## Chapter 15

Blake drove for two hours and arrived at his destination; it was still early in the night when he arrived at a large manor. He slowly pulled to the gate and waited for the guard to come out of the small guard shack. The guard came to him and asked for his purpose.

"Please inform the headmaster that Blake Elon has arrived and wishes an audience."

"Please wait right here. I shall inform them now."

The guard rushed into the building and made a direct line call to the main building.

"The young master has arrived; he wishes to see the headmaster."

Waiting for confirmation, the guard finally walked back to Blake and waved him through the large iron gate that squeaked as it opened up for him. Blake continues to drive to the main entrance. Lightly tapping Tabitha, she awakens from her sleep.

"We're here. Let's head out."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Hugh, oh, yeah, okay."

Tabitha unknowingly looks out the car window and is greeted by an older person standing next to it, opening the car door for her. Gliding out of the car, she looks at her surroundings. The manor is more significant than Weston's estate; you could put three estates within this one.

"Evening Jenkins, how have you been?"

Blake greeted the older man holding the door for Tabitha. This was Jenkins Elon. He was the butler of the estate, orphaned. He became a member of the family's staff, and due to his loyalty to Robert Elon, the head of the family, he offered him the surname, and Jenkins accepted.

"Greetings to the young master. It's been years since these old eyes have gazed upon you. The master has missed you greatly. This will be a joyous occasion for all of us." Jenkins replied with tears in his eyes and closed the door.

"Brother, where have you taken me? Is this your home? Are you one of the great Elon family members? This manor is magnificent. Sister and mother will be shocked when they know your true identity?"

Startled upon hearing her words, Blake stopped in

front of her with her bumping into his backside. He turned towards her and spoke very earnestly.

"Sister, listen, it would be unwise for my identity to be brought to light. You know the temperament your mother and sister have. How would I fare if they or the Westons found out?"

Tabitha bit her lower lip, thought about it, and nodded in agreement. It would cause disaster if they found out about her brother's history.

"Okay, I will keep your secret. I know my family, and it would cause great disaster if they found out your true identity."

Feeling somewhat relieved, he continued into the manor. Jenkins walked in front and led them into a study. Two chairs were facing a fireplace with a fire crackling. Jenkins left with only a bow leaving the two together in the room.

"So, you stinky brat, finally realized you have a grandfather, do you? How many years has it been since you left these halls?" A voice from the chair spoke out. It was Blake's grandfather, the head elder of the family, Robert Elon.

Blake then knelt with tears in his eyes. If the warriors of the past battles had seen this War God now, they would have to cough up blood. Tabitha was taken aback. Also, seeing her brother kneeling there with tears in his eyes, she could only feel his grief.

"Grandfather, I haven't been filial. Please punish this grandson."

"Punish. You think the punishment is needed for what you have done?"

Blake stayed silent while tears streamed from his eyes, head lowered, and remorse filled his heart, while Tabitha looked at him with sympathy and sorrow. Then a wrinkled hand was placed upon his head and stayed there.

"My boy, you returning home is the most joyous occasion. Rise so I can hug you."

Blake rose and looked upon his grandfather's worndown face, with tears in his redden eyes looking upon his grandson. They hugged each other for what seemed like an eternity to Blake, and it was a very heartwarming welcome.

"My boy, please sit; it's been so long we haven't talked. Who may I ask is this? Could you be my granddaughter-in-law?"

"Grandfather, she is my sister-in-law, Tabitha Dalton. She has accompanied me to meet the family." "Oh, and what of your wife and mother-in-law? Isn't it customary to meet the family?"

"Sir, I apologize for both of them. They had prior engagements that they could not pull themselves away from."

Tabitha worried they would insult Blake's family if she didn't apologize and give a reasonable excuse.

"Humph, like the prior engagement to that Anderson kid? Don't think I don't know what has been happening." Robert scolded Blake shaking his finger at him.

"You know of my marriage arrangement?"

"My son, I've known everything you have done thus far since you left the family. Your military career, the wars you fought, all the way to the enemies that brought you to this point. Did you think that with our resources that I couldn't find what you have been doing with your life or the lives of those around you?" Robert looked at his grandson as he spoke.

"You had me monitored? That is my private life. How could you?" Outraged over the realization of being monitored, Blake couldn't hold back his outburst.

"My boy, don't be so naive. You're the Elon heir. I was

worried about you, so I monitored you but never interfered. All of your accomplishments were on your own, and no Elon resource was used in your achievements. I'm very proud of you, and that is why I'm leaving with you the heritage ring."

Robert then stood up, walked towards a bookshelf, and opened a compartment that held a plain velvet ring box. He returned to them and handed it over to Blake.

"Grandfather, I said it before I left. I do not want to be the heir, and I'm not worthy of that position yet."

Blake said, refusing the small ring box that was handed to him.

"Blake, if not now, when? You accomplished so much out on your own. Now think of what you will accomplish with the families' backing. This family needs your leadership, and if my guess is right, this ring will bring untold power to you. You need to know when to grab it."

Blake looked at his grandfather and the ring box handed to him. He reluctantly accepted the box and opened it. Inside was a ring made of jade. It looked plain with no decorations or writings, giving Blake the impression of a wedding ring he had never received. He took the jade ring out of the box and

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looked closely at it.

"Wow, it's beautiful, brother," Tabitha exclaimed as she looked at it. The jade ring sparkled and shimmered in the room's light for her.