

# Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 101: Chapter 101 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 101 The True Identity Chapter 101 The True Identity +20 Free Coins Following the voice , everyone looked to see Piers striding into the pavilion , his brow furrowed , clearly having hurried there . He stepped forward without hesitation , positioning himself protectively in front of Sylvia . Elowen was not surprised to see him . After their chess game , when Cassian had said he would let her meet someone , the person brought in was the guard assigned to protect Sylvia after the visit to Aldric's memorial . That guard had reported that the young man Sylvia met called himself Peres .

He had described the gentleman as handsome , with an air of elegance and fine clothing . Cassian had later told Elowen he had investigated ; Piers had indeed gone to the hill that day . The man Sylvia had fallen for was not a merchant , but Piers Leofric , the son of the Duke of Falconcrest . Piers had simply withheld his true identity . Sylvia didn't know . Marwen didn't know . Elowen had planned to reveal this today , but she hadn't anticipated Marwen's early , aggressive arrival . " So , you're the paramour ? " Marwen's tone was hostile . Piers frowned . " Lady Marwen , mind your words !

" " Words ? I'll say what I please ! You seduced my daughter , hoping to climb the social ladder through my family , through Duskmoor Manor ! Dream on ! My daughter is meant for a noble house ! " " And what of Lady Sylvia's wishes ? " Piers retorted . " If she does not desire a ' noble house , ' would you force her ? " " I am her mother ! I would never harm her ! Even as a concubine to a lord or duke , it would be better than being your legal wife ! One look at you tells me you're doomed to an early grave , a man who will never amount to anything ...

" As Marwen spewed her venom , Piers ' frown deepened . He reached back and gently covered Sylvia's ears . Elowen felt a headache brewing . She could bear it no longer . " Lady Marwen ! " Marwen paused briefly . Elowen took a steadying breath . " We have other guests arriving shortly . Lady Sylvia , please retire and tend to your face . " Piers understood immediately . Without a word , he guided the weeping Sylvia away . Marwen stared , then shouted , " You two , stop right there ! " But they were already gone . She turned back to Elowen , her face twisted with displeasure .

" Your Grace , if you bear a grudge against me , take it out on me ! Do not ruin my daughter's life like this ! " Elowen spoke deliberately , " I am not ruining her life . " " Marrying her off to a merchant isn't ruination ? " Marwen scoffed . " If you're so fond of traders , why didn't you beg the King to let you marry one ? Instead , you shamelessly wed into Duskmoor Manor ! " 1/3 11:50 am Chapter 101 The True Identity " Duchess Yvonne has arrived , " a servant announced from the doorway . Yvonne entered the pavilion . She was the additional guest Elowen had invited today .

She truly wanted to help match this marriage . +20 Free Coins Marwen's eyes lit up with a scheming glint . She instantly smoothed her harsh expression and hurried forward . " Yvonne , you've finally arrived ! " Yvonne took one look at her and sensed trouble . " What's happened ? Has someone wronged you again ? " " It's our esteemed Duchess here ! " Marwen pretended to dab at non - existent tears . " I merely mentioned that my younger daughter is of marriageable age and

hoped she might help find a suitable match . My requirements aren't high - just a family of comparable standing.

And what does she do ? She tries to marry my girl off to a merchant ! Is this not bullying us widows and orphans ? " Elowen's frown deepened . " Her Grace even invited that vagabond to the manor today ! He was flaunting himself right before my eyes ... " " Lady Marwen ! " Elowen reined in her temper . " Mind your language ! " Don't say such awful things in front of the man's own mother . Marwen paid her no heed , continuing her lament to Yvonne . " You see ? Such airs , forbidding me even to speak .

" Yvonne patted Marwen's hand sympathetically , then addressed Elowen with a tone of gentle admonishment . " Lady Sylvia is , after all , Lady Marwen's daughter . And the prospective husband would be Lady Marwen's son - in - law . Surely , you cannot simply silence her and forbid any objection ? " Elowen was momentarily at a loss for words . A flash of triumph crossed Marwen's eyes . Yvonne asked , " You've seen this man , then ? " Marwen nodded vigorously . " Indeed ! Shifty - eyed , the very picture of a scoundrel !

Meeting a young woman in secret without even seeking her parents ' permission ! In my view , he's likely fatherless and motherless , or born of some low - born mistress ! " The words were vile . Even Yvonne couldn't help but frown slightly . But as the man was an outsider , it was no business of hers . She said casually , " If I had a daughter , I certainly wouldn't marry her into such a family . " Encouraged by this agreement , Marwen straightened her spine . An idea sparked in her eyes .

" Speaking of which , Yvonne , while you have no daughter , you do have a son , still unmarried , do you not ? " Yvonne began to reply , " Yes , he- " The sound of footsteps at the entrance interrupted her. Marwen turned , and her eyes blazed with fresh fury . " You dare show your face again ! \* 2/3 11:50 am Chapter 101 The True Identity +20 Free Coms Yvonne , cut off mid - sentence , felt a flicker of irritation . She followed Marwen's gaze and saw her son entering the pavilion . They had been invited together today . For some reason , Piers had been distracted on the journey .

He had , unusually , not waited for her after alighting from the carriage , going ahead first . Strangely , he seemed to have arrived even later than she had . 11:51 am Chapter 102 Marwen's Regret Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter. With a flair for crafting emotionally intense plots and unforgettable characters, she blends love, desire, and drama into every story she writes.

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## **Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 102: Chapter 102 - Read Free English Romance Novel**

Chapter 102 Marwen's Regret Chapter 102 Marwen's Regret Yvonne was about to ask him when the stream of curses from beside her resumed " You fatherless , motherless wretch ! How dare you show your face here again ! " Yvonne suddenly realized the truth . Her gaze sharpened . " The vagabond you spoke of ... is him ? " Marwen , momentarily distracted , confirmed , " Yes ! Him ! Doesn't he just look like a doomed , impoverished wretch ? " Yvonne's face instantly darkened . +20 Free Coins Marwen , her eyes fixed venomously on Piers , failed to notice the change . She continued her interrogation .

" You ! What is your family name ? Where is your home ? Who are your parents ? " Piers walked steadily forward until he stood before them . He spoke calmly , " Lady Marwen , my family name is Leofric . My home is on Blessing Lane. My father is the Duke of Falconcrest . " Marwen's eyes bulged with shock , her brain struggling to process the words at first . Piers then turned to Yvonne , bowing respectfully . " Mother ." Yvonne's face was cold . " Hmph . " In that instant , it was as if thunder had crashed directly beside Marwen's ear . Her jaw hung slack .

She stood frozen , utterly stupefied . Mother ? Mother ! He was not a merchant . He was the son of the Duke of Falconcrest . But what had she just said ? Vagabond . Paramour . She had even told Yvonne he must be the son of a low - born mistress .... Black spots danced before Marwen's eyes . She nearly fainted on the spot . Then came the crushing wave of regret . So that's why Elowen kept saying he wasn't a merchant , telling me to watch my words . She knew all along ! I just didn't listen ... Regret swiftly curdled into a flicker of resentment .

Why couldn't she have just spoken plainly from the start ? 11:51 am Chapter 102 Marwen's Regret After a long moment , Marwen forced her lips into a tremulous smile . " Yvonne ... " Yvonne cut her off icily . " We are not that close . " +20 Free Coins Marwen's face contorted . She forced a servile smile . " Y - yes ... Your Grace , please don't be angry . I ... I was simply overcome with concern for my daughter , speaking nonsense . Please , pay my foolish words no mind ... " She glanced at Piers and felt nothing but deep , giddy satisfaction . The sole heir to Falconcrest !

The title , the estate , all his . If Sylv a married him .... She scarcely dared imagine the immense wealth and status that would follow . Summoning her thickest skin , she simpered at Yvonne . " Your Grace , if the two young people have taken a liking to each other , it must be fate ! Surely you won't let my careless words ruin such a splendid match ? " " Stop . " Yvonne's eyes held only disgust . Her tone was biting . " My son , with his " impoverished , wretched appearance ; born of a ' low - born mistress , would surely be unworthy of your daughter .

" She was throwing Marwen's own venomous insults back in her face . Marwen's expression turned utterly sheepish . She stood awkwardly , not knowing where to put her hands or feet . Yvonne turned decisively to Elowen , managing a polite smile . " Thank you for your kind invitation and hospitality today . Falconcrest Manor has pressing matters . I must take my leave . " Elowen tried to detain her . " Why so rushed , my lady ? Please , try the pastries . They are freshly made . The mulberry tarts , especially , were chilled with ice - sweet , fragrant , and perfectly cool for a day like this .

" Yvonne's tone was cool . " Your hospitality is gracious , and I appreciate it . But our affairs are indeed urgent ." Seeing her resolve , Elowen could press no further . She smiled gently , " Then I'll invite you again next time . " Yvonne offered a final , perfunctory smile and turned to leave . Piers , concerned for Sylvia resting in the adjacent room , called out , " Mother ... " Yvonne didn't even glance at him . " If you no longer wish to acknowledge me as your mother , then stay . " With that , she strode away without looking back . Piers knew his mother was truly , deeply angered .

He sighed helplessly , watching her retreating back , then turned to Elowen . " Please tell Sylvia not to be afraid " Elowen nodded . " I will " Piers gave her a look of profound gratitude before hurrying after his mother . 2/3 11:51 am Chapter 102 Marwen's Regret +20 Free Coins Marwen , unwilling to give up , tried to follow , only to be shoved aside unceremoniously by a stern - faced senior maid from Falconcrest Manor . In the scuffle , she tripped over the pavilion's threshold and landed face - first in the dirt .

She sat there , sprawled on the ground , watching Yvonne , Piers , and their entourage grow smaller and smaller in the distance . Rage and regret tore at her . Suddenly remembering something , she scrambled to her feet and turned to Elowen . " Your Grace ! Go to Falconcrest Manor at once and apologize ! This is a perfect match ! We cannot let it slip away ! " Elowen's voice was cool . " I have done nothing wrong . Why should I apologize ? Weren't you the one hurling insults at their heir ? " Marwen's expression stiffened , then quickly shifted to blame . " This is your fault !

You should have told me he was the Falconcrest heir ! " Elowen refused the blame . " Did I not tell you he was not a merchant ? " " You didn't say he was the Falconcrest heir ! " Elowen almost laughed at the absurdity . " Lady Marwen , I tried several times to speak . You were the one who interrupted me each time , never allowing me a word in edgewise ! You were the one who spewed vile insults in front of Duchess Yvonne herself , single- handedly destroying any chance of this match ! I warned you to mind your words , and you accused me of putting on airs !

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Chapter 103 Missed Opportunities Regret and desperation churned within Marwen . She wished she could slap her own foolish face . +20 Free Coins After a moment of agonized silence , she turned pleading eyes to Elowen . " Your Grace , Sylvia is your cousin ! You cannot simply abandon her marriage prospects ! " Elowen's tone was indifferent . " And what if I do ? " " If you do , I'll make sure everyone in Vanelle knows you have no heart ! " Marwen resorted to threats even now . Elowen actually smiled .

" All your past efforts to spread ugly rumors about me relied on Duchess Yvonne , did they not ? But now you have thoroughly angered the Duchess . On your own , how will you manage to spread those ugly words ? Marwen's breath hitched . Her mouth opened and closed soundlessly . Elowen sat calmly , sipped her water , and spoke softly , " Actually , if the match with Falconcrest is truly

lost , Mr. Page is also a good choice . " Marwen dismissed it instantly . " That Page family is nothing like your Hales ! No high office , no title . I wouldn't consider it ! " Elowen tilted her head .

" Aunt , what are you saying ? Mr. Page's mother is a lady of the blood - the daughter of a prince . He passed the royal academic assessments with flying colors when he was still a young man , and he'll sit for the Imperial Scholarly Trials this year . His future is truly boundless . " A lady of the blood ? Marwen's eyes widened in disbelief . A prince's daughter ? That meant Kaelan had a prince for a maternal grandfather ? Even without an inherited title now , with such connections , a baronetcy or even a viscountcy would be well within reach ! Marwen's interest was instantly rekindled .

At that moment , Elowen looked toward the entrance and smiled , " Mrs. Wrenner , you've arrived . " Rowena entered the pavilion , followed only by her maids . There was no sign of Kaelan . Elowen was puzzled , " Where is Mr. Page ? " Rowena smiled , " On the way , he spotted a cat he found adorable . He's lingering there , playing with it . It will be a while before he can tear himself away . " Elowen nodded in understanding . " I see . " Marwen seized the opening . " If you ask me , cats and dogs are filthy creatures , mere beasts . I don't understand the fascination .

Our neighbors had a daughter who kept a black and white cat . She even let it sleep on her bed at night ! if she were my daughter , I'd have given her a good scolding and thrown the creature out ! " Neither Elowen nor Rowena responded . 1/3 11:51 am Chapter 103 Missed Opportunities +20 Free Coins Marwen continued , undeterred , " Later , the cat went missing . The girl searched for days , only to find it dead in the street , stiff as a board . She cried pitifully . Tsk . I wonder if she'd cry that hard when her own parents die " Elowen frowned .

" Aunt , if you have nothing worthwhile to say , perhaps say nothing at all . They are her parents . Whether she cries or not is none of your concern . If you're so worried , you can go and weep for them yourself when the time comes . " Marwen choked , flushing with embarrassment and anger . " I was only making conversation ! Why so serious ... " Elowen ignored her . Cora hurried in and bent to whisper in Elowen's ear . " Your Grace , Lady Sylvia is weeping terribly in the next room . I cannot console her . Would you go and see ? " Elowen acknowledged with a soft sound and stood .

She offered Rowena an apologetic smile . " Mrs. Wrenner , a small matter requires my attention . I shall return shortly . " She gestured to the table . " Please , try the mulberry tarts . They are chilled . " " All right , go on , " Rowena replied with good grace . After Elowen left , Rowena delicately picked up a small pastry . Marwen sidled closer , forcing a smile . " I hear your nephew has grown into a most impressive young man . " Rowena smiled politely but said nothing . Unable to contain herself , Marwen pressed on eagerly .

" I heard you brought your nephew today to be introduced to my daughter Sylvia ? " Rowena placed the tart in her mouth and chewed slowly , unhurried . Her silence was torture for Marwen , who fidgeted impatiently . Finally , Rowena swallowed . Marwen leaned forward eagerly , expecting an answer at last . Instead , Rowena picked up her cup and took a sip . Marwen felt as if something were stuck in her throat , suffocating her . At long last , Rowena spoke , her voice gentle , " You are mistaken , Lady Marwen . My nephew often says a man should establish his career before taking a wife .

Therefore , we are not here for an introduction today . We are merely guests , invited by Her Grace to enjoy pastries . " Marwen panicked , " What nonsense ! One always marries first , then builds a career ! " Rowena maintained her polite smile . " He should first distinguish himself in the Imperial

Scholarly Trials . Only then is it suitable to seek a wife . Otherwise , he might be deemed of low standing , lacking high office or title - simply not worthy of consideration . " Marwen's face drained of color .

Her own disparaging words , spoken moments ago , had been overheard , every single one ! It was over . 2/3 11:51 am Chapter 103 Missed Opportunities Not only Falconcrest , but now the Pages as well ... ! Why did I give birth to such a cursed daughter ? Even getting her married is so damn hard ! Elsewhere in the Manor , in a small guest chamber next to the pavilion , Sylvia had been settled temporarily . +20 Free Coins 11:51 am Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter.

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Chapter 104 Thank You +20 Free Coins On the way , Cora briefed Elowen . " The manor's physician saw to her face and applied a salve . But after Lord Piers left , Lady Sylvia wept so bitterly that the ointment was all cried away . " Elowen sighed inwardly . Outside the guest chamber door , she could already hear muffled sobs . Inside , Sylvia was slumped over a table , crying into her arms , her shoulders shaking violently . " Lady Sylvia . " Elowen approached and sat on a stool opposite her . At her voice . Sylvia's crying hitched briefly . She didn't lift her head , still buried in her arms .

" Forgive me , Your Grace ... I ... I don't want to cry like this ... I can't help it ... I ... I'll be fine in a moment ... " Elowen asked gently , " Are you crying because Piers deceived you about being a merchant when he is actually the heir to Falconcrest ? Or because your mother offended his mother , and you fear you and Piers have no future ? " The question worked a small miracle . Sylvia lifted her head . The cheek struck by her mother was swollen and bore traces of salve , but her face was mostly a mess of tears .

Her eyes , from prolonged weeping , were red and puffy like two walnuts . Elowen felt a pang of sympathy , her brow furrowing slightly . " If it's the former , I personally see little harm . He and Cassian had their conflicts . Considering Cassian's presence , a small , harmless lie is understandable . " Sylvia sniffled . " I ... I'm not angry he lied . I'm angry at my mother ... " Elowen understood . She was grieving , believing she could never marry Piers now . Elowen sighed , " Before he left , Piers asked me to tell you : ' Do not be afraid . "' Sylvia blinked .

Those four simple words sent a wave of warmth and happiness through her bruised heart . " However , " Elowen's tone shifted , " relying solely on Piers is not enough . " " W - what ? " Sylvia didn't understand . " Piers cares for you , and you for him , " Elowen explained . " Even if your

mother offended Duchess Yvonne , if Piers is determined to marry you , the match is not impossible . But- " She paused , her expression turning serious . " Your mother will not simply fade away . " Sylvia looked bewildered . " What do you mean ? " Elowen laid out a scenario .

" If you marry into Falconcrest , and your mother insists on moving in with you , what will you do ! If her 1/2 11:51 am Chapter 104 Thank You +20 Free Coins greed leads her to vie for control of the household ? Or , if she doesn't move in , she will come to you for every want and whim . If you cannot provide , she will pressure you to beg Piers or go to him herself . After all , he would be her son - in - law . A fit of dramatics , and Piers , for your sake , would find it hard to refuse . " Sylvia's face paled . After a long silence , she whispered hoarsely , " Then ...

I shouldn't marry him ... " Fresh tears spilled , " I shouldn't ruin his life . He's been so kind to me . I can't ... " " That is not what I mean ! " Elowen felt a surge of frustration . She reached out and grasped Sylvia's hand . " I am telling you that you must learn to be strong ! You must learn to say no to your mother ! You cannot always obey her , caving in the moment she raises her voice . Not just with her , but with anyone ! " Sylvia stared , stunned . " If you can learn this , " Elowen continued , " I will help you secure a place in Falconcrest Manor . If you cannot ...

" She pressed her lips together . " Then resign yourself to marrying a man chosen by your mother's tastes , a man you do not love , or even become a concubine in some high - born household . " " No ! " Panic flashed in Sylvia's eyes . " I won't be a concubine ... " Elowen said nothing , holding her gaze steadily . In Elowen's eyes , Sylvia saw a gentle yet formidable strength . It seemed to infect her . Gritting her teeth , Sylvia raised a hand and scrubbed the tears from her face . " I ... I won't cry ... I will become stronger ! I promise !

" Tears still shimmered in her eyes , but the helplessness had receded . It was as if a dusty pearl had been cleaned and polished , beginning to shine once more . Elowen reached out , her thumb gently wiping a stray tear from Sylvia's cheek . " Dry your eyes . Reapply the salve yourself . A face as young and lovely as yours must not be scarred . " Sylvia blushed faintly . " Thank you ... " Elowen froze . Back then , to save Alaric , she had been knocked down by a carriage , her knees badly scraped . In front of Alaric , she had pretended it was nothing .

But at home , tears had welled as she admitted it hurt . Her aunt had made all sorts of treats to soothe her . Her sister - in - law had sat by her bed , smiling as she applied ointment , saying , " You're too young to carry scars . " Elowen had felt so cherished then , murmuring , " Thank you . " As Elowen left the chamber now , a bittersweet ache settled in her chest , her eyes stinging . At the archway , she stopped .

This time , the tears that fell were her own , and she could not hold them back 2/2 11:51 am Chapter 105 A Chance Encounter Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter. With a flair for crafting emotionally intense plots and unforgettable characters, she blends love, desire, and drama into every story she writes. Cedella's storytelling style is immersive and addictive-perfect for fans of heated romances and heart-pounding twists.

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Hard To Reach Novel 105 Chapter 105 A Chance Encounter Suddenly , a hand appeared from her left , holding out a linen handkerchief . A clean , pleasant male voice followed . " Are you alright ? " The voice was unfamiliar . +20 Free Coins Mindful of propriety between men and women , she did not take the handkerchief , instead turning her face slightly away. " Please , don't be scared . I am Kaelan Page , invited by Her Grace to Duskmoor Manor today . I mean you no harm , " he added , his tone earnest on the last words . Elowen was taken aback . Her tears had been few .

She wiped them away with her sleeve , her face now clear . She lifted her head to see if Kaelan looked as he did in his portrait . He still held out the handkerchief , his gaze lowered to meet hers . Her hair cascaded like a mass of glossy chestnut silk , and her skin glowed with the warm , creamy hue of well - tended ivory . She'd shed a few tears just now ; though she'd brushed them away quickly , her eyes still swam with mist - soft and blurred , like pink roses veiled in a fine spring drizzle .

A flicker of astonished admiration passed through his eyes , and for a moment , he couldn't look away . " You look even better than your portrait , " Elowen spoke first . Kaelan blinked . " You've seen my portrait ? " Elowen smiled , " Did your aunt not tell you she was bringing you to Duskmoor Manor for an introduction ? " Kaelan paused . His aunt had mentioned arranging a marriage for him .

He had been somewhat resistant , having only recently passed the royal academic assessments and now assisting in the Royal Archives through his mother's connections , with his sights set on the Imperial Scholarly Trials this year . He worried about failing and had devoted all his energy to his studies . But his aunt had been so earnest , he couldn't bear to disappoint her and had reluctantly agreed to come today . Now , as he looked at the woman before him , a warm , unexpected feeling stirred in his chest . Was she saying this because ... she is the Lady Sylvia I was meant to meet ?

If it were her , that would be ... more than acceptable . He lowered his hand , the tips of his ears turning pink . " My aunt did mention it ... " 1/3 11:51 am Chapter 105 A Chance Encounter He glanced at her again . " May I ask your age ? " Elowen saw no reason to hide it . " Seventeen . " " And what do you enjoy doing in your leisure time ? " Kaelan asked . +20 Free Coins Elowen found the question a bit odd , but answered truthfully , " Reading , writing , or sometimes baking pastries and sweets . " Kaelan's ears grew distinctly warmer . This was precisely the kind of wife he had imagined .

Feeling even more pleased , he asked , " Do you like cats ? " Elowen nodded . " Quite a bit . " She paused , then suddenly realized the misunderstanding . A soft laugh escaped her . " Mr. Page , my family name is Hale . " Kaelan froze . She wasn't Lady Sylvia ? In Duskmoor Manor , named Hale , seventeen years old - there could only be one ... He seemed unwilling to believe it . " You are . Elowen nodded . " Yes . I am the Duchess of Duskmoor . " Despair washed over Kaelan . Only now did he belatedly notice the intricate styling of her hair - the manner worn by married women of Vanelle .

He had been so captivated by her face that he had missed it entirely . " Mr. Page , your aunt mentioned you were distracted by a kitten earlier , " Elowen said , changing the subject . " Yes ... there was an orange cat under the rockery , " Kaelan replied slowly , his mind elsewhere . " It was my first time here . After seeing the cat , I got a bit lost . " " Shall I show you the way ? " Kaelan looked at her , then nodded . " Thank you ... " He hesitated over the form of address . Elowen offered a kind smile . " Your Grace will do . " The words stuck in Kaelan's throat .

It took him a moment to force them out . " Your Grace . " The title felt like a small , private heartbreak . Why did she have to marry the Duke ? Why did I meet her so late ? 2/3 11:51 am Chapter 105 A Chance Encounter He sighed inwardly . +20 Free Coins Elowen led him back towards the pavilion , unaware of the wheelchair that had come to a stop behind a nearby latticework screen overgrown with vines and flowers , which mostly concealed Cassian's form . In the sunlight , Cassian's brow was deeply furrowed , his gaze dark and intense .

Elowen returned to the pavilion and spent a pleasant while longer chatting with Rowena . Despite the age difference , they found their temperaments aligned wonderfully . As the sky began to soften with the approaching evening , Rowena rose , reluctant to leave . She smiled at Elowen . " Next time it's on me . Come visit my place . " Elowen agreed happily . Pleased with how the day had unfolded , Elowen walked back to the main courtyard with a light step . She encountered Bran outside the study . " Is the Duke inside ? " she asked brightly . " He is ...

" Bran confirmed , though Elowen missed the flicker of concern in his eyes . Inside , Cassian was at his desk , a book open before him . Elowen entered , immediately launching into an enthusiastic account of the day's events . When she finished , Cassian merely responded with a noncommittal , " Hmm . " Finally sensing something amiss , Elowen looked at him closely , His face was expressionless . He seemed ... displeased ? 3 Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter.

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Chapter 106 The Longest Wait Chapter 106 The Longest Wait Elowen moved closer , her voice softening . " My lord , what's wrong ? " Cassian didn't even lift his eyes from his book . " Nothing . " " Are you hungry ? " she tried again . " No. " " Do you want to play chess tonight ? " Her eyes shone with hope . He paused , then shook his head . " Not tonight ." Elowen blinked , feeling a strange distance in his manner . " Your Grace , the carriage is ready , " a servant announced from the doorway . Cassian glanced at the still - confused Elowen . " I have business . I'm going to the palace .

" Elowen was taken aback , about to speak , but Cassian had already turned to the servant . " Let's go . " After he left , the study fell into deep silence . Elowen stood alone for a long time , feeling puzzled and adrift. Had she done something wrong ? Had she upset him ? Unbidden , memories of Alaric surfaced - how cold he had been after their marriage . Was Cassian becoming like that now ? He would likely ask for an annulment soon . She needed to prepare herself .

+20 Free Coins Elsewhere in Vanelle- After Warren's capture by Nordia , Cassian had purchased a small house for Rowena and Elara to stay during their visits to Vanelle . Rowena and Kaelan had not yet returned home . Elara , having been confined to the house after her scene at Duskmoor Manor , had raged to no avail . Her mother remained unmoved . Now , sulking , she was curled under her bedcovers , crying with frustration . " Miss . Miss ." Someone was calling her . Elara , irritated , replied tearfully , " Go away ! " The person didn't leave .

Instead , a voice , hushed and persuasive , continued , " I am here to help you , Miss I know your heart belongs to the Duke , and that the Duchess stands in your way , preventing even a position as concubine , " 1/3 11:51 am Chapter 106 The Longest Wait The words struck a deep chord . Elara finally peeked out from under the covers with swollen , red - rimmed eyes . She studied the unfamiliar maid by her bed . " I've never seen you before . Who are you ?

" The maid smiled , " Who I am doesn't matter , Miss , What matters is " +20 Free Coins She leaned closer , her voice becoming a seductive whisper . " I have a way for you to get what you want . To marry into Duskmoor Manor . Even ... to replace the Duchess ." Elowen ate lunch alone . She ate dinner alone . As dusk deepened , Mira entered the room . Elowen looked up from her desk . " Has the Duke returned ? " " Not yet . " Mira trimmed the candlewick beside the desk , brightening the light . " It's getting late , Your Grace . Shall I help you prepare for bed ?

Perhaps His Grace will not return tonight , or will be very late . " Elowen shook her head . " I'll wait a little longer ." Even if an annulment seemed likely , their marriage was still new , a union decreed by the King . They couldn't disregard royal face completely . So , it wouldn't happen immediately . And Elowen still wanted to maintain some peace between them . Cassian had asked her several times to wait for him to come home . She had remembered . She was willing to do so .

After Mira left , Elowen tried to focus on the household accounts , but her mind kept drifting back to Cassian's unexplained displeasure . Eventually , drowsiness crept in . The ledger lay open on the desk , but her eyelids grew heavy . Her right arm propped on the table , supporting her forehead , her head began to nod , dipping forward like a chick pecking at grain . A dream took hold . She was five or six , held aloft in her father's strong arms , being playfully tossed into the air . She was laughing , ecstatic - then her father vanished . She was falling , headfirst , helpless .

At the same moment , her supporting arm gave way , and her head lurched violently toward the hard surface of the desk. At the last possible instant , a broad , steady hand shot out and caught her , cushioning the fall . Elowen jolted awake . Her eyes opened slowly , meeting Cassian's dark gaze . 11:51 am Chapter 106 The Longest Wait The candle had burned low , casting a dim , soft light that blurred his features . Her mind was still foggy . " My lord ... " " Hmm ? " A faint , sleepy smile touched her lips . " You're back . " Cassian's gaze lingered on her face . " You were waiting for me ?

" She nodded obediently . " I was waiting for you to come home . " Waiting for you . To come home . +20 Free Coins The words sent a subtle but profound tremor through Cassian . They were like the softest of feathers , brushing repeatedly against a place deep within his chest . Her head still rested in his palm . She studied him for a moment , then gathered her courage and leaned in a fraction

closer . Her voice was softer , gentler . " My lord , could you please not be angry with me anymore ? " His brow furrowed almost imperceptibly . " I am not angry .

" " But you wouldn't look at me , " she murmured , sounding genuinely hurt . " You just left without a single glance my way . " The truth was , Elowen knew how to be charming . In her past , she had used this gentle , coaxing manner to wheedle treats from parents , brother , aunts , and sisters - in - law , or to soften their hearts when she was in trouble . 11:51 am Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter.

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## Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 107: Chapter 107 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 107 Marrying You Is No Hardship At All The tactic worked on Cassian just as it had on others . Just one look at her , and his heart melted into a soft pool . He felt a sharp pang of regret for his earlier coldness . I was a fool . His voice lowered . " I wasn't ignoring you , nor refusing to look at you . I just ... " He hesitated . I just felt too old , that you should have married a man your own age . The words were right there , but they stuck in his throat . Elowen watched him unblinkingly . " Just what ? " His throat worked . " I just thought ...

marrying me might have been a hardship for you . " +20 Free Coins " How could it be ! " she refuted instantly . " After my family fell in battle , and I was left alone , many people began to slight me , openly and in secret . If the King hadn't spoken of treating the Hale orphan kindly , I might not even have been able to remain in Vanelle ... " Cassian's brow furrowed . He had been away at war for so long . He had heard of the Hales ' losses and knew she must be grieving . He thought she liked Alaric , and with Alaric by her side , things wouldn't be that bad . He never expected this .

" Perhaps the Hale family's former glory was too bright , and they resented it . Our fall was the perfect opportunity . So they took it out on me . " A trace of sadness entered her voice . But such things - given enough time - she could learn to live with . She sighed , then offered a small , soft smile . " Anyway , only the King and you have been truly kind to me . Marrying you is no hardship at all . " She looked up at him , her expression utterly sincere , and added emphatically , " Truly ! " " Alright . " Cassian's gaze softened . His thumb brushed gently across her cheek .

" Shall we go to bed ? " Elowen looked troubled . " But I haven't washed up yet ... " She pouted slightly . " But I'm so very tired . I've never stayed up this late . I don't want to go wash ... " Cassian conceded readily . " My fault . " Then he indulged her . " If you're tired , you needn't wash tonight . " 11:51 am Chapter 107 Marrying You Is No Hardship At All +20 Free Coins Her eyes lit up

. " Really ? " His voice held a smile . " Really . " Elowen wavered , feeling a twinge of guilt . " But ... is that alright ?

" Her mother had taught her from childhood to be clean - to wash before bed , to rinse after meals . Even when she was dropping with sleep , eyes closed , her mother would gently steer her to the basin . That teaching was bone - deep . Even after her mother's passing and after marrying into Duskmoor Manor , she had strictly followed the rule . Now , for the first time , she wanted to be willful , but her conscience pricked her . Cassian said , " Just once . It's fine . " His voice was low , pleasing , and utterly persuasive . Elowen was convinced . A satisfied smile spread across her face .

" Then let's just go to sleep ! " With that , she lifted her head and got up . They merely removed their outer robes before settling into bed . Cassian , however , still had something on his mind . He lay on his back for a while before speaking slowly into the dimness . " Do you feel like I'm too old ? " He received no answer . Turning his head , he saw that Elowen was already on her side , fast asleep . Cassian wasn't annoyed . A faint smile touched his lips . The resilience of youth .

Asleep in an instant , His gaze drifted down , settling on her jawline , and his expression softened noticeably . There was a faint , reddish mark there , shaped vaguely like a palm . Her skin was so delicate that it had retained the imprint from where it had rested in his hand earlier . He stared at it for a long time , then reached out to trace it with his fingers . Elowen , deep in sleep , felt the touch . Instead of pulling away , she instinctively nuzzled her cheek against his palm . Cassian froze , then felt an immense , melting sweetness spread through his chest .

Elowen, using his hand as her pillow , drifted deeper into sleep . Cassian held that position , motionless , for the rest of the night . Elowen remained blissfully unaware 2/3 11:51 am Chapter 107 Marrying You Is No Hardship At All +20 Free Coins The next morning , as the first light of dawn filtered in , Elowen stirred in a half awake haze . She felt something hard and uncomfortable pressing against her . She frowned , then realized what it was and jolted awake . All drowsiness vanished . She slowly reached a hand under the covers , searching . " What is it ?

" A low , sleep - roughened voice sounded beside her ear . Her movement had woken him . Elowen kept her head down . " I forgot to take out my hairpins before bed ... " Her fingers finally closed around the offending pin near the small of her back . When she clutched it , fragments of the previous night drifted back - asking Cassian why he was upset , complaining about being too tired to wash ... The memories were hazy , incomplete . Feeling a bit embarrassed , she asked , " Before I fell asleep , did I say anything ... odd ?

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# Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 108: Chapter 108 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 108 More Hugs Might Help " Nothing odd , " Cassian replied lazily , closing his eyes again . He hadn't slept much , having watched her for a long time and kept his hand beneath her head most of the night . " Really ? " Elowen was half - convinced . " Ready . " As he spoke , his hand settled lightly on her waist . " I'm not fully awake . Let me nap a bit , " he murmured . The position was far too intimate , Elowen's cheeks flushed crimson . +20 Free Coins Cassian was too close - the heat of his body seeped into hers , his even breath stirred her hair .

She held her own breath , tense and still . Just as she felt she might suffocate , a low chuckle sounded above her head . Elowen looked up . Cassian had opened his eyes again , looking at her with amused patience . " Do I frighten you so ? " " No ... " Her face remained flushed . " Then why so still ? Why hold your breath ? " he teased , raising a brow. Elowen bit her lip , answering truthfully , " I'm just ... nervous ... " Nervous , " Cassian repeated . " What shall we do about that ? " Elowen didn't know . She had no experience in this .

A thought seemed to occur to Cassian , his eyes crinkling with a deeper smile . " More hugs might help . You'd get used to it . Best if you initiate it . " Elowen blinked . " Is ... that okay ? " Cassian made a sound of affirmation , lying effortlessly . " That's what the King advised me last night . " Elowen was taken aback again . " The King said that ... ? " Well , if the King said so , it must be true . Cassian's brow lifted slightly . " We have the chance now . Why not try ? Initiate a proper embrace . " Elowen was shy . Cassian coaxed her , gentle as if talking to a kid .

" Stuff like this gets easy after the first time . Do it a few times and it'll feel natural " Elowen agreed with him . As husband and wife , she had to take that step sooner or later . Taking a deep breath , she summoned her courage and , with a scarlet face , reached out towards him . She hesitated briefly over where to place her hand , then settled it on his side . 11:52 am Chapter 108 More Hugs Might Help Cassian lay on his side , and his waist dipped into a clean curve , smooth and elegant . He hadn't drilled in a while , but his muscles were still firm , tough under her palm .

Her face grew even hotter . Her hand slid slowly , tentatively , around to his back . She moved with agonizing slowness , overwhelmed by embarrassment . Cassian , however , praised her . " Just like that . Very good . " He prompted further , " Come closer . A little more . " Elowen's face was now the color of a ripe berry , but she obeyed , shifting her body to lean into his embrace . +20 Free Coins Just as she was about to make contact , Gerda's voice sounded from outside the room . " Duchess Elowen ? Are you awake ? " Elowen froze , instinctively pulling back .

But Cassian's hand remained on her waist , holding her effortlessly in place . He looked amused . " Why run ? We're married . A hug's perfectly legit , not some secret tryst . " Elowen burned with embarrassment . " Mrs. Wrenner has sent a message , " Gerda added . Elowen's interest was immediately piqued . " From Mrs. Wrenner ! " Cassian's eyebrow lifted . " You are on such good terms with her now ? " Elowen nodded with a smile . " We get along very well . " She had specifically instructed Gerda and the others to inform her promptly of any messages from Rowena . Cassian's tone turned musing .

" And with her nephew ? Do you get along with him as well ? " Elowen tilted her head . " Do you mean Kaelan ? " Cassian clicked his tongue . Using his given name - so familiar already . Unaware of the note of jealousy, Elowen answered naturally , " I've scarcely spoken to him . I wouldn't know if we get along . " Cassian's brow relaxed slightly . That answer was somewhat more acceptable . " I should see what message Mrs. Wrenner has sent , " Elowen said , trying to sit up . But Cassian's hand on her waist held her gently in place . She looked at him and softened her voice .

" Let me go see what she wrote . You rest a while longer . Next time , I'll hold you properly , and for longer . " Cassian specified , " Tonight . " Elowen agreed . " Alright . Tonight . " 2/3 11:52 am Chapter 108 More Hugs Might Help +20 Free Coins Satisfied , Cassian lifted his hand . Freed , Elowen got out of bed to wash and dress . Gerda had been waiting outside for a while . When Elowen emerged , her cheeks still rosy , Gerda's experienced mind jumped to conclusions . A knowing , slightly mischievous smile appeared on her face . Elowen felt oddly embarrassed under her gaze .

But Gerda , being a woman of the world , didn't ask questions . She promptly presented the note . Elowen read it , a smile forming . " Ah , she's inviting me to view the water lilies . " But as her eyes dropped to the date and location specified , her smile faltered slightly . August 12th . Falconcrest Manor . 3/3 Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter.

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## **Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 109: Chapter 109 - Read Free English Romance Novel**

Chapter 109 Falconcrest Manor's Invitation Chapter 109 Falconcrest Manor's Invitation This date , this location - Elowen would never forget it , Falconcrest Manor boasted a grand water lily pond , planted with rare , expensive varieties . +20 Free Coins The Duke and Duchess were famously hospitable . When the lilies were in full bloom , they would send invitations across Vanelle , gathering the most notable nobles to admire them . In her past life , as Alaric's betrothed , she had accompanied him to Falconcrest Manor .

But she had been accidentally pushed into the pond , swallowing mouthfuls of water , and nearly drowned . She knew how to swim , but her knees had been in too much pain . As she struggled , she saw Alaric on the distant bank . He had watched , cold and unmoving . In that instant , a chill of utter despair had frozen her from within . It was Piers who had finally taken pity , diving in to rescue her . Soaked to the bone , hair and clothing in disarray , utterly humiliated , she had panicked as guests drawn by the commotion gathered to stare .

It was Piers , again showing a shred of kindness , who had draped a cloak over her , sparing her at least some dignity . On the journey back , her heart had been full of hurt . But Alaric offered no comfort . Instead , his face cold , he had demanded , " How is it that no one else fell in , only you ? And to be rescued by another man - you have disgraced me utterly ! " Elowen had felt her mind go blank then , her lips parting soundlessly . Her grief had been beyond words . What had she done wrong ? She was the victim . If Piers hadn't saved her , she would have died in that pond .

Was her so - called purity worth more than her life ? That day , after his words , she had fallen into a silent , sorrowful stupor . The tears had come then , streaming down her face all the way back to Hale Manor , impossible to stop . Alaric hadn't offered a single word of comfort . When a small , choked sob had escaped her , he had only frowned out the window and made an impatient sound . Now , Elowen looked at Rowena's note , and her brow furrowed . Her heart ached for her past self , and her distaste for Alaric grew sharper . " Your Grace , do you not want to go ?

" Gerda asked , observing her expression . " I'll go . " A smile touched Elowen's lips . " Why wouldn't I ? " 1/3 11:52 am Chapter 109 Falconcrest Manor's Invitation She had formed a strong suspicion in her past life about who had pushed her . She wondered now , with her life rewritten , if that person would try again . if they did , well , it would be the perfect opportunity to settle scores , old and new Setting the note aside , Elowen took out a fresh sheet of parchment and picked up her quill .

She was halfway through her reply when Bran entered , holding another , more formal invitation . " Your Grace , this has just arrived from Falconcrest Manor . " Elowen wasn't surprised . She took it and scanned the contents . It was the same event Rowena had mentioned . +20 Free Coins She found it slightly odd , though . Protocol dictated that such widespread invitations be sent in order of rank and precedence. Duskmoor Manor should have received its invitation first , before others . Yet Rowena got the invitation earlier than Elowen . Was Yvonne displeased because of Marwen's behavior ?

Elowen couldn't be sure . After reading it , she told Bran , " You may return to your duties . I'll call for you when the reply is ready . " " Yes , Your Grace . " Once he left , Elowen stood and went into the inner chamber . She wanted to discuss the invitation with Cassian . The wording suggested the Duke and Duchess hoped they would attend together , but whether Cassian wanted to go was his own decision . A few steps from the bed , she stopped , remembering the last time she had approached him unannounced .

He had mistaken it for an attack , his reflexes nearly closing around her throat , This time , she was more cautious , stopping a short distance away . " My lord ... " she began . Before she could finish , Cassian's lazy voice came from within the bed curtains . " Come in . " Elowen acknowledged and stepped forward , drawing back the curtain to sit on the edge of the bed . Cassian pushed himself up . " I almost hurt you last time . It won't happen again . I can tell the difference between you and an assassin . " Elowen nodded . " Good . I understand . " CE Elowen nodded . " All right .

I get it . " 2/3 11:52 am Chapter 109 Falconcrest Manor's Invitation " What did Mrs. Wrenner write about ? " Cassian asked . " Her nephew ? " Elowen shook her head . " It had nothing to do with Kaelan . " She gave him a slightly curious look . " You seem unusually focused on Kaelan . You mention him every time . " Cassian paused . +20 Free Coins But Elowen quickly reasoned it out herself . " Kaelan is the son of a lady of the blood - a prince's grandson . That prince would be one of your brothers . So , you are related , and rather closely .

" She didn't dwell on it , moving to the main point . " Falconcrest Manor is inviting the nobility of Vanelle to view their water lilies . They've sent an invitation for us both to attend . " 3/3 Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter. With a flair for crafting emotionally intense plots and unforgettable characters, she blends love, desire, and drama into every story she writes.

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## Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 110: Chapter 110 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 110 Could I Reprimand Him Too ? +20 Free Coins Cassian , however , frowned slightly . " So you received Mrs. Wrenner's note before the official invitation from Falconcrest Manor ? " " Yes . " Elowen leaned in . " You find it odd too , don't you ? " " Odd , yes . Neither the Duke nor the Duchess would dare show me such disrespect . But it's possible someone in between is playing games . " Elowen tensed up a little . " So are we still going ? " Cassian's gaze settled on her face . " Do you like water lilies ? " Elowen hesitated . " ... I don't care for them much .

But their seed pods are tasty , and lotus root can be cooked in many ways . Mostly , Mrs. Wrenner seems eager to go . " Cassian gave a soft chuckle , " Then we'll go . " " But ... " " If anyone shows you the slightest disrespect , or if anyone attempts to bully you , you have my full authority to reprimand them as you see fit . " Elowen blinked . " In Vanelle , Falconcrest is a high - ranking house . But you are different . You are the Duchess of Duskmoor , the King's sister - in - law . To insult you is to insult the King and me . Punishing them is an extension of our authority .

Furthermore , the Queen will not be attending . Among the ladies present , you will hold the highest rank . No need to spare anyone's pride . " Elowen asked suddenly , " Even ... the Crown Prince ? Could I reprimand him too ? " Cassian looked at her for a moment , then nodded . " If you wish . Yes . " Elowen said , a little embarrassed , " I'm worried I won't know when to stop . " Cassian's tone was lazy , but his expression was serious . " Should any trouble arise , send for me immediately . I will deal with the consequences . Even if it's murder , lay the blame at my feet .

" Elowen almost felt like bowing to him right then and there . This was a man among men , strength personified . She felt a growing pang of envy for the woman who truly held Cassian's heart . Who is she , to be so fortunate ? Word of the Falconcrest lily - viewing event had reached Rose Hall later , along with the news that the invitation had been sent to Duskmoor Manor early . An idea sparked in Marwen's mind . She sought out Sylvia , who was quietly embroidering , her face wreathed in an uncharacteristically pleasant smile . " Sylvia , dear , have you paid your respects to Her Grace today ?

" 1/2 11:52 am Chapter 110 Could I Reprimand Him Too ? Sylvia didn't look up . " Mother , just say it , Cousin - in - law told me I don't need to visit her every day . " Cousin - in - law , my foot ! As if

she really sees you as family . +20 Free Coins Marwen seethed inwardly , but her smile remained fixed . " I merely heard she's attending the event at Falconcrest Manor . I came to ask what you plan to wear . If you don't have anything new , I'll pay for a fresh outfit . " Sylvia's needle didn't pause . " Mother , I won't be going . " Marwen didn't buy it . " How is that possible ?

" " Have you forgotten ? Your words that day were unforgivable . You offended the Duchess of Falconcrest . She won't want to see me . Why should I go and provoke her displeasure ? " Marwen grew frantic . " That's in the past ! She can't hold a grudge forever ! Besides , you are to marry her son ! She may be angry , but she won't disregard her precious boy ! " Sylvia's voice was flat . " You insulted her son as well . He will resent me by association . He won't want to marry me anymore . " Marwen froze , a wave of panic hitting her . " Stop embroidering this nonsense ! Go to her !

Beg the Duchess to take you to Falconcrest Manor ! " Her voice took on a wheedling , instructive tone . " When you see him , be sweet . Plead with him ! If that fails , get him drunk ! Once you're in his bed , once there's intimacy , he'll have no choice but to marry you ! And if anyone asks , you say the Duchess of Duskmoor taught you ! " D Sylvia's brow furrowed . Marwen , losing patience , reached out to prod her daughter's head . " Are you even listening to me ... ? " To her surprise , Sylvia moved her head aside . Marwen's finger met empty air . She stared , stunned .

Sylvia's frown deepened . " Mother , I will never do such a thing . Do not ask me again . " This was the first time her daughter had refused her so directly . Marwen gaped for a moment before fury erupted . " You ungrateful girl ! Now that you've attached yourself to the Duchess , you think your old mother is useless ! " Remembering Elowen's words , Sylvia bit her lip and summoned the courage she'd never known . " Drugging him , forcing myself into his bed , and then blaming the Duchess if discovered is that what you call gratitude ? That is not what Father taught me ! " " Your father ?

What did he ever amount to ! " Marwen spat , her old grievances surfacing . " A short - lived fool ! Died early without even securing a title for his family ! " " Title , title ... it's always about a title ... " Sylvia murmured until she could bear it no longer . " Father had no title . But did you suffer after marrying him ? We weren't grandly wealthy , but we never wanted for food or clothing , Every bit of his salary , every reward he received , he gave to you . He kept nothing for himself ...

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