Awakening Love Reborn to Be His Duchess

Chapter 848

Cassian stated calmly, “Should my royal brother wish to inspect them, they can be brought in at once.”

Falling into prolonged silence, the Emperor let out a sigh, “Very well, present them.”

Carrying stacks of files, Bran entered the hall as the Emperor reviewed them volume by volume, his expression souring until he slammed a dossier onto the table in fury, “Scoundrels!”

Silence reigned over the hall.

Rubbing his temples, the Emperor looked at Cassian-not with suspicion, but utter bewilderment at ho single campaign transformed his brother entirely.

Unable to restrain himself, he asked, “Cassian, what do you truly seek by unearthing all this?”

Cassian stated, “I simply request Your Majesty depose Alaric as Crown Prince and appoint a worthy successor.”

The Emperor’s gaze darkened; deposing the heir was a grave matter that would shake the entire court despite overwhelming evidence.

Cassian added, “Should Your Majesty depose Alaric, I am willing to surrender all military command.”

The Emperor froze completely, “What did you say?”

“Surrendering all Northern troops to the court.’

The Emperor stared at him; Cassian’s military power was his ultimate foundation in court, yet he offered 1 surrender it entirely just to destroy Alaric.

“Why go to such extremes?”

Cassian answered without hesitation, “Jealousy.”

The Emperor looked confused.

Cassian stated calmly, “He grew up as Ella’s childhood companion, and I find him utterly insufferable.”

Looking at evidence capable of overturning half the court, then at Cassian’s matter-of-fact composure, the Emperor remained speechless for a long moment.

When the imperial marriage decree reached House Hale, Elowen was left thoroughly bewildered.

She had assumed she would marry Alaric, yet the returning Duke requested her hand in public, earning imperial consent with a wedding date set remarkably soon.

Mira brought back street rumors claiming the Duke had long been deeply in love with her, and that he dismantled Alaric purely out of jealousy over their childhood bond.

Alaric was stripped of his heirship over multiple crimes, the Empress confined, and me to claim the Duke was avenging his future bride.

otecting Her Happiness

Elowen harbored deep doubt over the rumors, reasoning that if Cassian truly obsessed over her past wit Alaric, she would be his next target after Alaric’s fall.

On their wedding night, Elowen sat upon the marriage bed, her palms slick with nervous sweat as approaching footsteps announced Cassian’s arrival.

He refrained from lifting her veil immediately, standing before her in prolonged silence as Elowen sat briefly wondering if he was deciding where to drive a blade for her execution.

After an eternity, Elowen caught sight of a slender hand beneath her veil, instinctively shutting her eyes tight.

As the veil lifted, a low chuckle sounded by her ear, “Ella, why so nervous?”

Stunned, Elowen pried her eyes open a fraction.

aped in red wedding robes with sharp, handsome features illuminated by candlelight, Cassian looked athtakingly gorgeous.

owen’s heart thudded violently-this was her first time seeing the Duke in wedding attire, yet deep dow he felt as though she had awaited this moment for years.

Gazing at her for a long mot, Cassian gently caressed her cheek, “The wedding night is short, Ella-le not waste it.”

Before Elowen could react, he leaned down to capture her lips.

Initially, fear lingered in her heart, given his fierce reputation as a ruthless warrior, yet she quickly discovered the formidable Duke proved remarkably patient in bed-gentle and considerate of her every feeling.

Elowen briefly wondered why his attentive care felt so perfectly practiced, almost as if he had tended to he countless times before.

Yet soon she lost all strength to ponder, as red candles flickered through the night until quiet settled late into the darkness.

Washing Elowen clean before tucking her back into bed, Cassian held her while her mind remained hazy.

Holding her close, Cassian whispered, “Ask whatever rests on your mind.”

Falling silent for a beat, Elowen gathered her courage to ask, “Why did Your Grace marry me?”

Cassian replied promptly, “Because I loved you. Ever since I first saw you riding a horse, you stayed in my heart, and now that you’ve reached marriageable age, I naturally claimed you as my bride.”

Pursing her lips, Elowen stammered, “But I was once with the Crown Prince...” changing her phrase, “Alaric and I grew up together, and everyone expected me to marry him.”