



225 Worth of it all.

In the garden, Arwen was taking a stroll with Aiden when she suddenly stopped in her steps. Aiden, who had just taken a step past her halted as well. Turning to look around at her, he raised a brow. ¹

"What happened?" he asked.

Arwen tilted her head to the side and stared at him as if studying his expression. "Are you upset?" she asked.

"Do I look like I am upset?" Aiden asked back but when the confusion on Arwen's face became palpable, he reached out to cup one side of her face before tracing a thumb gently on her cheek. "Moon, how can I be upset when Granna seemed to be genuinely concerned for you? Rather I felt good when she tested me like that. It meant that she is someone I can depend on when it comes to you."

"But I felt she exaggerated it a bit. But believe me, she was just being playful with you. I can confidently tell you that you impressed her at the very first glance." Arwen had seen in her grandmother's gaze. Though she was trying to act stern, she was clearly just trying to tease



and play.

Aiden didn't mind at all. He had seen through the old lady's game at the very first instant. "That wasn't at all an exaggeration. If it was, then I don't what you will tell me when our granddaughter brings her boyfriend to meet us. I won't go easy on him at all." 1

Arwen was left speechless. Men usually talk like that for their daughters, but hers went straight to think about the grandchildren. Could she even ask the logic? She could, probably, but his answer would again leave her with no words and a flushed face.

"Mr. Winslow, let's not go that far in future yet," she said, patting his shoulder lightly. "We will see about it later. Shouldn't we talk more about the present now?" she asked and Aiden's gaze zeroed at her for a moment while his eyes became intense. A clear question was evident in his gaze.

"We should," he said, nodding. "Then tell me, why did you sever your ties with your parents?"

Arwen paused for a moment, hesitation to say it all was very evident on her face. She turned to look away but the moment she did, Aiden turned her face back to him.



"Tell me," he probed.

And reluctant, Arwen snapped, angry at herself for having such a messed up situation in her life. "How is that even important? Don't tell me even for you it's the name of the Quinns that's important?"

"For me, it's you who is important," Aiden confessed without any hesitation, without any second thoughts. It was as if those words were right on his tongue, ready to roll out the very opportunity it gets. "Not the name of the Quinns, not anyone —it's only you who stands preciously important." 1

Arwen's heart skipped a beat. Her eyes paused at his, How does he do it so effortlessly? No matter how agitated she is, he knows to calm her down with just a few words, as if he knows all the way to help her.

"They wanted me to divorce you and go back to them," she said, no longer caring what he would think about her and the family. "They wanted to cage me again and after breathing the air of freedom with you, I no longer walk back there, so I broke the ties that wanted the chain me under the control of someone."

Aiden's eyes contracted with emotion. His



hands moved to hold her arms while he stepped a step closer to her, trying to make sure that the moment were were in was not his illusion but his reality. "You chose me over everything?" he asked as if seeking her confirmation.

He didn't mask the urge in his tone, his desire to hear that she chose him and Arwen could clearly feel it in the way he was holding her. She never knew her choices affected someone this much until today. But there were many things that she had come to realize only after meeting Aiden.

"I don't know but at that time I couldn't bear the idea of leaving you. I am not sure if it was you I chose or the freedom that came into my life after marrying you, but I was reluctant to end things between us." Though Arwen wanted to give the answer he was to hear, she didn't want to lie to him even if it was for a second. So, she presented it the way it was. 1

She thought it would disappoint him, but instead, Aiden's lips curled up in a satisfied smile as he pulled her into his embrace, hugging her close to his heart.

Arwen was confused, but Aiden was sure —he was sure that it was not anything but him that



Arwen had chosen. She might have forgotten him, but somewhere deep in her heart, she still remembered the promise they both shared. Even after losing all her past, she hasn't lost him. The part of him that he left in her still existed there in her —something that she hadn't let go of even after forgetting it all.

"Thank you," Aiden's voice came out as a whisper, very light and soft. Yet Arwen was able to hear it all loud and clear.

"For what?" she asked, her voice muffled against his chest. She didn't know what she did that got him like this, but since his embrace was so warm and comfortable, she didn't want to let go of it yet.

Aiden smiled, only cozying his arms around her frame. "For choosing me without realizing," he said, pressing a gentle kiss to the top of her head. "For holding onto us and this relationship we share." 1

"It's worth of it all. You might not realize it now but someday you will, same as I did," Arwen said, and her words only made Aiden's smile deepened. 2

He doesn't need that realization —he never needed it before he has known it always. 2

