

Chapter 570 Live In The Sunlight

Jason studied his reflection, his mind drifting back to that pivotal moment in Podgend when the wind had stripped Death Thorn's mask away.

Now he lifted his own mask with deliberate care—such a contrast to how hers had been torn free that day. The moment it vanished, pure panic had flashed across her breathtaking features.

That expression had burned itself into his memory with crystalline clarity, as if he'd witnessed a woodland sprite caught suddenly in daylight. In that single, stolen glimpse, her face had etched itself permanently into his thoughts, refusing to fade.

When they'd parted ways, she had sworn to seek him out in Ublento. He had treasured that promise, holding it close through endless days of waiting.

But the days had melted into weeks without any trace of her presence. She'd never appeared since. No word had reached him after that. Even a desperate journey back to Podgend had proved fruitless—she had dissolved into thin air.

The waiting had become his torment. He'd discovered how time could stretch cruelly when hope hung by a thread, each passing day adding fresh weight to his soul.

As her silence deepened into something vast and hollow, doubt had crept through his defenses like poison. Time and again, he'd found himself wrestling with bitter questions. Had her confession of affection in Podgend been mere playfulness? Had she never harbored genuine feelings for him? Perhaps she'd cared for him once—just a fleeting moment of warmth that cooled as quickly as it ignited, leaving her to discard him without another thought.

Either possibility carved deep wounds in his heart. Did she have any idea

that her casual words had sent him tumbling headlong into love?

He recalled a passage from an old school textbook: "A single day apart feels like three lifetimes." Back then, he'd dismissed it as flowery nonsense from romantic poets. Now, those words lived in his bones. He grasped the exquisite torture of such longing with brutal intimacy. She'd haunted his meals, shadowed his steps, and invaded his restless nights.

Relentless anxiety had pursued him like a hunting hound—the fear that he would never lay eyes on her again, that after she shattered his carefully ordered world, she would slip away forever.

As a man who had spent his entire existence wrapped in ice-cold control, he now lost sleep and appetite over a woman. The stranger staring back from the mirror barely resembled his former self.

But the long wait had finally ended. He had discovered her whereabouts. Her true name was Lilah—as lovely as the woman who bore it.

And her confession hadn't been jest or fleeting fancy—it had poured from her heart with perfect sincerity. For his sake, she had abandoned everything familiar. She had walked away from her flourishing career at Delta without hesitation, traveled alone to Ublento to chase her academic dreams, and cast off her mask to live boldly beneath the open sky.

She had commanded respect at Delta for years, her reputation blazing at its zenith. Only love profound enough to reshape her entire world could have prompted such a sacrifice.

She had surrendered so much in his name. He refused to betray that trust. If she would accept him, he swore she would never want for anything. He would offer her the universe—every treasure other women coveted, and wonders beyond their wildest imaginings.

This conviction had driven him to remove his own mask. He had grown weary of shadows and secrecy. He yearned to walk openly in golden sunlight, just as she now dared to do. He craved all the simple, precious rituals that love birds shared.

Market strolls, distant journeys, exotic flavors on their tongues, photographs capturing each stolen moment—he hungered for it all.

These dreams swelled within Jason's chest, transforming the sharp angles of his expression into something achingly tender.

He gazed at his reflection, and uncertainty crashed over him like a cold wave. Would his face please her? His physique caused him no concern—she had seen his body, and her confession suggested her approval ran deep.

But his face remained a mystery to her. Her feelings had bloomed for the masked figure he'd presented. Now, stripped bare of mask, would her affection survive the revelation?

The possibility that she might be delighted sent electricity dancing through his veins. But if disappointment clouded her eyes instead, what then?

Who could have predicted that love wielded such power? That it could reduce a man forged from steel and silence into this trembling mass of doubt?

Jason released a quiet breath. It mattered little now. He had to summon the courage to face her, to lay his heart completely bare. She had been brave enough to confess first. He owed her an answer, and he couldn't allow his silence to be mistaken for cold indifference any longer.

Otherwise, what if she departed Ublento again? How would he ever trace her steps through an endless world? She remained an enigma—formidable, untouchable, and utterly magnetic to every man who glimpsed her.

Consider this very moment. The instant she had revealed her face during the university's opening ceremony, countless hearts had surrendered to her spell. His competition could probably form a procession stretching from one city limit to the other.

He lived in terror that if he delayed any longer, her affection might wither as hordes of suitors battled for her attention. Those wouldn't be ordinary men, either. They would arrive armed with power, wealth, and influence. He had to claim the advantage he possessed now—the tenderness she had already shown him—before some rival swept her away completely.

Gathering his resolve like armor, Jason drew a steadying breath and



walked into the bathroom. He shed his clothes, stepped beneath the cascading water, and scrubbed himself methodically clean, as if washing away every trace of his former existence.

Afterward, he toweled his hair dry and pulled on fresh garments. He strode from the room without a single backward glance.

On the table, his mask lay abandoned. He would never wear it again.