

Awakening Love: Reborn to Be His Duchess Novel

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Without A Trace Finished Glancing between Elowen and Gemma, Valessa's lips curled into a sarcastic smirk. "And looking at you two right now, you're definitely the uglier one. Let me guess-you realized she's prettier, threw a tantrum, tried to pick a fight, got put in your place, and now you're trying to use my name to bully her?" Gemma's face went from chalk-white to dead-ash gray. Too lazy to waste another breath on her, Valessa stood up and gestured to Elowen.

"Miss Dray, come with me." Playing the obedient girl, Elowen replied in flawless Nordian, "Yes, Your Highness." Hearing her speak the local tongue, Valessa raised an eyebrow. Her accent is that good? As expected of the Oracle. She never fails to surprise. Valessa was just about to pull Elowen into a secluded corner to get the full story. The Nordian royal family had been dealing with some messy situations lately. She wanted to fill Elowen in, hoping she might be able to help. Suddenly, Zachary spoke up. "Aunt." Valessa looked down, looking somewhat annoyed.

"What is it?" Zachary's eyes burned with a feverish, obsessive intensity as he locked onto Elowen. "I want her! I want her as my consort-my one and only consort!" The other girls exchanged bewildered glances, while the matrons shot each other knowing looks. Valessa just rolled her eyes. Keep dreaming, kid. She shut him down with one flat word. "No." Zachary froze. Seeing Valessa turn to leave, he leaned forward desperately. "Aunt, I'm begging you!" Valessa's face remained utterly impassive.

"Begging won't work either." With that, she whisked Elowen away, without throwing him a single backward glance. 173 14:58 Mon, Jul 20 Chapter 771 Missing Without A Trace 7 Finis Zachary stood rooted to the spot, watching their retreating figures in a daze, his heart drown in

unspeakable sorrow. He couldn't have Elowen. And now he couldn't even have her lookalike. His life was a tragic joke. Blessed with such a handsome face, yet cursed to always have his heart broken. This had to be some cruel punishment from the heavens. Right then, muffled sobs echoed through the hall.

Already nursing a broken heart, the sound of crying completely shredded Zachary's nerves. I haven't even started crying yet. Who the hell is killing my vibe? Scowling, he shot a frigid glare at the groveling Gemma. "What the hell do you want now?" Gemma flinched violently, looking up at him through blurry, tear-filled eyes. "I'm just... feeling so upset..." Zachary sneered at her pitiful, victimized face. "Upset? I don't mind making you even more upset." Gemma blinked in confusion. Zachary completely ignored her. Turning his back, he barked an order. "Guards!

Throw Gemma Sterling out of the palace, and ban her from every future consort selection forever!" Walking alongside Valessa, Elowen heard Gemma's pathetic wails echoing from behind. "Have mercy, Your Highness! Have mercy, Princess Royal! I'll never do it again... I promise!" The screaming faded away-someone had likely clamped a hand over her mouth and dragged her out. Feeling absolutely nothing for the girl, Elowen followed Valessa straight into a side hall.

"Everyone out." 213 14:58 Mon, Jul 20 Chapter 771 Missing Without A Trace 7 Finish Looking completely drained, Valessa dismissed all the servants. The last matron smartly pulled the heavy doors shut. Once they were alone, Valessa finally exhaled and gestured to a chair. "Sit." Elowen didn't politely decline; she just sat down. Taking her own seat, Valessa leaned heavily on the armrest. "How do you even know Gemma?" Sitting perfectly straight, Elowen replied, "We only met today. I've never seen her before." Valessa gave a knowing nod.

"Being too pretty is a magnet for trouble." Elowen left that comment alone. Pulling her gaze back, Valessa checked the closed doors before leaning in, her voice dropping. "Weren't you traveling north with Duke Cassian? Why are you here all alone?" Elowen explained, "We were ambushed on the road. I fell into the river and washed up in Willow Ridge. I happened to bump into the royal scouts drafting consorts for Zachary, so I just tagged along." "Speaking of ambushes..." Valessa frowned. "Nordia is a total powder keg right now." Elowen looked at her. "How so?" Valessa sighed.

"Nordia is actually a coalition of major noble houses. Before my brother took the throne, House Harrow ruled the kingdom for decades. Unlike my brother, they look down on Avenlor. They aggressively oppose our alliance and want nothing more than to invade Avenlor and seize its lands. "When my brother became King, he couldn't just wipe out House Harrow because their roots run too deep. Ever since he signed the peace treaty with Avenlor, they've been furious. They've caused trouble for us time and time again.

We are sick of their games, but we can't afford open civil war right now, so our hands are tied." Pausing, she locked eyes with Elowen. "But now you're here. With the Oracle on our side, House Harrow won't be able to stir up any real chaos." Elowen's eyelids fluttered slightly. "So, those assassins were probably sent by House Harrow.

Partly to sabotage the alliance with Avenlor, and partly because they know I'm the Oracle's descendant, so they want to wipe me out?" 17.8K  3/3 14:58 Mon, Jul 20 Awakening Love: Reborn to Be His Duchess

Chapter 772 A Drop Of Mercy Valessa nodded. "Nailed it." Talking to smart people was just so refreshingly easy. ٣ Finis But her expression instantly hardened. "Kingsport is a mess right now, and I'm worried there are vipers in the palace gunning for your life. Until Cassian arrives, I won't expose your identity as the Oracle. You'll stay by my side as Molly Dray. With my authority as the Princess Royal, I can guarantee your safety. Once Cassian gets here in a few days, I'll reunite you two." Elowen offered a genuinely grateful smile. "Thank you, Your Highness.

That's a flawless plan." Suddenly remembering something, she asked, "By the way, it was the real Zachary sitting out there today. Princess Flowira was nowhere to be seen. Why is that?"

Valessa's face changed slightly. Lowering her voice, she said grimly, "Flowira has gone missing." Elowen was stunned. "Missing?" Valessa hummed in confirmation. "The King recently handed some city duties to his sons, including Zachary. You already know Flowira covers for Zachary most of the time. The other day, she went out disguised as him to investigate a murder, got ambushed, and vanished without a trace.

To prevent total panic, we kept it strictly under wraps. We put the real Zachary back in the public eye and claimed Flowira is too sick to take visitors. Meanwhile, we've got secret squads turning the city upside down looking for her." Elowen asked, "How long has she been missing?" Valessa did the math. "About seven days." "Seven days... that's not too bad. It hasn't been too long." Elowen quickly followed up. "What murder was she investigating?" "The biggest brothel in Kingsport is called The Crimson Lantern," Valessa explained.

"A while ago, two people ended up dead there-a working girl and a member of House Harrow. It caused a massive uproar, so the King assigned Zachary to investigate it." Elowen stayed quiet, rubbing her fingers together as she sank into deep thought. With House Harrow involved and

Flowira missing, this case was definitely not as simple as it seemed. 113 14:58 Mon, Jul 20

Chapter 772 A Drop Of Mercy Valessa added, "I'm swamped today, but I'll take you to The Crimson Lantern tomorrow to a look." Elowen nodded slightly. "Alright." She paused.

"Oh, by the way, I brought a servant along with me." Valessa gave her a sideways, teasing look.

"Weren't you separated from Cassian? You picked new servant that fast?" Elowen cocked an eyebrow. "Just my natural charm, I guess?" Valessa let out a soft laugh. It was her first genuine smile since Flowira disappeared. Elowen continued, "His name is Thomas. He traveled north with me to find his wife. I promised to help him track her down." Valessa looked regretful. "If Flowira was around, finding someone would be a breeze.

But right now, our top priority is actually finding Flowira." Elowen's voice was filled with absolute certainty. "Don't worry. I'll help you find her." Valessa finally felt a massive weight lift off her shoulders. "Good." She then asked, "So, you picked up our language?" Elowen smiled. "Just a bit. Not much, but enough for basic conversation." Valessa raised an eyebrow. "Did Cassian teach you?" "Actually, no. A young girl traveling with us taught me." Thinking of Maya, Elowen felt a pang of sympathy and didn't mind pulling some strings to get her a pardon.

"She's from Willow Ridge too, name's Maya. She was drafted as a consort for Prince Zachary, but she already has a fiancé. They're deeply in love, and she cried her eyes out several times on the way up. I'm a softie, so I figured I might as well help keep them together instead of tearing them apart." In a heartbeat, Valessa replied, "That's a minor detail. If the Oracle asks, consider it done. I'll have men escort Maya back to her fiancé immediately." Elowen stopped her. "Maya actually ran away last night.

It would be best if you just called off the search and pardoned everyone involved." 14:59 Mon, Jul 20 Chapter 772 A Drop Of Mercy 壽 That way, Maya wouldn't have to spend her life looking over her shoulder, and Whitaker wouldn't lose sleep worrying about losing his head. Neither of them were bad people, and Elowen felt genuine pity for them. Valessa beamed. "Whatever the Oracle wishes." Meanwhile. Miles outside of Kingsport. Inside a dilapidated Shrine of the Oracle. Maya was completely clueless about what had just gone down in the royal palace.

7 Finish She had no idea that a few casual words from someone else had just effortlessly rewritten her entire future. Crouched in the main hall of the ruined shrine, she pressed her back against the freezing stone wall, clutching her fiancé, Mason Fletcher, tightly in her arms. She looked like a wreck, her face streaked with tears and her body trembling violently. Mason's face was a sickly gray. A deep gash on his forehead had scabbed over into a massive, dark red crust. His left arm hung at a grotesque angle.

His clothes were soaked through with blood, clinging wetly to his skin and highlighting the swollen, deformed mess underneath. 17.8K 目 2 3/3 14:59 Mon, Jul 20 Awakening Love: Reborn to Be His Duchess

Chapter 773 The Miracle Worker Mason's breathing was dangerously shallow. He had taken those hits to save her. 招標 When the pursuers caught up, he shoved her into a roadside ditch and lured the guards away himself. By the time Maya crawled out of the ditch and found him, he was lying in a pool of blood, battered beyond recognition. The worst wound was on his left shoulder—a long, bone-deep slash that stretched all the way across his chest. Blood poured out of it, completely unstoppable.

Maya had ripped up her own clothes to bandage him, using every ounce of strength she had drag him into this abandoned shrine. She didn't dare go looking for a doctor. Whitaker's hounds were definitely still sniffing for he If they got caught, they would both die. Drowning in despair, Maya pressed her lips against Mason's forehead. He was burning up with a vicious fever. As if sensing her trembling, Mason's fingers twitched. He forced his eyes open just a crack, looking up at her as his lips barely moved. "I have... some money... take it all... run somewhere... where no one knows you...

and live a good life..." Hearing that clearly, a fresh wave of tears cascaded down Maya's face. She hugged him tighter, shaking her head as she sobbed, "No... I'm not leaving... I'm not going anywhere! If you die... I'm not living either!" Mason sighed, looking like he wanted to say more. But his injuries were just too severe, and before he could make a sound, he slipped into a deep coma. Cradling him, Maya knelt on the freezing stone floor. Above her was a caved-in roof; beneath her was a layer of thick dust. Right in front of her stood a battered statue of the Oracle.

The statue was ancient. Her facial features were mostly worn away, leaving only the vague silhouette of a woman. 14:59 Mon, Jul 20 Chapter 773 The Miracle Worker Draped in faded, dust-covered silk, she held a flower whose color had long vanished. Her e were cast down, a deeply compassionate smile etched onto her lips. Maya didn't believe in the gods. But at this exact moment, she desperately hoped that gods were real, and that they were listening to her prayers. Please. Whoever you are. Save him. Please... Right then, heavy footsteps echoed outside the hall. Maya froze in terror.

Gritting her teeth, she dragged Mason behind the statue to hide. Holding her breath, her right hand drifted to the dagger on Mason's belt, wrapping tightly around the hilt. The footsteps were

steady and unhurried. The intruder strolled into the shrine and respectfully offered a stick of incense to the Oracle. Maya's heart hammered against her ribs. Then, a man's voice rang out.

"With a stench of blood this heavy, if you don't find a doctor, you won't survive the night."

Maya's pupils shrank to pinpricks. They were busted!

Her breathing turned frantic and shallow, like a cornered animal making one last desperate stand at the edge of a trap. Sure enough, the footsteps headed straight for them. One step. Two steps.

Three steps. Closer and closer. White-knuckling the dagger, Maya glared fiercely in the direction of the sound. The dim light of the hall illuminated the towering figure stalking closer. 2/4 14:59

Mon, Jul 20 Chapter 773 The Miracle Worker Fir Then, the figure rounded the crumbling stone altar that shielded them. Maya already had the blade raised, coiled and ready to pounce.

Suddenly, she saw his face clearly. She froze dead in her tracks, eyes wide, completely paralyzing her attack. The newcomer was a man in gray linen robes. He was older, with graying hair at his temple but his build was still towering and rugged, hinting at how fiercely handsome he must have been in his youth. The wrinkles on his face didn't make him look old; they gave him an aura of weathered wisdom and unshakeable calm. "Doctor... Doctor Wren..." Maya choked out, tears instantly flooding her eyes. Noah Wynne stood by the altar, looking down at Maya.

He had lived in Willow Ridge for a few years. In his last memory of her, she had been drafted the Prince's consort. But seeing her looking like a complete wreck while clutching a dying man, he could easily piece together exactly what had happened. Dropping the dagger, Maya threw herself at Noah and begged hysterically. "Doctor Wren... please... you have to save Mason... I'm

begging you! He's... he's dying..." Noah leaned down, pulling out a handkerchief like a true gentleman. "Wipe your tears and stop crying. I'm here.

He's going to be fine." Snatching the handkerchief, Maya watched Noah fetch the medical kit he had left outside. The wooden kit was carved with twinleaf patterns. In one corner, there was a tiny, faded fingerprint, like a child had accidentally pressed their hand into it. Smelling the bitter, medicinal scent wafting from the kit, Maya finally exhaled a massive sigh of relief. We are saved. Maya sat on the sidelines, watching Noah expertly clean, treat, and bandage the wounds. A sliver of color slowly crept back into Mason's face as his tightly knit brows finally relaxed.

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Chapter 774 Calm Before The Storm 75 Finishes Overjoyed by his miraculous return from the brink of death, Maya burst into fresh tears and hurriedly dabbed her face with the handkerchief. Noah pulled the final bandage tight, tied it off, and looked at Maya with a comforting smile. "Alright, he's out of the woods. He just needs to rest now. No more bumpy rides, keep him warm, and make sure he takes his medicine. He'll be back on his feet in a few days." Maya nodded aggressively, her heart finally settling back into her chest. Suddenly remembering something, she looked at the doctor.

"By the way, Doctor Wren... what brings you out here?" Noah replied softly, "I came to visit my wife." Maya was stunned. Wife? She had constantly heard people rave about Doctor Wren's miraculous medical skills, but she had never once heard a peep about him having a wife. She opened her mouth. "Is your wife... Nordin?" Noah nodded. "Her death anniversary is coming

up, so I made a special trip to pay my respects." Maya paused, not wanting to pry and accidentally rub salt in his old wounds.

Noah, however, continued voluntarily, "And to see my little granddaughter." Thinking of his beloved Ella, his voice softened dramatically. "She's coming to Nordia soon too. I haven't seen her in years, and I really want to check in on her." Back in the side hall of the Nordian royal palace. Elowen suddenly remembered something else. "Oh right, there's one more thing I need your help keeping an eye out for." Valessa hummed questioningly. "Yeah?" "When I was in Willow Ridge, I heard about a Doctor Wren," Elowen explained. "By the time I reached his clinic, he had already left.

I saw twinleaf patterns painted on the medicine bottles there, so I highly suspect this Doctor Wren is actually my grandfather. His neighbors told me he traveled north." 1/4 14:59 Mon, Jul 20 Chapter 774 Calm Before The Storm Valessa sighed. "If your grandfather came north, it's definitely for your grandmother." Elowen looked at her sideways. "The anniversary of your grandmother, Ulana Ogu's death, is fast approaching." Speaking of Nordia's final Oracle, Valessa couldn't help but sigh in admiration. "Your grandmother was an incredibly charismatic woman.

Everyone who met her instantly fell in love with her." Curious, Elowen asked, "So how did she die?" Valessa was just about to answer when a knock echoed from the doors. Knock. Knock. Knock. Three perfectly spaced, measured knocks-clearly the mark of someone highly trained. Valessa's brows knitted together. "What is it?" The voice from outside answered, "Forgive the interruption, Your Highness. Archduke Malko is here." Valessa froze. Elowen threw her a sidelong glance, her eyes laced with a silent question. Valessa shot her a look and whispered, "Archduke Malkor of House Harrow.

He's their head honcho. Every Harrow crony in the royal court dances to his tune." Her eyes narrowed. "He's always picking fights with my brother in the royal court, completely disrespecting the King. Hearing that Zachary is drafting consorts, he's probably here to stir the pot. But given his immense status, even my brother has to play nice with him, so I can't exactly kick him out." Elowen shrugged. "Take it as it comes. Cross the bridge when we get to it." Valessa smiled in agreement. "Some of your Avenloran idioms are dead-on." She stood up from the padded chair, smoothing out her sleeves.

"Wait here in the hall for now." Looking Elowen dead in the eye, Valessa hit her with the hard truth. "That face of yours is way 244 14:59 Mon, Jul 20 Chapter 774 Calm Before The Storm too eye-catching. Eventually, you'll be meeting everyone alongside Cassian. Parading ar now is just asking for a death wish." Elowen nodded. "Stay put. My personal lady-in-waiting, Maeve, is right outside. I'll tell her to look after yo She's my most trusted confidante." Elowen nodded again. Valessa was just about to leave when she thought of something else, spinning back around marching right up to Elowen.

Elowen tilted her head up. Valessa grabbed her hands, dropping her voice to a soft, vulnerable whisper. "I'm genuinely happy you made it to Nordia." Elowen looked at her, her lips curving into a smirk. "I'm gonna find Flowira and make you happier." Valessa burst into laughter. She was already beautiful, but laughing made her absolutely radiant. "I'm off." She squeezed Elowen's fingers and turned to strut out the door. Pulling the doors open, she exchanged a few hushed words in Nordan with whoever was outside.

They spoke way too fast, and with the distance, Elowen's rusty Nordan couldn't catch exactly what they were saying. But she perfectly understood the final sentence. Valessa ordered,

"Alright, whatever she says, goes." With that, Valessa led her entourage away, their footsteps fading down the hall. A moment later, someone knocked on the doors. "Come in," Elowen called out. A woman walked in. Her features were incredibly plain. She had a slightly sallow complexion, average brows, and 2 14:59 Mon, Jul 20 Chapter 774 Calm Before The Storm Fir ordinary eyes.

Her hair was pulled back flawlessly into a tight bun, secured with a single sil hairpin. Her appearance was so completely forgettable that if you tossed her into a crowd, you'd ne spot her again. However, her footsteps were remarkably steady. Back straight as an arrow, shoulders squar and hands folded perfectly in front of her-she carried herself with the ultimate dignity an poise. Marching right up to Elowen, she placed her right hand over her heart and gave a slight, for Nordian bow.

"Greetings, Miss Dray."

Chapter 775 A Veil Of Secrecy Finished She didn't speak Nordian , but flawless Avenloran . " I am Maeve , Princess Royal Valessa's personal lady - in- waiting . I will be serving you from now on , Miss Dray . " Elowen nodded . " Alright . " " The Princess Royal resides at her own manor in Kingsport . We will need to leave the palace first . " With that , she pulled something from her sleeve and offered it to Elowen with both hands . It was a veil , pale as moonlight . Elowen took it , lowering her eyes to see Maeve holding a second veil in her hands . " Why are there two ? " Elowen asked .

Maeve replied steadily , " You are remarkably beautiful , Miss Dray . If you were to walk freely through the palace , people would undoubtedly remember your face and draw unwanted attention

. Covering your features is the safest approach . Naturally , if you were the only one wearing a veil , it would look highly suspicious . " Therefore , everyone in the Princess Royal's entourage must be veiled . When Her Highness leaves shortly , she will tell Archduke Malkor directly that one of her maids caught a nasty cold and passed it to her , leaving her feeling dizzy .

She has already sent the sick maid away but suspects the rest of her staff might the next few days . " be infected , hence the veils f We were in the dead of winter , so catching a severe chill was perfectly common . It was a flawless excuse . Never stingy with praise , Elowen said sincerely , " You're incredibly meticulous . " Maeve bowed slightly . " You flatter me , Miss Dray . " She paused for a second before adding , " We will wait here for a moment . Her Highness is timing her departure .

When she moves , we will head out and rendezvous with her at the gates . " Elowen asked , " Was this your idea ? " " Yes , " Maeve replied . Elowen looked at her , silently re - evaluating the woman standing before her . ¶ To be this sharp , thorough , and completely airtight in her planning - she was a rare talent . If only I could snatch her up for my Silverloom Exchange , Elowen thought . Unfortunately , Maeve belonged to Valessa . She probably had zero desire to leave Nordia and follow Elowen to Avenlor . And even if she did , Avenlor was a viper's nest for Elowen and Cassian right now .

It was far too dangerous . 12:16 pm P PPP Chapter 775A - Veil Of Secrecy Thinking of this , Elowen let out a silent sigh . Maeve had no idea what was going through Elowen's head . Fitsber She only knew she was plain . Since she was little , no one had ever praised her looks - her nose , her eyes . her lips , nothing about her was attractive . Catching Elowen's subtle reaction , she assumed this Miss Dray also thought she was ugly . Unable to speak up , she lowered her head in

quiet disappointment . About fifteen minutes later . Maeve stirred . " Miss Dray , it's about time . We should go .

" " Alright ." Elowen stood up and fastened the veil . The sheer fabric covered most of her face , leaving only her eyes visible . Maeve secured her own veil , walked to the doors , cracked them open to peek outside , and then stepped back , gesturing politely . " After you . " Elowen crossed the threshold and stepped out of the side hall . Maeve led the way , with Elowen following closely behind . They passed through two palace gates and navigated a few corners without drawing a single glance . Soon , the main palace gates were right in front of them .

A massive , luxurious carriage sat parked in the open plaza outside . Valessa stood by the carriage , surrounded by a few attendants and ladies - in - waiting . Every single one of them was veiled , exposing only their eyes - just like Elowen and Maeve . Right then , Elowen spotted a familiar silhouette out of the corner of her eye . Frowning , she sped up and whispered , " Maeve ." " The Commander of the Iron Guard , Darius . I ran into him at the inn , and he's standing right at the gates . He might recognize me . " Maeve didn't so much as blink .

Keeping her pace steady and her eyes dead ahead , she didn't panic She simply murmured , " Understood . I'll handle it . " Elowen was genuinely eager to see how the maid would talk her way out of this one . The two of them kept walking toward the gates . The distance closed rapidly . 12:16 pm P P P P Chapter 775 Veil Of Secrecy Since Valessa frequented the palace and Maeve was always by frer side , the guards knew her well . An Iron Guard quickly recognized her and called out cheerfully in Nordan , " Heading out . Maeve ? " Maeve tilted her head slightly , replying in Nordan , " Yes .

Her Highness is waiting right outside , isn't she ? " The guard chuckled , shifting his gaze from Maeve to quickly scan Elowen , but he didn't pry . The two women were just about to step through the gates . Suddenly , Darius spoke up . " Hold on . " His eyes locked onto Elowen for a long , heavy moment . He scrutinized her from the top of her head to her shoulders , down to her waist , and finally to the hem of her skirt . " This girl looks familiar . Judging by her clothes , she doesn't seem to be a lady - in - waiting or a maid from the Princess Royal's manor .

" Maeve turned to look at him , her expression completely serene . " She's one of today's consorts . " Darius kept staring . " If she's a consort , shouldn't she be with the Prince ? Why is she following the Princess Royal ? " Maeve shot back , " Have you met her before , Commander ? " Flashing back to that night - that breathtaking silhouette behind the screen - Darius's chest inexplicably burned . 17.9K Γ 12:16 pm P P P P Awakening Love : Reborn to Be His Duchess

Awakening Love : Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 776 Intercepted Information His Adam's apple bebbled as he mumbled , " ... I have . " Finishe Maeve's lips curled up beneath her veil . " For you to remember her so clearly , Commander ... have you taken a liking to her ? " Darius flinched violently , snapping his gaze away from Elowen . " No ... " Maeve nodded , her smile fading into something much cooler . " Good ." Turning away from him , she adopted a strictly professional tone . " We're leaving . We shouldn't keep Her Highness waiting .

" Without giving Darius another second to argue , she led Elowen straight out the palace gates . Walking behind her , Elowen's eyes sparkled with utter admiration . To shut down a crisis that cleanly and smoothly - she really was an absolute gem . I really want to steal her away ... Once through the gates , they reached Valessa's carriage . Seeing them , Valessa had already boarded .

Maeve stepped aside , allowing Elowen to use the footstool to climb in and take the seat opposite the Princess Royal . Maeve lowered the carriage blinds . The carriage slowly rumbled away .

Darius stood frozen in place , his eyes glued to that graceful silhouette . Even though she wore a veil today , her figure , her posture , and especially those eyes were identical to the ones burned into his memory . Ever since they parted ways at the inn , she had haunted his dreams almost every single night . He was always chasing her . She was like a ray of pure moonlight slipping through the clouds , or a strip of silk plummeting from a high tower . He would reach out desperately to catch her , only to grasp empty air . Every time he woke up , his nightclothes would be drenched in sweat .

' Commander . " A subordinate sidled up to him , following his gaze toward the departing carriage . " Commander , didn't that look like Miss Dray from the other night ? " Darius shot him a sideways glance . 12:16 pm PPPP Chapter 776 intercepted Information The subordinate sighed in awe . " She's seriously gorgeous . Even with a veil on , you can just tell she's a knockout . When I saw her at the inn , I totally thought the Prince would fall head over heels for her . Look like it's not just the Princ even the Princess Royal took a liking to her .

" A sudden realization hit Darius like a bolt of lightning . His pupils shrank as his expression turned ice - col " Wait ... " The subordinate was confused . " Wait , what ? " Ignoring the question , Darius barked urgently , " I need to see the Master . Keep watching the gates ! " Without waiting for further questions , he sprinted off . The guards exchanged bewildered looks , clueless as to what had just happened . But Darius knew . His Master had ordered him to keep a strict eye out for any exceptionally beautiful women .

At the time , he had been too blinded by her looks to think straight . Now that he really thought about it - the Prince falling for her and taking her as a consort was perfectly normal . But today , this Miss Dray had been personally escorted away by the Princess Royal . For a mere consort to command such heavy attention from both the Prince and the Princess Royal ... her true identity had to be extraordinary . He had to report this to his Master immediately . Inside the carriage . Leaning against the wall , Elowen lifted a corner of the blind to peek outside .

She saw Darius sprinting away in a frantic rush . Elowen chuckled . " See ? I told you there was something off about him . He's probably running off to report us right now . " Valessa saw it too and scoffed . " He was handpicked by Archduke Malkor , so naturally , he's fiercely loyal to him . I bet you anything he's rushing to the Archduke's manor to squeal . " Elowen looked at her . " He works for the Archduke ? " " Most likely , " Valessa said . Bringing up Archduke Malkor visibly annoyed Valessa . " You have no idea .

Back in the palace , he wouldn't shut up about Avenlor's Duchess of Dusknor . He kept pestering me about when you'd arrive . He even subtly fished to see if I knew anything about the late Oracle Ulana having any descendants . I barely gave him the time of day and just brushed him off . " 12:16 pm P P P P Chapter 776 intercepted Information Elowen understood perfectly . " They're hunting for me . Valessa nodded .

" Exactly She paused for a second before adding , " But as long as you stay glued to my side , you'll be perfectly safe " And I already had someone quietly escort your servant back to my manor . You'll see him as soon as we arrive . " You two can just lay low at my place . Once your Cassian gets here , you can drop the act , reclaim your title as the Lady of Grace and Virtue , and enter the palace with him . "

Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 777 A Gilded Cage The Princess Royale manor wasn't far from the palace . In no time at all , the carriage rolled to a stop . Maeve lifted the blinds and reached out to help Elower . Stepping down the footstool , Elowen found her footing and looked up . The manor was much larger - and much quieter - than she had expected . The massive crimson gates were studded with bronze rivets the size of bowls , every single one polished to a mirror shine .

Inside , a wide , bluestone - paved pathway stretched straight into the heart of the estate , flanked by towering , thick walls . "Come on , let's head inside . I'll give you a quick tour of my place ." Valessa guided Elowen through the gates . While walking , Elowen wasn't paying much attention to the architecture . Instead , she asked curiously " What kind of man is Archduke Malkor ? " Valessa's eyebrow twitched as a look of utter disgust crossed her face . " A massive , lecherous pig " Elowen looked at her . " Lecherous ? " " Malkor took his twelfth concubine last month .

She's six months younger than his eldest son . He's been spending all his time in her room lately , and rumor has it she's already pregnant. " Elowen's eyes widened in shock . Okay , that really is massively lecherous . " A couple of years ago , he set his sights on a maid serving in the royal palace and wanted to marry her . She refused , saying she already had a husband and wouldn't betray him . Malkor threw a massive tantrum , Not only did he have her brutally whipped , but he also threw her into the Crimson Lantern " The Crimson Lantern ? " Elowen repeated the name out loud .

A line from an old poem flashed through Elowen's mind : Oh , Crimson Lantern , do the innocent girls of yesteryear still weep within your walls ? Stirred by the thought , she asked , " A

brothel Valessa nodded , " Yes , a brothel . House Harrow built it from the ground up back when they helil jbe Nordian throne . It was made strictly for nobles and warlords in drink and play . The Crimson Intern rakes in mountains of gold every year . You could easily say it bankrolls a massive chunk of Nordias military spending right now . She paused for a beat .

So speaking purely as a woman , I despise the place But as the Princesa Boyll and the King's own sister . I hate ter turn a blind eye . Chapter Gilded Cage Elowen stayed silent . She understood exactly what Valessa meant Places like that were practically institutions . For those in power , the benefits were astronomical . It was a literal gold mine, a bottomless well for military funds , and the perfect smokescreen for countless backroom deals that could never see the light of day . In Valessa's position , she couldn't make decisions based purely on her own moral compass .

She hard to weigh the pros and cons , calculate the gains and losses , and dig for the least terrible outcome while stuck between a rock and a hard place . That was the ugly price of power . But for the poor girls dragged into the Crimson Lantern and forced to sell their bodies , the place was a crushing , inescapable hell . Take the maid Valessa just mentioned - she had a husband , yet she was still violently thrown to the wolves Who knew how she was doing now ? Was she still suffering day in and day out in that place , or had she already been tortured beyond recognition ?

No one knew , and no one cared . That was exactly why , back in the day , Elowen had unhesitatingly tore down Stargazer Pavilion and dragged Scarlet back to her manor . She simply had too soft a heart . As they talked , they arrived at a private courtyard . Feeling the topic had gotten far too heavy , Valessa swiftly shifted gears . This courtyard is right next to y main

quarters . It's just a few steps away . If you need anything at all , just pop over and find me ." She pointed in the direction of the main quarters . Elowen nodded . " Alright , I'll keep that in mind .

" Stepping into the courtyard , Valessa suddenly remembered something . " Oh right , didn't you mention you came here looking for someone ? " " Yeah . My servant's wife , Elowen replied . " It's a promise I made to him . I told him I'd help him and her and I don't break my promises . "

Valessa looked curious . " His wife ? What's her name , and where does she work ? Before Elowen could answer , rapid footsteps approached from outside the courtyard Thomas walked in .

led by a matron , He had changed into clean clothes- dark gray linen robe cinched with a black belt . He was really Chapter 777 Gilded Cogn tied back into a high tail . The exhaustion and grime from their long journey had been scrubbed away, revealing a strikingly handsome face , complete with cold eyes and a tight , sharp jawline . Stepping into the yard , Thomas stood tall . Valessa's eyes swept over him . Her gaze was cold and dismissive , like she was looking at a particularly annoying piece of trash . "You're here looking for your wife ? " " Yes , " Thomas replied . " What's her name ?

" Valessa asked . " Samantha . " " How many years has she been in Kingsport? " " Two years . "

" Where does she work ? " Thomas froze . His Adam's apple bobbed twice as his voice dropped .

" ... I don't know . " Valessa stared at him . " You know absolutely nothing , yet you claim she's your wife ? " 17.9K 019 16 pm ppp . Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess AdminJZ

Chapter 778 A Secret Letter Thomas clenched his jaw tightly . " In the letters she sent home , she only said she was in Kingsport . She told us not to worry and that she'd send money back . "

Valessa's lips curled into an icy , mocking sneer . " A grown man , sitting around letting his wife

earn money for him to spend . You really have no shame , do you ? " Thomas's handsome face instantly drained of color . Standing off to the side , Elowen didn't step in to defend him . They were on Valessa's turf , and they needed her help to find Samantha.

If Elowen spoke up for Thomas now , she'd be publicly slapping the Princess Royal in the face, making herself look like an ungrateful brat . Already in a bad mood , Valessa felt an inexplicable surge of irritation . " And that face of yours ... honestly just looking at you pisses me off . If you weren't Miss Dray's servant . I wouldn't even bother with you . Get out of my sight . When we find your wife , I'll have someone notify you . " Thomas looked up at her briefly . " Thank you , Your Highness . " Valessa waved him off , completely ignoring him .

Thomas turned to Elowen and bowed respectfully . Elowen gave a slight nod . " You may go . " Thomas straightened up and walked away . Once he disappeared through the gates , Elowen finally asked , " You really don't like him , do you ? " Valessa didn't sugarcoat it . " I despise his face . " hands Elowen thought about it for a second . Maybe Valessa just hates handsome men ? " Still , the girl is innocent . " Valessa slipped back into her lazy , lounging posture . " Since she said she's in Kingsport , she's probably working for a wealthy family .

I'll start by interrogating my own staff , and then check the oder jury se by one . We'll find her eventually . " Elowen turned to her with absolute sincerity . " Thank you so much , Your Highness Just then , a flurry of hurried footsteps echoed from the entrance . walked into the yard , clutching a lil envelope the lever with both Jrand's A Lady - in waiting dressed in gray robes pos Marching right up to Valessa , the woran dropped to one Rore and presen raised above her head . 12:16 pmp pp . Chapter 718 Secret Letter Your Highness , a letter from the Duke of Duskmoor .

" Valessa's expression instantly sharpened as she looked down at it . The lady - in - waiting added , " It was delivered entirely in secret, completely bypassing the eyes and ears of Kingsport , The second Elowen heard " Duke of Duskmour , " her chest flared with heat , and her eyes locked onto the letter . Valessa took the envelope , tore it open , and skimmed it . A playful , teasing smirk tugged at her lips as she handed the letter over . " It's for you . " Elowen blinked in surprise . Snatching the letter , her heart began to race .

The paper was premium paper , perfectly smooth - the exact kind they had brought all the way from Avenlor , and the standard stock used in their manor . Elowen recognized it instantly . The handwriting was bold , sharp , and powerful . It was undeniably Cassian's . The message was short , sweet , and straight to the point . " Guessed you're at the Princess Royal's . Arriving tomorrow morning . Wait for me . " Reading those words , Elowen's heart melted into a puddle . Her eyes stung fiercely , and she actually felt the sudden urge to cry . " Arriving tomorrow morning . Wait for me .

" She read those seven words over and over again . Ever since sneaking into Kingsport , Elowen had temporarily lost contact with Anson . She had literally just been racking her brain trying to figure out how to smuggle a message to Cassian to let him know she was hiding at Valessa's . She never expected that before she even lifted a finger , Cassian had already figured it out That was the silent , unbreakable bond between husband and wife . Staring at the letter , Elowen realized in that exact moment just how desperately insanely much she wanted to see her Cassian .

Standing beside her , Valessa teased , " The grand and mighty Duke of Dinkroosely strong Elowen for our a soft laugh . Carefully folding the paper and nipping at his smile , " The grand and mighty Princess Royal suddenly bitter Valessa glared for a second , but instead of getting mad ,

the burst out laughing 12:16 pm P PP ppp . Chapter 778 A Secret Lotter Meanwhile After leaving the palace , Darius rushed straight to see his Master . When he arrived , the main room was completely empty .

The maid stationed at the door murmured softly , " The Master is admiring the winter roses in the courtyard ." Darius immediately tracked him down . Despite the freezing weather , the winter roses were in full , magnificent bloom . Wrapped in a snow - white fox fur cloak , the man was strolling lazily through the garden. Branches heavy with vibrant red blossoms framed him perfectly , making his already striking features look dangerously , devastatingly beautiful . Yet he looked completely bored , as if nothing in the world could spark his interest . " Master . "

Darius hurried over .

The man threw him a flat , indifferent glance . " Aren't you supposed to be on duty at the palace today ?" Darius kept his eyes glued to the floor . " I have urgent news that requires your immediate attention The man pulled his gaze away . " Then speak ." Trailing behind him , Darius recounted everything he had seen outside the palace gates . He finished with a heavy confession .

" I strongly suspect that the consort is Avenlor's Lady of Grace and Virtue .

During the ambush , she was separated from the Duke's convoy and washed up in Willow Rider where she disguised herself as a consort to travel north . It is my sheer incompetence that we missed the perfect opportunity to capture her . " A spark of genuine interest finally flared in the man's eyes . He glanced sideways at Darms and asked " What is this consort's name ? " " She said her surname is Dray , Darius replied . "Molly Dray " AdminJZ

Chapter 779 The Trap Is Set " Molly Dray . " The man paused , switching to Avenloran to repeat the name . " Molly Dray . " He repeated it , this time rolling the last name on his tongue . " Dray . " Suddenly , the realization hit him . In a flash , his bored demeanor vanished , his entire face coming alive . It was like a long - frozen lake violently cracking open to reveal something boiling and scorching hot underneath . Darius didn't understand Avenloran politics , completely lost on what that meant . The man was in a stellar mood , entirely willing to connect the dots for him .

" You wouldn't get it . After all , you don't know the military structure of Avenlor . " He paused , his smirk deepening . " General Samuel Dray is one of the most fiercely loyal bannermen to Cassian , the Duke of Duskmoor . " Darius's brows furrowed , still clueless . Looking at his confused face , the man let out a soft chuckle . It wasn't loud - just a low , dark rumble , like distant thunder rolling through the night . " A breathtaking Avenloran beauty traveling north , using the Dray name as a cover , and now receiving the personal , heavily armed protection of the Princess Royal ...

" The man's eyes gleamed with dark , predatory amusement . " Darius , you absolute fool .

General 11:47 Thu , Jul 23 Chapter 779 The Trap Is Set The man stared down at him from above . " I realized the truth far too late . By the time I connected the dots , the Duchess was already safely inside the Princess Royal's manor . That place is an absolute fortress ; my men can't break in . The Duke is arriving tomorrow . The Duchess is cautious , and Valessa is just as paranoid . They won't step out blindly ... " What he meant was : their plan had completely gone up in smoke .

They had been played like absolute fools by a Duchess who didn't even know martial arts . And Darius felt the sting the most - he had actually entertained some highly inappropriate fantasies about her . His chest was a tangled mess of frustration , deep regret , and an incredibly faint trace

of sorr Why he felt sorrow , even he couldn't explain . Right then , a low chuckle drifted down from above . Darius looked up to see his Master smiling . " Who says they won't leave the manor ? " For example , if they got wind of some news they couldn't ignore ...

they'd have no choice but come out and take a look . " Darius considered this . " You mean ... " The man spoke slowly , radiating absolute confidence . " I hear Princess Flowira practically worships the late Oracle Ulana . When she found out the Oracle's only living bloodline was in Avenlor , she was the one pulling the strings behind the peace treaty . " Hearing the word " Oracle , " Darius's heart sank even further into the abyss . The woman he had lusted after wasn't just Avenlor's Duchess - she was Nordia's Oracle . No wonder she had felt so agonizingly out of reach in his dreams ...

The man continued smoothly , " When Princess Flowira was in Avenlor , she grew incredibly close to the Duchess . Even though she stayed at the inn , she frequently sneaked into the Duke's manor late at night for secret meetings with her . " Right now , Princess Flowira has been missing for quite some time . Valessa knows she vanished , and the second she meets the Duchess , she'll definitely spill the beans . " At this point , the man actually looked at Darius with intense amusement . " Tell me ... don't you think we're holding all the right cards now ?

" 11:47 Thu , Jul 23 Chapter 779 The Trap Is Set Darius was still reeling from the revelation of the Duchess and the Oracle , taking a second process the question . The man didn't mind his sluggishness and simply smiled . " Whether it's Valessa or the Duch if they get a tip about Flowira's whereabouts and hear she's suffering , there's absolutely no w they'll just sit still . " My intel says the Duke is arriving in Kingsport tomorrow . " Staring dead into Darius's eyes , he

delivered the final verdict . " If we want to capture the Ora tonight is our one and only window .
Do you understand ?

" Without a second thought , Darius bowed so deeply his forehead smashed against the blue stone floor with a heavy , sickening thud . " I understand . I will see to it immediately . " At the Princess Royal's manor . After chatting with Elowen for a bit , Valessa went off to handle her own business . Bored out of her mind , Elowen sat in the courtyard , flipping Cassian's letter over and over again . This stroke was rushed , but this one is steady ...

he must have calmed down by the time he wrote this part She could vividly picture him writing it - his handsome face tense with focus , before scanning the finished note and letting a faint smirk tug at his lips . Arriving tomorrow morning . Wait for me . Elowen smiled , pressing the paper to her nose and taking a deep breath . There was a faint scent of ink , mixed with the unmistakable , subtle scent of Cassian . It was the exact smell that always wrapped around her the second she threw herself into his arms . She sighed . Lord , I miss him so much .

Caught in a rare moment of melancholy , she turned her head to gaze out the window . The sky had already turned pitch black , and the lanterns in the courtyard flickered to life . Standing under the covered walkway , Maeve was whispering instructions to a maid .

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AdminJZ

Chapter 780 Drawing The Viper 31 Finished Elowen was just about to call Maeve in when a flurry of hurried footsteps echoed from outside the courtyard , sounding frantic and heavy - definitely out of the ordinary . Elowen's brows knit together . She placed the hairpin she had

been toying with back onto the vanity and stood up . Maeve clearly heard the commotion too .

Stopping her conversation with the maid , she tilted her head to gauge the direction of the sound , then took two steps toward the gate , perfectly intercepting a rushing servant .

The maid was panting heavily , her cheeks flushed and a thin layer of sweat dotting her forehead . Stopping in front of Maeve , she offered a quick curtsy before rattling off a string of rapid

Nordian . She spoke so fast and breathlessly that Elowen only caught a handful of words .

Princess . Flowira . She mentioned some sort of news and another word that Elowen barely made out - it sounded like Peak . Hearing the report , Maeve's expression shifted . She hurried into the room and stopped before Elowen . " Miss Dray , the Princess Royal has received news regarding Princess Flowira .

She was reportedly spotted at Oracle Peak south of the city , and Her Highness has decided to take her guards to investigate . " Elowen frowned . She knew some shady setup was unfolding .

Elowen asked first , " What kind of place is Oracle Peak ? " Maeve answered honestly , " It used to be the ancestral home of the Oracle Ogu bloodline . Historically , every Nordian King would ascend the peak to perform divine rites . After the Oracle left Nordia , the summit altar was completely abandoned . The foot of the mountain slowly devolved into a mass grave . " Elowen's frown deepened .

" Something's not right . " 11:47 Thu , Jul 23 Chapter 780 Drawing The Viper Maeve looked up .

" What seems off to you , Miss Dray ? " Instead of explaining , Elowen simply ordered , " Take me to the Princess Royal . " Without prying , Maeve stepped aside and led the way . Finished

The Princess Royal's main courtyard was blazing with light , dozens of lanterns illuminating the

space as brightly as day . Standing in the center of the yard , Valessa had already changed into a sleek riding outfit . A leather belt cinched her waist , with a short blade hanging at her hip .

Her hair was tied high and secured with a silver hairpin , exposing the sharp , striking lines of her face . Before her stood over twenty elite manor guards , all clad in pitch - black armor with curved blades at their waists . Valessa was giving low - voiced instructions to a fully armored captain . Seeing Elowen approach , she looked surprised . " What are you doing here ? "

Stopping a short distance away , Elowen said , " Your Highness , a word in private . " Valessa stared at her for a moment before giving a nod . Elowen followed her straight into the main hall .

Without bothering to sit , Elowen cut right to the chase . " I just met with you , and Darius is already suspicious of my identity . Right on cue , news about Flowira suddenly drops . This whole thing reeks of a setup . Especially considering the location is a place like Oracle Peak . " Valessa sighed in sheer frustration . " I suspect this is Archduke Malkor's trap too . But we really did receive Flowira's personal medicine pouch . I gave it to her when she was eight , and she hasn't taken it off for a single second since . If she's out there , I can't just sit back and do nothing .

" Elowen countered , " I just think the Archduke's target isn't you , and it isn't Flowira . It's me . " Valessa's pupils contracted slightly as realization finally hit her . " Which means , if I leave the manor with my guards right now , they'll likely strike here for you . Since I'll be taking a large chunk of the manor's elite forces , our defenses will be wide open , practically inviting them to waltz right in . " She paused , her eyes locking onto Elowen's face with absolute , iron - clad resolve . " Oracle , you need to ride with us . " Elowen blinked in surprise .

11:47 Thu , Jul 23 Chapter 780 Drawing The Viper Well , someone just smoothly upgraded my title . Finished But now wasn't the time to nitpick over titles ; surviving the night was the only priority . Elowen said , " I bet they've prepared for both scenarios . Whether I stay here or ride with you to Oracle Peak , the end result will likely be the same ." Valessa gritted her teeth . " So you're saying we shouldn't go ? " Elowen shook her head . " No. This is the first concrete lead on Flowira since she vanished . If we don't go , neither of us will get a wink of sleep ." Valessa stared at her .

" The reason I'm telling you this is because I'm going with you . " Valessa froze . Elowen continued , " But before we do , we need to lay down an escape route . " " Escape route ? " " Exactly . An escape route . Once we have a safety net , whatever trap they've rigged can be torn to shreds . " Elowen's voice was calm and steady . " Your Highness , we're making a quick detour out of the city first . " Valessa didn't hesitate for a second . " Alright , you lead the way . " The two returned to the courtyard . The captain dropped to one knee , waiting for his orders .

While Valessa issued her commands , Maeve fetched a dark , heavy cloak for Elowen . " Kingsport nights are freezing . This will keep you warm and prevent you from catching a chill . " Elowen thanked her , taking the cloak and wrapping it tightly around herself . AdminJZ