he asked hers. Then perhaps she would know why he was in here in the first place. And his name of course. She wished she knew his name, but now it felt extremely awkward to ask as he was being broken out of prison. She would probably never see him again if he succeeded, and she hoped he did.

"I heard Prince William is going to hold court tomorrow to judge your case. I think you're right that Prince Jack will come by soon to get whatever information he wants from you, I suggest you hold out as long as you can." The masked man warned.

Doris felt her blood run cold. If her case was already

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ate com, but she didn't know how much longer she could survive it. In just one moment with him, he'd broken her loat and burned out of her skin, not to mention what he did to her face.

It hurt to blink before the old man offered some of his blood. Magic blood Doris had never met anyone that held a power like that, she wondered how it was



even possible. Didn't he realize how many people he could help with a power like that? Did the palace know he had those sort of powers! Would they make him use it for good-on something else?

"You must stay true to yourself. Doris." The old man said gently, slowly pulling her from her mashing thoughts. "All your wounds will heal, but your heart will not if you turn your back on what you believe."

Doris nodded and placed her hand against her chest. Her heart toured beneath her palm. "I-I don't know how far he'll go for a false confession, but I'm ready to pay the price."

"No," The old man stepped up to the bars and held out his hand for her. She hesitated before she let him take it. He squeezed once before he let her go ... "You should not lose your life for anything. Don't you know every monster has their limits?"

Doris's mind flashed back to the murderous look in Melody's eyes the night she beat Doris in front of people who didn't stop her. It didn't feel like Melody had her limits then, Doris was positive she was going to die if Prince William hadn't stopped her.

He only and her here he thought want

head to Bald. The thout this laugh but it would have come UE

not made her

thake.

Doris had to believe that the trial would be fair.

She had to believe that Prince William would be fale even though she way certain the hated her. He watched her the entire right at the party, she knew deep down that he was going to do the right thing In return, Dons would as well—she would refuse to

in to Prince Jack and roll of his terrible Entcio.

She just didn't understand why he wanted her to tell him that Prince William had been the one to poison Luis Queen. He was in his seat the whole night, not once did he get up to slip anything in her soup. nor did she see him suspiciously watching the soups to make sure someone else did it for him Doris would definitely have noticed his large fann making his was towards the kitchens, everyone would have looked at him if she was honest. He was hard to miss. and even harder to look away from. He mrely talked to anyone the entire night, but that was normal for himn. So, why WAS Prifice Jack so se on the fact that it was him? He acted the same as always. Cold, detached, and drinking

"Prince William is usually quick with court matters the masked man broke through her thoughts. "He'll find who was responsible and it'll be over before you know it. All you have to do is survive the night."

Which was much easier said than done.

Loud footsteps echoed down the hall, they all froze as they heard voices. "What are you doing sleeping on the job!" A man yelled as he slammed his fist

Doris quickly turned to look at the masked man who wanted him to leave, but he was already gone. That moment, or was in the shadows where she couldn't see the face of him. She Helly hope he was able to get out with the masked man when his back was turned. It 35 THE to a kind soul in this palace, the only wanted people things for each one she did come across, Especially are that wanted to help her when she felt she didn't deserve it.

The footsteps stomped down the hallway, each sound rammed through her chest and she felt her entire body tremble when it stopped outside of her cell. The guards wordlessly unlocked Doris's cell and grabbed her before she could even think to step back 1