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Sebastian: 1

I leaned back in my chair and rubbed my eyes. The long list of instructions came to an end, and my office was still crowded.

The finance minister and other department heads were standing around, waiting with their files to get signed.

Most of them were already in their uniforms, ready to ride out any minute.

"Your Majesty," The Finance Minister slid the file across the desk, "Just one more signature on this one. Supplies for the troops."

I uncapped the pen again and signed it without looking up. As a king, I needed to make all the necessary arrangements before leaving the palace. It also included giving the duties to the ones who were there as backup staff.

I wanted Hunter to stay back and keep an eye on them. But he wanted to accompany me and bring his queen back home.

Other men also came forward to get the documents signed, and that was what I hated as a king. One couldn't go out and fight without fulfilling such formalities.



My office didn't have any other sound except the rustling of papers. We were all ready to leave the palace.

Once I was done with the last signature, the door opened, and Beta Hunter walked in.

"My King," He bowed, "We're ready to leave. The palace people are waiting for your speech."

After slipping the pen on the desk, I pushed the chair back, "Alright," I said quietly, and straightened my jacket, "Let's not keep them waiting."

Hunter moved aside as I walked past him and out of the office. My mind was already racing with several queries, and I needed to mindlink my men about the attack plan.

When I stepped outside, the open courtyard was packed. The warriors were lined up with their weapons. Then there was palace staff, maids, butlers even the kitchen boys.

At the far end, my eyes found two familiar figures. Granma and Tina.

They were standing close together, watching me.

Tina had a scarf around her face. Granma's scarf was wrapped around her head, and I knew why.

After taking a slow breath, I walked towards the podium. It was time for a short speech. Maybe



for the last time before the war began.

I could feel every pair of eyes on me. For a moment, I looked at them. Men and women, standing shoulder to shoulder.

I cleared my throat, "You've all stood with me through peace and storms," I started, and could feel my voice echoing in the courtyard, "And today... I'm asking you to stand with me once more."

There was a slight murmur in the crowd.

"I don't want to drag this speech as we don't have time..." I glanced at the soldiers, "We all know why we have gathered here. I'm officially announcing that we're attacking Lucien... the rogue king."

There was curiosity in their eyes.

"Lucien has someone who belongs here... in our palace... in our kingdom," I said slowly, letting them absorb all of it, "He has Phoenix Black, who you all know as the head warrior... the ex Heard warrior..."

I tried to keep my tone steady, "Phoenix Black is Aurora Stone... My wife. The woman I married two years ago."

There were gasps in the audience. I could see

shock in their faces because none of them knew that their king was married.

"So, that makes her your queen. From this day," I said loudly, "You'll address her as your queen. Because that's who she's always been."

My eyes moved to Gavin, who was standing in the front row, "Until further notification is issued, Gavin will remain your head warrior. He'll lead you in the field. You'll obey his command as you would mine. And together... we'll bring back our queen."

I paused, letting my words sink in.

For a heartbeat, there was pin-drop silence.

But after that...

Someone yelled from the crowd, "For the queen!"

The chant spread through the crowd like fire while the soldiers' fists hit their chests.

The warriors marched out through the gates and started shifting into their Lycan forms in the open fields.

There were roars of the beasts everywhere, shaking the ground.

I was about to follow them when I heard a shaky voice behind me, "Sebi?"



My body stiffened at the familiar sound as I slowly turned and found Granma standing. Her hands were trembling as she tried to wipe the tears off her cheeks.

"Granma..." I nodded at her but didn't go to her.

She took a few steps towards me, "Sebastian... I didn't mean to... I never wanted to... I... I was just trying to protect you... and the name of our family..."

"Protecting?" I raised a brow, "You took away the only thing that mattered to me... you harm her to protect me? From what, Granma?"

She reached out, trying to touch my arm, "Sebi... I only did what I thought was right for you... she wasn't meant for the throne..."

"That decision wasn't yours to make, Granma," I said softly, "You can't harm my woman and expect me to forget about it. Let the queen return... she will decide your punishment."

Though I knew my queen had already done the job. Tina was standing quietly behind her. I looked straight into her eyes, and when I spoke, the words came out colder than I had intended to be, "Whatever, you two did two years back... You won't be forgiven unless Aurora decides to let it go. Your father, Tina ... he isn't visiting you anymore. But don't worry. The Luna Quarters,



you wanted badly, you two can live there. In fact, this palace is yours. You two enjoy and party here. Because once she is back, we will move to the royal palace."

Tina's eyes widened in disbelief. She had been asking me to move there for so long, and now I was leaving this place with the woman I loved, the one she despised most.

"Aurora will decide your fates... but I think..." A dark chuckle left my lips, "I think she has already decided."

Standing there under the sun, they both were hidden behind their scarves, crying silently. However, I didn't know what to do with them.

They both didn't deserve to live, but right now, my mind should be on killing Lucien. Not on these pathetic women.

I pushed the thought away and suddenly turned into my beast form. My warriors were waiting to bring back their queen home.