

Awakening Love: Reborn to Be His Duchess Novel

Chapter 171 Before Departure The faint sound of the wheelchair rolling closer made Elowen tense up without realizing it. Finished She turned to look. Cassian's expression was steady, almost unreadable. He reached over and put out the candle by the bed, then settled down beside her. Elowen felt something she couldn't quite name. She shifted slightly and looked at him in the dimness. The line of his face, from his forehead down the bridge of his nose to his jaw, was sharp and clean. Too clean. With his eyes closed, he looked distant. She didn't like that.

She rubbed her fingers together under the blanket and tried, a little hesitant, "Cassian..." "Mm?" His reply was low, lazy with sleep. "The wine earlier... is it completely out of your system now?" Her face burned. She forced herself to keep going, even though her voice dropped almost to nothing. "Do you... want to kiss for a bit?" Cassian's eyes opened immediately. She was right there in front of him. Her skin looked warm. A faint blush spread across her cheeks, not dramatic, just enough to make her look soft and real and very close. She had just asked him if he wanted to kiss.

His throat moved. He always wanted to kiss her. That wasn't the problem. The problem was that she didn't love him. She worried about being a burden. She apologized too much. She never asked him for anything. That wasn't what it looked like when someone was in love. He held her gaze for a moment, then said quietly, "I'm better now." Elowen blinked, slow and careful. She understood. "So... no kissing." He almost nodded. But the disappointment on her face hit him instantly. It wasn't dramatic. Just a small shift in her eyes, like she was trying not to care.

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1/3 Chapter 171 Before Departure Finished It did something to him. He let out a quiet breath, leaned in, and pressed his lips to hers. Just once, light. Elowen froze, then looked at him. "Okay," he said. His fingers brushed her cheek. "Ella, it's late. Go to sleep." She paused, then answered softly. "Mm." He hadn't lingered. He had only touched her lips briefly before pulling away. The warmth faded almost as soon as it appeared. Would that even help him at all? Or... does he just not like me the way he used to? Her mind filled with messy, tangled thoughts. She didn't sleep well.

The next morning, Elowen slept longer than usual. When she woke up, Cassian was already gone. In the courtyard, she ran into Bran. "Where's Cassian?" "He left early," Bran said. "Didn't tell me where. Just said it was important." Elowen nodded slowly. The next two days were the same. He came back late, when she was already too tired to stay awake. When she woke, he was gone again. On the day he was set to leave, she felt movement beside her and opened her eyes immediately. Cassian had already risen and was about to get out of bed.

Still half asleep, her voice rough, she called, "Cassian..." He turned back. "Why are you awake?" "Are you leaving?" she asked, barely coherent. He gave a quiet sound of agreement. She muttered, "If you're leaving, you can't just... go like that. You should say goodbye properly." She pushed herself upright. She had lived through real loss before. She knew too well that sometimes you never got another chance. She didn't want regrets. So she moved closer on her own and wrapped her arms around him. Come back early, she said softly. Her voice was thick with sleep, warm and unguarded.

Cassian's heart skipped. 213 Chapter 171 Before Departure She started to pull away. He didn't let her. Finished Instead, he tightened his arms around her, holding her firmly enough that for a

moment she felt like she might disappear into him. "Okay," he said near her car. He added something else after that. But her head was foggy with sleep. She didn't catch it. "Hm?" she murmured, trying to ask what he had said. But he had already let go. He lowered himself into the wheelchair. She was too drowsy to press him. As the sound of the wheels faded down the corridor, she drifted back to sleep.

When she woke again, the sun was already high. She lay there for a while, then heard footsteps outside and called out, "Mira?" "Yes." Mira stepped closer. "You're awake?" Elowen answered softly and stretched comfortably under the blankets. "You woke up at the right time," Mira said. "Marchioness of Havenstead is waiting in the Great Hall." Elowen froze. "Marchioness of Havenstead?" She sat up so fast her unfinished yawn disappeared. "How long has she been here?" Mira thought. "Almost... half an hour." Elowen's vision went dark for a second. She nearly passed out.

She hurried out of bed and pulled on her shoes. "Why didn't you wake me? You can't just let her sit in the Great Hall waiting. That's so inappropriate." 1.7K A 3/3 admin

Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 172 Unexpected Gifts 019 Finished Before, she could pretend to be asleep and avoid Elspeth because she had a plan. She needed to deliberately provoke her. But now that the plan had worked, how could she still treat her aunt with disrespect? Because she was in such a rush, Elowen nearly tripped on the way. Mira caught her quickly. "Don't rush. Marchioness of Havenstead asked us not to wake you." Elowen turned. "What?" "I was going to wake you." Mira explained, "but she said it was fine and told us to let you sleep longer." Elowen grew even more confused. Why had Elspeth come to Duskmoor Manor? With that question lingering in her mind, she quickly finished getting ready and headed

to the Great Hall. just outside the door, she heard Elspeth speaking to the older attendant beside her. The attendant said, "It's been half an hour. Why hasn't she come yet? You may be her aunt, but letting me wait while she sleeps isn't exactly proper." Elowen's heart jumped into her throat.

Then Elspeth snapped, "Stop trying to stir trouble between us. She and Cassian just got married, and he's leaving today. Who knows how late they were up talking last night. What's wrong with her sleeping in? I'm happy to wait." Elowen stood there, stunned. She took a breath and stepped inside. Elspeth was seated upright in the main seat of the Great Hall, holding a cup. In the center of the room sat three large black chests. Elowen's gaze flicked over them briefly. What's in Chase? She stepped forward and gave a proper greeting. "I'm sorry for keeping you waiting, Marchioness of Havenstead.

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By rank, she didn't need to bow. But Elspeth was family. Lowering her eyes, she added, "I slept in and delayed you. I hope you'll forgive me." Elspeth set her cup down. "It hasn't been long. Don't worry about it." She looked at her and said, "And don't call me that. It sounds distant. Call me Aunt." Elowen nodded softly. "Okay, Aunt." 2:40 pm ppp. Chapter 12 Unespected Gifts Elspeth smiled and nodded toward the chests. "Take a look. See if you like them." Elowen blinked. "These are for me? In her previous life, she rarely received gifts. Daphne received far more.

Isla would give her pendants, hair ornaments, bracelets, and high-end cosmetics. Daphne would sometimes bring them in front of Elowen and casually show them off. "I already have several pairs of bracelets. I can't even wear them all. Don't you have any? I can spare you a pair. You're supposed to be the Crown Prince's wife. It's kind of embarrassing if you don't even own a bracelet." "I haven't even finished the last box of this. I heard you use basic brow powder. That's so plain. Here, take one of mine.

Maybe if your makeup looks better, he'll look at you more." Even now, remembering those words left a faint ache in her chest. She exhaled slowly and pushed the memories aside. Just a few small things," Elspeth said. At her signal, the attendants stepped forward and opened the chests. This one is gold." Elowen stared. "This one is jade bracelets and other pieces. A few dozen." Elowen stared harder. "And this one is cosmetics. All the newest styles." Elowen stood there in complete shock. Elspeth sighed. "I didn't know what you'd like, so I prepared one chest of each.

Don't turn them down." Elowen was stunned. This is small? And she was worried Elowen might not like them? Elspeth sounded as casual as if she had picked up a basket of vegetables on the way over "You don't like them? Elspeth asked, watching her expression. Maybe she shouldn't have listened to Cassian telling her not to overwhelm the girl She might as well have sent two estates instead. "I like them, Elowen said sincerely. They're just too valuable "They're just things, Elspeth replied. "If you like them, they matter If you don't, they're nothing Elowen thought it over.

Refusing outright would be rude 0:00 Chapter 130 Unexpected Gifts She could have them stored away later. Tilting her head slightly, she said, "Then... I'll accept them?" Elspeth nodded. "Yes." Elowen broke into a bright smile. "Thank you, Aunt." She stepped closer to look at the treasures. Finished The gold gleamed brightly. The diamond pieces were smooth and clear. The cosmetics carried a rich fragrance. What girl wouldn't love that? ◌ 1.7K admin

Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 173: Autumn Hunt Finished

Elspeth stood nearby, observing Elowen's radiant expression as she marveled at the treasures inside the chest, her eyes gleaming like a child on a festival morning. A profound sense of

contentment filled Elspeth, unlike the reactions she received from her two sons. There was an undeniable sweetness in having a daughter. As Elspeth settled down, she inquired, "By the way, do you have riding attire?" Elowen's expression faltered for a moment. "I... used to. But not anymore," she admitted, looking up.

"Why do you ask, Aunt?" "The Autumn Hunt is approaching at the end of the month. You cannot attend without proper riding attire." With those words, Elspeth rose from her seat. "Come, let us go. I will get you a few sets." Elowen blinked in surprise. The Autumn Hunt? While seated in the carriage, as it smoothly navigated through the streets, Elowen's mind wandered back to her past life. During that year's Autumn Hunt, Elspeth had also been in Vanelle. Although Elowen had not directly interacted with her, she had heard about the incident. Elspeth's horse had inexplicably bolted out of control, resulting in a severe fall that left her face scarred by sharp stones. Rumors at the time claimed the horse had gone wild. However, Elowen had later seen the same horse behaving gently, leading her to believe that Elspeth had been set up. But in her previous life, Elowen was too preoccupied with her own struggles to concern herself with others. She, too, had faced a bitter defeat during that Autumn Hunt.

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"Here we are." The carriage came to a halt. Elspeth took Elowen's hand and guided her out.

Elowen immediately recognized the place. Silken Veil Atelier.

In Vanelle, this lane was home to the most prestigious dressmakers and cosmetic boutiques, making it the most exclusive area in the city. Ordinary families could only dream of shopping here. Even during the Hale family's prosperous days, finances had been constrained. Elowen had ventured here at most once a year. After marrying Alaric in her previous life, she had never returned. She had heard that Alaric had frequented this place with Daphne, though.

"Take your time and choose what you like." Elspeth ushered Elowen into the boutique. Layers of skirts, embroidered gowns, riding jackets, tailored bodices — racks upon racks adorned the shop in a magnificent array. A clerk eagerly approached them, beaming. "How may I assist you today?" Elspeth inquired, "Do you carry riding attire?" "Certainly." Leading them further inside, the clerk presented a variety of fitted riding ensembles in different hues on a long rack. "This one is exquisite." Elspeth paused in front of a deep crimson set. Elowen examined it and then glanced at her aunt. "Aunt, that ensemble would suit you splendidly." "Truly?" "Absolutely. Why don't you try it on?"

Elspeth was already tempted by the outfit and headed towards the fitting room. Before disappearing, she reminded Elowen, "Choose wisely. I am here for your wardrobe." Elowen nodded confidently. "I will make a discerning selection." Once Elspeth departed, Elowen continued perusing the riding attires. More customers entered the outer room — a group of young ladies chatting animatedly.

"I heard that Galen was entrusted with many arrangements for the previous Autumn Hunt, including the grand prize." "Indeed. The palace seems to hold great trust in the Garrett family now..." Elowen's gaze darkened slightly. In her past life, Galen had also organized the Autumn Hunt. In Aarnior, the hunt involved a competition where the participant who hunted the most game would claim the grand prize. However, the previous year had seen a unique prize prepared by Galen. Despite enduring excruciating pain in her legs and pushing herself to the brink of collapse, Elowen had still been defeated by Daphne.

"That is not entirely accurate," Daphne's voice drifted in from outside. "It is not about the palace favoring our family. Organizing the Autumn Hunt is a challenging task, and my father simply

happened to take on the responsibility." Elowen's expression shifted subtly. The girls praised Daphne, commending her modesty. Their voices drew nearer. Elowen turned to see several young ladies, as fresh and delicate as spring buds, surrounding Daphne as they entered the inner room. Their conversation halted abruptly upon spotting Elowen, giving way to an uneasy silence. Daphne quickly regained her composure. She offered a light smile. "Your Grace. What a pleasant surprise to see you here." Elowen's countenance remained composed as she uttered not a word. Daphne gestured to her companions. "Well? Extend your greetings." Startled, the girls awkwardly greeted Elowen. Daphne inquired, "Are you also here for riding attire?" Elowen met her gaze. "Yes." Daphne tilted her head. "Truly? I assumed being from the Hale family, you would possess a vast collection of riding attire." She paused, recollecting. "Ah, I recall now. When the Hale family perished in battle, and you were the sole survivor, rumors circulated that you, devastated, burned all your riding garments in a fit of anguish."

Chapter 174 Silk And Steel The girls' eyes widened. *Finished "There had been compensation funds." Daphne continued softly, "but they were all distributed to other soldiers' families. I've heard you live quite modestly. Even your regular dresses, you wear for years." She sighed gently. "Did you bring enough coin today? If you find something you like but can't afford it, I'll buy it for you." Elowen paused. If Daphne had not brought it up, she might have forgotten. Back then, her mother had just passed from grief.

During the first month, Elowen had handled the funeral calmly, smiling at everyone, composed. In the second month, as the weather turned cooler, she had found a pair of soft knee cushions while sorting through a chest. They had been her mother's handiwork. Whenever Elowen had been punished and forced to remain on her knees for long stretches, her mother never pleaded on her behalf. Elowen once thought that meant her mother did not care. But her mother had made

those cushions. Fine silk on the outside, stuffed with soft cotton, elegant and precise, just like her.

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That day, holding them, Elowen had broken down completely. She remembered her mother disliking her riding, saying it was dangerous. That same day, Elowen had burned every riding outfit she owned. She did not know how Daphne had learned of it. Bringing it up now was meant to slice open an old wound. In her previous life, it would have worked. Not now. After everything she had endured, a few cutting words meant nothing. In this world, aside from life and death, nothing truly mattered. Elowen looked at Daphne steadily. "Daphne, I'm not here alone today." "Oh?" Daphne looked around theatrically.

"Is Cassian here too? I don't see him." She smiled sweetly. "I know you're proud. Even if you don't have much coin, you wouldn't accept charity. But I'm not exactly a stranger. Once I marry Alaric and become Crown Princess, I'll have to call you aunt." She mentioned Alaric again and again, waiting for Elowen's expression to crack. It did not. Instead, Elowen shook her head. "I don't believe you'd actually buy it for me." 1/2 2:41 pm ppp. Chapter 174 Silk And Steel Daphne responded automatically. "If I say I will, then I will." The moment the words left her mouth, she froze.

eFinished Elowen turned calmly to the other girls. "You all heard that, right? Daphne said she'd buy my riding clothes. Whatever I choose." Daphne stiffened. "That's not what I..." Before she could finish, Elowen turned to the clerk. "I'll take every riding outfit in this room. Put it all on Daphne's tab." The clerk blinked. "All of them?" "Yes. All. Including the crimson one my aunt is trying on." The clerk's face lit up. "Right away." Daphne's eyes flew wide. These were already

expensive pieces. All of them together would cost a fortune. She had not brought nearly enough coin.

"I didn't mean-" Elowen looked at her with admiration. "You truly are generous. And you keep your word." Cornered under the gaze of her friends, Daphne felt the heat rising to her face. The clerk moved swiftly, folding every set, beads clicking on the abacus as he calculated. When he announced the total, Daphne nearly blacked out. Elowen sighed softly. "I'm far too poor to afford this. Thankfully, the future Crown Princess can. For her, this amount is nothing." She smiled at Daphne. "Right?" Daphne forced a smile that felt like glass.

"Of course." At that moment, Elspeth stepped out in the crimson riding outfit. She glanced around. The racks were empty. "Did we come to the wrong place?" "Aunt." Elowen beamed. "The future Crown Princess insisted on buying me riding clothes. She cleared out the entire selection. Do you like that one? She's covering yours too." 1.7K li admin

Chapter 175 Shattered Pride Elspeth looked at Daphne, then at Elowen. Elowen blinked, wide-eyed. Something clicked for Elspeth. "I actually brought you here planning to pay for a few new outfits myself." Hope sparked in Daphne's chest. Then go ahead and buy them so I can leave. But Elspeth continued, "Since the future Crown Princess wants to treat her aunt by marriage, I won't get in he way." Daphne felt like the ground dropped out from under her. Elowen and Elspeth left with the riding outfits, while Daphne was left standing in the shop. The clerk approached with a polite smile.

"Your Highness, will you be paying in coin or draft?" Daphne forced a stiff smile. "I... didn't bring that much with me..." The clerk's smile did not waver. "That's alright. I can accompany you to the Garrett residence or the Crown 'rince's Wing to collect it." Daphne's expression turned

ugly. There was no way she could let the Crown Prince's Wing find out about this. She could only say awkwardly, "Then... come with me..." Heart pounding, Daphne led the clerk back home. With an outsider present, Galen paid the full amount without hesitation. The moment the clerk left, Galen's face darkened.

With a sharp crash, he smashed a cup at Daphne's feet. What exactly did you buy to spend this much? Do you have any idea how many years it took me to save that money?" Daphne's eyes reddened. "Dad, I didn't want to either..." she recounted what happened with Elowen and Elspeth, carefully leaving out her own mocking words. "It was the Duchess of Duskmoor. She kept saying I'm about to become Crown Princess, so I should show respect to my aunt by marriage. She forced me to pay for her clothes. She even said if I refused, it would be disrespectful to her, and to Cassian.

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I had no choice..." By the end, tears were streaming down her face. Galen watched her, his anger softening a little. But thinking about the money still made his chest ache. "It's just money. Why are you yelling at her like that? This isn't even her fault!" Seline rushed in after hearing the commotion and pulled Daphne behind her. "Once Daphne becomes Crown Princess, people will be lining up to flatter you. You think we'll be short on money then? Sell at 1/3 2:41 pm ppp. Chapter 175 Shattered Pride position here and there, a few hundred, a few thousand, easy." 019 Finished She snorted.

"This is all Elowen's fault. She used to bully Daphne, and now she's even worse." Galen cut her off. "What do you mean Elowen? That's the Duchess of Duskmoor now. His Majesty personally granted her that jeweled set. If word of this gets out and reaches His Majesty, I'll be the one in trouble again." Seline rolled her eyes. "You're so spineless." Then she turned to Daphne, her eyes

gleaming. "That Elspeth you mentioned, she's His Majesty and Duke of Duskmoor's aunt, right?" Daphne sniffed.

"Yeah, that's her." "I've heard the Havenstead family is loaded," Seline said, her tone turning calculating. "If you think about it, she's also connected to the Crown Prince, which means she's connected to you too. What's hers could easily become yours." Daphne paused, but her thoughts began to shift. Seline leaned closer. "Listen to me. Find out what Elspeth likes. Figure out her personality. Then win her over. If she takes a liking to you, do you really think we'll ever worry about money again?" Daphne's eyes lit up. That was true.

From today, it sounded like Elspeth had intended to buy clothes for Elowen. Elowen already had Cassian backing her. And now Elspeth too. Why should she have everything? Daphne clenched her teeth. "Don't worry. I'll make Elspeth like me. She'll only favor me from now on." Seline nodded approvingly. "That's my girl." Daphne's excitement grew. "If she likes me, she'll buy me whatever I want, spend all her money on me Then I can have anything, right?" Seline nodded again. "Exactly Daphne finally stopped crying. Thinking back on the day, she let out a small scoff.

"Honestly, I don't even think Duke of Duskmoor cares that much about Elowen. If he did, why would she need someone else to buy her clothes? All that attention he shows must just be for appearances." Alaric had always been cold toward her. The thought that Cassian might not treat Elowen that well in private made Daphne feel a lot better. Perfect timing. The autumn hunt was coming up. She would use that chance to win Elspeth over As for Elowen... She had no idea there was a big "surprise" waiting for her that day.

Chapter 175 Shattered Pride Finished On the other side, Elowen looked at the carriage packed with riding outfits, a strange sense of déjà vu washing over her. Hadn't something like this happened before? With Alaric, maybe, when she ended up with a pile of money from him too? Alaric and Daphne really did end up in similar situations. Guess some people always crash the same way. As for Elspeth, since the Garrett family had paid for the outfits, she felt unsatisfied and kept thinking of ways to make it up to Elowen. 1.7K 2:41 pm admin

Chapter 176 Soft Heart Finished Elowen spoke gently, coaxing, "You already gave me gold jewelry and cosmetics today. That's more than I could use in a year. I've felt your kindness, truly. If you still want to give me more, there's always time later. We've got plenty of days ahead." That finally eased Elspeth's mind, and she stopped insisting. After escorting Elowen back to Duskmoor Manor, they parted at the entrance. Elowen blinked. "You're not coming in for a bit?" Elspeth waved it off. "No, I'm exhausted. I'm heading back to rest." Elowen nodded. Elspeth hesitated, then asked, "Do you...

like houses?" Elowen froze for a second, thinking she misheard. "What?" "If you want one, I'll gift you a place. Big estate, multiple courtyards, a proper yard and all." Now Elowen understood. "But I'm perfectly happy living at Duskmoor Manor. If you gave me a place and I didn't live there. I'd feel bad. But if I moved in, I'd have to live apart from Cassian." Elspeth paused. For some reason, she could already picture Cassian grinning ear to ear if he heard that. Elowen smiled, her eyes curving as she reached out and held Elspeth's hand.

"If you really care about me, ust come spend time with me instead." Elspeth blinked, caught off guard. You know my father, my brother, my uncles... my mother, my sister-in-law, my aunts... none of them are with me anymore," Elowen said softly. "Sometimes it gets really lonely.

Honestly, having you around would mean more to me than anything you could buy." Elspeth's heart softened instantly. Now she understood why Cassian cared about this girl so much. She had that disarming kind of softness about her. The kind that made people want to stay. Elspeth squeezed her hand back.

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"Alright." After saying goodbye, Elowen returned to the manor. Seeing carriage after carriage of riding outfits being brought in, Cora's eyes widened. "That's a lot of clothes." Elowen smiled. "Didn't pay for them, so it doesn't hurt." Cora tilted her head. "From Marchioness of Havenstead?" Elowen shook her head. "No. From Daphne." Cora froze. "Daphne bought you clothes?" (2:41 pm Chapter 176 Soft Heart Finished "Yeah." "And you just... accepted them?" Elowen tilted her head. "Why not? These are free clothes." "But..." Cora hesitated. "His Grace left you a thousand.

Said it was for fall outfits. With the autumn hunt coming up, he wanted you to get whatever riding outfits you like. Now that Daphne bought all these... that money might not even get used." Elowen blinked in shock. "Cassian... left money for me?" Cora nodded. "He did." Right then, a young attendant stepped in. Before leaving north with Bran, Cassian had assigned a capable attendant to stay with Elowen. His name was Anson. He reported properly, "Your Grace, Mr. Ashcroft has finished packing and is about to leave.

The staff from Rose Hall are outside, waiting for your instructions." Elowen was still processing the money when she caught that. "Lucien is leaving?" Anson quickly added, "My apologies, I should have told you earlier." He explained everything clearly. "This was arranged by His Grace before he left. He assigned Mr. Ashcroft a post and ordered him to leave Vanelle today with Mrs.

Ashcroft. They are not to return without reason." Elowen stood there, stunned. "When did this happen? Why didn't I know?" "In the past couple of days," Anson said.

"A royal decree came from the palace, arranging Sylvia's marriage into Falconcrest Manor. Mrs. Ashcroft wanted to follow her there, but Sylvia refused. Mrs. Ashcroft was ready to make a scene, but His Grace handled it." Elowen finally understood. These past few days, Cassian had been leaving early and coming back late, barely speaking to her. He had not been avoiding her. He had been dealing with everything at Rose Hall. Elowen murmured, "But... how did I not hear anything? Why didn't he tell me?" Anson replied, "His Grace said it was a small matter.

You're still recovering, and you're managing the household. You're already tired. There was no need to burden you with this" Elowen fell silent. She had known the decree came down recently. She had even wondered why there had been no trouble from Rose Hall. She had worried how she would deal with it if Marwen caused a scene. She never expected that Cassian had already handled everything. 213 2:41 pm Chapter 176 Soft Heart But someone like Marwen... How much effort must it have taken for him to resolve things this cleanly? 1.7K Finished admin

Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 177 Autumn Hunt All of a sudden, in that brief instant. Elowen felt a dull ache rise in her chest, and she found herself missing Cassian. As the month drew to a close, autumn settled deeper over Vanelle. On the day of the hunt, Elowen added an extra layer before heading out. Mira tied the ribbons neatly and said, thinking out loud, "Every year at the autumn hunt, there are competitions. Your Grace hasn't joined in for years.

Maybe this time you could give it a shot?" Finished Before Elowen could answer, Cora cut in, "Doctor Dray just said yesterday that Your Grace's knee is better. enough for riding, sure. But not for long, and definitely nothing too intense. It hasn't fully healed yet. Today you should just

enjoy the food and watch the fun." Mira puffed her cheeks. "That's such a waste." Elowen had grown up at Hale Manor. She had been riding since she was little, and she was good, really good. People in Vanelle were too busy gossiping about her history with Alaric and Cassian.

They had all forgotten that when it came to riding and archery, she was easily among the best. Elowen lowered her eyes, a faint smile on her lips. "Whether I compete or not, that probably won't be up to me anyway." At the outer hunting grounds, Daphne had arrived early and was chatting with two other young women. Eleanor looked Daphne up and down and smiled brightly. "Daphne, that outfit looks stunning on you. It cannot have been cheap." Daphne let out a small sigh. "I would have chosen something simpler.

But with my place at the Crown Prince's Wing, I have to represent it properly." Cathy smiled, her voice light and teasing. "Daphne's never been like the rest of us. We are content with our embroidery and music. She would rather be out riding at dawn. Hand her a bow and she will not miss." In Avenlor, noblewomen were expected to be composed and elegant. Riding was common enough among the gentry, but hunting and archery were pursuits most families preferred to leave to their sons.

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The Garrett family were known for their scholarship, yet their connection to Hale family meant Daphne had been taught to ride and handle a bow from a young age. Yet Daphne shook her head modestly. "That barely counts. If we are talking about real skill, the Duchess of Duskmoor is the best. Too bad her knee is injured now..." An injured knee meant she could never ride the same way again. Back then, as long as Elowen was present, Daphne would not even get on a horse. Because she could never compare. Chapter 177 Autumn Hunt No one ever noticed her. It was just setting herself up to look foolish.

But now things were different. Elowen was practically half-crippled. Daphne brought it up on purpose, hoping the other two would join in and tear Elowen down. But Eleanor and Cathy exchanged a glance and stayed quiet. Neither of them dared say a word. 0:00 Finished They had once spoken badly about Elowen and were caught by Cassian himself. After that, their fathers were reprimanded by Theodric and pushed aside at court. When their families learned it all started with them, they were furious and punished them harshly behind closed doors. They had grown up pampered.

They had never faced anything like that before. They cried for days and regretted everything. Now, they would not dare say a single bad word about Elowen. So Cathy just smiled and said. "Well, either way... today's spotlight is definitely yours, Daphne." Eleanor quickly nodded. "Exactly." Daphne looked at them, a trace of mockery in her eyes. They're so scared of Elowen that they will not even whisper a word against her? Pathetic. "Oh, right. Cathy said, changing the subject, "I heard they brought in a lot of fine horses for today." "I heard that too.

There's even one from Tynelle, a legendary bloodline. They say it can run all day without tiring, but it's got a wild streak. It's been here for weeks, and no one's managed to ride it, barely even get close." She turned to Daphne. "Do you know about it?" Daphne's lips curved slightly. "Of course. A lot of today's arrangements were handled by my father' Especially that horse. It was not just from Tynelle. It also had a deep connection to Elowen. If Elowen saw it, she would want it more than anything. But too bad.

No matter how hard Elowen tried today, she would never get it Daphne and her father had prepared everything. Today, the spotlight belonged to her alone. As for Elowen, she would only be able to watch as the horse he aine someter elex Even Elipeth's favor would slip from her

hands. 2:41 pm ppp. Chapter 177 Autumn Hunt By the time Elowen arrived, the hunt was about to begin. Finished She did not head to the tents to rest. Instead, she followed the path she remembered and made her way to the stables.

in her previous life, on this very day, a striking Tynelle horse had been led out at the opening. Strong, powerful, a rare beauty. But impossible to tame. Even experienced trainers could do nothing with 1.7K admin

Chapter 178 The Truth Of Ember Until Daphne stepped forward in a pale riding outfit and subdued it with ease. The crowd erupted in applause. It was said that many young nobles fell for her that very day. Even Theodric took notice. After that, Daphne's name spread across Vanelle. Becoming His Highness's consort came naturally. Some even said she deserved more. That she should replace Elowen. But that horse had once been Elowen's. It was a birthday gift from her grandfather. Finishes Back then, it was just a small foal. Because its coat shimmered like embers, Elowen named it Ember.

Every morning, the first thing Elowen would ask was, "Has Ember grown a little more today?" She would stuff a couple of flatbreads into her pocket and run off. Ember would graze, and she would sit beside it and eat. She loved Ember. And Ember loved her. No one else could get close, let alone ride it. Once, Daphne tried to approach and got kicked, landing hard on the ground, crying pitifully for a long time. Later, after Elowen injured her knee and could no longer ride, Daphne went to her father and brother.

She said it would only upset Elowen to see Ember, so it would be better to send it away. After some thought, they agreed. From then on, Elowen did not see Ember again until the autumn hunt. But three days after Daphne 'tamed it in front of everyone, Ember died. That was not normal. No

one cared. Everyone was focused on Daphne, No one cared about a horse. Except Elowen. She dug into it herself and found the truth. Ember had been fed a brutal poison. The pain left it too weak to resist. It could only let Daphne control t After the show, it was dragged back to the stables to suffer and die.

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This time, Elowen would never let that happen again. But halfway there, she ran into something unexpected. She had taken a quieter path on purpose, avoiding attention. Instead, she heard hushed voices slipping through the narrow passage. 118 2:41 pmp pp. Chapter 178 The Truth Of Ember 0471 Finished "...I missed you so much. I've been stuck in the palace this whole time. Couldn't get out, could only write to you... did you read my letters?" Elowen's eyes widened. That's Maerwyn. Isn't she supposed to be confined? How is she here? She had always sounded sharp or angry before.

This soft, almost breathless tone was something Elowen had never heard. "I read every single one," the man replied gently. "Over and over. I could recite them if you asked." Elowen froze. She recognized the voice. Rowan Boyd. His father had earned merit under Theodric. His brother served under Cassian. Rowan himself was close in age to Alaric. They were good friends. In her previous life, right before she died, Elowen had overheard Rowan speaking with Alaric. Rowan had asked, "Elowen is beautiful, and she cares about you.

Don't you feel anything for her at all?" Alaric had answered coldly, "She makes me sick." Back then, those words shattered her. She had asked for a separation soon after, and not long later, she was reborn at seventeen. Now, remembering it, she felt nothing. So time really does heal things. People really do grow up. "Now that I finally get to see you, Rowan... kiss me, will you?"

Elowen flushed, embarrassed just hearing it. She knew Maerwyn adored Rowan, wanted nothing

more than to marry him. But Isla had always disapproved. The family was military, too rough, too crude in her eyes.

She had refused no matter what. Yet here they were, secretly meeting like this. Elowen suddenly recalled something from her previous life. Maerwyn had gotten pregnant before marriage, curaging Theodric and Isla. When questioned, she refused to name the father. She only insisted that no respectable family would take her now, forcing Theodric to marry her off to Rowan. But Theodric would never be pressured like that. Instead, he married her to another noble. That man treated her well, even accepted the child as his own. Yet Elowen had heard that Maerwyn never even looked at him properly.

She lashed out at him, and still kept seeing Rowan behind his back. 41 pmp pp. Chapter 178 The Truth Of Ember What happened after that. Elowen never knew. But now, hearing the soft, lingering sounds of their closeness, she could not help but think. That child back then... was probably Rowan's. And then she remembered what Maerwyn had once said to her. Finished Why are you always clinging to Alaric? Elowen, can't you live without a man? They say a woman should have dignity. Look at you, throwing yourself at him like that. It's disgusting." 1.7K 2:41 pm ppp.

Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess Finished admin

Chapter 179 Caught Right now, Maerwyn had her arms looped around a man's neck, leaning in for a kiss. Elowen felt a rush of complicated thoughts. There was no time to get angry. Instead, an idea clicked into place. She glanced down, scanning the ground, then found what she needed. She hooked a dry branch closer with the tip of her shoe and stomped down hard. Crack. The

sharp sound cut straight through the quiet, instantly startling the couple locked in their intimate moment. "Who's there?" Maerwyn called out. "Show yourself!" Elowen didn't answer.

She turned her head instead, deliberately urging, "Mira, let's go, hurry." "Right!" They had barely taken a couple of steps when, just as expected, Maerwyn's voice rang out behind them, sharp with anger. "Elowen, stop right there!" Elowen halted and turned back. Only Maerwyn stood there now. From the narrow path came the hurried sound of footsteps, Rowan had already slipped away, not daring to show himself. Elowen widened her eyes in feigned surprise. "Oh, Your Highness? What are you doing here? Weren't you confined by His Majesty?" Maerwyn sneered. "Drop the act.

I know you heard everything." Elowen gave no clear response. Maerwyn stepped closer, glaring at her. "I'm warning you. Not a word of what you heard today leaves your mouth. Or I won't let you off easy." Elowen showed no fear. She spoke slowly, almost lazily. "If you're asking for a favor, you should sound like it. Maerwyn's brows shot up. "Who's asking you for anything?" "Oh?" Elowen lifted a brow. "So this isn't you asking. This is you threatening your aunt by marriage? And not just any threat.

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One from a niece sneaking around with a man?" Her gaze drifted meaningfully to Maerwyn's lips, slightly smudged. Maerwyn's face changed instantly. The earlier arrogance faded. T. we weren't sneaking around We were just talking..." 2:41 pm Chapter 179 Caught Elowen let out a small laugh. "Talking? Funny way to talk, considering your lips were just... busy." Maerwyn flushed with anger. "Shut up!" 014 Finisher "You're getting loud with me." Elowen placed a hand over her chest. "Guess I shouldn't bother being nice. I'll just report this to His Majesty. I am the Duchess of Duskmoor after all.

My words carry weight. At the very least, His Majesty will believe me." Maerwyn froze. "I wonder," Elowen continued lightly, "what His Majesty would do if he heard about this little secret. You might just get a longer confinement. But Rowan... getting involved with a princess like that, crossing the line..." She tilted her head. "Think he'd lose more than his freedom?" Elowen turned cleanly and started to walk away. Maerwyn's face drained of color. She rushed after her. "Wait, don't, please don't tell my father. I'm begging you Elowen. I mean..." Elowen shot her a sideways look.

"What did you just call me?" Maerwyn stiffened, then forced herself to correct it. "Aunt..." Only then did Elowen stop. Maerwyn let out a small breath of relief. "I can keep this quiet for you," Elowen said. Hope lit up Maerwyn's eyes. Elowen's tone shifted. "But I have conditions." Maerwyn's face scrunched. "You're not going to make me help you sneak around with my brother, are you? Elowen blinked. 'Of course not.'" "Not that... Maerwyn muttered, thinking.

"Then you want me to stop Daphne from marrying him?" Elowen genuinely did not understand why everything in Maerwyn's head revolved around romance. She took a breath and said firmly, "Let me make this clear one last time. I do not like your brother Whether he marries Daphne or anyone else, it has nothing to do with me." Maerwyn frowned. "Then what do you want?" Elowen looked straight into her eyes. "Simple. From today on, you treat me with respect You listen when I speak. Whatever I tell you to do, you do it." She paused. In other words, you work for me now." Maerwyn froze.

She, a princess, working for the person she disliked the most? Was this a joke? Anger surged up, words ready to explode. Elowen spoke calmly, "Rowan." Maerwyn went silent. Completely cornered. 2:41 pm ppp. Chapter 179 Caught Finished Her face shifted from red to pale, then

finally she gave in. "Find... I agree..." Elowen tilted her head slightly. "Agree to what?"

Maerwyn bit her lip, eyes shut tight. "I agree... to work for you..." Elowen had originally come, following memories from her past life, to check on Ember at the stables. Picking up a new pawn along the way was an unexpected bonus.

Her eyes curved with satisfaction. "That's better." Maerwyn looked miserable, but with leverage hanging over her, she had no choice. "Alright, you can go now," Elowen said, waving a hand.

"I've got something to take care of at the stables." Maerwyn hesitated, her expression turning strange. "You're... going to the stables?" Elowen tilted her head. "Is there a problem?"

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Chapter 180 Stable Game Maerwyn said nothing, but inwardly she sneered. She doesn't like Alaric? He's at the stables right now. If Elowen is heading that way, what else could it be? Your Highness." Finished Elowen's voice pulled her back. Maerwyn was still not used to this. She forced herself to look over. "What?" Elowen studied her expression carefully. "Don't tell me... your dear Alaric is at the stables right now." Maerwyn froze. That reaction was enough. "So he is." Elowen said. Then, without hesitation, she gave an order. "Go over there and get him out." She was going to see Ember.

The last thing she wanted was to run into Alaric. Nothing good ever came from crossing paths with him. Maerwyn frowned, reluctant. "I don't-" She corrected with a word, "Rowan." Maerwyn bit the inside of her cheek. "...I won't let you down." She turned and walked off. "Wait." Elowen suddenly stopped her. "Wipe your mouth. Your lip color's a mess." Maerwyn paused, then awkwardly wiped her lips. "Seriously," Elowen added, half amused, "it hasn't even been that long. You didn't have to go that hard." Maerwyn flushed. "You wouldn't understand.

When people in love see each other after time apart, it just.... happens." Elowen blinked. For some reason, Cassian came to mind. He had been gone for quite a while. When he returned, that would count as a long separation too. Would he... A sudden warmth crept up her cheeks. No. Focus. There is more important things to handle. Elowen flexed her fingers, forcing the thought of Cassian out of her mind She slipped into a shadowed corner near the stable entrance, watching as Maerwyn walked in. After waiting patiently for a while, she finally saw Alaric.

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2:41 pm Chapter 180 Stable Game 69 Finisher The siblings walked out together. talking as they left. Alaric looked normal. but Maerwyn was clearly distracted, glancing back more than once. Elowen almost laughed. Good thing she had hidden somewhere else. Otherwise, she might have been spotted. Once she was sure Alaric was far enough away, Elowen brushed off her skirt, stepped out, and headed into the stables. Rows of fine horses filled the place. She had no idea where Ember was kept. So she stopped a passing stable hand. "Where's the bloodline horse?" The man.

one of the Garrett household staff, played dumb. "No idea what you mean." Then he added with fake concern, "You really shouldn't be here. It smells, and it's not a place for you." Elowen frowned slightly. The man caught her expression and felt smug. If he refused to talk, what could she possibly do? "Alright." Elowen said with a soft sigh. "If asking nicely doesn't work, we'll try something else." The man was just about to grin and walk off. Elowen stepped back and gestured behind her. "You can come out now." The man followed her gaze.

Elowen added casually, "Cassian left me a couple of guards." The man froze. Guards?From Cassian? Before he could process it, two broad, imposing men stepped out from the shadows. Cold faces Solid build. The kind of presence that made the air feel heavier. One on each side,

they grabbed the man like he weighed nothing. One of them asked. "How do you want to handle this? The other replied, "We ask nicely once or twice. If he still doesn't talk we tear him apart." Tear...?" The first nodded. "Quick and easy. One pull each side, right from the neck- The man's legs gave out.

His face went pale, and in seconds, he lost control completely "Ugh..." Mira grimaced and quickly raised a hand to block Elowen's view Elowen remained perfectly calm. So, remember where the horse is now?? 74 2:41 pm ppp. Chapter 180 Stable Game Finished The man burst into tears. "I remember, I remember..." Problem solved in moments, Elowen left in a much better mood. By the time she returned, Alaric was already seated again. From a distance, he spotted her and narrowed his eyes. She had come from the direction of the stables. Did she go because of that horse? He had just been there himself.

He knew that horse used to belong to Elowen, and that she cared about it. He had gone there, enduring the stench, just to confirm it. Then he recalled Maerwyn coming to call him out. She would never normally step into a place like that. And her expression back then... A thought suddenly formed in his mind. Elowen had no intention of seeing him. She had sent Maerwyn to get him out of the way. 1.7K 2:41 pm admin