

Chapter 1565

On the second day of February, Sebastian returned from Eldermere Keep. Despite having travelled a long way he went straight to the palace as soon as he arrived in the capital, without even changing into fresh clothes.

Salvador was in the royal study, discussing kingdom matters. When he heard Sebastian had requested an audience, he dismissed all the court officials except Rafael before inviting him in.

Sebastian had been away from the capital for over a year, and the journey had aged him greatly. His hair and beard were now streaked with gray.


Salvador hurried to help Sebastian up before he could bow. After such a long wait, the answers had finally come, and yet, Salvador felt a fear he couldn't shake.

"Don't worry," Sebastian said, the words giving Salvador and Rafael some comfort.

Once Sebastian sat down, he sighed and explained, "The last letter I sent said Prince Connor was stable and out of danger. But shortly after, he developed an illness that caused blood loss and weakness. His condition worsened quickly. I thought he wouldn't make it... He was on the brink of death. But somehow, he pulled through. In truth, this year, he's overcome one crisis after another. It's incredible."

Salvador listened, his eyes welling with tears. He felt a deep pain, knowing he couldn't do anything to help.

"Now, he's much better," Sebastian continued. "Though he can't walk, there are people who can push him around, so he's not stuck in his room all the time. It's strange, though. You always said he wasn't very

interested in studying, but now he's fascinated by medicine. He memorizes old herbal remedies, learns to recognize different herbs, and can even tell what's in a medicine just by smelling it. When I left, he was practicing how to check a pulse." 

"He has that kind of talent?" asked Salvador, surprised.

Sebastian chuckled. "Well, no one expects him to become a famous physician or an herbalist. But if he's interested, it could keep him busy."

Salvador missed his son dearly, but with the mountains high and roads long, one couldn't return while the other couldn't go. If Connor had something to occupy his time and focus on, it might not be such a bad thing after all.

"Does he... miss the palace and the people?" the king asked.

Sebastian sighed. "Of course. When he first woke up, he kept asking when he could return to the capital, as well as when he could see you, his grandmother, and Ryan."

"Did he mention his mother?"

Sebastian thought for a moment. "Actually, he never brought her up."

Not bringing it up didn't mean he didn't think about her. Everyone present understood that well.

Sebastian answered many questions about the details, and once they were finished talking about Connor, he checked Salvador's condition. After examining him, Sebastian said the treatment would need to be changed.

Salvador knew his illness was worsening. He had been feeling weak and

tired lately, and had prepared himself for the worst. After all, of the three to four years Sebastian had predicted, two had gone by.

There was always a gap between estimates and reality.

It took Sebastian a month to adjust the medicine, and after some time, it began to show results. Finally, Sebastian and the physicians from the Royal Medical Department were able to breathe a little easier. 1

Sebastian still stayed in the palace, but there was no longer a need for anyone to be assigned to protect him.


This year, Starhaven had entered its most prosperous period since Salvador's coronation. There were no wars, no bandits or rebels within the kingdom, and the harvests were plentiful. With tax collection going smoothly, the royal treasury was slowly filling up.

There were some difficulties when trade first began with Orivenia, but things had steadily improved. More and more people from Orivenia came to do business in Starhaven, and many Starhaven citizens were now traveling to Orivenia in search of opportunities.

The following year, during the Starlight Harvest Festival, Salvador appointed Rafael as regent, entrusting him with the governance of the kingdom. Salvador's health continued to decline. At times, the pain was so severe that he could no longer manage kingdom affairs, lacking the strength to fulfill his duties.

However, Salvador wasn't worried about the future. Rafael had already taken medicine to ensure he would never have children. That meant he could only be truly loyal in supporting Cecil. Without an heir, Rafael had no reason to risk becoming a usurper. 6

Sebastian also told Salvador plainly that he likely only had three to six months left to live. The king decided to spend his remaining time doing what he truly enjoyed. He loved painting, so he invited Kyle to the palace to keep him company.

Salvador spent his days capturing all the palace's breathtaking autumn scenery in his paintings, and also often took Octavia and Cecil to share meals with Victoria. 

One day, he smiled at Victoria and said, "I used to be so afraid when you called me for meals, Mom. It always meant I'd done something to upset you."

Victoria laughed, but her eyes began to fill with tears.



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