

Awakening Love: Reborn to Be His Duchess Novel

Chapter 781 A Storm Is Coming Stepping out of the main courtyard , servants had already brought out the horses . Finished Valessa swung onto her saddle with crisp , agile grace . Looking down from her mount , she asked Elowen , " Do you know how to ride ? " " I do . " Elowen nodded , gently stroking - the horse's mane . The stallion gave a soft snort , and Elowen praised it . " Good boy . " With that , she hoisted herself smoothly onto the saddle , her movements clean and completely devoid of hesitation .

Watching her , Valessa felt a massive wave of pleasant surprise and admiration wash over her . She couldn't help but think , If I were a man . Cassian wouldn't even stand a chance . Elowen told her , " You wouldn't know this , but when I was little , I absolutely loved riding , and I was actually pretty good at it . " Valessa gave her a long , meaningful look , a smirk pulling at her lips . " Once we bring Flowira home , let's go riding on the steppes together . " Elowen agreed happily . " It's a date . But for now , let's go bring Flowira home .

" With no time to lose , the two women dug their heels into their horses ' flanks and took off . Behind them , twenty - plus elite guards fell into formation . The squad tore straight out of Kingsport . The thunderous clatter of hooves echoed through the long streets . sharp and dense , like a sudden , violent downpour in the dead of winter . Outside the city , at the Shrine of the Oracle . Noah stood inside the shrine , his hands hanging loosely by his sides as he stared silently at the weathered , peeling statue of the Oracle . It looked like her , yet it didn't quite capture her essence .

Maya whispered , " Doctor Wren ... do you truly worship the Oracle ? " Noah offered a faint smile . " It's not worship . It's love . " Maya froze in surprise Just as she was about to ask more ,

Noah suddenly hushed her , " Shh . " Maya instantly clamped her mouth shut Noah's ears twitched , listening intently 24 0000 193 781 A Storm Is Coming Unsure , he stepped out of the shrine . The Nordian plains were vast , and with nobody around for miles , he picked up the faint , muffled thunder of galloping hooves . Dozens of horses , at least .

And by the sound of it , they were charging straight south . Toward Oracle Peak . Hearing the stampede , a deep sense of dread pooled in Noah's stomach . He listened for a long time , only returning inside when the sound completely faded . Unable to shake her anxiety , Maya asked him , " Doctor Wren , is something wrong ? " Noah told her , " A squad of cavalry just rode out of Kingsport . " Maya instantly tensed up in pure panic . " Are ... are they the royal guards? Are they coming for me ?! " Noah shook his head . " The Prince's consort selection ended today .

They have zero reason to chase you down now . You and your fiancé are completely safe . " Maya let out a massive sigh of relief , her rigid shoulders dropping in exhaustion . But the tight knot between Noah's brows didn't loosen for a second . Because his gut was screaming that something was wrong . 9 Almost every time Noah felt this kind of dread, it meant something monumental was about to happen- and it was never anything good . The last time he felt this terrified was years ago .

He had been seeing a patient up in Willow Ridge when a sudden , suffocating panic hit him so hard he nearly blacked out . Not long after , he received the news : his daughter was dead . That tragedy completely destroyed him . He barely survived the grief . On top of that , in his early years , he had treated himself as a human guinea pig to push the boundaries of medicine . Countless needles and toxic remedies had left his body permanently damaged .

Over the years , his health had been hollowed out , like an old tree eaten away by termites - standing tall on the outside , but completely rotting on the inside . When the news of his daughter's death broke , the mental collapse was so utterly devastating that his brain seemingly shut down to protect itself . He completely lost his memory for several years , his mind violently split in two . Half of him clung to the warm past where his daughter was still alive , while the other half was banished to a freezing , empty void .

For years , he had stayed in Willow Ridge , healing the sick and saving lives . It wasn't until the first half of last year that his memories slowly began to return . 24 111 O Chapter 781 A Storm is Coming He remembered that he had once governed the twelve provinces of the Southwest , ruling as the absolute , uncrowned king of Avenlor's southwestern border . He remembered his unforgettable romance with Nordia's Oracle , Ulana . They had a daughter together , who fell in love with an Avenloran general named Hale and became his wife .

Because he couldn't bear to break his daughter's heart , he gave up the empire he had spent half his life building , handing over the twelve southwestern provinces to Avenlor on a silver platter . Later , he was blessed with a grandson and a granddaughter . Especially that granddaughter - so tiny and soft , feeling like a little kitten when he held her in his arms . Noah adored her more than anything in the world . She loved riding , so he gifted her the finest stallions and tack the world had to offer . For her birthdays , he gifted her entire sweeping landscapes , mountains , and rivers .

As a master physician , his personal seal used to just be the twinleaf herb representing his chosen name . But later , he carved a brand new seal , preserving the tiny fingerprint his granddaughter had accidentally left on it . His wife , his daughter , his granddaughter - they were the most

important people in his entire life , and he was willing to sacrifice absolutely anything for them .

The first time he felt this gut - wrenching dread , he soon learned of his wife's death . 18.9K

AdminJZ

Chapter 782 A Foreboding Dread He traveled north alone , collected his wife's body , and buried her on Oracle Peak . The second time he felt that dread , he was in Willow Ridge , and he received the news of his daughter's death . And now ... what was it this time ? Was it Ella ? Noah took a deep , shaky breath , letting it out slowly . The northern wind was brutal . Breathing it in felt like swallowing a fistful of crushed ice . He couldn't afford to wait . He'd rather act on a false alarm than regret ignoring it . Turning to Maya , he said , " Maya . " Maya looked up .

Noah instructed her firmly , " I have to leave . Listen to me carefully . Your fiancé is out of danger . For the next few days , you can stay and recover right here in the shrine . The Oracle is merciful and generous ; she will grant you sanctuary . Once his fever breaks completely , you can head back to Willow Ridge . Or , if you don't want to go back , find a place you like and settle down . If you truly have nowhere to go , head further south . Go to Falkriver in the Southwest . Take these medicine bottles and find the Wynne family . They will take care of you .

With that , he handed her several medicine bottles . Maya took them , but her mind was spinning in total confusion . " Wynne ... why would they take care of us ? And... Doctor Wren , where are you going ? " Noah didn't bother elaborating . He simply stated , " I'm going to pay my respects to my wife . Before leaving , he handed Maya a purse heavy with silver coins . Maya froze in shock , frantically trying to shove it back . " This is way too much . Doctor Wren , we can't accept this ... " " Take it , " Noah insisted gently . True love is incredibly rare in this world .

The two of you need to cherish each other . As for me , once I find my granddaughter . I'm sure her husband won't let me starve ." Maya's eyes welled up with tears , and she nodded vigorously . Having settled everything , Noah felt a slight weight off his chest . He turned and strode out the door , The moonlight spilled over him casting a brilliant silver glow onto his graying hair . Meanwhile Chapter 782 A Foreboding Dread Finis Darius reported the latest developments . " The intel regarding Princess Flowira's appearance at Oracle Peak has successfully reached the Princess Royal's manor .

Our scouts confirm Valessa has already mobilized her guards . She is riding out with an incredibly beautiful woman . It is almost certain that this woman is Avenlor's Lady of Grace and Virtue . " The man's lips curled into a smirk . " I heard the Duchess used to be quite the equestrian , though she hasn't ridden much in recent years . To think she hasn't lost her touch . " Darius hesitated , a flicker of deep concern in his eyes . " However ... before heading to Oracle Peak , they took a detour out of the city to the inn where the Duchess previously stayed .

I don't yet know what business she conducted there . " Instead of being worried , the man's interest only peaked . It was like playing chess and suddenly seeing his opponent make a brilliant , completely unexpected move , earning his genuine appreciation . " Since Cassian can't speed up his march north , the moment the Lady vanished, he must have ordered a massive search . He also undoubtedly dispatched phantom guards to protect her in secret . The Lady is meticulous . She likely suspected the Oracle Peak lead was a trap , so she deliberately took a detour to gather more muscle .

" Darius nodded slightly . The man looked up , his gaze locking onto the southern horizon . A massive , pitch - black silhouette of a mountain loomed in the distance , looking exactly like a

giant beast waiting to pounce . His voice dropped into a dangerous growl . " don't let your guard down . Oracle Peak is our absolute last chance to capture her before Cassian arrives . " Three miles out from Oracle Peak , Valessa and Elowen pulled back on their reins . Oracle Peak was towering and far steeper than Elowen had imagined .

From the waist up , the mountain was cloaked in a thin layer of mist , blurring the summit into a hazy shadow . It looked like a faded ancient painting viewed through a veil . Valessa raised her hand , and the convoy behind her halted in total silence . " Send two scouts up . At Valessa's command , two scouts vaulted off their horses with lethal grace and vanished into the shadows in the blink of an eye . While they waited , Elowen stared intently at Oracle Peak .

The night wind carried more than just the scent of dirt and vegetation - it was heavily laced with the thick , sulfurating stench of rotting corpses Flowen frowned slightly , turning her head . "

This place ... " Yeah . It's been To mass grave Sitting on her horse , Valessa rested her hands on the ponunel , her eyes locked on the mountain . 11 , Jul 24 Chapter 782 A Foreboding Dread Finkel 論 " Oracle Peak used to be the most beautiful place in and around Kingsport . For it to turn into this ... House Harrow is a pack of absolute monsters .

" Elowen suddenly asked , " Did my grandmother die because of them ? " Valessa frowned . " By then , your grandmother had already left Kingsport and moved to Falkriver Falkriyer didn't belong to Avenlor yet , and rumor has it she lived an incredibly happy life there . She could have spent the rest of her days in peace , but then House Harrow fell into absolute decadence . Their brutal tyranny brought Nordia to its knees , drowning the country in civil unrest and foreign threats . The people were suffering , and the Oracle couldn't bear to abandon them , so she came back .

" Elowen pieced it together . " So they murdered my grandmother ? " AdminJZ

Awakening the Reborn to P- His Duches Chapter 783 A Crack In The Stone Valessa shook her head . Your grandmother died to save me. " Elowen froze in surprise . Fullyed Valessa continued , " Oracle Peak was the sacred ground where generations of Nordian Kings performed divine rites . But after the Oracle left Nordia , the summit altar was completely abandoned . When House Harrow seized power , they turned this place into a dumping ground for their ' problems ' Anyone who crossed them and vanished ended up here . Year after year , it rotted into the hellhole you see now .

Just then , the scouts returned . Dropping to one knee before Valessa , they delivered a rapid - fire report in Nordin . Elowen caught enough to understand the gist : there was no ambush at the foot of the moutain . Valessa waved them off after hearing the report . Turning back to Elowen , she said , " Looks like they're already up there . " Elowen's eyes traced the winding mountain path . There's only one way up and down Oracle Peak , so they're definitely setting an ambush higher up .

They'll wait for us to climb , then cut off our escape route from behind and crush us in a pincer attack ." She added , " Or they might wait until we're on the path and ambush us from behind . The road is narrow , which means our formation will be stretched thin . If they slice through the middle , our vanguard and rearguard won't be able to back each other up . " It was textbook ambush tactics : lure the enemy in , sever their retreat , encircle , and annihilate . Valessa's lips curled into a smirk . " So, do you dare to go up ? " Elowen tilted her head . " I'm absolutely terrified .

Is it too late to turn around and run ? " Valessa blinked , then burst out laughing . " Yeah , it's too late . " r Turning to face her elite guards , Valessa's voice rang out with absolute authority . " Up the mountain ! " Valessa took the lead on horseback , with Elowen riding right beside her . The twenty - plus guards followed closely , charging up the winding path into the depths of Oracle Peak . At first , the road was wide and flat , but as they climbed higher , it rapidly narrowed , sandwiched between sheer , jagged cliff's .

The horses couldn't go any further , so they had to proceed on foot . Elowen dismounted , stretching her stiff limbs . 11:27 am Chapter 783 Crack In The Stone Finished A muffled rumble of thunder cehoed from the horizori , sounding like something massive dragging across the clouds Valessa looked up at the sky . " It's going to rain . " Elowen hummed in agreement . " Then let's finish this before the sky opens up . Valessa signaled her men to follow . The group of twenty hiked up the winding trail , pushing straight toward the summit of Oracle Peak .

The spot where Flowira had reportedly been seen was at the very peak . The stench of rotting corpses had completely vanished up here . A sprawling palace stood proudly at the summit - the very place where past Nordan Kings communed with the heavens and received the Oracle's blessing . Calling it a palace was a stretch ; it was relatively small , consisting of just three courtyards . But because it sat on the peak with nothing obstructing it , from a distance , it looked exactly like an immortal sanctuary floating above the clouds . Now , however , the palace was completely abandoned .

The Nordan royals hadn't set foot here in ages , completely pulling the plug on maintenance and security . The once - magnificent decorations inside and out had been ruthlessly eroded by the wind and rain , stripped completely beyond recognition . Valessa stopped at the main gates . She

stationed a handful of guards outside , ordering them to fan out and secure the gates and the perimeter walls . Then , she led the rest of her men inside . Elowen followed closely behind . The palace was overgrown with weeds .

Under the freezing , gloomy sky , the vegetation had dried up and withered , exhaling a damp , decaying scent . The halls were dead empty . There were no Harrow goons , and there was no Flewira . The backyard was even more desolate , yet surprisingly , it was immaculately tidy . Dead center in the yard sat a grave . It wasn't massive - just a modest mound of earth . r A stone tablet stood in front of it . It wasn't tall , barely reaching Elowen's waist , but it was polished to an impossibly smooth finish .

Elowen's eyes locked onto the tablet , her feet coming to a complete stop on their own . A single line was carved into the stone , written in both Avenloran and Nordian . 210 11:27 am T Chapter 783 Brack in The Stone The Avendoran script came first , followed by the Nordian translation . Tomb of Ulana Ogu . Oructral Nordia Elowen read it silently to herself . Funched " Ogu is the ancestral surname of the Oracles . Ulana was your grandmother's given name , Valessa said softly , standing right beside her . Elowen couldn't tear her eyes away from the tombstone .

The calligraphy was bold , powerful , and carved deep into the rock , radiating a profound , restrained strength . It looked incredibly familiar . After a moment of thought , she murmured , " This looks a lot like my grandfather's carving . " Valessa hummed in confirmation . " When the Oracle died , your grandfather was the one who collected her body . He traveled all the way from Falkriver alone , found her remains , and buried her here . He carved this tablet with his own two hands ." Speechless , Elowen leaned down and reached out to touch the freezing stone .

But the exact second her fingertips brushed the surface , a hairline fracture cracked across the stone . It was tiny , barely an inch long , but it snaked across the surface and bit deep into the rock like a miniature river . 19.0K AdminJZ

Chapter 784 The Masterstroke Elowen froze . Before she could even process it , the horizon flashed a blinding white , Finished A massive bolt of lightning tore through the heavy clouds , illuminating the pitch - black sky as bright as day . BOOM- Thunder exploded , violently echoing through the valley and vibrating the ground beneath their feet . Right on cue , a chaotic chorus of shouts and the vicious clashing of steel erupted from outside the gates . Valessa's expression instantly turned lethal . " Malkor's making his move ! " She frowned tightly , looking at Elowen .

" They're coming for you . don't go out there . " Elowen shook her head . " If I don't go out , their leader won't show his face . You know the Avenloran saying : To cut down the snake , you must first sever its head . They know it , and we know it . " Valessa stared at her for a long moment . Elowen smirked . " Besides , it's not like I didn't prepare a counterattack . " Valessa finally let a sharp grin pull at her lips . " Alright . " She spun around and marched toward the courtyard gates , with Elowen following closely behind .

Outside the gates , the Princess Royal's guards were locked in a brutal melee with a horde of assassins dressed in stealth leathers . The clash of blades flashed under the lightning , and blood sprayed into the dirt . There was a massive swarm of them - easily forty or fifty men , outnumbering Valessa's elite guards two to one . Dressed in pitch - black combat gear , their

faces were masked , leaving only their ice - cold eyes exposed . Valessa's men were absolute elites , but sheer numbers were grinding them down .

Several had already hit the dirt , while the rest were being carved into isolated pockets , fighting desperately on their own . Valessa's eyes swept the battlefield , instantly locking onto the towering assassin dead center . Narrowing her eyes , she recognized him in a heartbeat . With a flick of her right wrist , the black whip coiled at her waist launched like a venomous viper . It whipped through the air in a vicious arc , aimed straight for the assassin's face . " Idiot . " Valessa's voice dripped with pure mockery . " Covering your face but not your eyes ?

You think I don't know you're Darius ? " 11:27 am T Chapter 704 The Mosterstraks The whip sliced through the air with a deafening crack . Fimshed Darius jerked sideways , the whip grazing his cheek before snapping against the ground , carving a deep . vicious gouge into the dirt . Darius didn't say a word . His eyes locked onto Valessa for a split second before shifting straight to Elowen behind her . Pulling his gaze away , he completely refused to engage Valessa . With a subtle nod , he signaled several assassins behind him to swarm and trap the Princess Royal .

Valessa's whip danced through the air like an agile , lethal serpent , violently lashing out and sending men crashing to the ground . But there were just too many of them . She'd beat one back , and two more would instantly take his place . locking her in a grueling stalemate . Meanwhile , Elowen casually strolled out of the courtyard and planted herself in the most glaringly obvious spot available . She watched Darius repeatedly shoot glances in her direction while fending off Valessa's whip . He muttered a quick command in Nordian to the men behind him .

Two hulking assassins darted out from his flank , launching a synchronized pincer attack on Valessa . Valessa's whip was instantly snagged . The two assassins moved with deadly precision - one pinned the whip with his blade , while the other slashed aggressively at Valessa's face . Forced to drop her whip , Valessa fell back two steps , drawing her short blade to parry the strike . Seizing the perfectly orchestrated opening , Darius bolted from the fray , charging straight for Elowen . He moved incredibly fast , his black combat gear blurring into shadow under the moonlight .

He gripped his curved blade in his right hand , the tip aimed directly at Elowen . Elowen didn't even flinch . She stood absolutely still , watching Darius close the distance - getting closer , and closer , until she could see the bloodshot rage in his eyes above the black mask . Her heart hammered violently , but her hands didn't shake . Just as Darius's blade was less than three steps away from her chest , a black shadow exploded from beside her like a panther that had finally found its prey . CLANG!

The two blades smashed together with an ear - piercing shriek of metal , showering the ground in sparks . 11:27 am T Chapter 784 the Mastersinke 01 Finished Darna ' charge was violently halted . He stumbled back two steps , nearly losing his grip on his blade . Anson stood like a brick wall in from of Elowen . His short sword leveled across his chest , he glared at Darius with freezing , lethal intent Directly behind him , two shadow guards materialized out of thin air , flanking Elowen flawlessly on both sides to form an impenetrable shield . Their positioning was absolute perfection .

One stepped forward , one held back . One covered the front , the other secured the flank . They flawlessly sealed off every single angle of attack . Finding his footing , Darius shifted his gaze

from Anson to the two shadow guards protecting Elowen , a flicker of realization crossing his eyes . Just as the Master predicted . The Lady detoured out of the city to gather reinforcements . But what good would that do ? He outnumbered them five to one . A couple of extra phantom guards couldn't flip the board . But right when he started feeling cocky , Anson launched his counterattack .

His sword was insanely fast . The blade flashed like silver lightning , stabbing straight for Darius's throat . Darius violently jerked aside . The edge of the blade grazed his neck , whipping up an icy breeze that made the hairs on his neck stand on end . Before he could even catch his breath , Anson's second strike was already coming . This time , the blade was aimed directly at his heart . AdminJZ

Chapter 785 For Nordia ! 0140 Finished Darius parried the swike . The massive clash of steel sent a violent shockwave up his arm , leaving his hand completely numb . He had never faced an opponent with such terrifying physical strength ; Anson looked lean , but every single swing carried the crushing weight of a collapsing mountain , suffocating him with sheer force . Gritting his teeth , Darius barely managed to deflect Anson's third , fourth , and fifth strikes, his feet dragging backward with every hit . I cannot beat this man .

The exact second that thought flashed through his mind , his back slammed hard against the stone wall . Anson's blade struck again , the lethal tip aimed straight between his eyes . Darius frantically ducked . The blade whistled over his head , cleanly slicing off a few strands of hair . Standing by the courtyard gates , Elowen watched Anson ruthlessly drive Darius into a corner ,

then turned her head to the shadow guard on her left . " You too . " The guard gave a silent nod , his silhouette blurring as he lunged into the fray .

He and Anson moved in flawless synchronization - one striking high , the other sweeping low; one pinning the target from the front, the other ambushing from the flank . They completely dismantled Darius's defense , leaving him utterly helpless . In less than a dozen exchanges , Anson's short sword was pressed dead against Darius's throat . " Don't move . " Anson's voice was absolute ice . Darius's hands froze in mid - air . Seeing the fight secured , Elowen strolled over , stopped in front of Darius , and effortlessly yanked the black mask off his face .

The instant the fabric was ripped away , the first thing Darius noticed was her scent . He was instantly transported back to that night at the inn - the silhouette behind the screen , those breathtaking eyes gazing at him through the thin paper and warm steam His chest inexplicably burned . To his absolute shock , kneeling before her and being stripped of his mask didn't feel like hansilmiinat - it felt like a reward He couldn't help but look up at her face . 11:51 am Pppp . Chapter 785 for Nordial But Elowen didn't even spare him a single glance .

She took the short sword from Anson , the hilt feeling heavy and solid in her grip . Pressing the razor - sharp edge right against Darius's neck , she looked past him at the assassins still clashing nearby and raised her voice . She didn't speak Avenloran , but rather the Nordhan tongue , Though she wasn't entirely fluent , her pronunciation was flawless . Enunciating every word with crisp , deliberate precision , she announced , " Your leader , Commander Darius , is now in my hands .

If you want him to live , drop your weapons and hand over Princess Flowira " Her words echoed through the courtyard , bringing the battlefield to an immediate , dead halt . The assassins froze , blades suspended in mid - air , completely unsure whether to advance or retreat . Valessa seized the opening to slip out of the chaotic melee and step right next to Elowen . Gripping her whip in her right hand , her face speckled with drops of someone else's blood , she didn't even bother wiping it off .

Her eyes remained locked onto the assassins like a fiercely protective she - wolf , coiled and ready to rip throats out . The assassins exchanged uncertain glances ; some of their hands trembled slightly , and a few subconsciously shuffled half a step backward . For a fleeting second , the situation seemed fully under control . Until Darius slowly spoke up . " The Lady of Grace and Virtue ." His voice wasn't loud , rendered hoarse and strained . Elowen looked down at him . Suddenly , Darius raised his right hand . He moved incredibly fast - too fast for Elowen to react .

His hand shot out like a viper snapping awake from hibernation , viciously clamping down on Elowen wrist that held the sword . His palm was scorching hot , locking her wrist in an iron grip . The moment his skin touched hers , his face flushed crimson . He gave her one last , deep look , then whipped his head toward his men , screaming with every ounce of strength he had left . "

For Nordia ! " 11:51 am Pppp . Chapter 785 - for -Nordial 0130 Finished At the exact same time , he violently lunged forward , throwing his own throat onto the blade pressed against his neck .

It all happened in a fraction of a second . Elowen froze , then frantically yanked her hand back . But she was a split second too late . Darius had already slammed into the blade . The edge sliced cleanly across his throat , and blood instantly erupted like a geyser . Reacting with lightning speed , Anson yanked Elowen behind him and viciously kicked Darius to the ground , while the

other shadow guard dove on top of him , pressing his full body weight against Darius's neck . He clamped his fingers tight over the wound , desperately trying to stem the arterial spray with sheer pressure .

But the blood just kept pouring out , slipping through his fingers and pooling across the ground .
" Hold it down ! " Elowen frowned sharply . " Don't let him die ! " Sprawled on the ground , Darius's eyes were fixed on Elowen ; his gaze was a tangled mess of emotions , yet laced with a faint , obsessive fervor . Hearing his battle cry , the assassins who had been wavering just moments before tightened their grips and raised their blades once more . " For Nordia ! " The flashing of steel resumed , and bloodcurdling battle cries shattered the night .

Valessa's guards were elite , but the sheer numerical disadvantage was crushing, and after the grueling skirmish they had just fought , they were running on fumes . One guard was swarmed by three assassins , parrying desperately on all sides until a blade was plunged into his back . With a muffled groan , he collapsed into a pool of his own blood . 19.0K AdminJZ

Chapter 786 The Prodigal Son 0190 Finished Another guard took a vicious slash to the shoulder . His blade slipped from his grasp and was immediately kicked away by an assassin , who then drove a sword straight into his gut . Valessa's squad was rapidly losing ground . They were pushed all the way back to the main doors , their backs pressed against the wood . Facing the assassins , they formed a desperate human shield in front of Elowen and Valessa . Just then , a fresh squad of men marched up the winding mountain path .

Leading the pack was a man in white robes - the only one in the entire mob not wearing a mask . As he drew closer , Elowen caught glimpses of his face illuminated by the faint flashes of lightning on the horizon . His facial structure was sharp , like it had been carved from marble . He had a high , striking brow bone and a perfectly straight nose , radiating an aggressive , unapologetic edge . Those sharp contours actually reminded her a bit of Thomas . Except this man's eyes were far more seductive ; his long , slightly upturned eyes naturally carried a lazy , effortlessly charming allure .

That alone made him the complete opposite of Thomas " Ronan ! " Standing beside her , Valessa's voice was laced with pure fury . Elowen turned her head . " You know him ? " Valessa glared daggers at the man in white , grinding her teeth . " How could I not ? He's the one Flowing fell madly in love with ! They were practically engaged , but he ruthlessly abandoned her . Flowira is too proud to ever complain , and I've rarely seen her cry . " But her maids told me she spent her nights sobbing alone . " Elowen's brows knit together .

" We all thought he just fell for some other girl , and I even told Flowira she should fight for him " Valessa sneered bitterly . " It wasn't until we returned to Nordia from Avenlor that we found out the truth Ronan simply discovered his real pedigree , so he abandoned her without a second thought " What is his real identity ? " Elowen asked Valessa spat out every word . " He is Archduke Mallor's illegitimate son He threw Flowina away for poiver and crawled back to House Harrow After proving himself , he's probably out here doing his father's dirty work .

" 11:51 am PPPP Chapter 786 The Prodigal Son Finished Elowen frowned deeply . By now , Ronan had strolled right up to the front lines . His gaze lingered on Darius for a brief second . Darius lay in a pool of his own blood , his face as pale as a ghost . " Long time no see , and

you're already looking this pathetic , " Ronan drawled lazily . Darius was completely drained , lacking the strength to even make a sound . Ronan didn't wait for a response anyway . His eyes slid past Darius , skipped over the heavily armed guards , and locked dead onto Elowen .

He tilted his head slightly , opening his mouth to speak . Suddenly , Valessa stepped forward , planting herself squarely in front of Elowen and completely blocking his view . Seeing her , Ronan actually looked slightly annoyed . Valessa's voice was frigid . " You orchestrated this tonight ? " " I did . " Ronan admitted without hesitation . Valessa narrowed her eyes . " So you're the one behind / Flowira's disappearance too ? " Ronan paused for a moment before replying , " Also guilty . " Stunned , Valessa furiously demanded , " Where the hell did you hide her ?!

" But this time , Ronan simply shrugged . " Not entirely sure . " He was blatantly hiding the truth ! Valessa's face turned thunderous . She gripped her whip so tightly her knuckles popped . " Ronan ! Before you crawled back to House Harrow , you were nothing but lowborn trash getting bullied left and right ! It was Flowira who protected you! Even when you traded her heart for power , she neve once thought of getting revenge ! You two loved each other ! How could you be this heartless Ronan lowered his eyes and remained completely silent Valessa gritted her teeth .

" So I strongly suggest you bring Flowira back immediately Because if you don't promise you will pay in blood ! " Ronan looked at her as if she had just told an incredibly amusing joke and let out a soft hough , " I shot a threat ?" His tone was infuriatingly unhurried . " Bin Princess Rayal , as you can see , my men currently have all of 11:51 am P P P P Chapter 786 The Prodigal Son you completely surrounded . " He cast a sweeping glance around the courtyard .

#Finished Between the original assassins and his fresh reinforcements , the courtyard was a sea of black , packing the tiny palace so tightly not even a drop of water could squeeze through . Smiling pleasantly , Ronan asked , " Given the circumstances , Your Highness , where do you find the audacity to speak to me like that ? " Valessa's face was livid , her jaw clenched so tight it looked ready to snap . He was right . His men had them completely encircled . He vastly outnumbered them , and he could order them to slaughter everyone in the courtyard at any given second .

Pulling his gaze from Valessa , Ronan looked away . He waved his hand casually . " Guards . Grab that woman . If the Princess Royal intervenes ... " He paused , delivering the final verdict with chilling clarity . " Kill her without hesitation . " He was obviously referring to Elowen , but Valessa stood her ground , refusing to budge an inch . At his command , the entire horde of assassins lunged forward in unison . They surged like a massive tidal wave , their heavy boots slamming against the ground like rolling thunder . 19.0K AdminJZ

Chapter 787 The Oracle's Stand Finished Valessa's guards raised their blades , but their numbers were pitifully small , looking exactly like a fragile boat about to be capsized by a raging tsunami . " Anson . " Standing behind Valessa , Elowen's voice was completely level . " Protect the Princess Royal at all costs . " As for the rest of you , prioritize your own survival . " " Yes , My Lady , " Anson acknowledged instantly . He darted from her side , planting himself right next to Valessa . Leveling his short sword across his chest , his eyes were as cold as glaciers . Valessa panicked .

" No ! Everyone must protect the Oracle ! Her life is infinitely more important than mine ! "

Elowen let out a soft chuckle . " Don't worry . I have someone else protecting me . " Valessa stared at her in utter confusion . Ronan heard it too . He spoke up , not in Nordan , but in flawless Avenloran , enunciating every single syllable perfectly . " Is the Oracle referring to the Duke of Duskmoor ? " His tone was dripping with casual mockery . " Because according to my intel , Avenlor banished the two of you . You got separated , and he's still miles outside of Kingsport .

The earliest he can arrive is tomorrow morning . How exactly is he going to swoop in and save you ? " He glanced around the courtyard , looking thoroughly amused . " Right now , you only have three guards and you just assigned one to babysit the Princess Royal . " Meanwhile , I brought over a hundred men up Oracle Peak tonight . " His eyes locked onto Elowen's face once more . " Oracle , there is no one left to protect you . " Pausing for effect , he raised his voice . " On my command ... " Is that so ? " Elowen suddenly interrupted , She spoke in Nordan Ronan paused .

Elowen took a deliberate step forward . 11:51 am PPPP Chapter 787 The Oracle's Stand Alarmed , Valessa grabbed her wrist . But Elowen just patted the back of her hand reassuringly . " It's fine . Valessa hesitated for a split second before finally letting go . 0190 Finished Stepping out from the protective circle of her two shadow guards , Elowen walked straight to the very front lines , placing herself ahead of all the guards . Just then , a massive bolt of lightning ripped across the horizon .

It was brighter and closer than the last one , looking as though it was physically tearing the sky in half . The flash was blindingly intense , forcing everyone in the courtyard to subconsciously

squeeze their eyes shut . The thunder immediately followed , exploding directly overhead . It was deafeningly loud , sending tremors through the ground and shaking dust loose from the palace doors . That blinding flash of lightning perfectly illuminated Elowen's face . Under the harsh , blazing white light , every exquisite detail of her features was thrown into sharp relief .

Her brows arched gracefully like distant mountains , her nose was perfectly straight and refined , and her jawline was delicate and flawless . Her entire face looked as if it had been brushed with divine radiance . The second Ronan saw her face , an unmistakable spark flared in his eyes . The assassins completely froze , bringing the battle to a dead halt . Then , someone in the crowd shouted . " The Oracle speaks Nordin ! " But that voice was instantly drowned out by another . Someone spat , " What Oracle ?! The Oracles died out years ago !

" T A third voice chimed in , dripping with sleazy amusement . " Oracle or not , she's an absolute knockout ! Emboldened , the assassin standing closest to Elowen let out a gross , lingering wolf whistle " Come on , Oracle ! Give us a smile ! " A few others chuckled along . Elowen remained completely silent . But Ronan couldn't hold back , cursing them with an amused scoff . " You pack of h stalling for time Tonight was their one and only golden opportunity . If they didn't gaire the Oracle have the fallout would be catastrophic , 11:52 am Pppp .

Chapter 787 - The Oracle's Stand He raised his voice . " Enough talking ! Attack ! Capture her !

" Taking the order , the assassins lunged for Elowen once more . Standing entirely alone at the front , with zero protection, Elowen looked incredibly beautiful yet terrifyingly fragile , like a delicate flower about to be snapped by the wind . Seeing this , the assassin closest to her didn't even bother raising his blade . She's just a weak girl . One grab is all it takes . What is she going to do , fight back ? Without a second thought , he reached his hand out to grab her .

Elowen didn't even flinch . The assassin's hand hovered in mid - air , barely an arm's length from her shoulder . Elowen calmly shifted her gaze to him . Suddenly , a sharp , rushing wind sliced past her ear . SWISH ! A flash of silver . Before the assassin could even register what happened , his right arm suddenly felt incredibly light , followed by a heavy thud hitting the ground . He froze , slowly turning his head , only to realize his right arm was completely gone !

From the shoulder down , his entire arm - along with the blade he had been holding - had been severed clean off , the cut terrifyingly smooth . He stood there in stunned silence for a split second before the agonizing , soul - tearing pain finally registered . It felt like boiling acid was eating away at the stump sending violent convulsions through his entire body . His mouth opened into a bloodcurdling scream before his body completely gave out , collapsing into a puddle of his own blood where he thrashed and writhed on the ground . 19.0K AdminJZ

Awakening Love : Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 788 The Duke Returns The other assassins- * ood Tooted to the spot , their eyes wide with absolute terror Ronan finally frowned . Elowen didn't even bat an eye . She remained exactly where she was , perfectly composed and elegant . Only now , a tall , striking man stood right beside her . Clad in pitch - black robes , his frame was towering , his shoulders broad and imposing . His hair was slightly windswept , with a few stray strands falling across his forehead , making his sharply chiseled face look even colder and more lethal .

He gripped a longsword in his right hand , the blade angled toward the ground . Thick , dark blood slid slowly down the steel , dripping onto the earth until it formed a small crimson puddle . Elowen tilted her head and called out to him , her voice sickeningly sweet . " My love . "

Cassian's freezing glare instantly melted . Looking down at her , his eyes overflowed with absolute tenderness . " Yes , I'm here . " Elowen beamed at him . " When did you get here ? " Cassian's voice was gentle . " Arrived right when they did .

But I know how much you love luring your prey into traps before springing them , so I wasn't in a rush to step out . " He had simply waited until she was in genuine danger to make his grand entrance and protect her . Elowen was a million percent satisfied with that answer . In heaven or on earth , there wasn't a single person who understood her mind games better than her husband . Right now , she wanted nothing more than to kiss him .

But they were in public , and she still had a very arrogant , very necessary line to deliver, basking fully in his glory Pulling her gaze from Cassian , Elowen swept her eyes over the stunned assassins and Ronan , Siding brightly , she spoke in crisp , clear Nordin . " Sorry to disappoint you , boys , but my backup has arrived " I seriously hope you brought some too . " Castian's mere presence slammed down on the battlefield like a collapsing mountain , methocyt right out of their lungs . the air Elower's words hung in the chilling night wind .

The assassins exfanged panicked glancos , completely unsure whether to raise their blades or drop them- Chapter 788 The Duke Returns Fing Cassian glanced down at her . " You picked up Nordin ? " Elowen nodded eagerly Impressive , right ? " Cassian chuckled . " Very . Your pronunciation is spot - on . " Elowen pouted slightly . " But I'm not totally fluent yet . There are still times I don't know the right words . " Cassian's tone was incredibly soft . " That's fine . I'll teach you everything later .

Standing nearby , Valessa , who perfectly understood their Avenloran exchange , scoffed loudly .

" Are you two seriously flirting right now ?! " Tracing the voice , Cassian finally noticed the Princess Royal .. " Your Highness is here too ? " He gave her a quick once - over . " How did you end up looking this pathetic ? " Valessa's lips twitched in annoyance . " Save the sarcasm . When the Oracle went missing years ago , I bet you looked ten times worse than I do now . "

Cassian's lips curved into a smirk .

" If you lost a wife as breathtaking as mine , I guarantee you wouldn't be keeping your cool either . " Valessa was utterly speechless . A short distance away , Ronan finally hit his breaking point . " Hey ! There are other people standing right here ! " Elowen and Cassian finally bothered to look his way . Standing amidst his mob of assassins , Ronan looked visibly irritated . The assassin standing to his left glared at Cassian and sneered He's just the Oracle's kept paramour ! What kind of backup is that ?! " Cassian's eyebrow twitched . He repeated the phrase with dark amusement.

" Kept paramour ? " Mistaking Cassian's calmness for weakness , the assassin grew even bolder .

" Besides , you're just one man ! We've got over a hundred men on our side . You think you can take on a hundred of us by yourself? Stop dreaming ! You should beg alongside the Oracle ! If our Master is in a generous mood , he might just spare your worthless lives ! " After all , don't you Avenlorans have a saying ? ' Only a fool lights a losing battle . If you sing us yo right now , kiss our Master's boots , and pledge your absolute loyalty , maybe . " He never finished his sentence .

Cassian frowned slightly misd shot him a he book . Just one look . But it carried a suffocating , bone chilling pressure that felt physically heavy crushing the alr straight out of the nun's lungs

11:52 am Pppp . Chapter 788 The Duke Returns Finishe The assassin's throat clamped shut , rendering him completely speechless . Cassian drawled lazily , I might be the Oracle's kept paramour , but I do happen to have another , slightly less significant title . " The assassin tried to act tough . " What title ?

" Instead of answering right away , Cassian brought two fingers to his lips and let out a sharp whistle . Instantly , the surrounding brush erupted with the rustling of leaves . Shadow guards materialized from the darkness in absolute silence , completely encircling the mob of assassins and sealing off every possible escape route . Standing calmly in front of the palace doors , Cassian finally answered with unhurried precision . " The Duke of Duskmoor . " In Nordia , the title " Duke of Duskmoor " was practically synonymous with the God of Death .

During those bloody years , Cassian had carved a path of absolute slaughter across the Nordian battlefields . remaining entirely undefeated . His name was literally used to terrify misbehaving children into obedience . His name was etched into Nordian history books and military reports , whispered in every corner of the country , always accompanied by pure terror , awe , and teeth - grinding hatred . And now , he was standing right in front of them . Even behind their black masks , absolute terror bled / into the assassins ' eyes . AdminJZ

Awakening Love : Reborn to Be His Duchess Chapter 789 The Unstoppable Force The man instinctively backed away two steps . ACE 991 Finished Ronan clicked his tongue in annoyance . " One Duke scares you all this badly ? " Taking a deep breath , he roared , " Whoever brings me the Duke's head gets a hundred gold pieces ! Whoever captures the Oracle alive gets a thousand !

" His voice echoed into a brief , chilling silence . Then , a greedy fire reignited in the assassins ' eyes . Tightening their grips on their blades , they charged wildly toward the palace doors .

The shadow guards instantly met their charge , and the courtyard exploded once more into a chaotic storm of clashing steel and deafening battle cries . Turning to Elowen , Cassian said softly , " Ella , to cut down the snake , you must sever its head . I'm going to go kill their leader .

" Valessa tilted her head , shooting Elowen a look . That sounds awfully familiar . Didn't the Oracle just say the exact same thing ? Seriously , do these two share a brain cell ? Cassian then turned to Valessa . " I leave my wife in your capable hands , Your Highness . " Valessa rolled her eyes .

" She's Nordia's Oracle . You don't need to tell me that . I'd protect her with my life . " Cassian smiled in satisfaction . " Thank you . " With that , he turned and stalked toward Ronan .

Suddenly remembering something , Elowen called out , " Cassian , be careful not to kill him ! He still has Flowira . " Cassian threw a smirk over his shoulder . " Your wish is my command . "

Watching Cassian casually close the distance step by step , an icy chill crept up Ronan's spine . Gritting his teeth , he drew a short blade from his waist with his left hand .

The blade wasn't long , but it was lethally sharp . 144 12:27 Tue , Jul 28 ctri Chapter 789 The Unstoppable Force Finished The assassin on his left - the one who had just called Cassian a kept paramour - was now as pale as a ghost . But the allure of the massive bounty was too intoxicating . Biting his lip until it bled , he gripped his curved blade tightly . Ronan leaned in and whispered in his ear , feeding his delusion . " The Duke hasn't fought in years . Word is , ever since he got married and had kids , he's grown soft and lazy .

He's probably nowhere near as terrifying as the legends say . " Kill the Duke , and I'll give you as much gold and silver as you want . " Hearing that , the assassin locked his eyes dead onto Cassian , raising his blade to his chest . He's right , the assassin thought . How many years has it been since the Duke actually fought a war ? If I go all out , I might actually be able to take him ! Taking a deep breath , he tensed every muscle in his body , focusing all his energy .

As Cassian stepped into range , the assassin launched his surprise attack , lunging forward with blinding speed , the tip of his blade aimed straight for Cassian's throat . He truly believed he was fast - that this was the greatest strike he had ever delivered in his entire life . But Cassian's reaction was on an entirely different level . His expression didn't change in the slightest . With a simple , fluid step to the side , he effortlessly dodged the fatal thrust . Before the assassin could even register his shock , a flash of silver crossed his vision .

He didn't even see Cassian move before the sword punched cleanly through his chest . A suffocating , agonizing pain exploded through his body . His eyes blew wide in sheer disbelief as he stared at Cassian , then slowly looked down at the blade protruding from his own chest , finally drowning in an ocean of absolute despair and regret . Expressionless , Cassian smoothly pulled his sword free , letting the lifeless body crumple to the ground without a sound . From start to finish , not a single drop of blood had splashed onto his robes . Blood smells terrible . Ella wouldn't like it .

214 12:27 Tue , Jul 28 Chri Chapter 789 The Unstoppable Force 75 Finished Standing nearby , Ronan watched the entire execution unfold , his heart pounding with shock and mounting terror . So the Oracle wasn't bluffing . Her backup really is a monster . A single bead of sweat slowly rolled down his forehead . It slid past his temple and into the corner of his eye , blurring his

vision . He instinctively blinked to clear it . But the exact second he opened his eyes again , Cassian was standing mere inches away.

His flawlessly handsome face was completely devoid of emotion , his longsword leveled perfectly , the tip aimed directly at Ronan's throat . Ronan's face drained of all color . Only one thought screamed through his mind . This is no different than facing a goddamn ghost ! However , Cassian didn't give him any time to be shocked . The blade flashed so fast Ronan's eyes couldn't even track it . Relying purely on survival instinct , he violently jerked backward . But his dodge was just a fraction too slow . The edge of the blade sliced across his cheek , leaving a bone - deep gash in its wake .

Blood poured down his face . Before Ronan could even catch a breath , Cassian's second strike was already coming . This time , the sword was aimed straight for his heart - hitting harder , and moving faster . Ronan desperately parried . With a loud CLANG , sparks showered the ground . The sheer force sent a violent tremor shooting up his left arm , numbing his hand so badly he nearly dropped his blade . " You ambushed my wife ? " Cassian unleashed another strike . The swing was vicious , forcing Ronan to stumble backward in a panic . " You tried to scare her ? " The second strike flashed .

Ronan ducked wildly , the blade whistling over his head , cleanly slicing off another chunk of his hair . 314 CIYI 12:27 Tue , Jul 28 Chapter 789 The Unstoppable Force " You must really have a death wish . " The third strike shot straight for Ronan's wrist . Finished It was impossibly fast - so fast Ronan didn't even see it coming . He only felt an agonizing spike of pain in his wrist before his short blade was knocked cleanly from his grip , spinning through the air and clattering loudly onto the stone tiles far away .

There was absolutely nothing flashy or elegant about Cassian's swordsmanship . Every single strike was raw , direct , and completely lethal . 19.1K

Chapter 790 A Brush With Death ASE Finished Ronan gritted his teeth , fighting tooth and nail to parry the strikes , but his footwork had crumbled into absolute ruin . Cassian , by contrast , looked as though he were taking a leisurely stroll ; the previous strikes were mere flicks of his wrist , costing him barely a breath of effort . Unable to evade the final blow , Ronan crashed down , his back slamming the stone tiles with bone - shattering force . Before he could even scramble to his feet , Cassian stepped forward and pressed the edge of his longsword flush against his throat .

Staring down at him with eyes as cold as the grave , Cassian drawled , " Consider yourself blessed . You get to keep your life only because my wife asked for it in person ." Ronan let out a bitter , raspy laugh . " Even now , you're playing the devoted husband ? " With that , he snatched a handful of gravel from the ground and hurled it straight at Cassian's face . Cassian's gaze flicked to the side to track the incoming debris . Yet the gravel was nothing but a feint .

Seizing the split - second distraction , Ronan pulled a small paper packet from his belt and smashed it with brute force toward his opponent . It was a dirty trick Cassian had not anticipated . The packet exploded point - blank , erupting into a cloud of white powder that engulfed his head and face in the blink of an eye . The substance was fine as mist ; the exact moment it touched his skin , a violent , agonizing burn flared across his flesh . Cassian held his breath without a second thought , but he was a fraction too late .

The toxic dust had already slipped down his throat like ice , sinking deep into his lungs before coursing through his veins . It felt as though an inferno had been ignited inside him , the flames spreading from his chest to his marrow , melting his very bones . He stumbled back a step , the sword slipping from Ronan's throat as he planted the tip into the Chapter 790 A Brush With Death dirt to steady his trembling frame . Finished Dropping to one knee , he leaned heavily on the hilt, his handsome face going pale as death . " The grand Duke of Duskmoor ... nothing special after all .

" Ronan pushed himself off the ground , his voice raw and ragged . He brushed the dirt and crushed leaves from his robes , attempting to regain a semblance of composure . Cassian didn't even hear the insult . The toxin was corroding his body , devouring his life from the inside out ; he was shaking like a leaf in the wind , his ears ringing with a deafening buzz . But a completely different voice managed to cut through the noise . " Cassian ! " It was Elowen .

She had been watching him with a hawk's eye the entire time ; seeing the invincible Duke actually stumble , she couldn't stop herself from screaming his name . Hearing her voice , Cassian felt the agonizing , flesh - melting fire subside just a fraction . He blinked at a snail's pace , having the sheer audacity to muse , even while hovering on the brink of death , that love truly was the greatest miracle cure in the realm . Ella really was his ultimate panacea . Even poisoned and dying , just hearing her voice and thinking of her made him feel capable of butchering another hundred men .

" Oracle , you can't go over there ! " Seeing Elowen trying to rush to his side in a blind panic , Valessa yanked her back with fierce strength . Cassian managed to turn his head and look at her . " I'm fine . Just stay right there and wait for me . " Locking eyes with him , Elowen took a shaky

breath and forced out a nod . " Alright . " " How could you possibly be fine ? " 214 Chapter 790

A Brush With Death Finished Ronan let out a dark , mocking chuckle . Cassian turned his head back to face him at an agonizing pace . Ronan flashed a vicious smirk . " That powder is lethal to the touch .

A fraction of that packet is enough to slaughter a wild wolf . With the amount you just inhaled , your insides must be melting . You're paralyzed , and it won't be long before- " Before he could finish his sentence , Cassian exploded off the ground like a fully drawn bow snapping loose . A flash of silver slashed through the air , severing Ronan's right arm with one brutal , uninterrupted swing . The blade sliced clean through the shoulder joint , and a geyser of blood erupted from the stump . Caught up in his own arrogant gloating , Ronan never saw it coming .

His pupils shrank to pinpricks as he collapsed into the dirt , clamping his left hand over the spurting wound . " How is that possible ... " A poison that lethal should have paralyzed him the exact second it hit his lungs ; how the hell could he still stand , let alone swing a sword ?!

Standing over him , Cassian coughed very softly and asked, " What were you saying ? " His face ashen white , Ronan hissed through his teeth , " You've been poisoned with a lethal toxin ! Aside from me ... there is no cure anywhere in the world ... " This was his absolute final trump card .

If the Duke wanted to live , he had to let him go - he would even have to drop to his knees and beg for the antidote . Hearing this , Cassian actually let out a low chuckle . " You look quite young . Did your family never tell you the ghost stories about Avenlor's Duke of Duskmoor when you were a child ? " Ronan froze . Cassian took a step forward , leaned down , grabbed Ronan by the collar , and hauled him off the ground with a single heave . Ronan was never a match for Cassian to begin with , and missing an arm , he was stripped of all power to struggle .

3/4 12:27 Tue , Jul 28 Chapter 790 A Brush With Death NGE 75 Finished Holding Ronan up by the throat , Cassian swept his freezing gaze across the remaining assassins and roared , " If you want to keep your leader's head attached to his neck , drop your weapons ! " His voice boomed with crushing authority , dominating the battlefield . The assassins stopped fighting at once , all eyes snapping toward him . Seeing Ronan dangling in his grip , drenched in blood , every single one of them froze in sheer terror .

They then looked at Cassian , standing tall and imposing , his strikingly handsome face devoid of emotion ; splattered with two drops of blood , he looked exactly like a demon lord ascending straight from hell . A heavy thud broke the silence . The first assassin had loosened his grip without a second thought , his curved blade hitting the stone tiles .