

Awakening Love: Reborn to Be His Duchess Novel

Awakening Love : Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 761 The First Crush George sneaked a peek at the commander beside him . 63 Finished Seeing the man's face as red as a tomato , he decided against asking for his opinion . He simply leaned in and suggested , " My lords , how about waiting outside ? The girl is right here in the room . She'll come out as soon as she's dressed . You can guard the door , so she's not going anywhere , right ? " Before he even finished speaking , Darius spun around and strode briskly toward the door .

The guards behind him shuffled out in a hurry , not forgetting to snatch up the dropped blade . The last guy out even kicked the crooked door panel to somewhat close it . George didn't forget to soothe Elowen . " No need to rush , miss . Take your time . " He was the last to leave , pulling the door shut gently . The moment the door clicked shut , a collective sigh of relief washed over the guards in the hallway . Inside the room . Hearing the door close , Elowen instantly dropped her act of fragility and panic . She stretched her arms out , arching her back lazily .

Then , she raised her hands and vigorously rubbed her cheeks and the corners of her eyes . This left her cheeks slightly flushed and her eyes tinged with a delicate pink , making her look all the more pitiful and endearing . Finally , she intentionally messed up a few strands of her hair . With her preparations complete , she strolled out from behind the screen and headed for the door . By the time she opened it , she was back to playing the bashful maiden . It was the exact kind of vulnerability that ordinary men found irresistible . Cassian was a man too , so he naturally loved it .

Whenever Elowen pulled this innocent act in the past , he would toss her around in bed until the wee hours of the morning . 1/2 14:17 Tue , Jul 14 Chapter 761 The First Crush Though truth be

told , Cassian was wildly obsessed with her no matter what she did . 63 Finished Since the door was busted , Elowen held the frame with one hand and clutched her collar with the other , leaning halfway out the crack to look at George . " I'm ready , my lord . " At the sound of her voice , the commander shot a lightning - fast glance her way .

The torchlight in the corridor spilled over her face , highlighting her features perfectly . She wore absolutely no makeup , yet her brows were striking , her lips a natural , rosy utterly breathtaking beauty . red - an Her hair was still damp , cascading loosely over her shoulders . A few wet strands clung to her cheeks and forehead , making her skin look even paler and softer . A faint blush hovered on her cheeks , extending to the tender pink at the corners of her eyes . It was hard to tell if it was from the hot steam or the fright .

Stunned by the sight , Darius guiltily and frantically averted his gaze . George stepped forward . " Miss Dray , let me introduce you . " He gestured to the young man beside him . " This is Lord Darius , Left Commander of the Iron Guard ." Elowen tightened her collar and offered a polite curtsy . " Lord Commander . " Darius's Adam's apple bobbed . He had peeked at her just a second ago , and now he didn't dare to look again . He kept his head down , his voice strained . " ... Miss Dray . " Elowen lowered her eyes submissively . " It's like this , Commander .

Lord Whitaker and I have been traveling for days , so I was looking quite a mess . Since we are entering Kingsport tomorrow , I was worried Prince Zachary might be disgusted by my unkempt appearance . That's why I asked for hot water to freshen up. I had no idea you were coming , and because I was bathing , I didn't hear your voice to answer in time . Please forgive my disrespect . " Her explanation was utterly flawless . Darius listened , but the words barely registered in his brain . All he could think about was that curvaceous silhouette behind the screen .

His chest burned as he croaked , " It's fine ... We were the ones being too brash ." 2/3 14:17 Tue , Jul 14 Chapter 761 The First Crush 63 Finished Playing the understanding angel , Elowen replied , " We are nearing Kingsport , after all . It's only right for you to conduct a thorough search . "

Darius's eyebrows twitched . He hadn't expected such a delicate - looking girl to be so reasonable . Any normal woman would be throwing a tantrum or paralyzed by fear , yet she wasn't blaming him at all . She actually sympathized with him . Swallowing hard , he stammered , " Are you ...

from Willow Ridge ? " Elowen nodded . " Yes . " Darius rested his hand on his waist , rubbing the hilt of his blade to drum up some courage . After a long pause , he asked , " How ... how old are you , miss ? " Elowen lifted her eyelids and shot him a look . His face was so red it looked ready to bleed , his eyes darting everywhere but at her . Seeing this , she instantly knew exactly what was going on . This tough commander was having his first crush . Wrapping men around her finger was easy , but wrapping a hot - blooded , love - struck boy ? That was child's play .

A faint smile touched her eyes . " I'll be nineteen soon . " Darius paused . " I'm nineteen too ... " Elowen let out a soft chuckle . " You're quite accomplished for your age , Commander ." 17.0K

Chapter 762 Absolute Obedience Her tone was gentle and overflowing with sincerity . Hearing it , Darius felt like his face was literally on fire . G 63 Finished Unable to formulate another coherent thought , he gulped a few times before forcing out , " Al ... alright , go back inside . "

Catching the drift , George gave a slight bow . " Take care , my lord ." Darius remained silent . He didn't dare look at her directly , but as he turned to leave , he stole one last glimpse of the hem of her dress out of the corner of his eye . Then he whipped around and marched out .

His guards trailed closely behind. The clanking of their armor faded , replaced by the galloping of hooves that eventually dissolved into the dark night . George escorted them all the way to the inn's entrance , only breathing a massive sigh of relief when they vanished over the horizon . Peace returned to the courtyard . Elowen stood at her door . Once she was certain the horses were gone and the guards weren't coming back , she wiped that docile look right off her face . " No wonder you were dead set on taking a bath .

" Thomas stepped out of the shadows , arms crossed , sounding utterly amused . Elowen tilted her head and shot him a glance . It was nothing like the soft gaze she had given Darius . There was no shyness or frailty in it - only cold , crushing dominance , like a predator looking down on its prey . Her voice was icy . " Now that you've seen what I can do , you'd better start listening to me . " Thomas was taken aback . She narrowed her eyes . " Today I told you to fetch hot water , yet you had to interrogate me about it . Your foot - dragging almost cost us .

" 1/4 14:17 Tue , Jul 14 Chapter 762 Absolute Obedience His mouth twitched . 63 Finished He wanted to fire back , but couldn't find the words . Because she was right . He was in the wrong . " Carve the word ' obedience ' into your brain . " Giving him one last piercing look , she spun around , pushed the door open , and walked in . Standing in the hallway , staring at the busted wooden door , Thomas remained speechless . He silently shuffled a couple of steps to the side , deciding to spend the night standing guard for her . Meanwhile .

Darius followed an attendant inside , his fists clenched so tight you could hear the joints popping if you listened closely . It was as if he was punishing himself for his loose lips . Did she ask for my age ? No ! She merely stated hers , so why the h * ll did I have to chime in ? Why did I have to blurt out " I'm nineteen too " ? I was there to conduct a raid ! He cursed himself out a dozen

times in his head , but even after that , his mind kept wandering back to her face . Taking a deep breath , he violently shoved down those confusing feelings .

" We're here , my lord ." The attendant stopped . Darius took another deep breath before pushing the door open and stepping inside . The hall was obscenely lavish . Thick wool rugs carpeted the floor , and massive Nordan tapestries hung on the walls . The complex patterns and rich colors made the space feel warm and incredibly luxurious . Premium incense burned in the bronze braziers at the corners , sending up lazy curls of blue 214 14:17 Tue , Jul 14 Chapter 762 Absolute Obedience smoke . But Darius was in no mood to admire the decor .

His eyes skipped over the fancy furnishings and landed on a massive lounge chair . A man was half - reclining on it . 63 Finished Propped on one armrest with his other hand casually resting on his knee , he looked as relaxed as a lounging panther . Two stunning women knelt by his legs , one on each side , meekly massaging his calves . Darius dropped to one knee . " Master , I've thoroughly searched all the inns inside and out of Kingsport . " The man didn't move an inch , keeping his lazy , half - asleep posture . He tapped his fingers on the armrest twice , signaling him to continue .

Darius lowered his head even further . " ... I found no suspicious women . The ones selected this time are all intended as consorts for Prince Zachary . I interrogated them , and they're all ordinary . " The man's tapping fingers paused as he lifted his head . The candlelight washed over his face , casting sharp shadows that highlighted his chiseled jawline . " None at all ? " His voice was deep , laced with a casual, almost indifferent edge . Darius didn't dare look up , his tone growing more reverent . " I am incompetent . I found no one out of the ordinary .

" The man resumed tapping the armrest , deep in thought . " Did I guess wrong ? " Still kneeling , Darius wisely kept his mouth shut . The man remained silent for a while before shifting his gaze to the two women servicing him . His eyes were dead flat , looking at them as if they were mere tools , devoid of any real emotion . Reading his mood , the women immediately pulled their hands back and retreated meekly into shadows . They sat on their knees , completely silent , as if they didn't even exist .

He sat up straighter , tossing his loose hair over his shoulder to reveal an utterly flawless , handsome face . He was young , probably only in his early twenties . 63

Awakening Love : Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 763 The Crimson Lantern The lower half of his face was sharp and sleek , as cold and hard as a blade . Finished The upper half featured deep - set , elongated eyes that tilted up at the corners , giving him a seductive , almost demonic allure . These two contrasts merged into a uniquely mesmerizing beauty laced with danger , making him impossible to forget . Looking at Darius , he offered a faint smile . " Don't beat yourself up . They're coming to Kingsport anyway , so we'll cross paths sooner or later . " Darius murmured his agreement .

The man's lips curled up . " I'm getting more and more excited to meet our little Oracle . " The night breeze swept through the window , ruffling the drapes and disturbing the curling incense smoke He glanced down at the kneeling commander , candlelight dancing in his slender eyes . " Aren't you excited too ? " Darius froze . The man's smirk widened with wicked amusement . " After all , you idolized the Oracle as a kid . You even wanted to be one for a while . " Darius's face went crimson in an instant . " I heard you were only six back then .

You heard the Oracle was blessed by the gods , could talk to the heavens , and predict the future , so you were totally obsessed . That was until you found out the Oracle had to be a woman from the Ogu bloodline . " Darius was dying of embarrassment , unable to utter a single word . The man arched an eyebrow . " Didn't you cry for two straight days ? " Right now , Darius wanted nothing more than for the floor to swallow him whole so he'd never have to show his face again . Pressing his forehead against the rug , he muttered , " Master , you're making me ... wish I was dead .

" The man's smirk deepened infinitely . Suddenly , a soft giggle echoed from the shadows of the hall . It was incredibly brief - like someone had completely lost control for a split second before slamming their mouth shut . The man tilted his head , tracing the sound . It was one of the girls who had been massaging his legs . 1/2 15:11 Wed , Jul 15 T Chapter 763 The Crimson Lantern Finished The older girl beside her spoke up first , her voice shaking violently . " Master , she ... she's new here ! She doesn't know the rules . Please , I beg your forgiveness !

" The one who had laughed finally snapped back to reality and frantically started kowtowing , crying hysterically . " Please spare me , Master ! I didn't mean to ! I ... I'll never do it again! " He didn't say he forgave her , nor did he say he wouldn't . His mood was impossible to read as he commanded , " Come here . " The girl jerked violently , pleading , " Master ... " She was terrified to go near him . Without rushing , he simply repeated , " Come here . " Too scared to say another word , she crawled out of the corner on her hands and knees .

She stopped at his feet , pressing her forehead to the floor and trembling like a leaf . Looking down at her , he asked , " What's your name ? " Her voice was tiny and hoarse . " Tess ... Tessa ... " He raised a brow . " Tes - Tessa ? Or just Tessa ? " She bit her lip . " Just Tessa . " His tone

softened a bit . " Tessa , look up . " Swallowing a sob , she cautiously lifted her head . She didn't dare lift it too high , let alone meet his eyes . Losing his patience , he reached out , grabbed her chin , and forced her face up .

Her face was a mess of tears , lips quivering , eyes filled with absolute despair . He inspected her face like a piece of merchandise he wasn't quite satisfied with . " You think Darius is pretty funny too , don't you ? " Tessa shook her head frantically . " I didn't ... I really didn't ... I wouldn't dare ... " " What are you so scared of ? " He stroked her cheek gently . " I'm not going to kill you . You just laughed , that's all . " Her body stiffened before relaxing just a fraction . " Thank you , Master ... thank you for your mercy ... The tension in the room seemed to ease .

The other girl kneeling nearby quietly let out a breath . He let go of her chin , sat back against the cushions , and casually dropped the bomb . " But since you love 2/3 15:11 Wed , Jul 15 KIKI Chapter 763 The Crimson Lantern laughing so much , you can go work at the Crimson Lantern . " Tessa froze , her entire body slumping to the floor . " Master ... please , no ... " Her voice broke into ragged pieces . " I won't go to the Crimson Lantern ... I ... I won't go ... " He let out a soft sigh , completely devoid of pity or regret .. He simply turned toward the door . " Guards .

" The doors swung open , and two burly attendants marched in silently . Seeing them , the terror in Tessa's eyes peaked . " Master ! Master , you can't ! I ... I have a fiancé ! He's waiting for me to come home ! I ... " The man's eyelids fluttered slightly . The word " fiancé " seemed to strike a chord in his memory . But he just stared at her coldly , saying absolutely nothing . Finished The attendants were already behind her , grabbing her by both arms , clapping a hand over her mouth , and dragging her out . The hall fell dead silent once more .

Brushing off his robes , the man shifted into a cozier spot on the lounge and glanced at the other girl still cowering in the corner . " What are you spacing out for ? Keep rubbing my legs . " She flinched violently , scrambling over on her hands and knees . Kneeling by the couch , she gingerly placed her shaking hands back on his calves . 17.0K AdminJZ

Awakening Love . Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 764 Entering Kingsport Early Darius had remained kneeling the entire time , never once raising his head . Remembering he was still there , the man glanced at him and drawled , " You're dismissed . " Darius acknowledged , " I'll take my leave . " Finished He stood up . His knees were numb from kneeling , but he didn't bother rubbing them , turning right around to leave . Outside , he saw Tessa . She was being dragged across the ground . Her clothes were torn , her hair was a tangled mess , and her exposed skin was covered in bloody scrapes .

She was still struggling , but all her strength was gone . Her thrashing was weak , like a fish out of water giving its final flop . Hearing his footsteps , she summoned a burst of adrenaline from nowhere , tearing free from the guards and lunging toward him . She collapsed at his feet , her hands locking onto his hem in a death grip . Her eyes were wide with terror and desperation . " My lord ! My lord ... please , I beg you , save me ! " The two attendants rushed over and stood behind her , but they didn't make a move right away . They looked at Darius , waiting for his signal .

Looking down at her tear - streaked face , Darius suddenly thought of someone else . The breathtakingly beautiful girl standing at the door of the inn , clutching her collar . The exact same tearful gaze , the exact same flush . When Darius stayed quiet and the guards held back , Tessa

thought she had a chance . Bawling her eyes out , she pleaded desperately , " If you save me , I'll do anything for you ! Anything you want ! " Hearing that , Darius scowled instantly . If that other girl had been in this situation , she would never grovel on the ground so pathetically .

She wouldn't stoop this low even if it killed her . All his sympathy vanished in a flash . He slowly peeled his robes out of her hands and ordered coldly , " Take her away . " The guards immediately grabbed her . Tessa only had time to let out one bloodcurdling scream before she was brutally dragged off . Without batting an eye , Darius marched away . 15:11 Wed , Jul 15
Chapter 764 Entering Kingsport Early Back at the inn . Elowen locked the door but didn't jump into bed right away . She walked to the window and pushed it open just a crack .

The moonlight was blindingly bright , lighting up the courtyard like daytime . She balled her right hand into a fist and tapped the sill three times . A second later , the flapping of wings echoed through the night sky . A falcon landed right on the ledge . A small smile touched her lips as she stroked its head . The bird nuzzled her fingers , then obediently lifted a talon . Finished Elowen pulled a red string from her sleeve and carefully tied it to its leg with a dead knot . After double- checking that it wouldn't slip , she let go .

" Go on . " The falcon cocked its head at her before spreading its wings and vanishing silently into the dark . About fifteen minutes later , a faint rustle came from outside the window . " My lady . " Anson's voice drifted in , keeping to a bare whisper . They were about to enter Kingsport , so they couldn't risk a long chat . Speed was everything . So Elowen cut right to the chase . " When is His Grace arriving ? " " He's been delayed by non - stop ambushes , " Anson replied . " The earliest he'll reach Kingsport is tomorrow afternoon . " Elowen frowned slightly . Tomorrow afternoon .

The escort convoy was entering the city first thing in the morning to meet Prince Zachary at the palace . She couldn't wait for Cassian . After a moment of thought , she said , " The escorts are heading to the palace tomorrow morning . I'll go ahead . Zachary has seen me before , and so have Flowira and Valessa . As long as I run into them , I'll be safe for now . " " Besides , I'm starting to notice something's off ." Anson leaned in closer .

2 : 3 15:11 Wed , Chapter 764 Entering Kingsport Early Finished " Nordia and Avenlor have established diplomatic ties , yet we've been attacked over and over on our way north . That's sketchy enough . More importantly , those Iron Guards tonight were fishy . They came with a specific target . It wasn't a routine check - they were hunting for someone . If I hadn't thought on my feet and put on an act , they definitely would've gotten suspicious . " Hearing this , Anson's face grew dead serious . " You mean ... " Elowen rubbed her fingers together .

" If I get into the palace first , I can do some digging . Let's see exactly who's pulling the strings and why they're so obsessed with putting us in our graves . " " Please be careful , my lady , " Anson said grimly . " I'll keep the shadow guards stationed right outside the palace walls , ready to move on your word ." Elowen nodded . " Alright . " Anson straightened up , gave a silent nod , and melted back into the shadows as quickly as he'd appeared . She lingered for a moment before clicking the window shut . The next morning , she woke up and stepped out of her room . Surprisingly .

Thomas was still guarding the door . After a whole night , exhaustion had kicked in . Arms crossed , he was leaning heavily against the wall with his eyes shut , seemingly dead asleep .

AdminJZ

Chapter 765 A Pomegranate Red Gown Finished Hearing Elowen's footsteps , he instantly snapped his eyes open , the rims completely bloodshot . Elowen shot him a look . Thomas figured since he'd gone to such lengths , she owed him at least a word of praise . Instead , Elowen just smirked . " Keep up the good work . " Thomas rolled his eyes in exasperation . George arranged breakfast and brought along two middle - aged women . They were dressed far better than the local inn staff , their hair impeccably styled , and they wore polite , perfectly practiced smiles .

" These are royal matrons sent straight from the palace to help you dress and do your makeup . You'll be meeting the Prince this afternoon , so everything must be absolutely perfect . " One was assigned to Elowen , and the other to Maya . In her room , the matron unpacked her bundle , revealing neatly folded gowns , jewelry , and fine cosmetics . The dress was tailored in the Nordian royal style - a striking crimson embroidered with gold thread . There was also a set of exquisitely crafted silver jewelry studded with rubies and turquoise .

Looking at the spread , Elowen thought , George really burned a hole in his pocket trying to turn me into a consort who could charm the Prince . " You are truly breathtaking , my lady . " The matron praised her from the bottom of her heart while brushing Elowen's hair . " I've served in the palace for years and waited on hundreds of noble ladies , but your beauty is easily among the very best . " Elowen smiled and thanked her . In the mirror , she watched the matron slowly transform her into a true Nordian beauty .

Her hair was woven into dozens of tiny braids adorned with silver trinkets and rubies , cascading over her shoulders and down her back . A teardrop - shaped turquoise pendant dangled gracefully against her forehead . A light layer of powder dusted her face , her brows were drawn slightly

darker , and a vibrant rouge painted her lips . The Nordan royal gown hugged her upper body tightly before flaring out into a wide skirt , cinched at the waist with a silver belt .

The white fur trim along the collar and cuffs highlighted her slender neck and pale skin , giving her an indescribably alluring charm . 2:51 pm P NM Chapter 705 - A Pomegranate Red Gown Elowen tilted her head slightly . The Nordan style was completely different from Avenlor's . Women in Avenlor valued modesty and elegance , whereas Nordan fashion was the exact opposite . It was bold , flamboyant , and unapologetic - like a roaring, untamed fire . Elowen suddenly thought of Cassian . He'd probably find this look super fascinating and gorgeous on me , she mused .

Out in the courtyard , George had everything ready to go . 9:30 Finessed A carriage sat in the yard , pulled by two pristine white stallions with colorful ribbons braided into their manes . A few lackeys were loading the last pieces of luggage onto the carriage . George walked into the room , his eyes lighting up the second he saw Elowen . " You look absolutely stunning ! The Prince will be thrilled when he sees you ! When you gain his favor , please don't forget about me , miss ! " Elowen smiled in return . " You flatter me , my lord .

" You'd be better off hoping I completely forget you , she thought , Because the next time we meet , you're gonna be scared out of your wits . George looked around . " Where's the other girl ? Why isn't she ready yet ? " Elowen glanced toward the door . It was strange; Maya hadn't even shown up for breakfast this morning . When Elowen knocked on her door earlier , Maya had just mumbled that she was in a bad mood and didn't have an appetite . Elowen had figured she was just heartbroken over entering Kingsport and having to say a final goodbye to her fiancé .

But the fact that she was still nowhere to be seen meant something was definitely wrong . George , however , wasn't thinking that deeply . He was just itching to show off the beauties he'd found . Just imagining the Prince's blown - away expression made him squirm with impatience . Turning around , he barked at a lackey , " Go check what's taking her so long ! We're gonna be late if she doesn't hurry up ! " The lackey scurried off . 2:51 pm P NM Chapter 765A Pomegranate Red Gown A moment later , a terrified shriek rang out .

The lackey scrambled back , stumbling over his own feet as he blabbered frantically in Nordin . Elowen had picked up some Nordin from Maya , so she understood him perfectly . Finished Face pale with panic , he gasped , " We're screwed ... My lord , something terrible happened ! Miss Maya is gone ! " George shot to his feet , eyes bugging out . " What ?! " Sweating bullets and trembling , the lackey stuttered , " The matron was knocked out cold ! I looked everywhere in the room , but she ... she ... she ran away !

" Refusing to believe it , George sprinted down the hall and busted into the room . The bed was completely empty . The blankets were neatly folded , and the pillows didn't have a single dent . Maya hadn't even slept in the bed last night . The window was wide open . Two faint , muddy footprints marked the sill , pointing outward , the dirt still fresh and damp . He scoured every corner of the room in a frantic panic . Only then did it fully sink in - Maya had actually bolted . George's face drained of all color . " I'm doomed ... I'm so f * cking doomed ...

" The consort selection was a strict order from the top brass . Each city had to present exactly two girls - no exceptions . He had dragged them all the way north from Willow Ridge , and right when they were at the palace gates , one of them vanished . 17.1K 2:51 pm PNM Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess

Chapter 766 A Timely Escape How the hell was he supposed to explain this to his superiors ? Tell them he couldn't even keep an eye on a teenager ? A young lackey sidled up to him and nervously suggested , " My lord ... what if ... we quickly find a replacement ? " George glared daggers at him . " A replacement ? How ?! We're literally about to enter the palace ! Where the hell am I supposed to find someone right now ? " The kid flinched and backed away . " These girls are meant for the Prince ! I can't just drag some random woman off the street !

My orders were to bring two beauties to the royal palace . If the top brass finds out I lost one , my head is gonna roll ! " Veins bulged on George's forehead . Standing by the door , Elowen slowly scanned the room . Maya really had made a run for it . " Chase her ... " George finally snapped out of his shock . " Chase her down immediately ! We gotta catch her ! " Gritting his teeth , his voice took on a vicious edge . " She's just a weak girl , she can't have gone far ! Split up ! Scour the main roads , the dirt paths , the woods - search everywhere !

" The lackeys barked their compliance and scrambled out of the courtyard in a chaotic stampede . George stood frozen , staring in the direction they had run , his chest heaving wildly . It took him a long while to calm down and turn back to Elowen . " Miss Dray ... we'll ... head into Kingsport first ." Elowen nodded . " Alright . " George kept staring at her , looking like he wanted to say something else . Catching his drift , Elowen offered a soothing smile . " Don't worry , my lord . Once I have the Prince's favor , I'll definitely put in a good word for you .

Today's mess wasn't your fault , so put your mind at ease ." A wave of deep gratitude washed over George's face . " Thank you , Miss Dray ." While a large squad fanned out to hunt down Maya . Elowen followed the matron and George out of the inn , boarding the carriage and

heading straight into Kingsport . They first arrived at a massive manor inside the capital to rendezvous with the consorts selected from 2:51 pm P NM 9:00 Chapter 766A Timely Escape other Nordian cities . Finished Elowen did a quick headunt . There were over twenty girls in total , ranging from fifteen to twenty years old .

They came in all shapes and sizes , but without exception , every single one of them was gorgeous . Some were draped in luxurious silk , dripping with expensive gold and silver jewelry , and trailed by maids and bodyguards . Those were clearly the noble ladies of Nordia . Others dressed a bit more modestly , though they had still dolled themselves up perfectly . Keeping a low profile, George hurried toward the back of the courtyard . Elowen followed his path and spotted a man in his forties .

He wore a Nordian official's uniform , sporting a bulging gut and a face so fleshy he had multiple double chins . He carried himself with extreme arrogance , his eyes sweeping over the girls like he was inspecting livestock at an auction . Unsurprisingly , he was the head honcho of the consort escorts . George scurried up to him and bowed so deeply he nearly snapped in half , plastering on a smile so eager it was sickeningly sycophantic . From where she stood , Elowen couldn't hear their conversation .

She just saw George acting like a complete doormat before slipping a cloth - wrapped package out of his sleeve . As his hand trembled slightly , the cloth slipped , revealing a gleaming chunk of solid gold . The arrogant boss , who had been completely ignoring him , glanced down at the gold , and his face instantly softened into a friendly smile . Taking the gold and weighing it in his hand , he looked quite satisfied . With a flick of his wrist , the ingot vanished into his robes . The man chuckled and offered a few reassuring words .

George bowed repeatedly , clearly groveling in gratitude . He was undoubtedly begging the boss to turn a blind eye to Maya's escape . Ɔ Since the bribe was hefty enough , the boss happily let him off the hook . Having dodged a bullet , George exhaled a massive sigh of relief and wiped the sweat from his brow . He jogged back to Elowen , beaming . " Miss Dray , just hang tight for a second . Once the palace officials get things sorted , we'll hop on the carriage and head in . " I won't be accompanying you any further . I wish you the best of luck in getting everything you desire .

" Elowen smiled . " Thank you , my lord . You've worked hard . " 2:51 pm P NM Chapter 766 A Timely Escape 0:30 Fished While they waited . Thomas stood behind her and murmured , " Did you know Maya was gonna run ? " Elowen didn't even look him . " Nope Thomas stared at her profile for a beat , trying to gauge if she was lying . But it was obvious he couldn't read this woman's mind at all - not even a little bit . Elowen genuinely hadn't known Maya would escape . But she wasn't surprised in the slightest .

After all , Maya had been dragged up north against her will , and her fiancé had been shadowing them the entire journey . The Iron Guard's raid last night had thrown the inn into total chaos - the perfect , once - in - a - lifetime opportunity for her to slip away . George had been keeping a hawk's eye on Maya , but after seeing the Iron Guard interrogate her , he naturally let his guard down . And with Kingsport right in front of them , he had rushed out early to fetch the palace matron , loosening his grip on the girl even more . So Maya seized her chance and made a run for it .

Chapter 767 The Spoiled Brat Elowen sighed softly in her mind . But honestly , George had to have some serious connections . Escaping with her fiancé was just the beginning . The two of them were bound to suffer plenty of hardships on the road ahead . I just hope she makes it , she thought . About an hour later , all the chosen consorts were finally assembled . They piled into carriages and rolled straight into the royal palace .

The Nordanian palace walls loomed over twenty feet high , bristling with black flags embroidered with golden wolf heads that snapped fiercely in the freezing morning wind . The group was herded into a courtyard , where a matron in gray robes held a ledger and called out the consorts ' names one by one . Maya's name wasn't on the list - George's gold brick had clearly worked wonders . Once the headcount was done , the matron announced stiffly , " Ladies , you will wait here . The Prince will come out to meet you when he is ready . He will select four of you as his consorts .

His future primary wife will also be chosen from among those four ." A wave of excited murmurs rippled through the courtyard . The girls were practically buzzing , all praying they'd be picked and dreaming of becoming the royal princess . Since Elowen was already married , she couldn't care less . She was just trying to figure out if the person showing up today would be the real Zachary , or Flowira parading around in men's clothes . The girls scattered into small cliques around the courtyard . Elowen found a quiet corner to chill .

Whether it was Flowira or Zachary , as long as she saw one of them . she'd be temporarily safe . So she really didn't wanna draw any unnecessary attention right now . " Excuse me , miss , could you ... " A timid voice suddenly squeaked beside her . Elowen turned to see a tiny maid , probably no older than twelve or thirteen . Wearing a faded blue dress . she kept her eyes glued

to the floor and whispered , " Could you ... take that thing off your forehead ? ". She nervously pointed at the teardrop turquoise pendant dangling on Elowen's brow . 2:56 pm ppPN .

Feat Chapter 76 The Shaded Brat Elowen blinked in surprise . " Why ? " The little maid shot a terrified glance over her right shoulder . Wringing her hands so hard her knuckles turned white , she forced out . " My mistress says ... she doesn't want to have the same accessories as you Elowen followed her gaze , Standing dead center in the courtyard was a haughty teenage girl . Around fifteen or sixteen , she had bold brows , large eyes , and deep facial features - a textbook Nordian beauty . She was rocking a bright red silk gown and a full set of silver jewelry .

A teardrop emerald pendant hung on her forehead , delicately framed in silver wire , looking incredibly familiar to Elowen's turquoise piece . Surrounded by a posse of five or six maids and old hags , she was tilting her chin up , glaring at Elowen with absolute arrogance . Apparently , she had high status and a temper to match . Elowen pulled her gaze back to the shivering little maid . She didn't say yes , but she didn't say no either . The kid was just a messenger ; there was no point making her life miserable . Elowen just smiled softly .

" Tell her to come say it to my face . " The little maid gasped , totally caught off guard by the response . Biting her lip , she ducked her head and scurried back to her silk - clad mistress . Keeping her head bowed , the maid relayed Elowen's exact words . Instantly furious , the spoiled girl's eyes flared with rage as she hauled off and slapped the kid hard across the face . Blindsided by the blow , the little maid spun sideways , stumbling a few steps before nearly eating dirt . Watching the scene unfold , Elowen frowned .

Without sparing the poor kid a second glance , the snobby girl marched straight toward Elowen . Her entourage of maids and hags shadowed her every move . The commotion drew the eyes of every other consort in the yard . They huddled together , whispering . Some were curious , some were gloating , and a few were actually sweating for Elowen . The girl finally planted herself right in front of Elowen . Since Elowen was still sitting , the girl towered over her , her face radiating arrogance as she barked , " Who the hell do you think you are ? You think you have the right to demand my presence ?

" Chapter 76 The Spoiled Brat 7624 Thank god Elowen had brushed up on her Nordinian , so she understood every word . Find her Cocking an eyebrow , she shot back , " And who the hell am I to make you send a lackey over just to demand I take off my jewelry ? The girl choked on her words , turning red with fury . " I just despise matching outfits with nobodies ! " Elowen replied calmly . " Half the girls here are wearing similar pieces . Why single me out ? " The girl opened her mouth to argue .

Forehead pendants were standard Nordinian fashion , and they were everywhere today - turquoise , rubies , emeralds , you name it . But she couldn't exactly admit that she picked on Elowen specifically because she was by far the prettiest girl in the yard , could she ? Plus , looking her up and down , she couldn't spot a single sign that Elowen came from a powerful family . 17.6K

Chapter 768 Silver - tongued Snake Farhod Molly Dray . There was absolutely no noblewoman by that name in or around Kingsport . She had to be some peasant from the middle of nowhere . A girl with no backing was the easiest target . She had to squash her flat before she could gain the Prince's favor , otherwise , she'd be the one suffering later . So the girl just kept a straight face

and scoffed , " Because you piss me off the most , obviously ! " Unbothered . Elowen shifted into an even more comfortable posture and asked with genuine amusement , " Say , miss , whose family do you belong to ?

" The girl glared at her viciously . " What's it to you ? Let me tell you , prash like you couldn't reach my family's doorstep in a hundred lifetimes ! " The old hag beside her stuck her chin in the air and announced smugly , " This is Gemma Sterling , the only daughter of the Minister of the Royal Household ! " Gemma tilted her chin even higher . Elowen looked thoughtful . " Minister of the Royal Household . That's not exactly a top - tier position , is it ? " Gemma snapped , " What did you say ?! My father is a key minister to Princess Royal Valessa ! " Elowen didn't reply .

Gemma scanned Elowen from head to toe , her face twisting in pure disgust . " Looking at your face , you're obviously not pure - blooded Nordian . Was it your dad or your mom who was from Avenlor ? Well , it doesn't matter . You're nothing but filthy mixed blood ! " Elowen looked incredibly amused . " Listen here , sweetie. Nordia and Avenlor have established peaceful diplomatic ties , a treaty finalized personally by your dad's boss , Princess Royal Valessa . By talking like this , are you opposing the alliance ? Are you openly spitting in the Princess Royal's face ?

" Gemma's face instantly went chalk white . Elowen sighed heavily . " Besides , we're inside the royal palace with dozens of witnesses ! Who knows if someone might blab about your little speech to the higher - ups ? If the Princess Royal finds out , will she be furious ? If you piss her off , you can kiss your dreams of becoming the royal princess goodbye . " Gemma was rendered completely speechless , her face ashen as she struggled and failed to find a comeback . Boiling

with rage , she could only hiss through clenched teeth , " You silver - tongued snake ! " Elowen chuckled softly .

" Silver - tongued snake ' is an Avenloran phrase . Aren't you afraid of getting your mouth filthy ? " Gemma's face immediately flushed beet red . Growing up , she had never been humiliated like this ! 2:56 pm p p PN Chapter og Silver longited Shake She raised her hand and swung hard at Elowen's face . The slap was lightning fast and packed with vicious force . Standing nearby , Thomas tensed up , ready to strike . But Elowen didn't need his protection . She snapped her hand up and caught Gemma's wrist in a vice grip . Gemma never expected her to block it , let alone actually stop it .

Her eyes blew wide open in sheer disbelief . With her arm frozen in mid - air , she thrashed wildly , trying to yank her hand out of Elowen's grasp . But Elowen's grip was freakishly strong ; that slender , seemingly fragile hand clamped down like an iron shackle . Gemma's wrist flared in agony , feeling like the bones were about to shatter . Her cheeks burned bright red from shame and fury . Yet Elowen barely broke a sweat . She just sat there , lounging casually , holding onto her wrist and tilting her head . " You really don't wanna mess with me , girl .

The price of pissing me off is a bit steep ." Having made her point , Elowen mercifully let go . But Gemma completely brushed off the warning . To her , this Molly Dray was just blowing hot air . A nobody who hadn't even made a blip on Kingsport's radar, just some lucky peasant dragged out of the boondocks . What power could she possibly have ? She was Gemma Sterling , raised in the Minister's manor ! She'd met more high - ranking nobles than Molly Dray had eaten hot meals . What kind of scene hadn't she witnessed ? Was she supposed to be scared of a flimsy threat like that ?

What a total joke . Shaking out her throbbing red wrist , Gemma stumbled back two steps . The furious flush hadn't faded from her face , but she slapped on a cocky , vindictive smirk . She turned her head , glaring at the mob of maids and hags behind her . " What the hell are you staring at ? This b * tch disrespected me ! Teach her a lesson ! " The mob exchanged nervous glances for a split second before advancing on Elowen in unison Chapter 768 Silver tongued Snake Reacting instantly .

Elowen hoisted her skirts and bolted , ducking behind Thomas with agile strides Shc tucked herself safely out of harm's way without a shred of guilt . " Servant , stop them . Proiect me : Elowen demanded Thomas rubbed his temples in confusion . His lips twitched . " I thought you had this handled . " Elowen retorted . " I can handle one , but definitely not a whole mob ! I'm just a weak , defenseless girl , after all . " Thomas rolled his eyes again , utterly speechless . A weak girl ? You ?

Thomas said with absolute sincerity , " Yeah , I really couldn't tell . " Completely ignoring his sarcasm , Elowen stayed comfortably hidden behind him , issuing her orders without breaking a sweat . " Deal with them . And if you can't , fight to the death so I have time to run away . "

Chapter 769 Royal Summons Thomas's temples throbbed . " Aren't you worried I might actually lose ? " 22 Finished Elowen thought about it seriously before replying with total sincerity , " Then I promise to carry on your legacy and find your wife . " Thomas sighed deeply in defeat . Before he could snap back , the five or six maids and hags swarmed them . However , since Elowen was hiding behind a tall , brooding man who looked like he could snap them in half ,

they hesitated . Just then , the palace matron's voice echoed from across the yard . " Gemma Sterling !

" Holding her ledger , the matron scanned the crowd , called out a few more names, and finally announced , " Molly Dray ." Snapping the ledger shut , she declared , " The Prince summons you . Ladies , please follow me . " Gemma froze . Without missing a beat , Elowen clasped her hands behind her back and strolled out from behind Thomas with unhurried grace . Walking right up to the mob , she smiled sweetly . " The Prince summons me . Excuse me , ladies ? " The maids and hags hastily scrambled out of her way . Elowen glided past them , pausing for just a second when she reached Gemma .

She turned her head , looking at Gemma's flushed face , and reached up to gently tap her own cheek . " If I showed up to see the Prince with a scratch on this pretty face , or with tears in my eyes , he'd be so heartbroken he'd never forgive you ." Elowen sighed dramatically . " I'm really just looking out for you girls . " Gemma ground her teeth so hard they squeaked . She wanted nothing more than to pounce on her , rip that smug smile off her face , and beat this arrogant b * tch to a bloody pulp . But she couldn't .

1/3 14:58 Sat , Jul 18 Chapter 769 Royal Summons Because the Prince had summoned them . Gemma took a deep breath , and then another , violently shoving her rage down . Finished Still smiling brightly , Elowen called out to Thomas . " Alright , servant , false alarm ! Wait for me here , I'll be right back . " With that , she took the lead and strolled toward the matron . Gemma stormed after her . With the matron leading the way , the group passed through an inner gate and stepped into the palace corridor .

Along the way , Gemma sidled up to Elowen and hissed , " Don't think you're off the hook . Even if you've got a pretty face and the Prince takes a liking to you , Princess Royal Valessa is here today ! Even if he wants you , if she says no , you could bang your head against the floor until it bleeds , and you still wouldn't be his consort ! " Elowen deadpanned , " Is that so . " Her casual reaction only infuriated Gemma more . " D * mn right it is ! Let me tell you , the Princess Royal adores me . Every time she sees me , she praises how smart I am .

Just wait , I'm gonna complain to her and tell her you bullied me ! " Elowen glanced at her again . " You probably shouldn't do that . " Gemma stuck her nose in the air . " You're lowborn trash , so nothing you say holds any weight . The Princess Royal won't even spare you a glance . She'll obviously believe me over you . " " So what should I do ? " Elowen asked . Thinking she was finally scared , Gemma flashed an arrogant sneer . " Just drop to your knees , apologize , and beg for my forgiveness ! Then I might just have mercy and let you off the hook ! " Elowen blinked .

" Oh , is that how it works ? " Gemma waited for a second , expecting Elowen to follow up with an apology or a plea for mercy . But Elowen said absolutely nothing . After waiting a bit longer , Gemma lost her patience . " What the h * ll is your problem ?! " Elowen turned her head and said slowly , " My Nordan isn't that great yet . All that trash you talked earlier ? I only caught the gist of it . And everything you just said now ? I didn't understand most of it , I was just blindly replying .

" 2/3 14:58 Sat , Jul 18 Chapter 269 Roval 22 Finished Gemma glared at her , completely dumbfounded . She was so furious she was practically having an aneurysm ! She swore to herself - even if this b * tch apologized a thousand times , she would never , ever forgive her ! Never ! At the end of the corridor stood a magnificent palace . It was towering and massive , looking

from a distance like a giant beast crouching on the ground . The main doors were wide open . A massive plaque hung above the lintel , bearing giant characters in Nordian script . Elowen didn't recognize them .

The matron stopped at the entrance , stepped aside , and made an inviting gesture . The consorts stepped into the hall and lined up in a neat row . Deep inside the hall , sitting upon a massive chair , was the current Prince Zachary . He was young and shockingly handsome . On his left , Valessa lounged half - slumped against her chair . She was strikingly beautiful , yet radiated a fierce , overpowering aura . Just sitting there , she made the air in the room feel heavy and suffocating .

Elowen recognized the two of them instantly , but she wasn't in a rush to show it , bowing in unison with the rest of the consorts . Zachary's voice was icy and laced with exhaustion . " Rise . " He was in a terrible mood today . Ever since returning to Nordia from Avenlor , he had been obsessing over Elowen . He even confessed to his royal father that he was madly in love with Avenlor's Lady of Grace and Virtue , and even though she was already married , he wouldn't mind going over there to be her side man .

Chapter 770 The Spitting Image Finished When the King caught wind of this , he beat him black and blue and instantly ordered royal scouts to scour the country for beauties to fill his harem . His father wanted Zachary to forget Elowen as quickly as possible . But to Zachary , that was completely impossible . There wouldn't be another woman on earth better than Elowen . His mind totally elsewhere , he cast a lazy glance over the consorts below . Perhaps he missed her so

much he was hallucinating , but he swore he just saw the face that haunted his dreams . But that was absolutely impossible .

She was Avenlor's Lady of Grace and Virtue . Even if she traveled north , she'd be with that bastard Cassian . How could she possibly be standing here , draped in a Nordan gown and wearing a Nordan headpiece , waiting in a crowd of Nordan girls to become his consort ? Zachary shook his head inwardly , tossing the absurd thought aside as a fresh wave of sorrow washed over him . D * mn that Cassian . This grudge of stealing my woman is unforgivable ! On the other hand , Valessa was acting far more normal .

Her eyes swept across the girls before locking onto a face that was simply too striking to ignore . She sat up straight , her voice actually trembling a little . " You there ... step forward ! " Elowen lifted her face . Valessa stared unblinkingly at her . " Yes , you . " All eyes instantly darted toward Elowen . Cool as a cucumber , Elowen took two steps forward and stopped . " Molly Dray , at the service of the Prince and Princess Royal . " Hearing that voice , Zachary finally snapped his head around .

Seeing her face clearly , his eyes 1/4 14:59 Sat , Jul 18 Chapter 770 The Spitting Image bugged out in sheer disbelief . Spitting image ! She looked exactly like her ! The face , the voice - a perfect match . Thank the gods , is it finally my turn to play the lookalike game ? 22 Finished While Zachary was lost in his wild , excited fantasies , Valessa raised an eyebrow and tested the waters in Nordan first . " Molly Dray . " Then she switched smoothly to Avenloran . " Molly . " Her lips curled into a smirk . It was really her . Elowen . The Lady of Grace and Virtue . Wife of Duke Cassian .

But something was definitely off . By all rights , Elowen should be traveling with Cassian right now . Why was she here ? Watching Valessa fall silent , a wave of sheer ecstasy rushed through Gemma's heart . The Princess Royal must have figured it out ! The Princess Royal had eyes and ears everywhere ; there was nothing she didn't know . She must have heard that this Molly Dray was stirring up trouble and bullying her , and now she was about to teach her a lesson in public ! The more Gemma thought about it , the more convinced she became .

Strutting out of the crowd , she dropped to her knees with a dramatic thud and whined , " Your Highness , it was this Molly Dray who was disrespecting and bullying me earlier ! " Caught off guard while pondering Elowen's sudden appearance , Valessa shot her a bewildered look . Seeing Gemma groveling on the floor , she frowned . " Who the h * ll are you ? " Gemma froze , her fingers curling into tight fists . " I ... I am Gemma Sterling , the only daughter of the Minister of the Royal Household . My father has served you loyally for years! You even praised me for being a smart girl last time !

" 2/4 14:59 Sat , Jul 18 Chapter 770 The Spitting Image 22 Finished Valessa stayed quiet for a beat , looking thoughtful . " Oh , the Minister's daughter . " Thinking the Princess Royal finally recognized her , Gemma instantly straightened her back . Valessa asked , " Did you just say she disrespected you ? " Gemma eagerly chimed in . " Exactly ! She deliberately copied my headpiece . When I kindly pointed it out , she cursed me out for being unreasonable and even hit me ! " Rolling up her right sleeve , she revealed a glaring red mark on her wrist , looking absolutely victimized .

" Look , Your Highness ! She did this ! She hit me so hard my wrist is still throbbing . I think she almost shattered my bones ! " Valessa's gaze paused on the bruise before shifting to Gemma's

face . She deadpanned , " That looks exactly like the mark left from grabbing a wrist . " Gemma blinked and nodded . " Yes . " Valessa tilted her head . " If she actually wanted to hit you , why wouldn't she just slap your face ? Pinching your wrist barely does any damage ." Gemma's face completely froze .

Valessa continued ruthlessly , " Sounds to me like you tried to slap her , and she caught your wrist to block it . " Exposed , the color drained from Gemma's face . Gritting her teeth hard , she argued , " She offended me first ! I just wanted to teach her a lesson . I'm your person , Your Highness ! I can't let someone like her bully me ... " " Ha ." Valessa let out a sharp , mocking laugh . Gemma stared at her blankly . Valessa's eyes turned icy . " What do you mean , my person ? Your father follows my orders , sure .

But you aren't my lady - in - waiting , and you certainly aren't my consort . How exactly are you ' my person ' ? I've barely even seen you . " Gemma's face turned as pale as a sheet of paper . "

And another thing . You claim this Miss Dray copied your headpiece , but from where I'm 3/4 22 Finished 14:59 Sat , Jul 18 Chapter 770 The Spitting Image sitting , they aren't even the same color . What kind of bullshit are you spinning ?

" Besides , even if your headpieces were identical , it's only embarrassing for the uglier one ." 4/4