

Benefits 701

Chapter 701: A Second Date

Dora woke up with a jolt, her heart racing as the persistent pounding on the door echoed through her room. She blinked rapidly, trying to clear the haze of sleep from her eyes. The clock on her nightstand showed it was only seven, and she groaned in frustration. Who could possibly be disturbing her at such an ungodly time?

Grabbing the pillow beside her, she covered her ears and tried to return to sleep. Whoever it was could go back and return later. They could knock until their knuckles bled and she was not leaving the bed. As expected, the pounding on the door finally stopped and she smiled. See. Let them think she'd gone out of the room while she slept peacefully. However, that feeling was short lived when her phone started to ring, the next minute.

She didn't make a move to answer it as she frowned. How could her phone be ringing? She had a habit of turning it off when... She slapped a hand to her head. Dar*! She'd taken it off the airplane mode when she'd wanted to check his reply... a reply which had ever come...

As the phone's ringing persisted, Dora sighed in resignation. She rolled over, trying to hide her face beneath the pillow. If she could just turn the phone off, maybe she could go back to sleep. But of course, the phone's relentless ringing showed no signs of stopping. With a weary groan, Dora blindly slid her thumb over the screen, answering the call more out of obligation than willingness.

"Hello..." she mumbled into the phone, her voice thick from sleep.

The voice on the other end was smooth and warm, cutting through her grogginess. There was a faint sigh before the person spoke. "I knew it. You have a sexy voice when you wake up. So husky. Sigh. I wish I could hear it in my ear directly instead of through the phone."

Dora's eyes shot open, her sleepiness momentarily forgotten. She pulled the phone away from her ear, squinting at the screen. Dam*! How could he flirt so early in the morning? Clearing her throat, she asked, "Prince Kael. Why are you up and chirpy so early in the morning?"

"Is it early? The sun has been up for hours."

"I don't care about the sun." Dora murmured, as she finally gave up on getting more sleep and lay in her bed, staring up at the ceiling. "Why are you calling me?"

"For our second date." Kael answered and Dora sighed incredulously, "You called me so early in the morning to ask me out on a second date?"

"Nope."

Isidora frowned and took the phone off her ear to stare at it in confusion for a few moments. "You are not asking me out for a second date?"

"I am calling to inform you that it is time for our second date. You told me that I could choose the time and place, didn't you. So, open the door my fairy queen."

Dora's mind raced as she processed the man's words and realized that the pounding on the door had been him all along. She snapped upright in bed then, her eyes wide with panic. Without thinking, she abruptly disconnected the call and bolted out of her room to open the door, only to skitter to a halt when she caught sight of her reflection in the hallway mirror.

Her appearance was a disaster—her hair a tangled mess and were those drool marks on the corner of her lips? Hurriedly, she veered off course and dashed toward the bathroom brushing her teeth and combing her hair almost simultaneously. Finally, feeling a bit presentable, she walked to the door, cursing in her heart. If he didn't like her bare no make up face, then it was his problem for not giving her the time to doll up.

As she opened the door, he stood there, dressed in a shirt and pants, holding two paper bags aloft, as he shot, "Surprise."

But in the next minute, his eyes widened as he sent a look all over her and Dora felt her heart sink as she followed his gaze lingering over her. "Wow. Now I really do wish that you'd invited me over for a nightcap..."

Dora shifted uncomfortably, feeling her cheeks heat up. She gave a weak smile and pointed vaguely towards the pantry. "Um, you can just put those bags there," she said quickly, trying to avoid meeting his eyes directly. "I'll, uh, go change and be right back."

Kael's expression softened hiding the heat in his eyes as a playful grin tugged at his lips. "There's no need to change on my account. I actually quite like your, uh, look. Trust me, this image of you will be living rent-free in my head forever."

As she hurried away, she heard Kael let out a wolf whistle and rolled her eyes. The man behaved less like a prince and more like a street thug.

After a few moments, as she walked out, she raised her brows at the table set up. He'd gone all out. He seemed to have sensed her expression as he looked up, "What? I couldn't let you feel shortchanged for a date, could I? And I didn't know whether you prefer sweet or savoury breakfast so I got both and coffee."

"Well, that was smart of you. Though I don't drink coffee."

He gave her a surprised expression then, as if asking, "who doesn't drink coffee?"

She chuckled at his expression and rolled her eyes, "Yes. I am the monster who doesn't drink coffee. I'll go get some hot chocolate for myself while you drink that horrible thing."

Kael shrugged and watched as she moved about the small pantry, enjoying the view. She looked so graceful, even when doing something so simple. As she joined him for breakfast, he kept an eye on her, making sure to note what it was that she liked and took a second serving of and what she didn't like. As they ate their breakfast in relative peace, he finally asked her, "So, what do second date privileges include? Kissing? Necking?"

Chapter 702: Dates

Dora coughed at that question before wiping her mouth and staring at him as she answered primly, "Second dates are only an expression of interest. They do not have any special privileges."

"What a disappointment!" Kael murmured as he grabbed her hand, which was resting on the table, and said, "A little hand-holding should be alright though, right?"

Dora giggled and slapped at his hand as she pulled hers back. "Nope. No holding hands until the tenth date."

"Tenth date! You are cruel, Dora!"

She shrugged and continued to eat her food as Kael hurriedly did some calculations on his phone. "Okay, how about we bring hand-holding to the fifth date? Also, what are your plans for today since it's the weekend?"

Dora slowed down and looked at him questioningly.

"Well, you said five dates. We can have a lunch date and a dinner date, so that's two more, making a total of four. Tomorrow morning would be our fifth date then. I don't think I can wait any longer than that."

Dora laughed at that and shook her head. "Too bad then. Because I'm going out of the city today and not returning until tomorrow night. In fact, if you had come a little later, you would have found me ready to leave."

Dora didn't add that he probably would have seen her assistant and security personnel as well. There was no need for it. She would rather continue this casual dating than reveal her true self and invite trouble from politics.

Kael placed a hand on his left side as if his heart was wounded and pouted. "Does that mean you're going to abandon me?"

Dora nodded. "Yep, that is exactly what it means."

He grabbed her hand then, both his hands holding hers as she tried to tug it out of his grip. She was about to tell him to let her go when he tugged at her fingers and spoke, his voice all serious. "I think I've really fallen for you, Dora. I know what you think—that I'm the most flirtatious person ever, a playboy. And I am. But I've never chased someone. You are the only one I am chasing, and this is a first for me, so don't play games with me, okay?"

Dora blinked at his words. That was exactly what she had been focusing on when telling herself not to fall for him—that he was an expert at seducing women. She felt her heart flutter again at his earnest words. Could a playboy like him really be serious?

"I don't like to play games, Kael. So, you need not be worried. I have a prior appointment somewhere so I cannot... We can have a date next week, right?"

His intense gaze locked onto hers then, unwavering, as if he could see right through her. The weight of his stare made her heart skip a beat, and she found herself momentarily at a loss for words. She sighed and tried to tug her hand free, but instead of letting go, Kael gently tugged it closer.

With a deliberate slowness, he lifted her hand to his lips, never breaking eye contact. Dora's breath caught in her throat as he turned her wrist upward, exposing the delicate skin on the inside. His lips brushed against it, sending a shiver down her spine. The simple gesture was impossibly intimate, making her pulse quicken. He seemed to know this as well.

For he, pressed another kiss to the inside of her wrist, lingering just long enough for her to feel the soft caress of his breath on her skin. The sensation was intoxicating, making her knees weak even though she was seated. "It's a date then."

She could feel him inching closer, his gaze dropping to her lips as if contemplating something more.

Just as he leaned in, his intentions clear in the way his hand gently squeezed hers, a sharp, intrusive sound shattered the moment—the alarm on her phone. Her eyes widened in panic as she quickly realized what it was. This was her wake-up alarm, and a timely reminder that her assistant and security detail would be arriving any minute. The reality of her situation crashed back down on her, dousing the heady warmth Kael had stirred in her. She needed to act fast. She couldn't let them see him and repors anything back to Daddy.

She pulled back slightly, her expression shifting from dreamy to urgent as she hastily tugged her hand out of his grip. "Kael, I just remembered," she blurted out, her tone hurried and a bit breathless. "I really have to go somewhere just now."

Kael blinked, his eyebrows knitting together in confusion at her sudden change in demeanor. "What? Right now? But we were— You said you had to go later..."

"No, no. It has to be right now! Before I leave the city." Dora interrupted, almost stumbling over her words as she began to gather the breakfast things. She couldn't risk him staying any longer, not with her entourage about to arrive. "I completely forgot I have this... this appointment I can't miss. I promise I'll make it up to you, okay?"

Kael stood there, clearly bewildered as Dora scrambled to clear the table with a sudden burst of frantic energy. He stood up and moved to help her but she swatted his hand away.

"Dora? Seriously? You're acting as if someone is going to burst through the door any second.

"You have no idea," she muttered under her breath, as she glanced at the time. Grabbing the second cup of untouched coffee, she shoved it into his hand and spun him towards the door, "Here, take this as a parting gift! But really, Kael, you have to go now."

"Wait, what? Coffee" Kael stared down at the coffee in his hands, completely thrown off balance. "Dora, this is—"

"Dora, you're acting—" Kael began, but she was already yanking open the door, practically pushing him over the threshold with a not-so-gentle nudge.

"Yes, yes, I know, I'm acting weird, but it's a matter of national security!" she said, making Kael blink in surprise. "Or at least... personal security. Just trust me, okay? You have to go now. We'll talk next week, I promise!"

Chapter 703: Dear

Dear Diary,

I threw my date out of the house today. Sigh, I wonder if he will want to even date me again. Hmm. Anyway, I guess I can consider it a test. After all, he has to accept my weirdness if we have to go along on future dates. I actually like him a bit, so hopefully, he won't run for the hills.

Dora sighed as she turned off the diary app in her phone and leaned back in the car, closing her eyes. She didn't even know what to write in the diary. Had no words to express what she had felt with him. She sighed again.

"Why are you sighing so much today, Ms. Dora?" a voice broke through her thoughts. Dora jumped, coloring when she realized what it was she had been thinking.

Dora jumped, blushing slightly as she realized how lost she'd been in her own head with thoughts of him and his kisses, her gaze fixed on her wrist where he'd pressed kisses. She'd never known that her wrist could be such a...She shook her head, realizing she was losing her terrain of thought again. Her assistant, Tasha, was still glancing at her through the rearview mirror with a curious expression.

"Oh, nothing," Dora replied quickly, waving her hand dismissively. "Just... thinking about stuff."

"Stuff, huh?" Tasha's tone was light, but there was a knowing edge to it as if she could guess. Thankfully, Tasha didn't push, though. Instead, she pulled a tablet from her bag and started swiping through the screen. "Well, while you're thinking about 'stuff,' we need to talk about next weekend. There's a charity function—"

"No," Dora cut in, her tone sharper than she intended. She opened her eyes and sat up straight, frowning. "I don't want to do it."

Tasha blinked, clearly surprised by the interruption. "But, Ms. Dora, it's for a good cause, and it would really—" "No," Dora repeated, shaking her head more firmly this time. "I'm not doing any more official events. I need a break, Tasha. This is my last semester at college, and I want to enjoy it. I don't want to be tied down with responsibilities every weekend. No more scheduling anything official from now on, okay?"

She wanted to keep her weekends free for him. Of course she was not going to tell Tasha that but she'd already decided.

Tasha hesitated, her fingers hovering over the tablet as if she was about to argue. But then she sighed, nodding in agreement. "Alright, I'll clear your calendar after this weekend. You're the boss, after all. But can I ask why this sudden change of heart?"

"What do you mean sudden change?" Dora asked in confusion.

"Until last week, you were insisting that I should arrange as many outings for you as I can. That you wanted to meet more people and..."

"I do want to meet more people." Dora added, cursing herself. Her original intention had been to look for a love so of course she wanted to meet more people. But now that she'd found the guy, she had no interest in.... "But, I think instead of meeting them officially, I'll meet the people in my university. So, please do clear it."

"Consider it done, Dora."

Dora nodded, feeling a bit of relief wash over her. "Thanks, Tasha. I just... I need to focus on me for a little while."

Tasha smiled, her eyes softening with understanding. "I get it. Enjoy your time, Dora. You've earned it."

As she closed her eyes to think about him, an idea struck her. It had been her fault for throwing him out like that. So, instead of waiting for him, maybe she could directly apologize to him and then ask him out. That way, her conscience would be clear and she would not be left waiting for him to ask her out, if he ever got over it.

Opening her messaging app, she hesitated for a second before typing out a message to him. "Hey, Kael. Sorry for throwing you out of my house so suddenly today! Thanks for the breakfast date, though. I had a really great time!"

She hit send, feeling a small flutter of nerves as she waited for his response if he had not blocked her number already. Unexpectedly, it didn't take long.

"No worries, Dora. I've gotta say, though, you really know how to keep a guy on his toes. Two dates and both were... uniquely exciting."

Dora smiled, a warm feeling spreading through her chest as she read his reply. He was teasing her. So that probably meant he was not offended right. That was good. For a prince, he was not too high and mighty. She liked that he was not the nose in the air types like the other Royalty.

"Well, I'm glad you're not running for the hills. How about we make date number three a little less... eventful? I promise, this time I'll make sure it's a boring one."

Boring, huh? I'm not sure you're capable of that, but I'm willing to take the risk. When's this "boring" date happening? Don't tell me next weekend. That is too far..."

Dora bit her lip as she read the message. She'd actually been thinking of next weekend but the way he said, she realized that the next weekend felt too far for her as well. So...

"How about this Tuesday? I have a test coming up so we can plan a study date with dinner?"

Dora sighed as she realized she was really making this date so boring. Well, if he refused, then she could probably think of something else...

But he agreed to even that and she wondered if he really was as laid back as that. Why was this guy so adjusting as she read the message- "Looking forward to it, Dora. Have a safe trip, and don't forget to think of me while you're off doing whatever mysterious things you're doing."

However, the question was soon forgotten as she started to look forward to the next date..."

Chapter 704: A Bet

"Looking forward to it, Dora. Have a safe trip, and don't forget to think of me while you're off doing whatever mysterious things you're doing." Kael leaned back on the lounge, staring at the message he'd just received in response, and smiled with a sense of smug satisfaction.

It didn't matter that she'd said she won't think of him. Because the fact that she was still glued to her phone, answering him as soon as he messaged was proof that she would be thinking of him. The next date... he was definitely looking forward to it. A study date? He wondered what it was they would 'study'. He knew he wanted to study 'curves' of course.

Ignoring the loud music playing around him, he placed the phone on his stomach and closed his eyes. But that moment of peace was disturbed when a young man suddenly appeared and sat beside him.

Kael opened his eyes slowly, his smile disappearing as if the presence of the other was an unwelcome intrusion. "Why is it you?"

The man shrugged and gestured around. "It's a party. So of course, I can be here."

Kael glared at the boy and shook his head. "I thought you were being punished by your mom. Is this punishment? You were at the restaurant last night while I was waiting for my date, and now it's afternoon, and you're already at a drinking party. If one didn't know better, they would think you were stalking me!" His tone carried a hint of condescension, as if the person's life choices were disappointingly predictably boring.

The man rolled his eyes. "Kael, I am stalking you. And you know the reason I went there yesterday. You told me about your date. And then this morning as well. But instead of being with a date you're all alone again. So, you know why I came here. Why don't you stop beating around the bush and tell me!"

Kael stood up, grabbing a glass and leisurely pouring himself a drink while ignoring the man, who was staring anxiously at him. He didn't feel like answering the question. First, he didn't like being questioned. Secondly, what Dora had done yesterday had almost been like an insult... While he understood now that she was playing hard to get, walking out of the restaurant after being ghosted was not a fun experience. Specially with this man sitting there, almost gloatingly.

Finally, the man, unable to hold himself back any longer, the boy stood up and walked over to him. "Come on, K! Tell me!"

Kael raised an eyebrow with a faint sneer. "What do I need to tell you?"

The man almost stomped his foot in frustration and glared. "Did you sleep with her or not?"

Kael's eyes turned cold as he glared at him then, a chill creeping into his voice. "Who I sleep with or not is none of your business."

The man cowered, but not for long, as he immediately questioned, "But you promised me that you would help me take revenge on Dora. But first you said that she would come to your date. Then when I went there, she did not come. Last night you told me that she was playing games and you guys had a date elsewhere. Then you shared a picture of your breakfast with her. So you must have slept with her, right? Come on, just share the details with me!"

Kael placed the glass on the table with a snap. "Do I, Prince Kael Ignis, look like a gigolo to you? Should I sleep with her just because you want revenge?" His voice dripped with disdain, making it clear that he saw himself as above such petty things.

This time, the man almost shivered in fear at Kael's cold tone, shaking his head as he tried to explain himself. "I... I'm sorry, I didn't mean that you should..."

Kael walked forward and placed a hand on the boy's shoulder, making the boy almost jump as he spoke calmly with a calculated gentleness. "Sleeping with me would be a reward, not a punishment, Kit. No. I am going to do something far better to avenge you. You are after all my favourite cousin..." His smile was predatory, promising a twisted satisfaction.

Kit perked up then, looking at his brother with renewed hope his admiration for Kael obvious, despite the darkness in Kael's intentions.

"I won't sleep with her." Kit gave him a look then, clenching his hands. What was the point of asking Kael for help if he wouldn't sleep. But before Kit could say more, Kael continued, "But I will seduce her. I will make her fall in love with me, want to sleep with me, and then I will discard her when she confesses. The same way she did to you. Public humiliation." Kael's tone was casual, as if ruining someone's life was just another measly thing while Kit shuffled uneasily as he stared at Kael.

He shook his head in denial. Dora was not someone easy to fool. It was why he'd specifically asked Kael, who was known as the woman charmer. "You will make her fall for you? It would be impossible, Kael. She's known as the Ice Queen for a reason. She has never seen anyone for more than a single date."

Kael smiled a sharp, calculating smile. "And yet, I already have a third date planned with her. She might be ice, but I'm fire. She won't escape me. Hmm... According to my calculations, I'll have her confessing her love to me in a month. That's when you have the annual university ball, isn't it?" His voice carried the certainty of a man who always gets what he wants, no matter the cost.

Kit nodded, feeling excited at the prospect of what was to come. And as expected, Kael proposed, "Then let's make a bet. At the end of this month, she will come to the ball alone... thinking that she is supposed to be with me... and confess her love to me."

Chapter 705: The Third Date

Kael walked into the hostel and stopped in front of the closed door. His plan had worked perfectly. By not replying to her since the weekend, he had made sure she would be on edge, wondering if he was coming over or not. He knew his tactic had succeeded when he received a message from her this morning, asking if he was coming. Satisfaction curled within him—he had her right where he wanted, anxious and uncertain, just as he'd planned.

Quietly, he knocked on the door and waited for a response, curious to see how she would react when she saw him. He had already predicted two possible scenarios. One, she would show anger at him for not replying, which would require him to coax her back into a good mood. The second option was that she would jump into his arms, eager to use the opportunity he'd given her. A smirk tugged at his lips. While he would enjoy her throwing herself at him, he had a feeling she might go for the first option, which would make the game even more interesting.

Of course, he wanted to sleep with her. She was sexy and undeniably beautiful. But that would come later—something he hadn't bothered to share with Kit. First, Dora needed to confess her love, and then he would humiliate her to satisfy Kit's desire for revenge.

But once that was done, Kael had already decided he would reel her back in. Dora was different from other girls. She didn't immediately fall at his feet, and that was a refreshing change. So, once the revenge was over, he might keep her around, maybe even try dating her for a while. After all, she intrigued him, and that was something he hadn't felt in a long time.

A voice inside him called him a jerk for being so ruthless but he ignored that. After all, she was the one who had played with Kit's emotions first by misleading him. And as for her 'hurt', he'd just throw some money to soothe it. Wasn't that the reason why she'd dated Kit in the first place? So that he would give her some luxury?

Kael frowned when no one immediately opened the door, the sense of satisfaction slipping slightly. He knocked again, this time with more insistence. Finally, the door creaked open, and he put on his most charming smile, expecting to see Dora's face light up. But instead, he was greeted by another woman—one with thick glasses perched on her nose, glaring at him with clear irritation.

"Why are you knocking so much?" she hissed, her tone sharp and annoyed. "The door is open, so just come inside."

Kael's smile faltered, caught off guard by the unexpected encounter. He quickly masked his surprise and checked to see the door number, expecting to have come to the wrong door. But the woman continued with narrowed eyes, "And what's with the flowers? Didn't you bring any books? Who brings flowers to a study group?"

Before Kael could form a response, Dora appeared behind the woman, her expression softening when she saw him. Her eyes flicked from his face to the flowers in his hand, and she smiled, stepping past her disgruntled friend.

"Someone who's studying flowers will bring flowers," Dora replied smoothly, her tone light and playful as she addressed the other woman. "Come on in, Kael. But he is not studying flowers. He's brought them to me because I asked. They are Gardenias and I love them but they are not easily available. Thanks for finding them and bringing them to me, Kael."

Kael narrowed his eyes as he stepped inside. Other than the bespectacled girl, there were two more people in the room, a boy with thick glasses like the girl's and another girl who seemed to be hiding her face behind her hair. He handed the flowers to Dora, letting his fingers brush against hers as he did so, his gaze locking onto hers as if silently questioning her why there were other people on their date.

Dora took the flowers from him and smiled, "I asked you for confirmation and messaged you the time but you didn't reply so I invited them over. I just cannot study alone. Thanks for coming. Don't worry, they'll be leaving soon. We are almost done studying. If you really want to study, I have some books there, you can check if there is anything pertaining to your studies. You're studying Business and economics, right?"

As Kael followed Dora quietly, she made quick introductions and then the group continued to study, discussing all sorts of pros and cons of different policies and doing case studies.

Kael took a seat near the group and opened a random textbook from the pile Dora had pointed out, pretending to be engrossed in it while his mind raced. This wasn't how he'd envisioned the evening. He was supposed to be alone with Dora, charming her and teasing her, but instead, he found himself surrounded by a group of 'nerds.'

As the others spoke, Kael's eyes occasionally flickered over to Dora. He didn't know why he'd made such a mistake. He should have expected that she would be studious. After all, she was a scholarship student, living in the hostel that had been donated by the Royal House of Estania.

Was this all part of her game? Was she trying to make him question himself, to throw him off balance? It was possible, but Kael couldn't shake the feeling that Dora was not as simple as she seemed. She was, if possible, even more cunning than he'd guessed.

Meanwhile, against what he was assuming, Dora had not done this as part of some game. Even now, she continued to send glances his way as she sighed in disappointment at having been foolish to invite the others. But she'd been too nervous about his silence and too excited to meet him when he did come. So, she had decided to have someone act as buffer between them, to help curb her excitement. And yet, now that these people were here, all she wanted to do was get rid of them faster so that she could be with him.

Chapter 706: gone

The moment the nerdy group stepped out, Kael took his chance. Placing the book aside, he stalked toward her, so that she found herself pinned between him and her door the moment she turned. Their eyes met.

Dora cursed inwardly. She should have made those people stay and study longer. Now she was left alone with Kael and in grave danger of almost molesting the man. All weekend, he'd been on her mind, even so much so that he'd actually invaded her dreams, making her wake up all kinds of horny and hungry for more—something she had never felt before for anyone. He was like a potent aphrodisiac!

She shifted her hands behind her back so that they would not move of their own accord and touch him, trying to stay strong as she looked into his eyes. "Why are you blocking my way, Kael? Are you finished studying?"

The man shook his head but said nothing, only looking at her. Her fingernails dug into her palms as she tried to keep calm, but then he moved, his finger tracing her jaw as he said, "I do want to study, but not what's in those books."

Dora licked her lips and knew she'd made a mistake when his eyes darkened. She opened her mouth to say something, but he placed a finger on her lips. "You keep surprising me, Dora. What should I do with you?"

Dora shrugged then and did what she wanted to do—she kissed his finger.

It happened quickly then. He leaned in suddenly, his forearm now against her shoulder as he moved his finger away from her lips and brought his head down, for a searing kiss seemingly wanting to break all barriers.

His tongue licked her lips, almost demanding and when she didn't open fast enough, he sucked on her lower lip, making her gasp. His hands were now on her waist as he pulled her close to his body with a jerk, his hand on her lower back pulling her closer to him.

Dora lost her senses then as she felt all of him against her. Never in her life has she experienced these sensations. Giving in to her own needs, she placed her hands on his shoulders and kissed him back, their tongues dueling together.

He broke the kiss then as they both came up for much needed air. And yet, his gaze remained fixed on her lips. "Kael..." She whispered his name and he looked into her eyes for a moment before his eyes turned to her lips again. With a groan, he kissed her again, as if once was not enough.

She didn't know how long the kiss went on. It could have been a few seconds or a few minutes, but when they finally came apart, she knew she needed to back off. Or else... She slipped away from his hug then wanting to put much distance between them. But he caught her, pulling her into his body from behind as his arms came to rest on her stomach, "I want you, Dora."

She leaned her head to the side as he kissed his way from her ear to neck, giving his access as she heard his words. "I know." She whispered and groaned when his hands spread over her stomach almost possessively.

"Kael. We... need... to...stop."

Kael whipped her around then, his hands on her waist and the back of her neck, "I don't want to stop, Dora."

Their lips met again as he moved her back until the back of Dora's legs met the couch and she stumbled backwards. He followed her onto the couch, not willing to let go as he knelt between her legs. He moved

then, wanting to get rid of his clothes when the jarring sound of a phone ringing cut through the air. Kael stiffened, his grip on her tightening before he pulled back slightly. With a frustrated curse, he fished his phone out of his pocket, glancing at the screen.

Dora stared as his jaw clenched, registering that it was someone he probably didn't want to talk to but then he muttered, "I have to go."

Dora nodded, still trying to process the sudden change and catch her breath as he leaned in once more, capturing her lips in a final, hard kiss that left her reeling. Then, without another word, he turned and walked out of the room, leaving the door swinging shut behind him as Dora wondered how things had spiraled out of control.

Kael walked out of the hostel angrily as he tapped on his phone. "I told you to call in a few minutes, not after ten," he snapped into the phone, his voice low but charged with anger as he disconnected the call.

Sliding into the driver's seat, he gripped the steering wheel tightly, cursing under his breath. How had he let things spiral so quickly out of control? He was supposed to be the one in charge, the one with the upper hand, but the moment he'd been near Dora, all his carefully maintained restraint had shattered. With a frustrated sigh, he slammed his fist against the steering wheel.

If that foolish Kit had called when he was supposed to, then he would have left Dora wanting for more after just a kiss. Instead, the idi** had called when he'd lost all self control. Another few minutes and his carefully laid plans would have been gone to waste.

Shaking his head, he started the engine and raced out of the parking lot. What was it about this Dora that made him forget everything. How was she so unpredictable? When he'd entrapped her against the door' he'd expected her to be shy instead she'd instigated him, kissing his finger with those soft delectable lips of hers.

It was maddening to be with her and the ache he was feeling right now, reminded him that it was just as maddeing to be deprived of her. He neded to re-think. What was he going to to with Dora?

Chapter 707: The Fourth Date

Dora was a nervous wreck. After what had transpired between them the last time, she just knew that she would be blushing the moment she saw his face. The memory of their last encounter played on a loop in her mind, her heart racing every time she thought about it. She felt the heat rising to her cheeks

already, and he wasn't even in the room yet. As she looked around the quiet conference room where he'd invited her, she wondered how he was going to have a date in a private room? What was he planning?

Surprisingly, he arrived with his entourage of guards and Dora's eyes widened. Da*n it! She couldn't be seen with him in public. What was he planning? Before she could ask, he covered the distance between them and quickly placed a kiss on her lips before moving back, "Don't worry about the security. They are just here as a buffer so that I don't jump you like last time."

Dora blushed at the reminder of that night and nodded shakily as he continued, "I'm taking you dancing. Or at least for dancing lessons."

Dora widened her eyes. Dancing lessons? But she already knew how to... She closed her mouth then. He looked so excited about the dance lessons. And it was the date that was more important.

They entered a large, airy room with mirrors lining every wall, making the space seem even bigger. The polished wooden floor gleamed under the soft lights, and the air felt cool and fresh.

As they stepped inside, a woman dressed elegantly in a flowing skirt quickly approached them. She had a warm smile on her face and a kind, gentle demeanor.

"Hello," she greeted them, bowing slightly. "I'm your waltz teacher for the evening."

As Dora greeted the woman, Kael's phone rang, "I need to take this. I'll be right back."

The teacher watched him leave before turning back to Dora with a soft smile. "Thank you for everything," she said, her tone sincere and appreciative.

Dora blinked in surprise. "For what?" she asked, her voice tinged with confusion.

The woman chuckled softly. "Prince Kael has been a great help to me. When I was in a tough spot financially, he stepped in and helped me. But he didn't want me to feel like I owed him anything, so he arranged for these lessons as a way to support my work. I thought a prince like him would definitely know. But then he said that you wanted to learn how to dance the waltz." She paused, her eyes shining with gratitude. "So, thank you."

Just then, Kael returned, slipping his phone back into his pocket. "Ready to get started?"

The waltz teacher clapped her hands together, drawing their attention. "Alright, let's begin with the basics," she said, moving into position. "Prince Kael, if you could place your hand on her waist, and Dora, your hand on his shoulder."

Kael did as instructed, his hand resting lightly on Dora's waist. Dora placed her hand on his shoulder, trying her best to appear unsure. The teacher demonstrated the first few steps and Dora watched intently.

"One, two, three," the teacher counted, guiding them through the steps. Her brow furrowed in concentration as they began to move. She really needed to pretend to be a novice.

Dora stumbled slightly, pretending to be unsteady on her feet as she stepped on his foot.. Kael immediately tightened his grip, trying to steady her as she tried to apologize for being clumsy.. "It's okay, just follow my lead," he said, gently trying to encourage her.

But as they continued, it became harder for Dora to keep up the act. Her body naturally fell into the rhythm of the waltz, and she found herself moving more gracefully than she intended.

Kael noticed. "Wait a minute," he said. "You're not half bad at this."

Dora quickly fumbled her next step, exaggerating the stumble to throw him off. "I'm just trying to keep up," she said innocently.

Kael narrowed his eyes at her then. "You're pretending, aren't you? You know how to waltz?"

Dora nodded, "I like to dance so I know many forms of dance. I can do Waltz, tango, flamenco, ballet, etc."

Kael shook his head, "And here I was, thinking I'd impress you with my dancing skills."

"Hush! I know why you did."

Keal looked surprised then, "What do you mean?"

"Just that you've got a soft heart, Kael Ignis. Anyway, we need to hide our skills or the teacher will know. So move a bit clumsily."

Kael laughed and pulled her close as he sighed, "She shouldn't have said anything to you. I told her not to."

"Well, why not. Its not like having kindness is going to ruin your playboy image."

"Okay okay. Don't tease me about it." Kael murmured even as he satisfied glance to the teacher. His plan had worked perfectly to establish his image as a kind person.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the room, two security personnel stood watch, keeping a discreet distance. One of them, a tall man with a buzz cut, leaned closer to his colleague.

"She looks familiar," he whispered, nodding toward Dora. "I'm sure I've seen her somewhere before."

The other nodded and frowned in thought. "You might be right. But I don't understand where... I heard the prince say she is a scholarship student."

"But she moves differently. I mean others would be wary of us following them. But after the first glance, she ignored us as if she was already used to this."

The second guard scratched his head. "Maybe. Or was it that gala last month? The one with all the big donors? Should we report her to the Head of Security? He might want to gather more information about her?"

The first one, however, sent his colleague a horrified look, "Are you crazy. If the prince knows we reported his whereabouts or anything else, he will have us thrown out before we can catch a breath. Let's just keep quiet for now, it's not like she is a security threat."

Chapter 708: confession

"I think I'm falling for you."

Dora looked up from her book in shock as she heard Kael's words. "What?"

Kael gave her a pained smile. "Come on, babe. You can't be this clueless. Why do you think I've been coming here every evening for the last two weeks?"

"To watch movies?"

Kael narrowed his eyes at her at this and Dora grinned, "No? Then to study?"

She giggled at his expression and then shrugged, "Well, then you tell me. I don't know. You come here because you're probably bored out of your mind?"

Kael grimaced and, taking the book from her hand, threw it aside on the table. "Hey! My bo..." In the next moment, he pulled her onto his lap, positioning her so that she was straddling him, her hands resting on his broad shoulders, his hands on her hips as he let her sit on his lap

"You! Stop playing games with me," he said, his voice low and insistent.

Dora giggled, but her heart raced at the sudden closeness. She could feel him under her as she sat back down on his hard thighs and the sheer naughtiness of sitting like this, sent a thrill through her.

She knew she was falling for him too. Kael was kind, humorous, and easy to get along with. There was also nothing pretentious about him. She liked spending time with him. She'd even toyed with the idea of not making this a short-term relationship, especially since he was already royalty. But the reality gnawed at her: could she truly have a long-term relationship with someone she loved without it being overshadowed by politics? Being with him would undoubtedly thrust them into the public eye, where every move would be scrutinized.

Kael pinched her thigh lightly, drawing her attention back to him. She winced, glaring at him as she rubbed the spot. "What was that for?"

Swatting her hand away, Kael gently rubbed the stinging skin himself. "You were ignoring me, lost in your own thoughts," he complained.

Dora couldn't help but smile at his possessiveness. She cupped his cheek and pinched it gently. "If you pinch me next time, I'll bite you!"

Instead of being threatened, he actually grinned, his eyes darkening with playful mischief. "Where? I could show you a few places."

She swatted at his shoulder, rolling her eyes. "Why is your mind always on shameless things? Come on, let's study."

But as she moved to get off his lap, Kael's hands slid down to grip her thighs, pulling her even closer as he suggestively thrust his hips upward. He slid her over his lap with a smooth motion, his strength evident in the way he handled her. "Do you think you can escape so easily?" he murmured, his voice husky.

His hand cupped her neck, his thumb tracing her jawline with a feather-light touch. He applied subtle pressure to bring her closer, their lips just inches apart. "What about the answer to my confession, hmm?"

"What confession?" she teased, her breath hitching as she met his intense gaze and she continued. "I think I might be falling for you... you call that a confession? Kael Ignis! Are you skimping out on me?"

Kael grinned, his teeth flashing in a roguish smile. "Me? Skimping? You're the one who's ashamed of being seen in public with me."

Dora's smile faltered as she looked into his eyes, seeing the vulnerability he rarely showed. "You know that's not true. Its not about being ashamed." she whispered.

"Then tell me why you won't say yes to even a simple invitation to dinner, hmm?" he challenged.

"You know why," she began, her voice wavering. "The media will start to—"

"Knowing your reasons doesn't make it easier to accept, Dora," Kael interrupted, his tone raw with emotion. "I want to go out with you, show everyone what a lovely woman I've had the chance to be with. But you insist on keeping this a secret. I almost feel like I'm some kind of dirty mistress to you."

"Kael..." Dora's voice cracked, guilt washing over her.

But before she could say another word, Kael captured her lips in an angry, demanding kiss. The suddenness of it took her breath away. His aggression shocked her, but even in his anger, his hands remained gentle, cradling her as if she were something precious. His kiss was a fierce claim, but it wasn't just anger she tasted; it was desperation, longing, and an overwhelming need.

Dora tried to pull back for a moment, overwhelmed by the intensity, but her resolve quickly crumbled. She couldn't resist him. Helplessly, she responded to his kiss, her hands gripping his shoulders for support as his mouth moved over hers with a ferocity that made her insides melt. She snuggled closer, meeting his demands with her own, pouring all the unspoken words and feelings into their kiss.

His hand slid under her skirt, kneading the flesh there as he possessively pulled her close. She broke the kiss and looked down into her eyes, seeing the feral look in his eyes making her want more..."Kael..."

"Dora..." He murmured her name even as he pulled back, while she tried to kiss him again.

Her eyes darkened, "Are you going to punish me by holding back your kisses."

"I won't be punishing you, no," he answered breathing hard as he pulled her close, burying his face in her chest. His warm breath on her skin there, made her ache... and then he placed an open mouthed kiss, making her moan as he finally complained, "I am going to make you go crazy! So crazy that you will want to scream to the world that you belong to me. And only me."

Dora pushed her fingers through his hair, tugging lightly, but instead, he bit her, just where her shoulder and neck met, marking her as he licked and then suckled at the spot. She knew it would leave a bruise and yet, she felt herself melt into his arms, pulling him closer still.

In the next moment, however, he abruptly slid her onto the couch and marched out of the room, leaving her flummoxed.

Chapter 709: Dilemma

Dora was in a dilemma. On the one hand, she felt guilty towards Kael; on the other, she was enraged that he would try to force her hand. She glared at her phone in disappointment and anger, as if it were the handset's fault as she re-read the message that Kael had sent her, "Dora, I know this might seem like I am forcing your hand, but believe me this is the last thing I want. I am merely trying to protect myself. I've already made my feelings known to you while you have yet to realise your feelings for me. Or maybe you do not feel anything.

As such, I've decided to give you some time and space to come to an answer without feeling forced to choose me. I will not be seeing you for the next five days until it is time for the University's annual ball. Until then, I will await your answer. I hope we can go to this ball as a couple, but the end decision is in your hands."

Throwing the phone aside, she walked away from the door and back to her bedroom, only for the phone to start ringing. She stopped and turned back. Maybe that stupid prince had realized his mistake. He was almost blackmailing her! But as she stomped back to the phone, she realized it wasn't Kael.

Her already bad mood worsened, as she answered the phone, "Tasha!"

Her assistant paused before speaking. Probably recognising her foul mood as she gently began, "Princess Dora, how are you doing?"

"Skip the pleasantries, Tasha! And tell me why you called me?"

"There is an upcoming event this Friday that requires your presence..."

Dora's scowl deepened." I thought I told you I wanted my weekends free from now onwards."

"I know, princess! But this is really important. Its a sudden charity event for the victims of the flash floods in Vity City. Even the prince of Petravi is going to the event and you know how he is known for being reticent."

Dora was about to refuse but then stopped. Prince Of Petravi...meaning Kael. The University ball was on Saturday. But if she could meet Kael on Friday and reveal her identity, wouldn't it be great? It would give her a chance to come clean and make him understand her reasons.

And if,after knowing the truth, he still feels that he wants to go as a couple, then maybe just maybe she would take the risk.

Clear on her intentions now, she nodded," Alright, I'll go, Tasha. Email me all the details of the charity function and expected guests."

Having reached a satisfactory conclusion, Dora heaed back to her bedroom, this time taking the phone with her. She'd like to see his espression when he realized that she was Princess Isidora.

Just then, her phone rang again and this time, her smile widened," Cai. Back from the boonies, are you?"

Cai's warm voice sounded over the phone, " Yes, I am. And thank you for coverign up for me! This time , it took longer than expected."

Dora sighed and nodded," Yes it did! Cai, why do you have to work so hard? Haven't you proven yourself by skipping grades and getting your degree a couple of years sooner?"

"I like working hard, Dora! Anyway, you're starting to start like Mom by the day so stop it or else, I'll be calling you aunt next."

"Ha! You dare and see what I do to you, Caius Frost! I will let loose a herd of goats after you!"

Caius chuckled then and shook his head, "Okay Okay! Don't give me your wild threats. I have a surprise for you?"

"A surprise? What surprise?" Dora asked in excitement as she waited for him to send a picture. That was the best part about Caius. He usually had the best souvenirs. The last time he'd gone, he'd found her a raw amethyst! It was such a beautiful stone. And before that, he'd gotten her some preserved flowers that were now extinct."

She heard Caius laugh at her excitement and then cursed as he said, "Have patience. Have patience. I've sent it over. It will reach you on the Friday or Saturday."

"Hey! That is too long! You jerk! You purposely told me just now so that I would have to wait until the weekend! Wait till I find you and kill you! I will take your scalpel and create holes in you and then feed your innards to the..."

Caius laughed at that and as she stutered, he continued, "Feed them to the vultures, okay?"

Dora sighed and shook her head, her heart settling after talkign to him, "Cai." She spoke his name softly but knew from the sudden silence that he'd caught on.

"I'm here."

"When are you coming to see me? It's been so long. I miss my best friend."

"Dora... I..."

Dora ran a hand over her face then. Why was being so foolish over a simple relationship. She shook her head and sighed again, "Relax, kiddo. I'm just feeling pensieve. I'll be fine. You go do what you do best-cutting dead bodies and all."

"Dora? Are you sure you are okay?" Caius asked carefully.

Dora chuckled, "Yes. You fool! And you know I am not one to suffer in silence. I... I have a bit of a trouble in my head now, but I'll resolve it soon. Don't worry, okay? Come on, now... go go go and socialise with your dead bodies."

'Okay okay. I am going. But Dora, you know I'm just a phone call away, right?'"

"I know, Cai. Now I'm going to go and sleep. So, say bye bye." She tried to lighten the mood, but deep down, she wished she could tell him everything that was weighing on her mind. However, she knew that he would definitely come right over if she did. And she definitely could not handle a Frost on top of Kael now.

"Bye bye." Cai spoke obediently. However, as he disconnected the phone, Caius Frost turned and walked decisively towards the Dean's office. Sometimes, somethings could not be put on hold.

Chapter 710: Blankets

Dora woke up to the sound of pounding on the door and frowned. A quick glance at the clock showed her that it was still the middle of the night! She'd barely fallen asleep, and someone was at the door? Wondering who it could be, she hurried to the door and checked the peephole before smiling widely. Who was it that had messaged her barely a couple of hours ago, saying he wouldn't be seeing her until she confessed to him?

With a wide grin, she opened the door, ready to tease him, when he quickly caught her lips in a hard kiss not giving her time to gloat. She blinked at the unexpected kiss, her eyes widening. Shouldn't he at least apologize first for trying to push her into a corner? Before she could try to push him away, he broke the kiss and muttered, "Focus. Close your eyes."

Dora closed her eyes and was kissed senseless again for a few moments before he finally broke the kiss again with a curse. Stepping back hurriedly, she blinked, crossed her arms in front of her and raised an eyebrow, "Well, not that I mind the sudden urge to kiss me, but I thought you said you wouldn't be coming to see me. What was it.. ahh.. we won't see each other because you feel like a dirty mistress?"

Kael glared at her before looking away, "I won't come again! And I did not come here to see you. I came because I can't sleep."

"Well, I'm not selling sleep medicine...", Dora pointed out with confusion. What had sleeping have to do with coming here. And why did he have to be so rude.

Dora trailed off when Kael ignored her and marched towards her bedroom before following him, "Hey! Where are you going?" But before she could say much, he grabbed the blanket from the bed, rolled it up, and carried it outside, all without sparing her a second glance.

Rushing, she stopped in front of him, spread her hands out and blocked his way, "What are you doing, Kael?"

He gave her a look then, and Dora blinked. He looked like a child throwing a tantrum, pout and all. "I am taking your blanket. What else?"

"What else? If you don't have a blanket, buy one. Why are you stealing mine?" Dora asked in confusion. Was he high on something? She sniffed carefully but couldn't smell anything fishy...

Kael stomped his foot then, and Dora blinked, still thoroughly confused as he looked down at her. "I have loads of blankets! But I don't have you. And I am missing you, so unless you are offering to let me take you to my bed, I'm going to have to be satisfied with this little keepsake."

Dora's heart thudded at that moment. He missed her, so he was taking her blanket to keep it close to him. That was... cute. She decided.

Seeing her quiet face, Kael grimaced, "Not volunteering yourself? See, this is how I am going to suffer because of your stubbornness."

Dora raised her hands in surrendered and shook her head, "No, no. You can keep the blanket. Go, go. Sleep well."

With that, she quickly stepped aside, letting him pass. He'd taken only a few steps when he paused again and turned to look at Dora. Dora looked away. She needed to hide how cute she found him or he'd find a way to use it to his advantage. Thankfully, she wasn't wearing her satiny lingerie tonight like the last time or the way she usually did. Otherwise, she'd have been blushing already and then he would not have asked her about taking her to bed but directly taken her.

"Why are you stopping? Do you need something else?" Dora asked carefully. Something in his eyes had changed and somehow, she was sure that it was not a good change. And then he said it.

"Your t-shirt." Kael answered.

Dora looked down at the oversized garment, then back up at him, "What about it?"

"Give it to me."

Dora gave a nervous laugh and stepped back slightly as if to distance herself from the tension hanging in the air.

"You want my tshirt too? Okay... I'll go get for you."

Before she could make a move, however, he caught the hem of her clothes and said, "I want this t-shirt. The one you are wearing."

Dora shook her head quickly, her arms raising in front of her as if to shield herself and backed away several steps. "What are you saying? I am not giving you this..."

Kael's eyes darkened with determination as Dora backed away. Without another word, he gripped the hem of his own t-shirt and swiftly pulled it over his head. "Hey hey! Why are you taking off your clothes? This is..."

Dora gulped as she took in those perfect abs and those muscles. Her breath caught in her throat as her gaze lingered on the sharp lines of his body.

"W-what are you doing?"

Kael stepped closer then and as distracted as she was, he quickly caught the hem of her tshirt, pulling it over her head, leaving her standing there only in her underwear.

Dora's protested and quickly moved to cross her arms in front of her, feeling vulnerable, but in the next moment, she felt a garment being slipped over her head. She opened her eyes and looked down.. She was not wearing Kael's tshirt, while he was wearing hers...while it was oversized on her, it was a perfect fit for him.

And then, with a smile and a wink, he kissed her hard on the mouth one last time before walkign out. At the entrance, he stopped and turned around, his gaze taking her in fron head to toe, before he grimaced," My hand is going to have quite a workout tonight... Dora, when we are together, I won't let you wear anything but my t-shirts to bed..Dora could only stand there in shock as she realised that the feeling coursing throught her was... arousal and ... happiness.