

Awakening Love: Reborn to Be His Duchess Novel

10:55 am Awakeningtore Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 741 Willow Creek -5 Pearl
"Your Grace!" Elara creamed lunging forward, but her hands caught nothing but splashing water. The freezing river instantly rushed over Elowen's mouth and nose. She thrashed wildly, desperate to breal the surface, but the current was too powerful. Wrapped in its massive force, she was swept helplessly downstream. Through the roaring water, she heard Mira's frantic cries and Cora's screams from the riverbank. The voices grew more distant and muffled until they were completely swallowed by the crashing waves.

Elowen felt herself tumbling underwater until her right leg slammed hard against the chassis of the sunken carriage. The blinding pain knocked her completely unconscious. When Elowen finally began to drift back to awareness, she had no idea how much time had passed. Opening her eyes, she found herself lying on a bed. It was hard, covered orrly by a thin, musty-smelling mattress. Sunlight streamed through a tear in the paper window screen, hitting her face and making her squint. When she tried to shift her weight, a sharp pain shot through her right leg, drawing a sharp hiss from her lips.

Nearby, she heard the soft sound of someone breathing. Elowen turned her head and saw a little girl, around six or seven years old, resting her chin on the edge of the bed. She was staring back with a pair of bright, wide eyes. The girl wore a faded, coarse tunic covered in patches. Her thin, yellowish hair was tied into two messy little pigtails. She was terribly thin, her cheekbones jutting out, and her face was streaked with dirt. The moment she realized Elowen was awake, a bright blush rushed to her cheeks. Elowen looked at her and parted her lips.

"Hello..." Before she could say another word, the little girl bolted upright, turned on her heel, and ran out of the room. "Mom! Mom!" she shrieked as she ran. "The pretty lady is awake! The pretty lady is awake Struggling into a sitting position, Elowen pulled back the blanket to check her right leg Her trousers were torn, exposing her lower leg; everything below the knee was severely swollen, black and blue, and hot to the touch. She tried to flex her ankle and gasped at the agonizing pain. Fortunately, the bone didn't seem broken, though it was a severe sprain and contusion.

She took a look at her surroundings. It was a crude mud-brick house with packed earth walls and a thatched roof. The room bed nothing but the small bed, a table missing a leg, and a few broken stools. Farm tools and sacks of grain were piled in the corner, while a few bunches of dried chili peppers and corn hung from the ceiling rafters. Moments later, approaching footsteps echoed from outside A woman in her thirties pushed past the door curtam. Following close behind her was a chubby little boy of about three or four, who was sucking on his finger and eyeing blowen with curiosity.

The woman wore an indigo tunic made of coarse cloth, her hair wrapped in an old kerchief. Her face was weathered with 10:55 am M Chapter 74 How Crock fine lines branching from the corners of her eyes. "You're finally awake. Speak The woman walked quickly over to the bedside, pressing a hand to Elowen's forehead. She let out a sigh of relief. "The fever is down, thank goodness. You've been out for a day and a night. My husband found you while gathering firewood by the river. You were soaked to the bone, and your right leg was swollen twice size.

We thought you weren't going to make it She spoke in the Avenlor dialect. Elowen hesitated for a moment, her voice raspy. "Thank you for saving my life. Could you tell me where I am?" Betty pulled up a stool and sat down. "You're in Nordish territory now. Our village is called Willow Creek We're the Whitmans. My husband is Robert Whitman, and my name is Betty. You can just call me Betty." She pointed to the toddler beside her. "This is my son, Ethan. He's three and a half." Then she gestured toward the door, where a little head was peeking in. "And that's my daughter, Emma.

She's seven." Ethan and Emma. A wave of warmth touched Elowen's heart, and she looked over. Emma was crouching behind the doorframe, showing only half of her smudged little face as she watched with a mix of curiosity and shyness. The moment Elowen caught her eye, the girl darted back out of sight like a startled rabbit. Elowen couldn't help but smile. "She's a bit timid around foreigners," Betty said apologetically. "We don't see many outsiders here Please don't mind her." Elowen shook her head to show she didn't mind at all.

Looking down at Ethan, she saw that the little boy was far from shy. He had already drifted over to the bedside, his small hands gripping the frame as he looked up, staring wide-eyed at the gleaming gold bangle on Elowen's wrist. He was practically drooling. As he reached out a tiny hand to touch it, Betty quickly caught his arm and held him back. Just then, a gruff male voice boomed from outside. "Every single one of you hung out in the house. slacking off! Who's going to do all this housework if I don't? Do you really think saving a stranger buys you free pass to heaven?

The world doesn't even have an Oracle anymore!" Betty stiffened slightly. Elowen looked down at the gold bangles on her wrists. Though she had been thoroughly battered by the river and most of her jewelry had washed away, these two bracelets held tightly enough to survive the torrent. Better yet, they bore no distinctive insignia or patterns of the Avenlor royal family Even if they were taken to a pawnshop, they wouldn't trace back to her. Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess

Chapter 742 Just Herbs 3 51 Elowen slipped one of the bangles off and offered it to the woman. Betty, please accept this as a token of my gratitude. Thank you for saving my life. I know times are tough, and while this might not seem like much, pawning it should bring in enough to help out with your household." Betty's eyes went wide, and she waved her

hands frantically in a panic. "No, no, I couldn't possibly! Sir country folk like us can't accept something so valuable.

Please, put it away, put it away!" Elowen pressed the bangle firmly into Betty's hands, closing the woman's fingers over it to prevent her from refusing. "Betty, please take it," she said softly. "Is my life not worth a single bracelet? Besides, my leg is badly injured, and I'm afraid I'll have to trouble your family for a few days. Think of this as payment for my room and board." Holding the heavy gold bangle, Betty's hands began to shake. Her eyes welled with tears, and her lips trembled for a long moment before she finally managed to choke out the words. "Then... thank you so much.

You just focus on resting and healing. I'll-I'll go check on the soup..." Clutching the bracelet to her chest, she turned and hurried out of the room. Elowen glanced toward the doorway. Emma was still hiding behind the frame, her bright eyes blinking curiously. With a warm smile, Elowen waved her over. "Come in, Emma." Emma hesitated for a long moment before finally summoning the courage to edge her way into the room taking tiny, tentative steps. She was only halfway in when the sound of hurried footsteps echoed from outside, and Robert burst through the door.

He was dressed in a dusty, coarse tunic with his trouser legs rolled up to his knees and straw sandals on his feet. Finding Emma blocking his path, he impatiently shoved her aside. The force of the push sent her stumbling backward until she hit the wall with a soft groan, immediately shrinking into the corner with her head bowed. Elowen's brow furrowed ever so slightly. "Madam!" Robert's dark face split into a wide, sycophantic grin, revealing a row of yellow teeth. His voice practically dripped with flattery. "Please, make yourself at home! You can rest easy here for the next few days.

If you need anything at all, just let us know. We'll make sure you're well taken care of Elowen maintained her polite smile. "Thank you. I appreciate the hospitality Robert opened his mouth to say more, but Elowen, having no desire to prolong the conversation, subtly cut him off. "I'd like to get some more sleep now Would you mind stepping out? Caught short, Robert choked back his remaining words. He offered a sheepish smile, nodding eagerly "Of course, of course. Get some rest, please." As he turned to leave, he spotted Emma still cowering in the corner.

He glared at her, lowering his voice to a harsh whisper. "What are you standing around for, you worthless girl? Get out! Don't disturb me!" Emma ducked her head, shrinking back, and quickly bolted out of the room. The house fell quiet again, save for the rustling of the wind against the paper windows. Leaning back against the wall. Elowen looked down at her badly swollen right leg and sighed softly. She ran a hand over her clothes; they were dry now, but the old, coarse dress borrowed from Betty chafed uncomfortably against her skin.

Elowen touched the single bracelet left on her wrist, feeling no real sense of panic. She wasn't worried because she knew that no matter where she was, her husband, Cassian, would find her. In the dead of night, Elowen was jolted awake by the sound of footsteps. She opened her eyes to a dim room, the window paper filtering in a faint, hazy dawn light. Listening closely, she knew the footsteps didn't belong to Emma, nor to the Whitmans. Every trace of sleep vanished instantly. Elowen sat up soundlessly. A candlestick sat on the low table beside her; the candle burned down to nothing.

She grabbed it, wrapping her palm tightly around the base so the sharp metal tip pointed outward. Then she lay back down, facing the wall, keeping her breathing light and even to pretend she was still fast asleep. The footsteps drew closer and paused at the door. The door creaked open. Facing the wall, Elowen couldn't see anything, but her heart hammered against her ribs as she gripped the candlestick. Yet the intruder didn't approach the bed. Instead, they set something down near the doorway and left. As the footsteps faded into the distance, Elowen lay perfectly still.

She waited a long time until the silence was absolute before finally sitting up. Aided by the moonlight streaming through the window, she spotted a large woven basket on the door. It was small, crudely made, and covered with a piece of blue cloth. A faint, metallic scent of blood hung in the air. Elowen's brow furrowed slightly. Leaving the basket untouched, she lay back down. She didn't sleep for the rest of the night. As dawn neared, Betty arrived with Ethan strapped to her back. She stepped lightly, clearly trying not to disturb her, but Elowen alertly opened her eyes. "Betty" Betty paused.

"Did I wake you?" she asked in a hushed voice. "Go back to sleep. It's still early." As she spoke, she picked up the large woven basket to carry it out. "What's in there?" Elowen asked. "Just herbs," Betty replied. "My son-in-law, Thomas, gathered them up in the mountains. I'm taking them to the town clinic later to trade for some money to help with the household expenses." 10:55 am Awakening to Be His Duchess

c 743

Emma's smile faded a little. She looked down, her voice dropping. "Samantha went away to make money. Thomas stayed behind to help out around the house and earn money too." Elowen nodded, starting to piece it together. Samantha had gone away for work, leaving Thomas with the Whitmans to help with the chores while he waited for his wife's return.

After a moment's thought, she asked, "How long has Samantha been gone?" Emma pondered this for a long while, counting on her fingers, before finally shaking her head with a sullen sigh. "I can't remember. A really, really long time." Elowen reached out and gently stroked Emma's hair, letting the questions rest. Around noon, Robert's shouting suddenly erupted in the courtyard. His voice was loud and coarse, rattling the windows.

"A bunch of slackers, the lot of you! It's the middle of the day, and there isn't even a warm meal on the table!

"I'm starving to death!" Elowen's brow furrowed slightly at the sound. Emma flinched violently, her face turning pale. Like a startled rabbit, she instinctively shrank closer to Clowen. Elowen reached out, pulling the girl against her side and gently patting her back. "Don't be afraid," she murmured. Emma!" Robert bellowed from the courtyard. "You worthless girl! Where the hell are you? Get out of here!" Emma shook even harder. "I-I have to go out there. Otherwise, my dad will beat me..." Elowen held her firmly by the shoulder, keeping her in place.

Robert's heavy footsteps approached the room, stopping just outside the door. He didn't come in. Showing rare bit of restraint for Elowen's sake, he demanded, "Where's your mother?" Huddled close to Elowen, Emma managed a weak reply. "M-Mama went to town..." Without a second thought, Robert snapped, "Then get out here and cook!" Emma bit her lip and started to get up, but Elowen held her back. Looking toward the doorway, Elowen spoke in a calm, even voice. "Robert. I'm bored lying here all by myself, so I asked Emma to keep me company. Why don't you fix lunch yourself?

"I'd actually love to try your cooking." Robert visibly stiffened. "That... what kind of man cooks? I'd be the laughingstock of the village!" Elowen raised an eyebrow. She hadn't expected such rigid notions from a household this poor. Back at Duskmoor Manor, Cassian was always the one who cooked. She didn't bother explaining this, keeping her tone pleasant but entirely firm. "Go on, Robert." 10:55 am M 0: Standing at the threshold, Robert's face flushed with a mix of anger and humiliation. He wanted to blow up, but he didn't dare.

He might be the master of this house, but Elowen carried an aura that was completely out of the ordinary. Even while resting in bed, she exuded the quiet authority of someone born to rule, making it impossible to argue with her, let alone look her in the eye. Forced to swallow his curses, he threw a vicious glare at Emma, turned on his heel, and stormed off. It took a long moment for Emma to process what had just happened. She looked up at Elowen, her eyes wide with awe and admiration. "Madam... you're amazing! My dad has never cooked.

Mama asked him so many times, but he always refused and beat her for it!" 16.1K

c 744

death. They fell for each other and got married about six months later. Thomas was always so good to her. and he's been a wonderful son to us, constantly taking on all the heavy lifting around

the house. But barely two months into their marriage, recruiters came to the village looking for servants for a wealthy family in Kingsport. They promised good money-hundreds of dollars a year. Samantha insisted on going. She said she couldn't let Thomas carry the financial burden of this entire family all by himself.

I couldn't stop her, and neither could Thomas. So, she left." Sara Lili Sara Lili is a daring romance writer who turns icy landscapes into scenes of fiery passion. She loves crafting hot love stories while embracing the chill of Iceland's breathtaking cold.

14:32 Mon, Jul 6 Awakening Love: Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 745 You're No Ordinary Person 79 Finished Betty's voice cracked slightly. "It's been two years now. The first year, she sent back money through a courier along with a letter, saying everything was fine and telling us not to worry. This past year, the money kept coming, but there hasn't been a single letter." Elowen thought about it for a moment. "If the money is still coming, it means she's still employed there.

Wealthy households can be incredibly demanding; she likely just hasn't found the time to write." Hearing this, Betty seemed to take some comfort. Elowen walked slowly through the yard alone that afternoon. She came to a stop in a far corner, where a cluster of hibiscus bushes had mostly withered away. As she bent down to get a closer look, a cold, wary voice rang out behind her. "Don't touch that." Elowen turned around. Thomas was standing there-she hadn't heard him approach. His face was grim, his eyes fixed on her in a stern warning. Elowen simply watched him in silence.

Thomas shifted his gaze away from her. When he looked at the hibiscus, his expression suddenly softened. "Samantha planted those." Obliging without hesitation, Elowen said, "I'm sorry. I didn't know." Thomas narrowed his eyes at her. "You're no ordinary person." Elowen didn't answer. "You carry yourself differently. Even in those coarse clothes, you can't hide who you are. Besides, the fact that you're still here and Robert hasn't kicked you out proves you're clever enough to manage." Elowen gave a soft sigh. "You're right, I'm not an ordinary person." She pointed to her right leg.

"I'm an injured one." Thomas caught himself, clenched his jaw, and turned to leave. 1/3 14:32 Mon, Jul 6 Chapter 745 You're No Ordinary Person After a couple of paces, however, he stopped. 79 Finished He turned back to face Elowen. "There's an old

doctor in town named Elias Wren. He's highly skilled. If you can get him to look at your leg, you'll heal much faster." Elowen was slightly taken aback. "An old doctor named Wren?" Wren was an uncommon surname, and because it involved medicine, it immediately brought her maternal grandfather, Noah Wynne, to mind.

Before Elowen could press for details, Thomas turned and walked away. Later that evening, Betty went into the kitchen to prepare dinner. Emma was crouched by the kitchen doorway helping her mother tend the fire, the flames casting a rosy glow over her small face. Elowen walked over and joined them. "Betty, Thomas mentioned there's a Doctor Wren in town who is highly skilled." Betty poked her head out of the kitchen, spatula still in hand. "Oh, yes. Dr. Wren came to town just a couple of years ago. He has gray hair and a wonderful reputation.

Whenever anyone in town has a stubborn ailment, they go to him." "He buys herbs, too," Betty continued. "During the slack season, the women from the nearby villages gather herbs in the mountains and take them to him for some extra money to help support their families. A pound of echinacea fetches twenty cents, and chamomile goes for even more. If I didn't have Ethan to tend to, I'd go out and gather herbs myself. That's exactly why Thomas goes up into the mountains every few days." Elowen nodded slowly, looking down at her leg. "Betty, I plan to go to town and have Dr.

Wren look at my leg." Betty sighed. "Dr. Wren is quite far from here—at least twenty li from our village. With your leg the way it is, you're in pain after just a few steps. How could you possibly walk that far? Wait another day or two. Once Thomas comes back with his herbs, he'll be heading to town to sell them. We can have him hitch the wagon, and you can ride along with him. It'll save you the misery." Elowen nodded. "All right." Betty smiled at her, then turned back into the kitchen to resume her cooking.

As dusk settled, the whole family gathered around the table inside the house for dinner. 2/3 14:32 Mon, Jul 6 Chapter 745 You're No Ordinary Person 79 Finished Robert, who could never keep his mouth shut for long, spoke up. "I was chatting with some folks today, and I heard the Duke and Duchess of Avenlor were ambushed." Elowen didn't betray a single emotion, quietly focusing on her food. "The Duke and Duchess?" Betty asked in surprise. "The ones from Vanelle who are on a diplomatic mission to Nordia?" Robert nodded. "That's them.

Word is they were attacked a few days ago in the river valley right near our village. Hundreds of assassins showed up. It was quite a bloodbath." Elowen's expression remained perfectly calm. "And then what happened?" Betty pressed. "Are they all right?" Robert took a big mouthful of food and mumbled, "Supposedly, they're completely fine. But honestly, what do you expect? This is Cassian we're talking about. He's Avenlor's most formidable Duke, with a legendary army at his back.

Years ago, Nordia sent two hundred thousand soldiers against him, and his seventy thousand elite troops still crushed them. Even here, on Nordia soil, aren't we all speaking Avenlor anyway? What's a few hundred assassins to a man like that? They say Cassian cut down a dozen of them himself, drenched in blood like a god of war. His wife was apparently a bit shaken up, though, so he ordered the men to rest in the valley for two days before continuing north. They'll be arriving in Kingsport before long." A faint smile touched the corner of Elowen's mouth. That was Cassian for you.

He had chosen to hide the fact that she was missing. By doing so, anyone watching from the shadows would believe she was still traveling north with the procession, meaning they wouldn't think to search for her out here. 16.6K 3/3 Awakening Love: Reborn to Be His Duchess

Chapter 746 A Personal Maid finis In a way, this made her much safer. It would also make it far easier for Cassian to send his own men to lo for her covertly. Across the table, Thomas suddenly paused mid-bite. He looked up, casting a sharp glance her way. Elowen caught the look, but she didn't return it, continuing to eat her dinner with absolute composure. "Speaking of the Duchess," Betty said, her voice filled with admiration, "she really is an extraordinary woman. They call her the Lady of Grace and Virtue.

She established the Silverloom Exchange in Vanelle and even helped secure the peace treaty with Nordia. A woman like that can stand toe-to-toe with any man." Enraptured by the story, Emma set her spoon down and cupped her face in her hands, her eyes shining. "The Duchess must be so beautiful." Robert snorted. "No matter how beautiful she is, she still has to serve Cassian. Besides, the Duchess is notoriously jealous. She's been married to Duskmoor Manor for years and hasn't let Cassian take a single concubine, not even a chambermaid.

Poor Cassian, married to a tyrant like that." Elowen amused herself with the thought. Even if I tried to get him a concubine, he wouldn't dare accept her. He'd ship her away in the middle of the night. That jealous man couldn't even handle her looking at another man for too long, let alone taking a concubine. Emma tilted her head, asking innocently, "Daddy, what's a concubine?" "Any man of status in this world takes concubines," Robert explained with utmost seriousness. Suddenly, Thomas clattered his spoon down onto the table. Robert's face fell, and he shut his mouth immediately.

He was, in truth, a bit intimidated by his son-in-law. Thomas, however, wasn't paying attention to him right now. He was narrowing his eyes at Elowen, his sharp gaze sizing her up from head to toe. "Come to think of it," Thomas said, his voice carrying a slight chill, "we haven't asked for your name or background these past few days, Madam. Where exactly are you from?

It's quite a 55 Mon, Jul 6 Chapter 746 A Personal Maid Finish coincidence that you happened to wash up at the edge of our village right around the time the Duke and Duchess were ambushed in the river valley." Elowen didn't shrink away, meeting his gaze directly. "I only kept my background to myself because no one asked." After a brief pause, she continued, "I used to be the personal maid to General Dray's granddaughter at Emerald Pass in Avenlor. My name is Molly Dray, and I take the family name of my master's." The revelation took everyone by surprise.

Emerald Pass was the strategic gateway between Avenlor and Nordia, located about a hundred li from where they sat. Samuel Dray had guarded the pass for twenty years, and his name carried immense weight across both nations. Hugh had originally left Vanelle with her and Cassian to visit relatives back at the pass; General Dray was, in fact, Hugh's granduncle. The general's granddaughter, Clara, was a lady of a noble house, and her personal maid would naturally be a cut above the rest. Elowen had chosen this identity with several considerations in mind.

First, it offered a perfectly logical explanation for her presence here, effectively dismissing all of Thomas's suspicions. Second, she claimed to be a maid rather than the general's granddaughter because she worried Robert might sell her out if he smelled a fortune. A maid's status was neither too high nor too low-insignificant enough to avoid attracting greed, yet grand enough to explain her demeanor. "I served the young lady at the Dray estate until I reached the age to be released from service and marry," Elowen said, her expression entirely serene.

"But my carriage went into the river along the way. I was washed down here and injured my leg, which is how I ended up stranded." Her story was seamless and perfectly reasoned. Thomas frowned, unable to find a single flaw in it for the moment. Betty believed every word, nodding repeatedly. "So that's why. No wonder you carry yourself so well. Having served a lady in a general's household, you're bound to be different from the likes of us." Robert grew even more attentive. "Don't you worry, Molly. Just focus on recovering here.

Once your leg heals, I'll make sure you get back home safely." Only Thomas kept his cold gaze fixed on Elowen. Even if he couldn't poke a hole in her story, his instincts told him this woman was far more than just a maid. After dinner, Robert headed out again for a stroll. Emma sidled up to Elowen, full of curiosity. "Molly, were you really in a general's household? 2/3 14:33 Mon, Jul 6 Chapter 746 A Personal Maid Have you seen the Grand General? Is he very impressive?" 79 Fmished Elowen smiled. "I was only a lowly servant, so I only ever saw him from afar.

But impressive." yes, he is very "Is the general's granddaughter even prettier than you?" "I'm just a maid," Elowen replied. "How could I compare to the young lady? They are all as beautiful as fairies, of course." Emma cupped her face in her hands, her eyes full of longing. "Wow... fairies... I wish I could go serve a fairy one day." Elowen raised an eyebrow. "Emma, why do you want to serve someone else? If you develop skills of your

own, it's much better to support yourself." Emma tilted her head, thoroughly confused. "Skills? What kind of skills?"

My daddy says that for a girl, being pretty and knowing how to serve a man are the only skills that matter."

Chapter 747 Are You Promised to Anyone ? Elowen paused . She lowered her gaze to look Emma in the eye , speaking with absolute seriousness . " Your father is wrong . " Finished Emma blinked in surprise . In all her life , this was the first time she had ever heard anyone question her father's words . " Girls can learn to read , write , and compose essays , " Elowen told her . " They can ride horses and shoot bows . Those are real skills . You don't need to serve anyone . You can go wherever you want and do whatever you want . " Emma stared at her , struggling to take it all in .

A cold scoff cut through the air nearby . Elowen turned to see Thomas leaning against the kitchen doorway , arms crossed . His expression was grim , a mocking smirk playing on his lips . There was no telling how long he had been standing there , or how much he had overheard . Elowen simply met his gaze in silence . " A maid who serves a young lady , speaking of such grand ideals ? " Thomas asked , his tone dripping with sarcasm . A faint smile touched Elowen's lips . " The young lady was open - minded and allowed us to learn to read and write .

During my years at the general's estate , I didn't just learn how to serve people -I also learned bookkeeping , management , and literacy . So yes , I understand these concepts well enough . " Thomas let out a cold snort , turned on his heel , and walked away . The next morning , well before dawn , a noise outside woke Elowen . From the sounds of it , Thomas was heading into the mountains to gather herbs again . Betty sounded deeply worried . " Your leg hasn't even healed yet , and you're already going back up there ... " When speaking to Betty , Thomas's voice softened .

" I'll be fine , Betty . It's just a minor injury , nothing to worry about . Go back and get some rest . I'll gather some more herbs , and once I've saved up enough money , I'll go to Kingsport to find Samantha and bring her home . " Choking back tears , Betty murmured her agreement and saw him out . Lying in bed as the footsteps faded into the distance , Elowen felt a massive weight lift from her 1/3 66 Chapter 747 Are You Promised to Anyone ? Finished chest . With the most difficult member of the household gone , she could finally breathe a sigh of relief .

She closed her eyes and drifted back to sleep . By the time she woke up again , the sun was high in the sky . Betty was bustling about the kitchen , Emma was crouched by the doorway helping her mother tend the fire , and Ethan was still asleep inside . After washing up , Elowen walked a few slow laps around the yard to stretch her right leg .

The swelling had gone down a bit , and the bruising had faded , but it still throbbed with pain . Gritting her teeth , she tried taking a few steps without her crutch .

Bead after bead of sweat broke out on her forehead , but she managed to push through it . Thomas's trips into the mountains never took very long . Once he returned , Elowen would be able to travel to town with him to see Dr. Wren . Toward evening , well before sunset , Robert returned . Betty looked out from the kitchen where she was preparing dinner . Noticing his foul mood , she asked anxiously , " Robert , why are you home so early ? " Robert gave a disgruntled grunt and slumped onto a stone bench , cursing under his breath . " It's those damn recruiters again !

Stirring up trouble as usual ! " Betty's expression shifted . Stepping out of the kitchen , she lowered her voice . " What is it ? Are they short on people again ? " Robert snorted . " They claim Prince Zachary is looking for concubines , and every town has to provide two girls . Our town has barely managed to find one so far . They're still short by one , and the authorities are breathing down everyone's necks . The town governor is so stressed he's breaking out in blisters , and his men are out hunting for candidates everywhere . " Zachary ?

Hearing the familiar name , Elowen tilted her head slightly . Betty found this odd . " Again ? Didn't they just hold a selection two years ago ? Why are they doing it again ? " Robert rolled his eyes . " The Prince is grown now , so of course he's choosing his women . Besides , two years ago they were picking handmaidens . This time it's concubines . How is that the same thing ? " He paused , then added , " The governor also mentioned that any family providing a suitable girl will get a fifty - dollar reward . " Betty's eyes lit up for a fleeting second before darkening again .

She let out a heavy sigh . " Fifty dollars is a lot of money , but who would willingly send their daughter off to be a concubine ? No matter how grand they make it sound , a concubine is still just a concubine . Once she enters the royal estate , you'll never see her face again . How is that any different from selling your own 2/3 Chapter 747 Are You Promised to Anyone ? child ? " Finished Robert shot her a look of utter disdain . " You're just a woman . What do you know ! " Nearby , Emma suddenly called out in delight , " Molly , look at the sky ! What a huge eagle !

" Robert followed her gaze , but his eyes stopped on Elowen instead . He stared her up and down , inspecting her like a piece of merchandise as a sharp , calculating gleam flashed in his eyes . Squatting beside Elowen , Emma kept her head tilted back , watching the eagle . It circled twice before heading toward the distant mountains , shrinking into a tiny black dot until it vanished entirely into the gathering dusk . " Molly , " Robert said , his face twisting into a wide , unnatural smile . When Elowen looked over , he rubbed his hands together . " Back home ... are you promised to anyone ?

" Elowen tilted her head . " Why do you ask all of a sudden , Robert ? " Robert gave a hollow laugh . " Just wondering , just wondering . You're a woman far from home , so

we ought to look out for you , shouldn't we ? " Elowen knew exactly what he was up to ; she could guess his scheme down to a tee . 16.6K [Ⓜ]

Chapter 748 You're Willing to Go ? Finished Remaining perfectly composed , she replied , " We never officially married , but I do have a fiancé back home . " Robert paused mid - bite . " A fiancé ? " " Yes . He's been waiting for me for years in our hometown . As for his temper ... " She paused , her lips curving into a meaningful smile . " It isn't very good . " The kind of temper where he would beat or kill a man at the slightest disagreement , to be exact . Your Nordia generals and soldiers should know that all too well . Elowen added silently to herself . Robert offered a strained laugh .

" Oh . Oh , I see . " Watching from the side , Betty's brow furrowed deeply . She knew her husband inside out . After more than a decade of marriage , she understood his true character perfectly . He was loud and curse - prone on a normal day , but his heart wasn't entirely rotten . The moment money was involved , however , he became a completely different person . " Come here , I need to talk to you , " Robert muttered , gesturing to Betty . Betty cast a brief look at Elowen , wiped her hands dry , and followed him to a far corner of the yard .

" Molly's got extraordinary looks , " Robert whispered , unable to hide his excitement . " If we take her to the governor , that fifty dollars is as good as ours . " Betty immediately frowned . " But Molly just said she has a fiancé back home . Keep your hands off that fifty dollars , Robert . You can't just send her away . A helpless girl like her could never survive- " " What do you know ! " Robert snapped , his voice dropping to a harsh , cold whisper . " That fiancé is probably just some common boy . How can he compare to a prince ?

Sending her to be Prince Zachary's concubine is putting her on the path to a life of luxury ! If she's lucky enough to win the prince's favor , she'll have wealth and glory for the rest of her days . She'll probably end up thanking me ! " Betty bit her lip . " But she hasn't said she's willing ... and she did give us that gold bracelet . We can't do this to her ... " Robert grew thoroughly impatient . " What's a gold bracelet worth ? That money will be gone before you know it ! " He glared at her , his voice dripping with malice as he issued a low threat through his teeth .

" You stupid woman , if you dare ruin this for me , I'll beat you to death ! " 1/3 Chapter 748 You're Willing to Go ? Finished Betty gritted her teeth . " I ... " Robert didn't let her finish , raising his hand and slapping her across the face . A few moments later , Betty emerged from the corner . She kept her head down as she walked straight into the kitchen , deliberately avoiding Elowen's gaze . But Elowen still caught the red imprint of a hand on the side of her face . It was perfectly clear what had just happened between the two of them .

A moment later , Betty came out carrying the food . Elowen glanced at her but didn't move . Instead , she asked , " Betty , what happened to your face ? " Betty instinctively raised a hand to cover her cheek , forcing a weak smile . " It's ... It's nothing . I just bumped into something ... " Elowen nodded and didn't press further . Hearing this , Robert let out a cold sneer . Elowen took a bite of her bread and said casually , " Robert , didn't you say earlier that Prince Zachary is looking for concubines ? " Robert , who was shoveling food into his mouth , froze . " What about it ?

" " I was thinking , " Elowen said , " if there aren't enough girls in the city , could I go give it a try ? " The room instantly fell silent . Betty's hands shook so badly she nearly dropped her bowl , which hit the table with a sharp clatter . Robert's eyes lit up , and he sat up straight . " Molly , you ... You're willing to go ? " Elowen nodded . She knew Robert was completely fixated on sending her off to be a concubine . If she refused , he would only take his anger out on Betty . On one hand , she felt sorry for Betty . On the other hand , she had a very good plan of her own .

Robert slammed his bowl down on the table , nearly leaping out of his chair with excitement . " Molly , you really know how to think ahead ! What good is that fiancé of yours anyway ? He's just an ordinary man . He can't hold a candle to Prince Zachary ! If you make it into the prince's estate , you'll be dripping in gold and silver , living the high life . You'll be set for life ! " 212 14:23 Tue , Jul 7 Chapter 748 You're Willing to Go ? 66 Finished He reached out to grab Elowen . " Come on , let's go ! I'm taking you to see the city governor right now !

With your looks , the governor is bound to be impressed . That fifty dollars - haha , I mean , you're guaranteed to be chosen ! " Elowen smiled . " But my leg is still injured . Surely the governor is looking for girls who can actually walk and run ? If he sees me like this , he might think I'm too crippled to be of any use and turn me away . " Robert blinked , suddenly remembering . " How could I forget about that ! " He stared at Elowen's leg , his brow furrowing deeply . Elowen didn't rush , calmly revealing her true intention . " How about this ?

Get a carriage tomorrow and take me to town to see Dr. Wren . Have him fix my leg up as quickly as possible . Once I'm fully recovered , I can go see the governor properly . " Robert slapped his thigh . " Deal ! " He stood up , immediately heading for the door . " I'll go a carriage right now ! " borrow Elowen called out to stop him . " It's already dark out . It won't hurt to leave first thing tomorrow morning . "

1:08 pm PPM Awakening Love: Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 749 Where's Samantha? Finished Though burning with impatience, Robert-knew she was right. He forced himself to settle down and nodded. "Alright, first thing tomorrow morning then." He added one last reminder, "Molly, you get some rest. I'll have the carriage ready at daybreak." Betty looked at her husband's face, flushed with excitement, and then at the

smile on Elowen's face. Her lips parted, but in the end, she said nothing. Keeping her head down, she finished her meal and slipped back into the kitchen.

The next morning, just as dawn was breaking, Elowen woke to the sound of a horse whinnying. Looking outside, she saw Robert already there with the carriage, busy lining it with straw. She thought to herself, quite detached, that he really must want those fifty dollars. But this played right into her hands. It meant she could see Dr. Wren much sooner without having to cross paths with Thomas again. More than that, it was her ticket out of this place and into Kingsport. As Elowen slowly made her way out of the house, Emma ran up to say goodbye.

Tugging at Elowen's sleeve, the little girl looked up and asked, "Molly, where are you going?" Elowen looked down at her. "I'm going to town to get my leg checked. I'll be back soon." "Really?" Emma asked, reluctant to let go. The last time her sister left, she had said she would be back soon, too, but she had been gone for so long now... Lover/a Having finished preparing the straw, Robert came over and shoved Emma aside. "We have important business today. Stop causing trouble!" Then, turning to Elowen with a smile, he said, "Time to go, Molly.

It's a long drive." Elowen nodded and gave Emma a reassuring smile. But just as she was about to climb into the carriage, she caught the sound of hurried footsteps. She looked up. A tall figure came stumbling through the morning mist. It was Thomas. He looked far worse for wear than when she had last seen him. He was covered in mud and bits of grass. and a torn branch had ripped through his left sleeve, leaving a long, bloody gash on his arm. "Thomas, why are you back so early?" Robert demanded immediately. "Where are the herbs?" Thomas didn't answer.

Instead, his voice trembled, cold and strained. "I heard Sienna from the next village is back. What about Samantha? Is Samantha back yet?" Robert shook his head. "No, Samantha hasn't come back..." Thomas froze. Robert's expression shifted through a succession of emotions before he gritted his teeth and called out to Thomas, "Come on! Let's go to the next village and check!" 1:08 pm PPM Chapter 749 Where's Samantha? In an instant, he completely forgot about taking Elowen to town. Finished Standing by the carriage, Elowen watched the two men rush off, practically running.

She slowly sat down on the edge of the carriage and asked Emma, "Who is Sienna?" Emma tilted her head, thinking it over. "Sienna went to Kingsport with Samantha to earn money. They've been gone for ages and ages. Now that Sienna is back, Samantha must be coming home soon, too!" As she spoke, Emma's eyes shone with pure excitement. Standing by the kitchen door, Betty had overheard everything. Now, crying and laughing all at once, she kept muttering to herself, "She's back, she's back... Samantha is finally coming home..." About two hours later, the sun had fully risen.

Robert and Thomas finally returned. Unlike when they had rusheft off, they walked with slow, heavy steps, as if their legs were made of lead. Hearing them approach, Betty ran out of the kitchen. "Where's Samantha? Samantha's back, right?" she asked anxiously,

craning her neck to look behind them. As Robert and Thomas drew closer, Elowen caught sight of their faces. Robert looked deathly pale, his posture hunched as if all the life had been drained out of him. Thomas's expression was even darker. Betty, still oblivious to the change, rushed forward and grabbed Thomas by the arm.

Her eyes brimmed with tears as she cried, "Thomas, tell me, where is Samantha? Why didn't she come back with you? Is she at the village entrance? I'll go meet her!" She turned to leave, but Robert grabbed her arm so hard she stumbled backward. "Stop yelling!" Robert growled, his voice coarse and strained. Startled, Betty turned around and finally took in his expression. Her hands began to tremble. "Robert... where is Samantha?" Robert remained silent. He let go of her arm, turned away, and wiped his face roughly with his sleeve. C The tears spilled over Betty's cheeks.

She spun around and clutched at the front of Thomas's shirt. "Thomas! Thomas... tell your mother! Where is Samantha! She-" Thomas's jaw clenched tightly. His adam's apple bobbed up and down, and it took a long moment before he managed to force the words out. "Sienna said... Samantha is dead." Betty's mouth fell open, her eyes wide with shock. She stumbled back two steps, her eyes rolled back, and she collapsed. Robert bolted forward just in time to catch her, lifting her onto his back to carry her inside. Terrified by the sudden chaos, Emma stood frozen to the spot.

Elowen gently patted the little girl's back to soothe her. "Molly," Thomas looked at Elowen, his expression still utterly cold. "I heard you're going to Kingsport to become Prince Zachary's concubine." 1:08 pm PPM Chapter 749 Where's Samantha" Elowen glanced at him. Finished 16.6K 1:08 pm Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess 1:08 pm PPM Awakening Love: Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 749 Where's Samantha? Finished Though burning with impatience, Robert-knew she was right. He forced himself to settle down and nodded.

"Alright, first thing tomorrow morning then." He added one last reminder, "Molly, you get some rest. I'll have the carriage ready at daybreak." Betty looked at her husband's face, flushed with excitement, and then at the smile on Elowen's face. Her lips parted, but in the end, she said nothing. Keeping her head down, she finished her meal and slipped back into the kitchen. The next morning, just as dawn was breaking, Elowen woke to the sound of a horse whinnying. Looking outside, she saw Robert already there with the carriage, busy lining it with straw.

She thought to herself, quite detached, that he really must want those fifty dollars. But this played right into her hands. It meant she could see Dr. Wren much sooner without having to cross paths with Thomas again. More than that, it was her ticket out of this place and into Kingsport. As Elowen slowly made her way out of the house, Emma ran up to say goodbye. Tugging at Elowen's sleeve, the little girl looked up and asked, "Molly, where are you going?" Elowen looked down at her. "I'm going to town to get my leg checked. I'll be back soon." "Really?" Emma asked, reluctant to let go.

The last time her sister left, she had said she would be back soon, too, but she had been gone for so long now... Lover/a Having finished preparing the straw, Robert came over and shoved Emma aside. "We have important business today. Stop causing trouble!" Then, turning to Elowen with a smile, he said, "Time to go, Molly. It's a long drive." Elowen nodded and gave Emma a reassuring smile. But just as she was about to climb into the carriage, she caught the sound of hurried footsteps. She looked up. A tall figure came stumbling through the morning mist. It was Thomas.

He looked far worse for wear than when she had last seen him. He was covered in mud and bits of grass. and a torn branch had ripped through his left sleeve, leaving a long, bloody gash on his arm. "Thomas, why are you back so early?" Robert demanded immediately. "Where are the herbs?" Thomas didn't answer. Instead, his voice trembled, cold and strained. "I heard Sienna from the next village is back. What about Samantha? Is Samantha back yet?" Robert shook his head. "No, Samantha hasn't come back..." Thomas froze.

Robert's expression shifted through a succession of emotions before he gritted his teeth and called out to Thomas, "Come on! Let's go to the next village and check!" 1:08 pm PPM Chapter 749 Where's Samantha? In an instant, he completely forgot about taking Elowen to town. Finished Standing by the carriage, Elowen watched the two men rush off, practically running. She slowly sat down on the edge of the carriage and asked Emma, "Who is Sienna?" Emma tilted her head, thinking it over. "Sienna went to Kingsport with Samantha to earn money. They've been gone for ages and ages.

Now that Sienna is back, Samantha must be coming home soon, too!" As she spoke, Emma's eyes shone with pure excitement. Standing by the kitchen door, Betty had overheard everything. Now, crying and laughing all at once, she kept muttering to herself, "She's back, she's back... Samantha is finally coming home..." About two hours later, the sun had fully risen. Robert and Thomas finally returned. Unlike when they had rusheft off, they walked with slow, heavy steps, as if their legs were made of lead. Hearing them approach, Betty ran out of the kitchen. "Where's Samantha?

Samantha's back, right?" she asked anxiously, craning her neck to look behind them. As Robert and Thomas drew closer, Elowen caught sight of their faces. Robert looked deathly pale, his posture hunched as if all the life had been drained out of him. Thomas's expression was even darker. Betty, still oblivious to the change, rushed forward and grabbed Thomas by the arm. Her eyes brimmed with tears as she cried, "Thomas, tell me, where is Samantha? Why didn't she come back with you? Is she at the village entrance?

I'll go meet her!" She turned to leaye, but Robert grabbed her arm so hard she stumbled backward. "Stop yelling!" Robert growled, his voice coarse and strained. Startled, Betty turned around and finally took in his expression. Her hands began to tremble. "Robert... where is Samantha?" Robert remained silent. He let go of her arm, turned away, and wiped his face roughly with his sleeve. C The tears spilled over Betty's cheeks. She

spun around and clutched at the front of Thomas's shirt. "Thomas! Thomas... tell your mother! Where is Samantha! She-" Thomas's jaw clenched tightly.

His adam's apple bobbed up and down, and it took a long moment before he managed to force the words out. "Sienna said... Samantha is dead." Betty's mouth fell open, her eyes wide with shock. She stumbled back two steps, her eyes rolled back, and she collapsed. Robert bolted forward just in time to catch her, lifting her onto his back to carry her inside. Terrified by the sudden chaos, Emma stood frozen to the spot. Elowen gently patted the little girl's back to soothe her. "Molly," Thomas looked at Elowen, his expression still utterly cold.

"I heard you're going to Kingsport to become Prince Zachary's concubine." 1:08 pm
PPM Chapter 749 Where's Samantha" Elowen glanced at him. Finished 16.6K 1:08 pm
Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess

Chapter 750 I Suppose that Could Work Thomas stared straight at her. "Take me with you." Elowen raised an eyebrow. "Why?" Finished Thomas narrowed his eyes, a fiercely stubborn conviction in his voice. "I don't believe Samantha is dead." Gritting his teeth, he muttered under his breath, "And even if she is... I'm bringing her home." Elowen didn't give him an answer. Instead, she looked down and spoke softly to Emma. "Your mother isn't feeling well right now. Go inside and keep her company." Emma nodded obediently and hurried into the house.

Once Emma was back inside, Elowen finally turned to Thomas. "And how exactly do you plan on going?" "As your attendant. If you're going to be Prince Zachary's concubine, you'll need someone to serve you. Let me go to Kingsport as your servant. I have to find out what happened to Samantha." Elowen tapped her chin thoughtfully. "I suppose that could work." A flicker of hope flared in Thomas's eyes. "However," Elowen's tone shifted, "you must obey me blindly. If I say go east, you don't dare go west. Even if I order you to die, you don't hesitate." Thomas stiffened, his teeth grinding.

"You..." Elowen let out a deliberate sigh. "If it's too much to ask, then forget it. It's not like I really wanted a servant anyway." Thomas narrowed his eyes, his fists clenching tight. Elowen didn't waste any more time on him. She turned leisurely, preparing to head back into the house. This wasn't a negotiation; Thomas was the one begging her for a favor. She had barely taken two steps when Thomas finally broke the silence, his voice tight. Wait... hold on!" Elowen stopped and looked back over her shoulder. "Made up your mind?" Thomas kept his fists clenched.

"Yes..." Elowen raised an eyebrow. "You'll do whatever I say?" Thomas gave a muffled grunt of assent. Elowen wasn't satisfied. "I want to hear you say the words." Thomas ground his teeth, swallowing his pride at last. "I will do... whatever you say." Elowen smiled with satisfaction. This was an unexpected bonus. A man of Thomas's temperament would 1:08 pm P PM. Chapter 750* Suppose that Could Work Finished be

incredibly useful while he was indebted to her. He would do everything in his power to protect her, making him a perfect weapon. Elowen's eyes crinkled.

"Don't worry, I won't actually make you die. If you die, I lose a loyal servant, don't I? As long as I'm alive, you'll be alive too." Having given him the stick, Elowen didn't mind offering a carrot. She softened her voice, adding, "I'll make you a promise, Thomas. As long as you play your part, I will help you find Samantha. Didn't you say it yourself? I'm a capable woman. With my help, you'll definitely be able to bring Samantha home." Her words struck a chord. The hard line of Thomas's jaw visibly relaxed, and a low "Yeah" escaped his throat.

Worried she might still be displeased, he added, "I'll do as you say." Elowen found his compliance quite gratifying. She walked over and climbed onto the carriage, gesturing calmly. "Now, drive me to town. I have to see Dr. Wren." Thomas frowned. "If you have something to say, say it," Elowen said. His brow furrowed deeper. "If you're going to town, you need to cover your face." Elowen raised an eyebrow. Thomas glanced at her face—strikingly beautiful and completely out of place in the morning light—before looking away.

"People this stunning don't just appear in impoverished places like this," he said stiffly. "Anyone can see you're not from around here. These backwoods are full of desperate people. When poverty drives them to a corner, there's no telling who might try to take advantage of you." He paused, then added, "I'm not trying to scare you." Thomas expected her to either snap back with a sharp retort or dismiss him with utter disdain. Instead, she did neither. She actually smiled and nodded. "Alright. Thank you." Then, she genuinely pulled her collar up to cover the lower half of her face.

Thomas blinked in surprise. "Is this okay?" she asked. Snapping out of it, Thomas looked at her. Most of her face was hidden now, but her eyes were still visible. They were too bright, the kind that lingered in a person's mind even if the rest of her features were obscured. Still, it was better than nothing. "...It's better," Thomas said. Elowen smiled beneath the cloth. "Then let's go." The carriage ambled along the dirt road. Elowen remained silent, watching the landscape slowly drift past.

1:08 pm PPM Chapter 750*Suppene that Could Work Finished After traveling for over two hours, they finally arrived in town. Calling it a town was generous; it was really just a slightly larger village with a few intersecting streets. A handful of stalls sold meat and vegetables, interspersed with an occasional grocery store or diner. It was quiet, lacking any real bustle. Thomas guided the carriage through the streets, turning into a familiar alleyway before pulling up outside a wooden door. A plaque hung above it, reading "Wren's Clinic". "We're here." Elowen looked up at the sign.

The words Wren's Clinic were written in a powerful, spirited hand, clearly the work of someone with formal training. Her gaze lingered on the characters for a long time, her

fingers beginning to tremble. The handwriting looked familiar. Thomas hitched the horse to a stone post out front, then walked over to help her down.