

## Village Head 811

### Chapter 811 Orion's Crucial Decision

Seeing his guess confirmed, Orion let out a sigh of relief. "Don't scare me like that again," he said, his brow furrowing as he regarded Aegis of the Arctic Deity.

"Nonetheless, since you decided to pinpoint my exact location and meet me, I suppose it's for a serious matter. Is it related to your sealed memories, perhaps?" he asked.

Aegis of the Arctic Deity nodded. "I'll explain everything to you when you arrive. Bring that goddess of yours along as well. It's something important that she needs to hear," he said.

Orion nodded in acknowledgement. Watching Aegis of the Arctic Deity vanish into thin air, he settled on the rooftop to contemplate. He decided to brief Aerialia on the situation before heading to the Garden, so he promptly summoned the Crimson Greatsword, beckoning for Aerialia to emerge alongside it.

"What's going on this time? Has Aegis of the Arctic Deity res—" Aerialia began, but her words froze as she noticed the intense darkness enveloping her. She looked skyward and immediately saw the once-brightened sky replaced by dark, inky clouds covering it, blocking the brilliance from penetrating and shining down on them.

Even in her incorporeal form, Aerialia sensed the immense Vylkr energy within the clouds, causing a frown on her lips. She turned her gaze towards Orion. "Did something go wrong with the burning of the Vylkr vines?" she asked.

Orion nodded gravely.

Aerialia's expression morphed into a deeper frown as she inwardly gulped and asked, "Was it that bad?"

Orion nodded again. "We found out just in time that burning the Vylkr vines in such large quantities results in a Vylkr Veil phenomenon, which..." He proceeded to explain the entire situation to Aerialia.

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After he was done, Aerialia lowered her head, her shoulders slumping downwards.

"So, I was wrong. Is that why you summoned me, to rub it in my face that my prediction wasn't correct and completely smother my ego?" Aerialia said with a defeated expression.

"I thought about doing that, but even if we had found out about the Vylkr veil phenomenon initially, the Four-star Vylkr vines are still enough of a threat to push us to take risks. So, regardless, it doesn't really matter, especially since you've acknowledged that you were wrong," Orion responded, shaking his head.

"Humph! You're just trying to make me feel better. As a goddess, I can't believe that—" Aerialia began. However, just as she was about to continue her sentence, she paused, noticing Orion's outstretched hand inching closer and closer to her face.

Aerialia wanted to open her mouth to speak, but strangely, she couldn't. Her words hung in her throat as Orion's fingers grazed her cheeks before they submerged into her incorporeal body and emerged from the other side of her face.

"I couldn't resist myself from pinching your cheeks. You... you looked like a goddess," Orion said, his voice becoming quieter as he stared at Aerialia's dazzling whitish irises, almost identical to The Princess of the Garden's... No, Orion inwardly shook his head.

Though they were identical, just by looking at Aerialia's trembling whitish irises, he knew that they were two distinct individuals. One was a goddess with only her name and title remaining as the sole possessions she had left, and the other was a woman trying her best to hold everything she had around her but without an identity to call her own.

Orion quickly withdrew his hand and cleared his throat lightly. "Let's get going to the Garden as quickly as we can, or else Aegis of the Arctic Deity might become impatient," he said, swiftly changing the tense atmosphere.

Orion rose from his seat and gripped the Crimson Greatsword firmly.

"Ahem! Yes, you are right. Let's get going, or else we'll be late," Aerialia responded, her eyes darting sideways as she stood up and spread her wings.

They exchanged tactical nods before Orion leapt into the air, Aerialia following beside him as they headed towards the Garden.

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Third Border City

Garden

Beneath the Diivine Lake Essence

"That is everything that happened. If I successfully unseal my memories, I'll remember everything else that I had forgotten, including how I was trapped here, the rest of the events about White Flame, and why I had initially chosen to seal my memories. However, such actions would lead to my death, triggering the Divine mysteries, which would be anything but pleasant due to the other half of my body being an Omnithralian, and it would also alert the various remaining gods still alive of my position."

"And when they arrive and see who or what I am, they will surely raze your territory asunder. At least, that is, if the Vylkr vines outside don't wipe out or drastically reduce the population of the denizens of the Orion Cities," Aegis of the Arctic Deity said, his eyes fixed on Orion's and Aerialia's stunned expressions.

"However, because I am satisfied with not knowing what is behind my sealed memories, for whatever reasons they may be, because my life will still end later, I'll leave such an important decision in your hands. So you have two choices: do you want me to unseal my memories regardless of the consequences that come with it, or do you want to sacrifice your only opportunity to discover more about Naka's identity and leave my memories sealed to prevent all these from happening?"

"As I said before, whichever decision you choose is the one I'll also choose. So, Orion, you can go ahead and make your choice."

When Aegis of the Arctic Deity finished speaking, Orion was too stunned to utter a word. He knew that unlocking Aegis of the Arctic Deity's memories was a very important matter. However, he never expected it to be so crucial that it could decide the future of the Orion's Cities.

Was finding out more about Naka's identity more valuable than the lives of the denizens in the Orion's Cities?

Meanwhile, Aerialia couldn't help but bite her lip, noticing Orion's tense, pensive expression.

"It's my fault. If I had known that this would result from wanting to unseal your memories, I wouldn't have been bothered about it," Aerialia said, her shoulders drooping with a defeated expression. Her wings closed as she descended to the ground, her eyes fixed on Aegis of the Arctic Deity.

## Chapter 812 Orion's Crucial Decision (2)

She then shifted her gaze towards Orion. "Orion, you don't need to bother yourself with making such a decision. I suggest we look for alternative means to gather the information we need. If we encounter another god by chance, there might be other ways to learn who Naka is. There's no need for you to dwell on such options," Aerialia said, her voice trembling as she tried to pull Orion out of his thoughts and stop him from pondering the matter further.

Orion broke out of his thoughts and shifted his attention towards Aerialia. "But—" Orion wanted to say; however, Aerialia immediately shouted, "There's no 'but'! I don't want you to think about making such a decision! And even if you choose to unseal Aegis of the Arctic Deity's memories, what do you think would happen when he dies, his barrier collapses, or the Divine mysteries is triggered, informing the remaining gods of our location?"

"Can you stop them from destroying the Orion's Cities? Can you fight the gods and deter them away when they discover who or what Aegis of the Arctic Deity is? Or wait... don't tell me that you'll be expecting a miracle?" Aerialia's firm eyes blazed as she locked her gaze with Orion's.

"No, I'm not expecting any miracle. I just believe there must be something else we can do to unseal Aegis of the Arctic Deity's memories and prevent all of this," Orion responded, shaking his head.

"But, there isn't. I am aware that I am the reason you're dealing with the burden of making such a decision, and that is why I am apologizing for putting you through it and thinking that it would be something we could easily solve. Orion, I want you never to forget that if you ever find yourselves in a situation where you risk facing a god's wrath, run."

"Only Aegis of the Arctic Deity can help you and the Orion's Cities if any of you ever encounter any danger. He is the only god you have watching over you in this desolate, ruined world, and if he is gone. I hate to say this, but as it stands, I can do nothing," Aerialia responded, a wry smile appearing as she finally accepted her current status.

Orion took in Aerialia's trembling form as she finished speaking. He swallowed down everything else he wanted to say and remained silent.

"Orion, what is your decision?" Aegis of the Arctic Deity asked.

Orion turned his head towards Aegis of the Arctic Deity before redirecting his gaze back towards Aerialia. He exhaled deeply and said, "You do not need to unseal your memories so we can uncover more about Naka's identity."

"Are you sure about this? You know I'll still die soon regardless, so the faster you find what you are looking for, the quicker you can put everything into place. This is one offer I won't be making again, so think about this carefully," Aegis of the Arctic Deity responded, his eyes fixed on Orion and Aerialia.

"Yes, I'm sure. Besides, by the time you die, I would have already grown stronger and discovered other ways to uncover more about Naka's identity. As for the gods.." Orion responded, briefly looking at Aerialia, "I might not have the capability to deal with them now, neither do I know if I can do so in the future; I believe that when such a time comes, not only I but the entire Orion's Cities will be ready to handle such an issue."

He had already glimpsed a battle between gods, albeit a man-made god still learning to control his abilities, and an injured goddess standing on her last bad leg, so he couldn't help but ponder how powerful the gods are, especially the ones that have survived until now.

Nevertheless, he believed that even if he could not stand against them by himself, with the combined might of Stronghold Leader Zogar and Seth and every other powerful figure within the Orion's Cities, they would surely be able to put up a challenging battle.

Nonetheless, Orion was reminded of how weak he was. But he could only continue to consume more Vylkr vines until his body could handle another Vylkr container.

Hearing Orion's words, Aerialia inwardly sighed in relief. She was glad Orion didn't make any stupid decisions and believed he could take on a god by himself. Though she didn't think such a

thing would ever be possible, even with the outrageous discoveries she had made since she arrived in this world, she still believed she would be wrong.

After all, all her previous knowledge had been turned upside down, so what made this one any different?

Aegis of the Arctic Deity nodded. "Very well, I'll acknowledge your decision. You can leave. I'll do my best to keep protecting this territory from the strange Vylkr phenomenon," he responded.

He opened a passageway for them to return to the surface.

Orion nodded and resummoned before crossing through the passageway. As he emerged back on the surface, he immediately noticed the Princess of the Garden with twenty pixies, each carrying an enchanted burning fire, following her every movement.

The Gardener's Guild had provided them to help her see through the darkness, even if she didn't need such assistance.

Orion had no issue with this arrangement and agreed that someone needed to be around her at a time like this so he would be quickly informed if anything terrible happened to her.

"How did it go?" The Princess of the Garden asked, her tone serious as she arrived before Orion.

Orion gestured for the Pixies around them to leave before he sat on the grassy plain and motioned for the Princess of the Garden to sit on his legs as he prepared to explain.

The Princess of the Garden made herself comfortable, leaning in. "Go on, tell me why Aegis of the Arctic Deity personally called for your presence?" she asked, her voice tinged with anticipation.

Orion proceeded to recount everything that had transpired beneath the Divine Lake Essence, leaving the Princess of the Garden stunned.

"You know, I never imagined such a thing could be possible, but every time you go down there and return, I find myself at a loss for words," the Princess of the Garden said, shaking her head in disbelief.

"But are you sure you won't regret your decision? After all, I don't think it will be easy to find a source where you can uncover a sizable amount of knowledge about Naka," The Princess of the Garden responded.

She had witnessed Orion's and Aerialia's obsession with discovering Naka's identity firsthand, so she was curious if they could handle such a setback.

Orion nodded. "I am sure that I won't regret my decision. Your safety is more important to me than uncovering the secrets of whoever Naka is," he responded.

The Princess of the Garden smiled and leaned in to briefly kiss Orion's lips before she pulled back and looked at him. "You have no idea how that makes me feel," she responded.

Orion smiled back. He summoned the Pixies back now that they were done discussing.

"I almost forgot to mention that High King Eldric personally came to invite you to the banquet they'll be having for the return of their god's Divine artefacts to the Pixie race," The Princess of the Garden added.

The Pixies beside her sighed in relief, hearing the Princess of the Garden's words.

"Wouldn't they have a problem pulling off such a celebration with the presence of the Vylkr veil phenomenon?" Orion asked, raising a brow.

"The banquet will only include the high-ranking members of the Pixie kingdom, and then after the Vylkr veil phenomenon has passed, another celebration will be held for citizens," the Princess of the Garden responded.

"Oh! Then what are we waiting for? Let's go," Orion responded.

"We?" The Princess of the Garden said, her eyes widening in surprise.

Orion nodded. "Have you ever been to a banquet?" he asked.

The Princess of the Garden shook her head in response.

"Then that is all the more reason why we must attend this banquet together. Not only will this be your first banquet, but High King Eldric will surely ensure that it's the greatest banquet ever in the Pixie Kingdom due to the significance of its celebration, so it's bound to be an amazing event."

"Also, with me coming along, we can use this opportunity to try something new together," Orion responded, his eyes gleaming excitedly.

He had been thinking about how to make his time with the Princess of the Garden this evening amazing, but he had never expected such an opportunity.

Beside them, the Pixies' eyes widened when they heard Orion's words.

Though the Princess of the Garden had visited the Pixie Kingdom many times, she had never done so in a miniature form. It was because the Princess of the Garden had never requested such a thing, and no one had ever dared to suggest downsizing her to their miniature height.

When they heard Orion's words, their minds began to race. They quickly thought about how to convince the Princess of the Garden to agree to Orion's proposal.

Witnessing the Princess of the Garden's hesitation, Orion inwardly smiled at how cute she looked at that moment.

Orion carefully helped her stand up, then rose to his feet. He knelt on one knee before the Princess of the Garden, taking her right hand in his.

"Princess of the Garden, will you make me the happiest and most satisfied person in this desolate, ruined world by accompanying me to the Pixie Kingdom's banquet?" Orion said with a wide smile.

The Princess of the Garden was stunned by Orion's proposal. She had never witnessed such a thing before and didn't know how to respond.



The Pixies tactically nodded at each other. About nine instantly flew above the Princess of the Garden and Orion, capturing their attention. They then unleashed their natural energy, and suddenly, colourful flower petals poured down from the sky.

Orion raised his eyes skyward slightly and nodded in appreciation.

Best wingwomen.

The Princess of the Garden raised her eyes upwards as well. They widened and brightened before she refocused on Orion. Seeing his smile as the flowers fell around them before disappearing, she felt a throbbing sensation intensely. It rapidly increased, prompting her to stretch her hand to touch her chest, trying to calm down her racing heart.

Seeing that the Princess of the Garden was still hesitant, they paused and nodded thoughtfully at each other. They decided to go all out.

Just as Orion was about to speak, he noticed the flowers had stopped raining down on them, and an intense light shone from above. Raising his head, his view was illuminated by a giant blooming flower with its petals falling off and turning into small shimmering dots like stars that hovered briefly and rotated slowly around them.

"Orion—"

Orion withdrew his gaze and focused it back on the Princess of the Garden, who now had tears flowing down her cheeks. Before he could utter a syllable, the Princess of the Garden launched herself towards him, her arms securely wrapped tightly around his shoulders as she leaned in and pulled him towards the ground, screaming —

"YES! I WILL FOLLOW YOU TO THE PIXIE KINGDOM'S BANQUET!"

The Pixies halted their actions and hugged each other in excitement. They couldn't wait to report to the Gardeners Guild that they were part of why the Princess of the Garden had attended the banquet with Orion. They were surely going to be wealthy after completing this task.

Orion lay on the grassy plain with his back, looking up at the teary-eyed Princess of the Garden, whose tears were also staining his cheeks.

"Why are you crying again? Haven't I told you I don't want to see you crying?" Orion asked, stretching his hand to wipe her cheeks.

"I don't know why I am crying... Sniff! Sniff! And I feel so happy. Orion, you make me feel so happy," Aerialia responded, her teary voice resonating as she buried her face on Orion's chest.

#### Chapter 814 The Princess of the Garden's Serene Bliss

Orion couldn't think of a response at this moment. He wrapped his arms around the Princess of the Garden and rubbed her back gently, soothing her to her usual self.

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#### Canopy Castle

"High King, there's no need for you to make the journey yourself. I assure you, every detail, from the placement of the decorations to the arrangement of the fruits and drinks, will be meticulously handled," the royal head butler reassured, his voice echoing through the vast hall of Canopy Castle, a space so expansive it could comfortably accommodate four thousand pixies.

"I know that I can trust you to handle everything, Zik, but Mr. Orion, our most important guest, will also be attending this banquet, so I need to ensure that everything is perfect for his arrival," High King Eldric responded, his tone serious.

They watched as hundreds of Pixies flew in and out of the hall, arranging the tables, sections, and every other decoration needed for a large banquet like this one.

Zik nodded tiredly and exhaled, "Okay then, why don't I take you around? You can examine whether you like the decorations," he said, stretching his hand forward for High King Eldric to follow him.

High King Eldric nodded, but just as he was about to follow beside him, a loud voice drew his attention from behind, "YOUR HIGHNESS!" prompting him to halt his wings mid-air.

A pixie guard soared through the air and arrived before them.

"What is it?" High King Eldric asked, frowning.

He had instructed the guard to ensure the security of today's banquet, so he was worried that something terrible had happened.

"We received a message from Mr. Orion...." the guard said before explaining the important message.

High King Eldric's eyes widened in shock and surprise as he spoke before a wave of excitement and disbelief clouded his expression. Even the royal butler before him couldn't help but stare in disbelief, his mouth wide agape.

"Are you sure?" High King Eldric asked, his tone serious. He quickly recomposed himself and wanted to ensure the guard was telling the truth.

The guard nodded solemnly.

High King Eldric's eyes brightened. He refocused on Zik, "I will leave the decorations for you to handle, Zik," he said.

"There's no need for you to worry, Your Highness, I'll ensure that everything is perfectly done," Zik responded reassuringly.

After hearing that the Princess of the Garden would also be attending the banquet with Orion, he planned to ensure that everything was more perfect than they were before.

High King Eldric nodded and refocused on the guard, "Send a group of guards to escort the Princess of the Garden and Orion to the Pixie kingdom borders. And inform me the moment they arrive. The High Elders and I will be present to downsize them to Pixie statures so they can enter the castle," he said, a serious glint flashing through his eyes.

"Inform everyone invited to the banquet about this news and tell them that no one is allowed to arrive late before the Princess of the Garden and Orion's arrival at the banquet. Anyone who disobeys these orders will be punished and have their status demoted by a few levels. You may leave,"

The guard nodded solemnly before he turned around and swiftly flew away.

"I need to inform Rowena," High King Eldric said, ensuring his wife was the first to know so she could prepare and don her best attire and select one for him as well before meeting with the High Elders to greet Orion and the Princess of the Garden at the Pixie Kingdom borders.

He laughed heartily as he soared out of the vast hall. Today must be a blessed day for the Pixie Kingdom, for all he had heard recently were tidings of goodness, each striving to surpass the last.

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Five Pixie maids fluttered around the Princess of the Garden, meticulously straightening her sky-blue silk gown and tidying her artificial Pixie wings to perfection.

Once they finished, they stepped back, bowing reverently before her.

"We have completed the preparations. Would you prefer one of us to escort you to Mr. Orion's room, or shall we notify you when he is ready?" one of the maids inquired, her gaze fixed on the ground.

"Take me to his room. Since I am prepared, I no longer need to remain here," the Princess of the Garden replied.

The maid nodded. "I will lead the way, then," she said before ascending into the air and guiding the Princess forward.

The Princess of the Garden soon discovered that attempting to utilize her Pixie wings to elevate her body was a feat that was far more challenging than she had anticipated. She couldn't fathom anyone mastering the control of such a contraption in a short time.

Fortunately, the maid instantly noticed her dilemma and landed on the floor.

"We can walk all the way there, Princess," the maid added.

The Princess of the Garden internally exhaled in relief while maintaining a calm, serious expression outwardly as she nodded silently.

The maid led the Princess of the Garden out of the room and towards Orion's room.

The moment the door shut, several exhales of relief and exhaustion resounded.

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As they approached Orion's room, the Princess of the Garden noticed Orion patiently waiting outside.

He wore a beautiful white shirt and sky-blue trousers that matched her gown. Unlike her bare feet, he wore two black pairs of sandals.

He effortlessly took to the sky as though he had predicted her arrival, showcasing his familiarity with the artificial Pixie wings behind his back.

Orion landed before her and turned to the maid beside her. "You can leave," he said, observing as the maid nodded in understanding and immediately turned around, disappearing into the next hallway.

He refocused on the Princess of the Garden, taking her hand before leaning forward to kiss the back of it.

"You look beautiful, my Princess," Orion said romantically, leaning in to kiss her.

"Thank you. You also look incredibly handsome, Mr. Orion," the Princess of the Garden responded, holding back her chuckle.

She strangely enjoyed the moment more than she had intended and hoped it would never end.

## Chapter 815 The Princess Of The Garden's Serene Bliss (2)

"Thank you. I needed to be at my best for this particular occasion," Orion responded, arriving by the Princess of the Garden's side and firmly holding her hand, "Shall we?"

The Princess of the Garden nodded, "Let's go," she responded, smiling brightly.

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About three thousand high-ranking Pixies gathered within a large hall for their celebration banquet, marking the return of the god Aerendir's divine artefacts. These were the leading families and households conversing in groups—some seeking to resolve grievances and start anew, while others forged new connections and strengthened existing ones.

Suddenly, a resounding bell echoed through the vast hall, silencing everyone's conversations.

"What's happening? Why did they ring the bell again? I thought everyone had already arrived," a woman quietly asked her friend, furrowing her brows in confusion.

Her friend looked at her in bafflement. "What? Don't tell me you didn't know that Mr. Orion, the architect of the Orion's Cities, and the Princess of the Garden, the most important living individual in the Garden apart from the Aegis of the Arctic Deity, will also be attending the banquet today," she responded, raising a brow at her friend.

The woman widened her eyes in shock at the unbelievable information. She attempted to speak but quickly sealed her lips, shifting her attention towards the entrance door as it was slowly pulled open.

However, it wasn't just her; all those across the room unaware of Orion and the Princess of the Garden's arrival were instantly shocked after being informed. They all focused on the door, their eyes blazing with anticipation.

Zik stood beside the door, standing straight with his chest puffed out.

"The architect of the Orion's Cities, the liberator of the Prismarion and the Pixie race, and one of the strongest warriors within the Orion's Cities, Mr. Orion, along with his partner, the renowned Princess of the Garden, have graced us with their presence at the banquet," Zik announced loudly.

The vast hall's entrance door swung wide open, and time seemed to slow down as Orion, accompanied by the Princess of the Garden, stepped into it with elegant and graceful strides.

The hall fell silent, every eye fixed on Orion and the Princess of the Garden as they made their way in. They stopped before High King Eldric and High Queen Rowena, who had personally arrived, to welcome them to the event.

"Mr. Orion, Princess of the Garden, we are delighted you could join us for our celebration. Please, make yourselves at home, and if there is anything you require, simply summon a maid, and they will be at your service," High King Eldric said, his smile warm and welcoming.

Initially, he had contemplated introducing Orion and the Princess of the Garden to the high-ranking members of the Pixie Kingdom. However, upon reflection, he realized the futility of such an action. Orion and the Princess of the Garden surpassed any Pixie Kingdom member in authority and strength.

He understood that proceeding with such an introduction would yield no benefits and might even provoke unnecessary tension, potentially harming the Pixie Kingdom more than benefiting it. So, he resolved to let them enjoy the celebration without any unnecessary formalities.

"Yes, certainly. Since you're here for the banquet, take the chance to relax and enjoy yourselves. Just be cautious about who you engage in conversation with. Despite their status, everyone here is eager to meet and speak with both of you," High Queen Rowena added, her words carrying a subtle undertone.

Orion nodded in understanding. "Understood. We'll make the most of this opportunity to enjoy ourselves. If you need us, you can find us in the fruits and wine section," he replied, offering them a smile before guiding the Princess of the Garden forward.

Throughout the conversation, the Princess of the Garden remained silent, absorbing her surroundings with a glint in her eyes. She felt herself gently pulled along by Orion and offered a calm nod to High King Eldric and High Queen Rowena as she followed Orion's lead.

Observing Orion and the Princess of the Garden leave, High King Eldric sighed wearily. "Do you think I made the right decision? This could be our only opportunity to strengthen our bonds with them and elevate the Pixie Kingdom's standing in the Orion's Cities," he pondered, turning to his wife.

"There's no need to worry too much, dear. According to the records, this is the first time the Princess of the Garden has been downsized to Pixie size. Considering her reluctance to leave the Garden, it's likely her first time attending a banquet, especially one as grand as this. So, instead of burdening them with politics, we should let them enjoy themselves fully."

"Who knows, perhaps if she enjoys today, we might see more frequent visits from the Princess of the Garden in the future," High Queen Rowena reassured, glancing at Orion and the Princess of the Garden, who had already arrived at the fruits and wine section.

"You are right; it's wise to let them enjoy themselves fully," High King Eldric agreed with his wife's insight.

He promptly summoned a guard and instructed them to keep a vigilant watch over Orion and the Princess of the Garden, ensuring no one disturbed their peace and comfort during their stay. Although he trusted most attendees to behave, he couldn't discount the possibility of troublemakers.

The guard hastened to relay the High King's orders to the others.

High King Eldric and High Queen Rowena then welcomed other esteemed guests.

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After downing her second drink, the Princess of the Garden slammed her wooden cup against the table. Her expression twisted in displeasure as the sour, tongue-tingling aftertaste lingered before dissipating.

"You don't like it?" Orion asked, arching a brow. He had allowed her to drink, knowing her constitution would nullify any adverse effects.

The Princess nodded. "It tastes just like the previous one," she replied.



Suddenly, the sounds of instruments filled the air, and gradually, all the Pixies around them found partners and began to rise into the air.

#### Chapter 816 Encounter with the Vice Guildmaster

Looking up, they realized they were dancing to enchanting tunes.

"In that case, why don't you accompany me for a dance?" Orion suggested, flashing a broad smile at the Princess of the Garden.

"Ahem! I can't dance," the Princess of the Garden replied, shifting her gaze shyly in another direction. "I've never attempted to do so my entire life."

"Well, though I've danced before, I don't have much experience in dancing. Why don't we use this opportunity to learn? Since you don't yet know how to use your wings, we can dance on the ground," Orion suggested, glancing at the Pixies flying around.

The Princess of the Garden nodded in understanding.

Orion grabbed her hand, about to lead her to the centre of the dance floor, when he noticed a few familiar faces heading towards them.

"Mr. Orion, it's a pleasure to meet you again. I heard that you were also attending the banquet and couldn't stop myself from coming to greet you personally. Allow me to introduce my wife, Alaia," Guildmaster Alaric said, smiling as he introduced the woman beside him.

She was a voluptuous woman in her early fifties, wearing the same red and blue matching outfit as him.

"It's a pleasure finally meeting you, Mr. Orion and Princess of the Garden. My husband has told me a lot about his first encounters with you," Alaia said, smiling as she bowed slightly towards Orion and the Princess of the Garden.

She didn't dare to be relaxed and show her respect; after all, these were individuals that even the High King and Queen had to treat with the utmost respect.

"It's a pleasure to meet you too," Orion responded, nodding as he shifted his attention towards Guildmaster Alaric before focusing on the third person beside them.

On his other side was Meave, wearing a long, silky violet dress. When their eyes met, she smiled and nodded at him.

The Princess of the Garden nodded silently at all three of them.

"We just came to greet you as it was the right thing to do. I hope you enjoy the rest of your time at the banquet. We'll be taking our leave now," Guildmaster Alaric responded.

He could feel the many hostile eyes on his body and understood that this was a clear warning from the High King that no one should disturb Orion and the Princess of the Garden's time at the banquet.

After all, who would be foolish enough to make such apparent threats in a hall filled with the most influential individuals in the Pixie Kingdom and the Guildmaster of the Gardener Guild?

Fortunately, he wasn't foolish enough to ignore the warning and gave one final nod to Orion and the Princess of the Garden before he turned around and left with his wife.

Orion and the Princess of the Garden nodded and observed as Guildmaster Alaric and his partner soared into the air to join in the dance before refocusing their gaze on Meave.

"Ahem! Mr. Orion, I came here to greet you and thank you for the gift you had sent Princess Morgana to deliver to me. I have shared everything with the other women, and they are very grateful for it. Also, they are all prepared and can't wait to meet—" Meave cleared her throat and began; just as she was about to complete her sentence, Orion interjected.

"You don't need to worry about mentioning that, Vice Guildmaster Meave. I only did what was reasonable for me to do as I don't require payment. Also, I'll come to the guild to meet you on that matter when I am free," he slightly coughed and said.

"Okay. That means I will be expecting your visit soon, Mr. Orion. I'll take my leave then," Meave nodded, smiling appreciatively.

She gave the Princess of the Garden one final nod before she turned around and left.

Orion briefly looked at her and understood that she had come to the banquet alone, confirming what she had told him, that she didn't have a partner.

Suddenly, Orion felt a painful pinch on his stomach, dragging him out of his thoughts.

"Can you explain in detail the contents of your conversation with that Pixie woman just now?" The Princess of the Garden asked with a raised brow, her hand painfully twisting his skin as she awaited his response.

"It's nothing. I donated the payments I earned during my task to her after finishing the tasks High King Eldric had given me," Orion responded swiftly.

Though he knew that the Princess of the Garden didn't oppose his 'habits,' considering this was her moment, he didn't want to put her in a challenging position or hurt her feelings.

The world may be vast, with different races filled with strange cultures and traditions that allow for behaviours considered strange in his former world. However, that didn't mean there wasn't a limit to it, such as the emotions of his women.

Now was the time to show the Princess of the Garden that no one mattered to him right now except her.

"Humph! Are you sure that is the truth?" The Princess of the Garden asked, slightly reducing the intensity of their grasp.

Orion nodded firmly. He wasn't lying after all.

The Princess of the Garden loosened her grip on Orion, glancing at Meave, who was now conversing with several influential individuals, before refocusing on Orion.

"Now that we don't have any other interruptions, can we continue with our dance?" Orion asked, quickly changing the topic.

The Princess of the Garden sighed tiredly before nodding with a smile.

Orion grabbed her outstretched hand and led her towards the floor so they could dance.

They began their dance slowly, mimicking the elegant movements of the pixies soaring above, until they found their rhythm and quickened their steps. Locking eyes with each other, they shared a smile, immersed in the enchanting melodies filling the air.

"Orion, I know I've said this countless times before, but nevertheless... I love you more deeply than you could ever fathom," the Princess of the Garden confessed, her arms encircling his waist as she snuggled her head against his shoulder.

Despite their tender embrace, their legs swayed, dancing to the instrumental music.

#### Chapter 817 Declaration of Love

"I will never grow tired of hearing it, no matter how often you say it. You can express your love as often as you like because I adore you just as much, my Princess," Orion responded, his arms encircling the Princess of the Garden's waist firmly.

The Princess of the Garden gazed at him, "Are you absolutely certain? Because I feel like shouting it from the top of my lungs here. I may not care about others' opinions, but I wouldn't want to embarrass you," she teased.

"My beloved wishes to proclaim her love to me before the most influential figures in the Pixie kingdom," Orion mused, pretending to consider the situation before grinning at her. "Well, I see no reason why not. But I'll be joining in, so I hope you're not the one feeling embarrassed."

The Princess of the Garden chuckled softly. "Very well, let's see who blushes first," she replied, breaking free from Orion's embrace and letting out a passionate shout, "I LOVE YOU, ORION!!"

The instruments abruptly ceased their melody. The pixies, suspended mid-dance, cast their gaze downward in bewilderment.

A hush fell over the expansive hall as all activity froze, and every eye turned towards them.

Unperturbed by the scrutiny, the Princess of the Garden drew in a deep breath and proclaimed at the top of her lungs again, "I LOVE YOU, ORION!!"

Orion smiled, observing the intense joy radiating from the Princess of the Garden's face. He felt his heartbeat rapidly. The corner of his eyes grew wet as memories flooded back. He remembered the first time he had seen such intense joy on her face—when she confirmed and accepted that she was carrying their baby.

The last time he had seen it was when they had to accept the heartbreaking reality that their child would never come due to complications they still didn't understand.

Despite this loss, he had promised to give her a name when she delivered, a promise he intended to keep. So, even if he couldn't admit it, sometimes, it felt as though nothing had changed since the first time they met.

A tear slid down Orion's left cheek as he tried to compose himself. He breathed deeply, screaming loudly, "I LOVE YOU, PRINCESS OF THE GARDEN!!"

He had taken it upon himself to love and care for his woman in every way, physically and emotionally, and she was no exception.

"I LOVE YOU, ORION!!"

"I LOVE YOU, PRINCESS OF THE GARDEN!!"

Amid the crowd of onlookers, High Queen Rowena observed the unfolding scene with a firm nod. "I might not know what kind of existence the Princess of the Garden is, or how she became 'The Princess of the Garden' in the first place, but I can definitely say with certainty that that woman is definitely in love," she remarked, briefly glancing at her husband.

"Nonetheless, I wonder why you've never professed your love to me in such a way before," she added.

Hearing his wife's words, High King Eldric's brows twitched. Wasn't the Princess of the Garden the one who had first professed her love loudly before Orion? So, wasn't he the one who was supposed to complain about her not proclaiming her love for him loudly?

Nevertheless, he understood that complaining was pointless and took a deep breath before screaming, "I LOVE YOU, HIGH QUEEN ROWENA!!" His voice resonated across the room, overlapping with Orion and the Princess of the Garden's own.

Everyone redirected their focus to High King Eldric, not expecting him to make such a bold profession of love.

High Queen Rowena shyly looked at her husband before she cleared her throat and screamed, "I LOVE YOU, HIGH KING ELDRIC!!" Her voice resonated like her husband's, attracting everyone's attention.

Just then, another voice echoed across the vast hall.

"I LOVE YOU, ALAIA!!" Guildmaster Alaric screamed loudly.

"I LOVE YOU, ALARIC," his wife, Alaia's screaming voice soon followed.

As Orion and the Princess of the Garden continuously professed their love for each other loudly, with the royal family and the Guildmaster of the Garden's Guild joining in, everyone slowly began to join in, screaming out at the top of their lungs as they professed their love loudly to their partners.

Meanwhile, others without partners professed their love to their creator, the god Aerendir, for the return of the Divine artefacts to the Pixie kingdom.

"I LOVE YOU, PRINCESS OF THE GARDEN!!" Orion screamed for the umpteenth time, his heart racing as he tried to regain his composure and calm it down.

The Princess of the Garden called out, "Orion?"

Orion refocused his eyes on her. Though he wasn't crying, he knew his built-up emotions were visible to anyone looking at him.

"Why are you crying? Aren't I the one supposed to be crying because you have given me such a wonderful moment?" The Princess of the Garden said, stretching her right hand to cup Orion's cheek.

"You know, I sometimes think about what would have happened if you had never paid attention to me when you first entered the mountains. I don't think there is anyone stupid or brave enough to have approached me the way you did. My life has changed drastically since I met you, so please stop overthinking how to solve my problems and just enjoy the moment with me," she added, smiling brightly with tears pouring down her cheeks.

The Princess of the Garden leaned in and kissed Orion briefly on his lips before she pulled back and laid her head on his shoulders. "Orion, can you repeat it one last time?" she whispered, her breath brushing against his ears.

"I LOVE YOU, PRINCESS OF THE GARDEN!!" Orion screamed, his arms tightening around the Princess of the Garden's waist.

He didn't know when it happened, but his eyes had broken through the dam holding them back. Quickly regaining his composure, Orion responded, "I can't stop trying to solve your problems because they are mine also. I do everything to ensure you are without burdens, so never repeat those words again."

The Princess of the Garden remained silent, feeling the wetness on her neck. She further tightened her arms around Orion's waist.

## Chapter 818 Apprehending The Main Perpetrator

Suddenly, the choirs of instruments resonated across the vast hall again, mixing with the loud, repeating voices in the air. It was so loud that it resonated across every corner of the canopy castle and spread outside.

After a few hours of joyous professing of love and melodies, the celebration ended, as it was time for the royal announcement.

Orion, the Princess of the Garden, and everyone returned to their positions.

"Did you enjoy it?" Orion asked, his eyes still red. He looked at the Princess of the Garden, awaiting her response.

"I enjoyed it more than I had initially expected," The Princess of the Garden nodded.

She shifted her eyes to the side and noticed that more people were boldly paying attention to them and chuckling because of what they had done before refocusing her gaze back at Orion.

Suddenly, a voice resonated through the vast hall, screaming, "ARREST HIM!!"

The Pixie guards soared down from the air towards the direction of the voice.

Orion and the Princess of the Garden focused on the direction of the voice and noticed that it had come from High Prince Kael. The scene around him was shocking,

High Prince Kael stood beside an unknown woman whose face was hidden behind a masquerade mask. He pointed an accusing finger towards the Second prince, who lay on the floor, consistently coughing heavily while looking at High Prince Kael with fear in his eyes.

"If you don't confess to all your atrocities right now, I promise you that I'll do so much more than simply throw you into the dungeon and have it tortured out of you, so you better go?ahead and speak now that you?have the chance to do so!!" High Prince Kael said firmly.

The Pixie's guards had already surrounded them and awaited High Prince Kael's orders.

"What is going on here?!" High King Eldric's voice thundered across the vast hall as he arrived at the scene with High Queen Rowena, Fourth Prince Alden, and Sixth Princess beside him.

Prince Bran instantly shifted his attention toward High King Eldric and crawled towards him, "Father! Father! Help... Cough! Cough! I think my brother has gone mad! Please save me!" he screamed, his expression frightened.

Orion and the Princess of the Garden observed the scene from their location and were curious about what had transpired.



Everyone in the hall was also curious about the sudden commotion and observed intensely as the scene unfolded.

High King Eldric redirected his attention to High Prince Kael, his brow furrowing deeply. "What is the meaning of this, High Prince Kael? Why are you treating your brother in such a way?" he questioned, a glint flashing through his eyes.

"Father, he tried to poison me, and if not for this kind woman here, I would have fallen victim to it," High Prince Kael responded loudly, his voice echoing across the vast hall.

The hall suddenly erupted loudly at High Prince Kael's accusation.

"High Prince Kael is accusing the Second Prince of attempting to poison him! Isn't that too unbelievable?" a voice from the crowd muttered loudly.

"Are you suggesting that High Prince Kael is lying? Remember, he was previously injured and poisoned and couldn't participate in Aegis of the Arctic Deity's trials for the Divine artefacts?" another voice interjected.

"What? Are you implying that the Second Prince might also be responsible for his first incident?" another voice swiftly added, disbelief colouring their tone.

As these words echoed through the air, louder than the others, Orion and the others couldn't help but ponder the issue with deep frowns.

They understood that such implications might signify something more significant than a mere coincidence.

"First brother, I think you are mistaken. Second brother would never do such a thing," Prince Alden swiftly interjected, hoping to resolve the situation discreetly.

After all, it wouldn't bode well for the royal family if such a conspiracy were exposed to the Pixie Kingdom.

High Prince Kael shifted his attention to Prince Alden, furrowing his brows slightly as he sighed. "Of course, I thought I was mistaken as well. There was no way my second brother could ever consider such a thing. However, I have proof. You see, after he poisoned my drink using the declarations of love as a cover before the servant could serve it to me earlier, I was lucky enough to be warned by the kind woman beside me," he said, gesturing towards the woman wearing a masquerade mask.

"So, to confirm what I had been told during the earlier declarations of love, I swiftly switched my drink with his and allowed him to consume mine. And just as expected, minutes later, he coughed out a mouthful of blood before collapsing to the ground."

Hearing High Prince Kael's explanation, Prince Alden's eyes widened in shock before he turned towards the woman standing near High Prince Kael. She wore a yellow silk dress and a matching colourful masquerade mask covering her head, hiding her face from everyone.

Prince Alden furrowed his brows, wondering who she was, before refocusing on his second brother with narrowed eyes. "Second brother, is everything that First brother said true? Did you really try to poison him?" he asked, his tone solemn.

Everyone present wore solemn expressions, especially the royal family, as they witnessed the unfolding scenes.

"He's lying—" Prince Bran began, but just as he was about to complete his sentence, he coughed, spitting out a mouthful of blood that stained his chin and the floor beside him.

He refocused on Prince Alden and the others, who wore strange expressions. Nevertheless, he continued, "Fourth brother, he's lying. I have been poisoned by that woman and—" he attempted to say before being abruptly cut off by High King Eldric's thundering voice, "SHUT UP!"

Prince Bran sealed his lips shut, his gaze shifting towards his father with a frightened look as he witnessed his father's furious expression, his mother's disappointed visage, and Sixth sister's shocked and dumbfounded expression.

"As my second son and the second Prince of the Pixie kingdom, I'll give you one chance to clear your name. Confess whether you are guilty of poisoning your own brother or not. Choose your words wisely," High King Eldric said, his tone serious as he narrowed his eyes on the trembling Prince.

Prince Bran opened his mouth to speak before sealing it shut, swallowing back his words. After a few minutes of tense silence, Prince Bran dropped to his knees and finally said, "I... I poisoned my first brother."

His words reverberated through the vast hall, sending shockwaves through the ears of all the guests present.

## Chapter 819 Apprehending The Main Perpetrator (2)

The vast hall suddenly erupted with murmurs and whispers.

"Haaa... I knew he did it. The Second Prince really committed something despicable by trying to murder the High Prince. Is he that hungry for the throne?" said a man, shaking his head in disappointment.

"Wait, doesn't that mean the Second Prince might also be involved in the High Prince's assassination attempt?" his wife asked, realization dawning on her face.

"Hmmm! You're right. It seems the Second Prince has dug himself into a deep mess," the man responded, shaking his head in pity.

Meanwhile,

"GUARDS! ARREST HIM AND LOCK HIM UP IN THE DUNGEON!" High King Eldric's voice thundered, echoing across the vast hall.

The guards instantly surrounded Prince Bran, chaining and dragging him into the air.

"FATHER!! PLEASE, FATHER!! IT'S NOT MY FAULT, I WAS DECEIVED!" Prince Bran screamed at the top of his lungs, struggling against the chains in a desperate plea for his life.

Despite his efforts, the guards remained resolute, prepared for any resistance given the high-profile nature of the banquet and the attendees. It took only several seconds for Prince Bran to realize the futility of his struggle.

High King Eldric raised his hand, signalling for the guards to halt. Stepping forward, he gazed down at Prince Bran as he was placed back on the ground.

"Father, please, I was..." Prince Bran began, but his words caught in his throat as he observed his father's frighteningly calm expression.

"The more you speak, the more I begin to wonder if you are truly the son I raised," High King Eldric said, his tone heavy with disappointment. "Nonetheless, I must inform you that we are already aware of your involvement with High Elder Dereris, Larwen, and Elder Larken in conspiring to murder the High Prince and Fourth Prince during their time with Mr Orion."

"This information was revealed by the sole assailant we captured. Despite her initial attempt to end her own life, our healers managed to stabilize her condition, leading to her eventual confession after hours of torture and interrogation."

High King Eldric shook his head, observing Prince Bran's expression. "If you believe this is all a setup, you are mistaken. Your greed drove you to attempt the poisoning of your own brother, fueled by the desire to claim the throne for yourself. Unfortunately, your plan not only failed but also led to your own confession," he continued, his voice tinged with regret as he regarded his son.

Finally, he turned away, unable to bear the sight of him any longer.

High Queen Rowena couldn't hold back her tears and wept heavily, her anguish almost causing her to collapse.

"Mother!"

"Mother!"

Prince Alden and Princess Morgana rushed to her aid, supporting her and guiding her to a nearby chair where she could sit.

They gently lowered her into the chair with concern etched on their faces.

High King Eldric watched the scene with a heavy heart, his sigh echoing through the tense atmosphere.

Turning his back to look at Prince Bran, he said, "You will remain restrained for eight hours until the healers arrive to tend to your injuries. Afterwards, we will decide on the punishment for your actions. Whether you survive until then depends on your resolve to murder your own brother and will."

He motioned to the guards. "Take him away and ensure he is securely locked up."

Prince Bran wore a blank expression, still processing everything he had just heard, as the guards lifted him into the air and carried him away from the vast hall.

Once they had left, High King Eldric shifted his attention to the woman who had saved High Prince Kael. "I would please like to see the individual who rescued my first son, the High Prince of the Pixie Kingdom, so that I may properly reward you," he stated, nodding appreciatively as he awaited her response.

Contrary to his expectations, the woman shook her head in response. "I am sorry, but I can't reveal my face due to my facial deformity. Nonetheless, I am grateful that I could do my best to save High Prince Kael. I'm sure any citizen of the Pixie Kingdom would have done the same. If you don't mind, Your Highness, since it seems my presence may draw unwanted attention to the banquet, I'll take my leave to avoid causing any disturbance," she responded.

As she prepared to step forward and fly away, the guards who remained to protect the royal family suddenly blocked her path.

"You needn't worry about attracting undue attention at the banquet. After all, you saved the High Prince's life, so much recognition should be expected. As for your facial deformity, I doubt anyone here would be so foolish as to ridicule you in my presence. Please, remove your mask and reveal your identity to us," High King Eldric said.

"Yes, my father is correct. In addition to his reward, I'll grant you whatever you desire for saving my life. Please remove your mask and reveal your identity to me. I must know who saved me," High Prince Kael said, sharing his father's sentiments.

He felt an uncanny familiarity with the person before him, suggesting they shared a personal connection. He felt she was also aware of happenings in the Canopy Castle's private affairs, for she could notice such a minor detail that no one else could.

Therefore, he was intensely curious to uncover her identity.

After hearing the words of the High King Eldric and High Prince Kael, the woman hesitated for a few seconds. Eventually, her shoulders slumped down defeatedly, and she agreed and slowly removed her mask.

As her true face was revealed, High King Eldric, High Prince Kael, Prince Alden, and the entire royal family couldn't help but widen their eyes in astonishment at the woman's identity.

"Celeria..." High Prince Kael uttered in disbelief as he gazed at the woman before him, his words laced with a hint of difficulty.

"You... you saved my life," he added, his expression mixed with shock and profound gratitude.

Meanwhile, in the less crowded area of the vast hall, the Princess of the Garden couldn't stifle a gasp as she witnessed the unfolding scene.

"Incredible," the Princess of the Garden whispered, her hand instinctively covering her mouth in astonishment.

Turning to Orion, she continued, "You were right; this is incredibly intense to watch."

## Chapter 820 A Compromise

Orion nodded, equally captivated by the unfolding twists and revelations. He placed a sliced portion of a fruit resembling a pineapple into his mouth and then offered some to the Princess of the Garden.

The Princess of the Garden chewed thoughtfully and swallowed before asking curiously, "What do you think will happen next?"

Orion had already briefed her on the assassination attempt and shared what information he knew. Maeve had filled in the rest after overhearing their conversation and noticing their initial confusion.

As the scene unfolded, they pieced it together, trying to predict what would happen next. Unfortunately, none of them could guess that the woman who saved High Prince Kael's life was the very person High King Eldric had commanded to stay far away from him, under the threat of drastic consequences if she disobeyed.

"High King Eldric and the others seem bewildered about what to do next. But judging from the love-struck expression on High Prince Kael's face, he might do something reckless. Best-case scenario, he elopes with Celeria right here and now," Orion observed, scrutinizing the tense scene.

"And what's the worst-case scenario?" The Princess of the Garden asked, awaiting Orion's response.

"He kills himself if High King Eldric decides to follow through with Celeria's punishment for defying his orders, even though she saved the High Prince's life," Orion responded solemnly.

"He would do something like that despite the two being so madly in love. Shouldn't he be afraid that High Prince Kael might seek vengeance for his beloved against him when he obtains the power to do so or utilize his position to do something even more vile after this incident?" The Princess of the Garden responded, raising a brow in confusion as she refocused on the unfolding scene before her.

She couldn't fathom that High King Eldric hadn't considered the consequences of his decision if he chose such an option. Of course, there was also the possibility that he didn't care, but the Princess of the Garden found that incredibly unlikely for someone so wise yet seemingly blind to such an obvious problem.

Orion shook his head in response. "I don't know; we'll have to continue watching to find out," he responded.

He didn't know what was going through High King Eldric's mind, so he would continue observing the scene unfold to see what kind of decision he would make.

"How about you? What do you think is going to happen next?" The Princess of the Garden asked, shifting her attention to Maeve.

Maeve was stunned, not expecting the Princess of the Garden to direct her question to her, but she swiftly regained her composure. "From the looks of it and the rumours I've heard, the only way to settle this issue if it escalates is for High King Eldric to give in. However, knowing what kind of inflexible man he is, it will probably come at a cost, and as for what that cost is, we would have to continue watching to find out," Maeve responded, her tone serious.

The Princess of the Garden nodded before refocusing on the unfolding scene.

On the other side of the room,

"You? What are you doing here?! Didn't my orders mean anything to you?" High King Eldric said, seething angrily as he glared fiercely at Celeria.

Celeria shivered under the High King's intense gaze. Clenching her fists together, she contemplated her next move now that things had worsened. Initially, she believed she was prepared for whatever might happen when she entered the Canopy castle. However, with the High King now confronting her, her body trembled in fear, leaving her unsure what to do next.

"Father, stop it!" High Prince Kael said defiantly as he positioned himself in front of Celeria.

High King Eldric narrowed his eyes at his first son. "What are you doing, High Prince Kael?" he asked, his brow furrowing deeply.

High Prince Kael shook his head in response. "Shouldn't I be the one asking you such a question, father? Just what are you saying? Are you trying to imply that the woman who saved my life does not deserve to be in my presence?" he said, shifting his attention towards the crowds around them.

"Everyone here has witnessed what just transpired, and without a doubt, if the woman beside me hadn't been here, my life would have been in danger again. So, I'll speak for myself to decide whether she stays or goes!" he shouted.

Hearing High Prince Kael's words, Celeria's eyes widened, feeling her heartbeat speed up. She stretched out her hand to touch him, saying, "High Prince Kael, you don't need to—" she began, but High Prince Kael quickly interjected. "Don't you dare say anything? You are not going anywhere, nor is anyone taking you away from me. That is final," he shouted.



Celeria sealed her lips and nodded silently.

High King Eldric's body trembled angrily as he focused on High Prince Kael. "You..." he attempted to say, but he could not correctly utter a word.

Prince Alden noticed things were getting out of hand and decided to step in. "Father, First Brother, I think there is a peaceful way to solve this," he said, breaking through the tension. "And it's best we do so privately."

"I'm sorry to disappoint you, brother, but either we settle this right here and now, or I renounce my crown and follow Celeria wherever she goes," High Prince Kael responded, looking at Prince Alden before shifting his attention back towards High King Eldric.

"So, it's best you make your decision here, Father. Will you stick to your orders or accept mine and Celeria's relationship?"

"Husband," High Queen Rowena called out, rising from her seat. She looked at High King Eldric and shook her head tiredly. "Though I understand and support the reason for your command, I believe this young woman has earned the privilege of being the High Prince's partner. Please, husband, why don't we discuss this in private and come to a compromise on this issue?"