

Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess (Elowen Hale)

Chapter 841

Her father possessed a rugged, muscular frame, yet dressed her hair with delicate skill. Tying her hairbar tight, he smiled softly, "Where does my little Ella fancy playing today?"

She caught sight of her mother standing nearby. Usually distant and strict, when Ella tumbled off a horse back then, her mother scolded her reckless antics while frantically summoning every physician in town overnight.

Then there was her older brother. Whenever she caused trouble as a child, she ducked behind his back though complaining constantly, he shielded her from their mother's punishment every single time. Once when she shattered their mother's favorite inkstone, he stepped forward to take the blame/despite knowing nothing about it.

Her father made him kneel in the ancestral hall all night as punishment, and when she went to him crying the next morning, he patted her head with a laugh, "It's just an inkstone, why cry your eyes out like that?"

Those long-buried memories resurfaced one after another from the depths of her heart.

Elowen's fingers reached uncontrollably toward the cosmic river, "Grandmother," her voice trembled softly "what if I returned even further back?"

Ulana Ogu gazed at her in quiet silence.

Elowen urged eagerly, "I could return to when my parents were still alive. Armed with knowledge of everything to come, I can warn them and rewrite House Hale's fate-and my brother too... I can save every one of them."

Returning early enough meant mending every regret: her father and brother wouldn't fall on the battlefield her mother wouldn't die in sorrow, and her family could reunite once more.

Offering no immediate reply, Ulana Ogu raised her hand, sending the golden seal floating slowly between them.

"Ella, nothing in this world is gained without cost. The golden seal reverses time, yet cannot defy fundamental laws."

Elowen stared at her, "What laws?"

“Equivalent Exchange.” Tapping her fingertip onto the seal, Ulana Ogu sent ripples of golden light spreading into the galaxy.

“The further back you alter the past, the more fates you disturb, and the steeper the price becomes. Setting ‘ordinary time back by a single day requires the user’s soul to linger in this space for at least a year.”

Elowen’s expression shifted subtly.

Ulana Ogu continued, “Altering a death already written carries an even heavier toll; the seal weighs not just the days rewound, but the magnitude of the altered destinies. Flowira just passed, her soul not yet detached: sending her back fifteen minutes with her memories to dodge that bolt demands your soul linger here for roughly three months.”

Three months. Clenching her fingers tightly. Elowen asked. ‘What about my father, mother, and brother?’”

Pity softened Ulana Ogu’s eyes, “They passed from the mortal realm long ago. Reversing decades to alter multiple destinies isn’t a matter of five or ten years-it could take decades, and your soul might remain trapped here long after your earthly body decays.”

Elowen’s face drained of color bit by bit.

Ulana Ogu spoke gently, “Your mortal body would lie in endless sleep. Your husband might want one year, five, or ten, but what of several decades? Even if he guards you faithfully, will he still walk the earth when you return?”

Elowen’s breath caught in her throat. Cassian loved her to the core, and even if she remained trapped her for decades to mend past regrets, he would surely wait, guarding a body that never opened its eyes day aft day.

Granted, her parents and brother were irrepressible regrets, yet Cassian was the future she chose with he own hands in this life. Could she truly abandon the man who loved her for the sake of those who had already departed?

Within the cosmic river, her parents stood side by side in the courtyard, affectionate as ever, while her brother-wearing a handsome face resembling hers-urged her to hurry along.

Rooted to the spot, silent tears fell from Elowen’s eyes.

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“Ella,” Ulana Ogu called softly, “life is bound to carry regrets. The golden seal offers a second chance, but cannot forge a life devoid of flaws. Such is the way of the world-choosing one path inevitably means letting go of another.”

Closing her eyes, Elowen let tears stream down her cheeks, “Grandmother...” her voice choked with heavy tremors, “I miss them desperately, but...”

Leaving her sentence unfinished, she opened her eyes and wiped the tears from her cheeks, lingering pain in her eyes yielding to a firm decision in her heart.

“Father, Mother, Brother... goodbye.”

Ripples stirred across the galaxy as the figures of her parents and brother slowly dissolved, her parents beaming with gentle warmth without a trace of blame, while her brother blinked with a mischievous grin, “Still such a crybaby! Wipe those tears, live well, and don’t miss your brother too much.”

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“Grandmother, can I save Flowira?”

Ulana Ogu gave a nod, “You can.”

“By staying here for three months?”

Ulana Ogu replied, “The seal ultimately judges based on her fate, but the duration won’t differ by much the mortal realm, your body will sleep, unable to hear Cassian or sense the outside world.”

Gazing at her, Ulana Ogu added, “Ella, think it through.”

Showing no hesitation, Elowen offered a relaxed smile, “It’s merely three months-he will wait for me.”

Ulana Ogu sighed softly, “You trust him that deeply?”

Elowen’s lips curved, “I just told Flowira that I hold a trump card that ensures I never lose as long as he breathes.”

Her ultimate trump card in this life was never her Oracle status or the golden seal, but Cassian-the man who would cross a sea of fire with his sword to reach her side when everyone deemed her cornered.

“Grandmother, save her please; she is a wonderful girl.”

“Very well.”

Leading Elowen to the golden seal, Ulana Ogu instructed, “The seal alters only her doom-Ronan’s death and Malkor’s fate remain unchanged. Flowira will return fifteen minutes prior with her memory intact, yet dodging the bolt rests on her own hands.”

Elowen gave a firm nod, “She can do it.”

Flowira was never a helpless princess waiting for a hero’s salvation, possessing sharp foresight, courage, and wisdom; reborn, she would surely survive, and with her intellect and kindness, she would transform the plight of countless women, ensuring Nordia never knew another blind courtesan.

That was precisely why Elowen insisted on saving Flowira-not merely preserving one life, but rescuing thousands of women across past and future,

Placing Elowen’s hand upon the golden seal, dark gold light surged along her fingertips in an instant, as Ulana Ogu murmured, “Ella, your grandmother can escort you no further.”

Heart aching, Elowen grasped Ulana Ogu’s hand in return, “Can you truly not leave?”

Ulana Ogu shook her head, “I have long fused with the seal. Using my soul fragment to reverse years of time for you exempted me from mortal slumber, yet bound me here eternally.”

Elowen urged anxiously. “Then Grandfather...”

Deep longing flared in Ulana Ogu’s eyes. “When you awaken three months later, Ella, tell him that my anger over our final argument faded the very night I left Rivenshire, bound by my duty as Oracle to Nordia’s people, I could not turn back, yet I never regretted another companion.”

Tears spilled from Elowen’s eyes, “Grandmother, you know he won’t listen.”

Ulana Ogu gave a soft laugh, “Indeed, Noah is stubborn to the bone.”

Wrapping her arms around Elowen, she added, “Then tell him I always knew he thought of me whenever thought of him.”

Hugging her tightly, Elowen promised, “I will definitely tell him.”

The golden radiance flared brilliantly as the galaxy reversed its flow, rendering Elowen’s body translucent

Brushing her cheek one last time, Ulana Ogu whispered, “Go back-return to the one who loves you.”

Golden light swallowed everything whole.

Simultaneously, Flowira snapped her eyes open, the piercing agony of the crossbow bolt through her hear lingering as she instinctively looked down to find her robes spotless and bloodless.

Cassian's sword had just shattered Malkor's curved blade as Malkor crashed heavily onto the floor nearby and the Khan descended the altar step by step-every detail mirroring the moment before her death.

Flowira's breath came in rapid gasps-I am... reborn? I returned to fifteen minutes before my death!

Flowira snapped her head around to find Elowen standing behind Cassian, her face turning pale as her pali gripped the golden seal flowing with dark gold light, realizing instantly that the Oracle had pulled her back from death.

Malkor suddenly let out a raspy laugh identical to her memory, "Even in defeat, I won't grant you a peacefu victory!"

His gaze swept past Cassian to settle on Flowira, his right hand slipping covertly into his sleeve, yet this time, Flowira saw it clearly and dodged the instant the hidden crossbow fired.

The silver bolt grazed Flowira's shoulder, slicing through cloth and flesh before embedding deep into a stone pillar behind her-a mere flesh wound.

Cassian's sword fell at that exact second, driving straight through Malkor's chest.

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collapsing heavily into a pool of blood, breathless.

Still shaken, Valessa wrapped Flowira in an embrace, "Thank goodness you're safe! How did you react s quickly?"

Flowira offered no reply, looking past the crowd to meet Elowen's gaze across the blood-stained stone flickering flames, as Elowen's lips curved into a gentle smile-she had succeeded, and Flowina was alive

A second later, the golden seal's glow vanished, and Elowen's body swayed.

"Ella!" Cassian caught her securely in his arms.

Elowen kept her eyes shut, her face translucent pale, as the golden seal slipped from her palm, a hairline fracture appearing on its surface.

Cassian held her tight, "Ella?" Receiving no answer, he touched her cheek, his fingertips trembling for the first time, "Ella?" Still no response.

Noah rushed over, checking Elowen's pulse before his face darkened progressively.

Cassian asked anxiously, "Noah, what's wrong with Ella?"

Noah knit his brows, "In my decades of practice, I've never encountered such a pulse-her heartbeat is steady and breathing calm without fatal injuries, yet her soul essence is faint..."

The Khan stepped forward to retrieve the golden seal, "Mortal medicine cannot explain divine interventio noting the fracture on the seal, Oracle likely invoked its power and pays a steep price, a precedent known Nordia's past."

Cassian's arms tightened around Elowen, watching her lie quiet and peaceful with even breathing. appearing merely exhausted and asleep.

Wiping the soot from her face with his sleeve, he spoke in a low voice after a long silence, "It matters not... Ella waited for me, so I shall wait for her-be it six months, a year, three years, five years, or a lifetime."

With Malkor's death, the rebellion on Oracle Peak ended as Harrow troops surrendered and both House Harrow and the brothel were seized, sending advisors, generals, and elders to prison.

Brothel ledgers, guest rosters, and trafficking records were uncovered, implicating dozens of Nordian nobles.

Ursula attempted to flee through secret tunnels, only to be captured by Flowira herself; surviving women were rescued while bodies buried in mass graves were reinterred by court, returning identified victims to their hometowns and erecting nameless monuments for the rest.

Ronan was denied burial in House Harrow's ancestral grounds, as Flowira had him buried outside the old royal gate without the title of Heir, carving only his original name-Ronan.

On the day of his burial, Flowira visited alone, placing a sack of warm chestnuts before the grave.

vacuated safely before the rebellion and brought to Valessa's manor afterward.

When Thomas arrived, Samantha sat near the window with white silk covering her eyes; hearing footsteps she clutched her oak cane until Thomas knelt before her, raspy voice calling, "Samantha."

Samantha froze, "May I ask why the Heir visits?"

Heart aching, Thomas spoke softly, "It's me, Samantha... I am Thomas."

Samantha's shoulders quivered as if suppressing emotion, as Thomas gently took her wrist, pressing/her palm against his face to trace his brow, nose, and lips, "See? It's me."

Pulling her hand back, Samantha stammered, "I'm not... I'm not Samantha... I..."

"You did nothing wrong," Thomas caressed her wrist, "I simply arrived too late."

Weeping, Samantha shook her head as Thomas held her hand firmly, "Never again, Samantha-I will never lose you again."

Tears streaming down her face, Samantha whispered, "But I was at the brothel..." unable to finish the sentence.

Thomas spoke with gentle warmth, "The brothel is gone, Samantha, and I know nothing of such a place; I only know my fiancée came to Kingsport to earn wealth for us, and missing her deeply, I followed her every step until our reunion, so now we shall wed and walk hand in hand until our hair turns white."

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Unable to hold back any longer, Samantha tossed aside her oak cane and threw herself into Thomas's arms as he held her gently, comforting her over and over with endless patience.

As for Elowen, she sank into a prolonged coma.

On the first day, Cassian guarded her bedside all night without sleep, refusing Noah's offer to rest, saying "She'll be frightened if she wakes without me."

On the second day, Cassian washed Elowen's face and combed her hair, feeding her herbal broth spoon spoon following Noah's instructions, patiently wiping away every drop that spilled from her lips.

Caius and Emily slept beside Elowen to accompany their mother, watching Cassian feed her broth and porridge with curious eyes, crowding over to taste it themselves, prompting Cassian to prepare two one for his wife and one for his children.

bow

On the third day, Flowira arrived and knelt by Elowen's bed for a long time, whispering, "Oracle, the bro is sealed; I know you saved me, and I shall live well without wasting the life you exchanged for mine."

Seated nearby, Cassian's eyes fell upon the dimmed golden seal upon hearing her words, asking no questions while gripping Elowen's hand even tighter.

Ten days later, whispers circulated through

Swingsport that the Oracle might never awaken.

Cassian earnestly discussed with Noah whether to execute those gossipers, but Noah refused, stating, "Killing breaks the law," before adding, "though I can poison them mute."

Ultimately they failed to execute the plan, because the Khan stood nearby and pleaded fifteen minutes for his subjects' mercy.

In the second month, Nordia's winter snow began to melt as Oracle Peak underwent restoration, leaving ruined walls untouched per the Khan's order to remind future generations how faith was neglected and ev harbored at the mountain base.

Stone monuments rose at the mass graves, and though Elowen remained unconscious, court and tribal nobles jointly acknowledged her as the new Oracle.

By the third month, snow dissolved in Kingsport as spring winds brushed the embassy walls and apricot trees bloomed in the rear courtyard.

Caius and Emily progressed from vague babbling to mastering speech, and while playing with Elowen's hair ,beside her, Caius suddenly blurted out, "Mother."

He could speak. Emily followed, uttering "Father" right after "Mother."

Mira, Cora, and the older maidservants beamed with joy, while Cassian offered a gentle smile, his heart remaining anchored entirely to his wife.

Throughout the three months, Cassian rarely strayed a step from Elowen, speaking to her by day and sleeping lightly while holding her hand by night, snapping awake at midnight to check her breathing before resuming his watch..

With doors sealed, the Emperor looked at his cold brother with curiosity, “What else is on your mind?”

Cassian cut straight to the point, “The Empress and House Baker colluded with army commanders to ambush me at North Valley.”

The Emperor’s color shifted violently, “What?!”

Closing his eyes, he gritted out, “I shall order a thorough investigation at once...” .

Cassian interrupted calmly, “I have concluded the investigation-witnesses are brought to Vanelle and evidence waits outside.”

The Emperor sat baffled.

Cassian pressed on, “Beyond the ambush, I have organized proof of House Baker’s factional corruption military embezzlement and trade of noble titles-as well as the Crown Prince’s Wing.”

The Emperor’s

“The Crown seized civilia d violently, “What of the Crown Prince’s Wing?”

private assassins, embezzled disaster relief funds, and allowed subordinates to rest outside.”

20.5K opened bit by bit.

At first, her gaze appeared dazed, as if returning from a distant realm, unable to discern whether she stood in the galaxy or the mortal world, until her vision cleared on the man before her.

Cassian had grown noticeably thin, heavy fatigue lingering around his eyes and light stubble shading his jaw, yet his grip on her hand stayed entirely steady.

Elowen’s eyes turned red slowly, “Cassian...”

The word shattered Cassian’s three months of maintained composure in an instant as he leaned down to wrap her tight in his arms, his embrace fierce yet restrained with trembling care.

Resting in his arms, Elowen greedily inhaled his familiar snowy scent, “I’m back.”

Spring wind swept outside as apricot permanent partings, as she finally woke from her long dream to return to his side.

Following the settlement of Ncattered across the ground, bringing no farewells or

Following the settlement of Nordin affairs, Elowen rested for two more months, fully recovering as early summer touched Kingsport.

Thomas and Samantha chose not to stay in Kingsport; though Samantha's sight could not be fully restore Noah preserved a faint light perception allowing her to discern day, night, and outlines-more than enou for her happiness.

Thomas planned to take her back to Willow Ridge for their wedding, bowing three times to Elowen upon parting, "My Lady, what Samantha and I owe you can never be repaid in this life."

Elowen replied, "Then no need to repay it-treating her well tops everything else."

Grasping Samantha's hand, Thomas gave a firm nod, "I will."

Noah suggested bringing Elowen and her two children back to Rivenshire, a proposal Cassian agreed to without hesitation.

On their departure day, the Khan personally saw them off, accompanied by Valessa, Flowira, and Zachary.

Before parting, Flowira embraced her reluctantly, "Oracle, once the flowers bloom across Oracle Peak, I'll send you a letter."

Elowen smiled, "Alright."

Zachary chimed in from the side. "If he ever mistreats you, come to Nordia anytime-I'll always be waiting for you, leaving Elowen chuckling softly.

Lieutenant Wrenner's family chose to remain in Nordia due to his familiarity with the land, while Elara couldn't bear to leave Flowira, secretly swearing to Elowen that she would become Nordia's Master of Lake

Azure!

Mrs. Wrenner chose to stay beside her husband, believing true home rested wherever her husband and

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daughter remained.

Elowen respected their choices.

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Following farewells, the party journeyed south from Nordia across multiple cities, arriving in Rivenshire before midsummer.

Seated inside the carriage, Elowen watched familiar mountains pass outside, a bittersweet warmth swellir in her chest.

She had spent several childhood years in Rivenshire when her mother was alive and her two uncles were young, running wildly across hills with her brother, before her departure scattered her family and sent he grandfather far away, leaving Lake Azure purely in her childhood memories.

The carriage pulled up before the old Wynne Estate, its gates restored with clean stone/lions, fresh red paint, and the two familiar lanterns from her memory hanging under the eaves.

Settling into Rivenshire, Elowen visited Lake Azure with Cassian the following day, bringing their two children along.

Caius could speak many words now, pointing excitedly at the rolling mountains, while Emily preferred the blooming flowers along the shore, reaching out to grab them as her nurse chased her in a sweat.

Lake Azure appeared grander than in her memories, its clear water reflecting stacked mountain peaks.

A oak pavilion stood by the lake-rebuilt recently yet retaining the name she gave it in childhood-Ella's Pavilion.

Hand in hand, Elowen and Cassian strolled along the shore as the breeze swept across the water, bringing a fresh, moist scent.

Cassian smiled, “Lake Azure and the Master of Lake Azure fit wonderfully,” pausing before asking, “When you wrote your second book in Vanelle, didn’t you pick a new pen name? What was it?”

Before Elowen could answer, someone jogged over from nearby, gasping for breath with joy, “Young Lady Ella! My Lady, my Lord, the two young masters have returned!”

He referred to Elowen’s two uncles-adopted by her grandfather yet treating Elowen with deep affection.

“Hearing that the Master Noah and my Lady returned, the two young masters dropped everything to ride overnight-they were mid-battle and declared a half-month ceasefire!”

You're all caught up with *Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess* (Elowen Hale).

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