

Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 11: Chapter 11 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 11 A Door That Should Not Be Opened Chapter 11 A Door That Should Not Be Opened After the examination , Halbrecht made a few adjustments to the prescription . +10 Free Coins Elowen had Mira walk him out . She stood watching as Bran bent over awkwardly but carefully , tucking the blanket around Cassian's body with great attention . After a moment of thought , Elowen asked , " Bran , how long have you been with the Duke ? " Bran replied honestly , " My father served in the royal guard . Not long after I was born , I was brought into the palace .

For as long as I can remember , I've always been at the Duke's side . So it's been ... " He counted on his fingers . " Twenty - seven or twenty - eight years , I suppose ? " Elowen's thoughts stirred . She turned her head . " Then you must know a great many things about him . " " That's right . " " Do you happen to know if he's ever had someone he loved ? " Bran froze , his expression clearly conflicted . " Your Grace ... " Elowen knew exactly why he trailed off . She smiled . " Truth is , I already heard long ago that the Duke had someone in his heart . I don't mind .

If I did , I wouldn't have married into this household . " Then she softened her voice . " I'm not bringing this up to start a fight or demand answers . It's just that earlier , the royal physician said that emotional stimulation might help rouse the Duke . I recall hearing that he once had a woman he cherished above all others . Someone he never forgot . If we could find that lady and bring her here , perhaps the Duke would wake . " She looked straight at Bran , her expression calm and composed . " So you can relax . Just tell me who she is . Everything I do is for the Duke's sake .

" Cassian lay on the bed . His limbs were devoid of strength ; his entire body was unable to move , and even his eyelids were heavy as stone . Only his thoughts remained perfectly clear , and his hearing was still sharp . He heard every word Elowen said . And he heard Bran's realization , " Your Grace is absolutely right ! " Cassian burned with silent frustration . So easily talked into it . Fool . Elowen asked patiently , " So , who is she ? " Cassian hesitated . Then thought again - when Elowen spoke in such a soft , coaxing voice , even he found it hard to resist .

Perhaps it wasn't entirely Bran's fault for caving in . Bran scratched his head , a bit distressed . " Well ... I'm not exactly sure . " Elowen clearly hadn't expected that . " You're not ? " Bran admitted , " I really don't know if the Duke ever had someone like that . Over the years , many people tried to match him with someone , but he always refused . Said he already had someone in his heart . Rejected every proposal without a second thought . Later , even His Majesty came to ask who the woman was , and said he'd arrange the marriage personally . That would've been perfect .

But the Duke still turned it down . Eventually , His Majesty started to suspect - maybe there wasn't anyone at all . Maybe the Duke just didn't want to marry and used that as an excuse . " 1/2 12:04 pm Ppp . Chapter 11 A Door That Should Not Be Opened " I see ... " Elowen murmured , deep in thought . +10 Free Coins Cassian lay there , a bit surprised at himself - he hadn't realized he'd hidden it so well . Born into nobility , Cassian had never needed to hide his feelings from anyone . When he was pleased , no reward was too great to hand out .

When he was displeased , people would be forced to bow and accept punishment . He never needed to read others ' moods , and certainly never worried about offending anyone . He'd never had to lie except about this . This was the only thing he had ever kept secret . Even those closest to him , even his brother the King , hadn't heard a whisper of it . " It doesn't matter , " Elowen said , not looking the least bit discouraged . " Even if there isn't someone he loved , the Duke must care about something else . We'll try , one thing at a time . " " How do we try ? " Bran asked curiously .

Cassian was wondering the same thing . Elowen only smiled . " We'll try slowly , over time . It's late now . Let's rest . Tomorrow , I still need to visit Lady Marwen . " Bran gave a short nod and stepped back to take his leave . Cassian frowned . To him , there was no need at all for Elowen to go see Marwen . She was now the Duchess of Duskmoor . The only person she should ever have to lower her head for was the King himself . His thoughts paused , and then something else occurred to him . Elowen said she was going to rest - but where ? He soon got his answer .

He heard the soft rustling of fabric , the sound of clothing brushing lightly against the floor as it drew closer . Someone climbed into bed . A breeze of jasmine drifted past his nose , faint and clean . It was Elowen's scent . She lay down beside him , on the inside of the bed , just next to him . Cassian's breathing faltered , his chest rising and falling unevenly . He didn't know if it was from being unconscious too long , or if the fragrance at his side was too overwhelming - but he couldn't fall asleep . Thoughts from the past surfaced , and with them , visions of the future .

Suddenly , Cassian felt something drape lightly across his waist . The touch was soft and light , barely perceptible through the thin silk and blanket , carrying a faint coolness against his skin . It was Elowen's arm . She had rolled over in her sleep and draped her arm across him . Cassian's breath hitched . His entire body went stiff . There was no way he could sleep now . The next morning , Elowen rose and sat before her dressing table . " I'm going to see Lady Marwen today , " she said to Mira . " Arrange my hair properly .

Chapter 12: Chapter 12

12:04 pm Ppp . Chapter 12 The Price of Trespass Chapter 12 The Price of Trespass Mira nodded quickly , then lowered her voice . " My lady , will you be talking about Lord Lucien ? " " Of course . " +10 Free Coins Elowen knew this side of the manor was heavily guarded . Without an official sigil token , no one could get in . And there was only one such sigil - held by Marwen . In other words , without Marwen's approval , Lucien wouldn't have been able to enter at all . Mira suddenly remembered something and pulled a yellow pendant from her sleeve . " My lady , this . " Elowen turned her head .

" What is it ? " " Lord Lucien dropped this . He fled in such a panic last night , I found it by the garden wall . " Elowen took the pendant , her lips curving faintly . " Good . " After getting dressed , Elowen brought Mira , Cora , and two older attendants with her to Rose Hall . Over there , Marwen had just gotten up and finished dressing . She was still yawning when a maid hurried in with quick steps to announce that the Duchess of Duskmoor had arrived . Marwen raised her brows . " Well , well . Looks like Lucien was more capable than I gave him credit for .

" Last night , she'd heard that Lucien had returned pale and shaken . She'd assumed he'd failed . Turns out , the job had been done . She sneered . " Deliberately waiting until morning to come ? Good . Let's see how I deal with her . " Once she was washed and dressed , Marwen sat upright in the main hall , her expression icy , her eyes locked on the doorway . She was waiting for Elowen to

walk in and say , " Aunt Marwen " , and she would snap back , " So you still remember I'm your aunt? " Then she would scold her , " You didn't come pay your respects yesterday .

Do you know how wrong that was ? " Footsteps approached , growing louder . Marwen's heart picked up speed . Her palms grew damp with nervous sweat . At last , a shadow passed through the doorway . The girl who entered wore a pale green gown , a light silvery shawl resting over her shoulders . Her hair fell loose down her back , her complexion clear and composed . She looked less like a living girl than a figure stepped out of a painted panel . Seventeen - year - old Elowen was at the height of her beauty . Before Marwen could even react , Elowen spoke , her voice cool and clear .

" Lady Marwen , do you realize what you've done wrong ? " Marwen's carefully rehearsed speech vanished . Stunned by the unexpected question , she faltered . " You ... you're questioning me ? You're just a girl - and you dare speak to me like that ? " Facing that youthful yet calm , detached expression , Marwen felt anger surge inside her . " Barely married into the family and already acting so high and mighty ! Once you gain a foothold in Duskmoor Manor , I suppose you'll cast the entire Ashcroft family and me out ! " 1/2 12:04 pm Ppp . Chapter 12 The Price of Trespass Elowen didn't argue .

Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 13: Chapter 13 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 13 Blood on the Threshold Chapter 13 Blood on the Threshold 良 +10 Free Coins Marwen felt as if she had been plunged into an icy lake . Even though the Duke of Duskmoor lay unconscious , he was still the full- blooded brother of the King . His rank and standing were beyond question . An attempt on his life was a capital crime . It was over . Marwen stood on the edge of collapse , despair threatening to swallow her whole . Elowen took in every change in her expression , paused briefly , then spoke again , " Fortunately , Lucien did not manage to harm His Grace .

Out of consideration for the Ashcroft family's past service , and because this was Lucien's first offense , His Grace chose to spare him . However , from now on , Lucien is forbidden from approaching that courtyard , not even a single step." Marwen nodded sluggishly , then suddenly realized something and looked up . " You said His Grace spared him ... but isn't His Grace still unconscious ? " Elowen replied calmly , " His Grace woke briefly last night . Physician Halbrecht was summoned to Duskmoor Manor overnight . You didn't hear about it ? " Marwen froze .

She had heard that Halbrecht had come the previous night . At the time , she found it strange , as it wasn't a regular monthly examination . So the Duke of Duskmoor had awakened , even if only once . " Aunt Marwen , " Elowen said evenly , " Hand over the entry token . From this point on , no one may enter the courtyard without my permission . This matter ends here . " Ever since hearing that Cassian had awakened , Marwen felt as if her soul had left her body . She didn't dare utter a single word of protest and obediently handed over the token .

Elowen closed her fingers around it and finally let out a quiet breath. Without this , no one would be able to barge into the courtyard again . She said nothing more and turned to leave . Inside the room , Marwen collapsed onto the couch , her entire body drained of strength . When she lifted a hand to her face , her forehead and cheeks were slick with cold sweat brought on by fear . Just a seventeen - year- old girl , yet she carried such oppressive force . For a fleeting moment , it was as if Cassian himself had been standing there . A maid brought over a cup of warm drink .

" My lady , have something to steady yourself . " Marwen took the cup and drank . As the warmth spread through her , her thoughts gradually cooled , and her expression darkened . Today , that Hale girl had taken the entry token . Tomorrow , she would likely come for the household keys . If she lost control over Duskmoor Manor , the comfort and status she and her children enjoyed would come to an end . No. She absolutely could not sit and wait for that to happen . After dealing with Lucien and Marwen , Elowen returned to her courtyard and continued reviewing the account books .

By the time dusk fell , she finally finished . 1/3 12:04 pm Ppp . Chapter 13 Blood on the Threshold +10 Free Coins Mira came in and said , " Your Grace , you really shouldn't keep pushing yourself like this every day . You'll ruin your eyes . " " It won't happen again . I'm done now , " Elowen said , stretching slightly . " There are quite a few muddled accounts . Although the manor generates a substantial income each month , its expenses are even higher . We're spending more than we take in and relying on old reserves . " Mira trimmed the candlewick and made a small sound of surprise .

" That sounds a lot like Hale Manor . " Elowen let out a soft sigh . " It does . " Over the years , Avenlor had never been free of war . Where there was war , there were always casualties . Some soldiers returned from the front wounded or crippled . Others died outright , leaving behind elderly mothers and young children who could barely fend for themselves . Although the court issued stipends for various reasons , those funds often failed to reach the people who truly needed them or arrived in greatly diminished amounts . These situations happened again and again .

They could not be fully prevented , but the soldiers ' families and orphans could not afford to wait . So her father and brothers had always used the manor's own funds to make up the difference . It seemed Duskmoor Manor was no different . " If things keep going like this , how long can the old reserves last ? " Mira muttered quietly . " Surely you're not going to use your dowry to cover it ? " Elowen didn't answer . She only smiled faintly . Cassian , lying quietly on the bed , heard every word . He found it strange .

He clearly had more than enough money , enough for the manor to last for generations . When did things become so tight ? " By the way , Your Grace , " Mira said , setting down the scissors as she remembered something , " tomorrow is the day you return to your family home . " By custom , a newly married woman would not visit her birth family until both families had made arrangements . " It's a pity , " Mira added . " With His Grace still unconscious , he can't go with you . " \ Elowen smiled lightly . " It's better that way . " Cassian paused . Better that way ?

If she had married Alaric , would she have thought the same ? Because it was him , she said it was better not to go . His mood soured for no clear reason . After a moment , Elowen continued , " Think about it . My father , my brothers , and my uncles are all gone , and my mother passed away long ago . Returning home is supposed to be the husband meeting the bride's parents , but if I go back now , nothing is waiting for me except a silent estate and the family chapel . " Cassian froze again . Mira's expression softened . " Your Grace ... " 2/3 12:04 pm P pp .

Chapter 13 Blood on the Threshold +10 Free Coins Elowen didn't want the atmosphere to turn heavy . She suddenly smiled and asked , " Mira , would you like some Honey - Almond Tea Cakes ? " Mira paused , her eyes lighting up . " Your Grace , are you going to make them yourself ? " 3/3

Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 14: Chapter 14 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 14 When the Duke Stirred Chapter 14 When the Duke Stirred Elowen nodded . Mira immediately forgot her sadness and swallowed reflexively . +10 Free Coins Elowen's second aunt had been the daughter of a renowned chef , and she had passed on all her skills . Elowen was clever and quick to learn , eventually surpassing her . Everything she made was exceptionally good . In the past , Elowen often made food for Alaric , experimenting with different recipes and methods . Mira always tasted them first , and every time she was delighted .

But ever since the betrothal banquet , Elowen had rarely entered the kitchen . " Tomorrow , I'll return to Hale Manor on my own . I'll go to the chapel , say my prayers for my father , my brothers , and my uncles , and leave bread and cakes at their resting place . I want them to know that I'm married now , and that I'm living well . " Her voice was light and gentle , like a spring breeze brushing across water . Mira nodded obediently . Cassian listened , his emotions tangled . The two of them went to the small kitchen and were gone for quite a while before returning .

Mira was thoroughly satisfied , a smile lingering on her lips as she helped Elowen take down her hair . " Your Grace , the cakes were incredible . If someone never tastes your baking in their lifetime , they've truly lived in vain . " Elowen looked a little distracted and forced a smile . " Don't talk nonsense . " " It's true , " Mira insisted , then glanced at the mirror . " Your Grace , are you unhappy ? " Elowen shook her head . " No. I'm just tired . " It was already very late . Mira didn't question it further and hurried to help her wash and prepare for bed .

Afterward , she withdrew respectfully and closed the door softly behind her . The room fell silent . Elowen sat alone at the dressing table for a while . Only when an unseen bird chirped outside the window did she seem to snap back to herself . She stood and walked toward the bed . Cassian lay neatly on the bed , a thin blanket covering him . If he were awake , she would have felt embarrassed . But with his eyes closed , seemingly unaware , sharing the bed didn't make her uncomfortable . As she climbed in , she lifted her right foot first , but not high enough .

Her foot struck the bedframe , and she hissed softly . The mishap happened too suddenly . She couldn't pull back in time , and her body tipped forward toward Cassian . She let out a small cry , instinctively reaching out to brace herself . There was no floor beneath her hand , only warmth . Firm , solid , with distinct muscle beneath her palm . Her face flushed bright red as she realized what she had touched . The weather had been hot , the bedding thin . It felt as if her hand had landed directly against his body . 1/2 12:04 pm Ppp .

Chapter 14 When the Duke Stirred Meeting the sight of his lean , handsome face , Elowen finally came back to her senses . As if burned , she quickly withdrew her hand and said in a hurried whisper , " I'm sorry . " +10 Free Coins Cassian lay still , unresponsive . Elowen muttered

helplessly , " I almost forgot . You can't hear me . " She pulled her hand back , climbed onto the bed , and lay down beside him . But the sadness she had been holding back rose again . No matter how hard she tried , she couldn't suppress it . As for Cassian , he was caught in quiet self - doubt .

Compared to the night before , she was sleeping much farther away . Was he too thin now ? Had she brushed against him and immediately recoiled in distaste ? Suddenly , he heard her sniff . Cassian paused . Elowen turned over , her back to him , and pulled the blanket over herself . Soft , broken sobs echoed in the quiet room . Cassian frowned . His fingers at his side twitched twice . Then everything fell still . The next day , Elowen rose early . Padding softly across the floor , she made her way to the mirror .

Leaning in close , she carefully inspected her eyes - only when she was sure there was no visible redness or swelling did she finally let out a quiet breath of relief . Mira entered from outside , holding a fresh basin of water . " Oh ! You're up early , Your Grace . " " Going home today , " Elowen replied lightly , settling herself before the mirror . " I suppose I'm a little happy . " Mira didn't press further . " Alright , we'll go with something more modest today . " Once her hair was done and her attire arranged , Elowen prepared to depart , Mira trailing behind her .

Bran met them in the front courtyard and gave a small nod . " Your Grace , allow me to assign two of the house guard to escort you . Both men served in the army - disciplined and trustworthy . " Elowen paused , then gave a short nod . " Very well . " When they arrived at Hale Manor , the carriage rolled slowly to a halt before the gates . As Elowen stepped down , her gaze happened to fall on two small tufts of wild grass sprouting beside the worn stone threshold . Suddenly , a memory surfaced - clear and vivid .

Years ago , when her father and brothers were still alive , the street outside had been packed with carriages late into the night . Guests came and went in endless succession . The stone steps before the gate had once been worn smooth by the tread of a hundred boots . Now , it was all too quiet . A quiet ache stirred in her chest . " My lady ... " The steward , Regan , stepped forward . At the sight of her , his weathered face lit up , voice trembling with emotion . " My lady , you've finally ... finally come home . " 2/2 12:04 pm Ppp .

Chapter 15 A Manor Divided Chapter 15 A Manor Divided +10 Free Coins Ever since he suffered a throat injury years ago , Regan had spoken with difficulty . But Elowen was long accustomed to it and listened patiently before replying with a smile , " Today is the day I return to visit my family . His Grace remains unconscious , so it wasn't convenient for him to come with me . " " Understand ... understand ... " Regan nodded slowly . " I'll head to the family chapel now , pay my respects to our ancestors . " " Good ... good ... " " You can go about your work . No need to accompany me .

" Regan responded with a grunt of acknowledgment . Then he seemed to remember something . " Also ... the ... the Duke's heir ... is here too ... " Elowen looked surprised . " Leonhart came ? " " Yes ... yes ... " She smiled , her eyes curving as she took Mira along with her down the corridor . Behind them , Regan struggled to finish his sentence . " Also ... His Highness ... came ... too ... " But Elowen didn't hear that part .

On the path to the chapel , Mira said with a cheerful grin , " I remember His Lordship always liked the things you made , my lady . " " He did , " Elowen replied , " and I brought some honey - almond tea cakes today . I'll share a few with him . " She felt a little puzzled . Why would Leonhart be visiting the chapel at the manor today ? As they spoke , they arrived . The lighting inside wasn't

great . Elowen could make out two vague figures near the altar . One was clearly Leonhart , and the other was likely his attendant . With a soft laugh , she stepped inside .

" Leonhart , sometimes I suspect you have the gift of foresight . How else would you know I made tea cakes today just for my return ? " Leonhart turned at the sound of her voice . " Elow- " He caught himself and corrected , " My lady . " " So well - behaved , " she said , her smile deepening as she looked over at him . She was about to speak again when she caught a glimpse of the man standing beside him . The words caught in her throat . Most of Alaric's frame was cloaked in shadow , but even in the dim light , his face remained striking - sharply handsome .

Elowen frowned slightly and instinctively took a small step back , then quickly composed herself with a faint smile . Not a warm one . Just courteous , distant . Alaric felt a wave of irritation rise within him . " Your Highness is here too , " Elowen said , her tone flat , nothing like the warmth she had shown to Leonhart just moments ago , as if Alaric were no more than a stranger . 1/3 12:04 pm Ppp . Chapter 15 A Manor Divided He didn't understand . What was she playing at ? Was this another ploy to attract his attention? +10 Free Coins " Oh , right .

" Elowen turned to Mira and took the food box from her hands , opened it , and offered it to Leonhart . " Want one ? " Leonhart's eyes nearly welled with tears . Earlier that morning , he'd still been curled up under his blankets , sound asleep , when Alaric barged in and dragged him off to the family crypt to pay respects to the ancestors . He had trained under Elowen's father briefly in his youth , so there was no real excuse to refuse . He had wanted to eat first , but Alaric shoved him into the carriage before he could even dress properly . Now he was starving .

Faced with Elowen's bright smile , he didn't hesitate and eagerly reached for a cake . " These are for the memorial , aren't they ? " Alaric's voice cut through the air like a blade . Leonhart froze mid - reach . So ... he wasn't supposed to eat them ? " It's fine , I made extra , " Elowen said with a kind smile . " Take some . They're for sharing . " Leonhart breathed a sigh of relief , finally free of guilt , and picked up a piece . He took a bite . The soft , subtly sweet flavor melted over his tongue .

His eyes fluttered shut for a second in bliss before he stuffed the whole thing in his mouth . Alaric watched , throat bobbing . He was ... hungry . Leonhart chewed contentedly , then turned to Alaric . " You should have one too . Hers are the best . " Alaric scoffed inwardly . No one knew Elowen's cooking better than he did . She used to send all her pastries and cakes straight to the Crown Prince's Wing . And every time , he had them thrown out or given away . But today , Alaric thought , if Elowen were to offer him one personally ... he might actually take a bite .

To his surprise , once Leonhart had taken his share , Elowen closed the box and set it aside . " All right . Time for the offerings . " She didn't even glance in Alaric's direction . He let out a cold laugh and turned on his heel . Leonhart quickly followed , carefully guarding the rest of the cakes . Elowen ignored them for now . She stepped up to the family shrine , carefully laying out each plate of sweetbread on the long wooden table . Then she lit the taper , touched her fingers to her forehead and chest , and bowed before the carved memorial stones with quiet reverence .

" Father , Brother , all my uncles and ancestors , I am now married into Duskmoor and hold the title of Duchess . Though His Grace remains unconscious , everyone at the manor has treated me with great respect and kindness . I've been ... well cared for ... " Her voice caught . A lump formed in her throat , and tears threatened to fall . 2/3 12:04 pm Ppp . Chapter 15 A Manor Divided She always acted carefree , even foolish at times . But truthfully , she missed them deeply . The pain of their absence was something she carried every day .

Eventually , Elowen came to understand a few things , like why she had clung to Alaric the way she had . +10 Free Coins 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. Cedella's storytelling style is immersive and addictive-perfect for fans of heated romances and heart-pounding twists.

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Perhaps she had truly liked him once . Or maybe ... he had been her only way to escape the grief . +10 Free Coins Elowen swallowed the sob that tried to rise . Her voice grew quieter . " Now , I'm only waiting for His Grace to wake . No matter how long it takes , I'll wait . " She set the candle back into its holder , then lowered herself to her knees and bent forward , bowing so deeply that her forehead struck the cold stone floor with a dull , muffled sound . When she finally stepped outside , she was surprised to find that Alaric and Leonhart were still there . Which meant ...

they must have heard everything she just said inside . " Would you like to join us at the House of Hundred Flavors ? " Leonhart asked eagerly . " We are going there for breakfast . It's been ages since the three of us shared a meal . " Elowen shook her head without hesitation . " No. I'm returning to the manor . " Leonhart tried again . " Come on . Back then , the three of us would often eat there . It was always such fun ... " " It's different now , " Elowen said . " We were young then , unmarried . We could do as we pleased . That's no longer the case .

" Leonhart opened his mouth to argue again , but Alaric interrupted him . " Maerwyn's birthday celebration is in a few days , " he said abruptly . " You'll attend , won't you ? " He emphasized that last part , speaking slowly and deliberately . Elowen remembered that gathering . In her previous life , she and Alaric had just gotten engaged . Naturally , she attended the princess's birthday banquet . Even though she knew Maerwyn didn't like her , Elowen had carefully prepared a gift . After all , she was going to be her sister - in - law . But something unexpected had happened that day .

Her relationship with Alaric grew worse , and she became the laughingstock of all Vanelle . " You don't need to be nervous , " Alaric said , eyes fixed on her . " It's only a small event . Just family , really . My mother has invited a few noble daughters from the capital , nothing more . " He made sure to stress that last part . The implication was obvious . The birthday banquet would double as a matchmaking event - his mother's effort to choose him a bride . Why say that to her ? Did he think she'd be upset ? Elowen smiled faintly .

" You're of age , and it's only right that you marry soon . If you happen to find someone you like at your sister's celebration , have your mother arrange it . I'll be sure to prepare a generous gift for your wedding " Alaric's jaw clenched . Ever since the banquet - ever since she volunteered to marry Cassian - he hadn't known peace of mind . He used to hate it when she chased after him . But now

that she didn't , he felt even more irritable . To make sense of it , he'd found a reason to come here today . He wanted to see her . And this ... this was how she spoke to him ? 1/2 12:05 pm ppp .

Chapter 16 Keys , Ledgers , and Power +10 Free Coins That calm , patronizing tone was like a proper noble lady lecturing a junior . It grated on his nerves . Elowen turned and walked away . Leonhart watched her go , then muttered under his breath , " She really has turned into an elder . The way she talks ... just like my grandmother back home . " Alaric let out a cold laugh . " Elowen ? Don't call her that . She's your elder now , remember ? You should say ' my lady . " " Leonhart blinked . Alaric's tone was so bitter , so sharp . He glanced at him and asked , " Are you ... upset ?

" " Why would I be upset ? " Alaric snapped . " I'm thrilled . Just wait till I pick a bride - someone beautiful , with a good temperament . Once she becomes Crown Princess , I'll be overjoyed ! " Leonhart wanted to say something more , but held back . A worried look flickered in his eyes . If only that's true ... Elowen returned to Duskmoor Manor . As soon as she stepped down from the carriage , Gerda hurried to meet her . " My lady , thank heavens you're back . " Elowen tensed . " What happened ? Is it His Grace ? " " No , no , " Gerda said quickly , trying to ease her concern .

" His Grace is fine . " She lowered her voice . " It's Vivian . The eldest daughter of Lady Marwen . She's here again . " Elowen paused . " Vivian Ashcroft ? " Gerda nodded solemnly . " That's the one . She's a year younger than His Grace , and she has always harbored deep feelings for him . When her father was alive , she had tried more than once to marry into this household . But General Ashcroft disapproved and planned instead to marry her off to one of his officers . Lady Vivian threw such a fit the match was eventually canceled .

Later on , she married the third son of an earl , as his lawful wife . " Elowen nodded . " The Earl's family ? That's a decent match . " Gerda leaned in and lowered her voice . " So it would seem . But ... the third son is frail . Weak in ... certain marital matters . Lady Vivian wasn't pleased . She's taken up a few men on the side . " 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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" Leonhart opened his mouth to argue again , but Alaric interrupted him . " Maerwyn's birthday celebration is in a few days , " he said abruptly . " You'll attend , won't you ? " He emphasized that last part , speaking slowly and deliberately . Elowen remembered that gathering . In her previous life , she and Alaric had just gotten engaged . Naturally , she attended the princess's birthday banquet . Even though she knew Maerwyn didn't like her , Elowen had carefully prepared a gift . After all , she was going to be her sister - in - law . But something unexpected had happened that day .

Her relationship with Alaric grew worse , and she became the laughingstock of all Vanelle . " You don't need to be nervous , " Alaric said , eyes fixed on her . " It's only a small event . Just family , really . My mother has invited a few noble daughters from the capital , nothing more . " He made sure to stress that last part . The implication was obvious . The birthday banquet would double as a matchmaking event - his mother's effort to choose him a bride . Why say that to her ? Did he think she'd be upset ? Elowen smiled faintly .

" You're of age , and it's only right that you marry soon . If you happen to find someone you like at your sister's celebration , have your mother arrange it . I'll be sure to prepare a generous gift for your wedding " Alaric's jaw clenched . Ever since the banquet - ever since she volunteered to marry Cassian - he hadn't known peace of mind . He used to hate it when she chased after him . But now that she didn't , he felt even more irritable . To make sense of it , he'd found a reason to come here today . He wanted to see her . And this ... this was how she spoke to him ? 1/2 12:05 pm ppp .

Chapter 16 Keys , Ledgers , and Power +10 Free Coins That calm , patronizing tone was like a proper noble lady lecturing a junior . It grated on his nerves . Elowen turned and walked away . Leonhart watched her go , then muttered under his breath , " She really has turned into an elder . The way she talks ... just like my grandmother back home . " Alaric let out a cold laugh . " Elowen ? Don't call her that . She's your elder now , remember ? You should say ' my lady . " " Leonhart blinked . Alaric's tone was so bitter , so sharp . He glanced at him and asked , " Are you ... upset ?

" " Why would I be upset ? " Alaric snapped . " I'm thrilled . Just wait till I pick a bride - someone beautiful , with a good temperament . Once she becomes Crown Princess , I'll be overjoyed ! " Leonhart wanted to say something more , but held back . A worried look flickered in his eyes . If only that's true ... Elowen returned to Duskmoor Manor . As soon as she stepped down from the carriage , Gerda hurried to meet her . " My lady , thank heavens you're back . " Elowen tensed . " What happened ? Is it His Grace ? " " No , no , " Gerda said quickly , trying to ease her concern .

" His Grace is fine . " She lowered her voice . " It's Vivian . The eldest daughter of Lady Marwen . She's here again . " Elowen paused . " Vivian Ashcroft ? " Gerda nodded solemnly . " That's the one . She's a year younger than His Grace , and she has always harbored deep feelings for him . When her father was alive , she had tried more than once to marry into this household . But General Ashcroft disapproved and planned instead to marry her off to one of his officers . Lady Vivian threw such a fit the match was eventually canceled .

Later on , she married the third son of an earl , as his lawful wife . " Elowen nodded . " The Earl's family ? That's a decent match . " Gerda leaned in and lowered her voice . " So it would seem . But ... the third son is frail . Weak in ... certain marital matters . Lady Vivian wasn't pleased . She's taken up a few men on the side . " 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 17: Chapter 17 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 17 Feeding the Rumor Elowen paused . She asked instinctively , " Did she have someone beat up his husband to vent her anger ? " That caught Gerda off guard . +10 Free Coins In Avenlor , before a noblewoman was married , her family would usually make arrangements to teach her the matters of the marital chamber - how to behave with her husband , and how to bear children . But Elowen's case was ... different . When her parents were still alive , she was far too young . By the time she reached marrying age , there was no one left to oversee those things .

In her previous life , she had married Alaric , but they had never once shared a bed . She died without even knowing what such intimacy meant . There were many things she simply didn't understand . Gerda chose her words carefully . " She didn't lay a finger on her husband . Instead , she's been spending time with men outside , often sneaking out to meet them - or worse , sneaking them into the house to , well ... romp in bed when her husband isn't home . " Elowen's face flushed crimson at the phrasing . Now she understood what those words really meant .

Gerda went on , " After General fell in battle , the young lady began visiting Duskmoor Manor quite frequently . At that time , the Duke was in good health . She would often bring him stews or nourishing broths - clearly hoping to rekindle their old relationship . " Elowen blinked , startled again . " There was even one time , " Gerda said , lowering her voice , " she stripped down and climbed into the Duke's bed , offering herself to him outright . He flew into a rage and banned her from ever returning . Only after the Duke fell unconscious did she dare show up again .

And ever since His Majesty issued the royal engagement between you and the Duke , she's been coming by more and more frequently . She even showed up today . With the Duke unconscious like this ... " Gerda didn't finish her sentence , but her concern was obvious . If Vivian tried her stunt again - stripping down and crawling into the Duke's bed - he wouldn't even be able to say no this time . Elowen , however , was unfazed . " No worries . I already took the entry medallion from Lady Marwen . She can't get into the manor wing anymore .

Come on , let's head back , I'm sure the Duke is just fine . " At the Rose Hall , Vivian lounged lazily across the couch , her waist curved just enough to accentuate her seductive posture . All ten of her

fingers were lacquered with deep crimson gloss , and she was peeling grapes at a leisurely pace . Marwen sat nearby , glancing from the door to her daughter , clearly growing irritated . " You mean to tell me the Earl family can't even afford grapes anymore ? Had to run back here to mooch off mine ? " Vivian didn't even look up .

" Mother , you're fuming because the new Duchess embarrassed you . Don't take it out on me . I didn't wrong you . You're the one who dragged me here on short notice to fight your battles . If you chase me off , who else do you have ? " Marwen flared at the mention of " the Duchess . " " Don't even say her name ! She's just a girl , barely grown ! Only relying on a royal 1/2 12:05 pm ppp . Chapter 17 Feeding the Rumor +20 Free Coins decree , yet dares to threaten me like that- " Last night , she had summoned Lucien and questioned him . Why did he try to assassinate the Duke ?

Lucien had panicked and confessed everything . That little witch Elowen had tricked her ! Lucien wasn't trying to kill anyone . He'd merely taken a liking to Elowen and had sneaked into her room , hoping to take advantage of her . Nothing but a minor incident , and yet Elowen had blown it wildly out of proportion . She'd accused Lucien of attempted regicide , no less ! Then , they used it as an excuse to confiscate Marwen's access medal . Marwen was furious . She gave Vivian a sharp push . " Enough grapes ! Half the money you use to keep your men fed comes from me !

If that little witch truly takes control of Duskmoor Manor , where will you get your money then ? " Vivian's eyes flickered slightly . She chewed the grape in her mouth , swallowed , then dabbed her lips with a silk cloth . " Relax , Mother . Everything's already in place . " Marwen blinked . " In place ? " Vivian's smile turned wicked . " I've lived like a widow for years . I know how lonely the nights can be . You think I don't know what Elowen wants ? Today , I came prepared - with my trump card . She won't see it coming . Just sit back and enjoy the show .

" Halfway through the path , Elowen heard a sudden shout . " You little thief ! You dared steal from Lord Lucien ? I'll beat you to death ! " Then came the unmistakable thuds of fists hitting flesh . Elowen followed the voice , stepped through the moon gate , and saw a burly servant kicking a young boy curled up on the ground . The boy had his arms wrapped around his head , shielding himself . Not a single cry of pain escaped him . Elowen frowned . Gerda raised her voice , sharp and clear . " Enough ! " The servant immediately stopped and bowed toward Elowen . " Your Grace .

" " What's going on here ? " Elowen asked . " This brat , " the servant said , pointing at the boy , " dared to steal from Lord Lucien . I caught him red - handed . " " You caught him . Why not just return the item ? Why the beating ? " Elowen asked . The boy suddenly chuckled . His voice was rough , and he laughed as he pushed himself slowly upright . 2/2 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 18: Chapter 18 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 18 A Slap Heard Across the Hall Chapter 18 A Slap Heard Across the Hall Seeing the boy's face clearly , Elowen couldn't help but pause . +20 Free Coins His cheeks were streaked with dirt and dried blood , making him look pitiful and wild . But his eyes - those striking , bright eyes- held a gleam so sharp it made her breath catch . The tilt of his eyelids , the slight upward curve at the corners ... he looked startlingly like Alaric . Had she glimpsed him at night , she might have mistaken him for the Crown Prince himself .

But unlike Alaric's distant , cold arrogance , this boy had an eerie softness to him , the kind of beauty you'd find in a venomous snake hidden in shadows . Beautiful in a dangerous , glittering way . " You're still smiling ? " the servant growled . He kicked the boy again , then turned to Elowen . " Your Grace , he broke Lord Lucien's writing brush and can't pay for it . I was just- well - disciplining him . But don't worry , I'll get him out of your sight right away . " He moved to grab the boy . The boy raised his head and looked at Elowen , those eyes rimmed with a soft pink flush .

" Hold on , " Elowen said . The servant paused , confused . " If he broke the brush and can't pay , beating him won't get the money back , " Elowen said calmly . " And you'll only tire yourself out for nothing . Seems like a bad deal " The boy chuckled again . His lashes lowered slightly , and the corner of his mouth curled. He lifted his gaze to her again , pupils glinting like onyx under sunlight . " In that case , " he said softly , " why doesn't the Lady take me in ? " His voice dropped , husky and smooth . " I'm good at everything .

" The words lingered , slow and deliberate , carrying a quiet promise of trouble - like a predator testing the air , already certain of its hold on her . Gerda's instincts flared in alarm . She had served in the royal court long enough to smell trouble before it arrived . Everything about this scene screamed setup . The sudden beating , the strange boy , the perfect timing - this wasn't an accident . Someone had orchestrated this so that Elowen would stumble upon it . And then there was the boy's face . That resemblance to the Crown Prince wasn't something you could fake .

Gerda stole a glance at Elowen , wondering what would the young Duchess do ? The boy tilted his head , voice like honey and smoke . " So ? Take me in . I'll make sure you're ... very well taken care of . " Elowen frowned in confusion . " You taking care of me doesn't get the brush paid for . I still wouldn't have the money . " The boy faltered . She turned to the servant . " Let's be honest - beating him is pointless . Instead , take him to the stables in the back . He can work off . the debt by feeding horses . Pay him the standard wage for stablehands .

Once he's earned enough to cover the brush , he can leave . " 1/3 12:05 pm PPP . Chapter 18 A Slap Heard Across the Hall The servant blinked , caught completely off guard . The boy looked equally stunned . " Stables ... ? " +20 Free Coins Elowen narrowed her eyes at him . " Didn't you just say you could do anything ? Then go take care of the horses . Make sure they're ... very comfortable . " The boy opened his mouth , but no sound came out . That ... wasn't what he meant by " serving . " " Your Grace ... " the servant tried to interject , panicking now .

This wasn't what he'd been told to do . His orders were to get this pretty , brazen boy into Elowen's bed , not the stables . " What is it ? " Elowen asked . Before he could fumble for words , she added helpfully , " I get it . You're worried he might run off . No problem - I've got two guards with me , both former soldiers . Very reliable . I'll assign one to go with you . He'll make sure the boy does his job . " The servant's smile twitched , nearly collapsed . She wasn't joking .

She waved over one of her guards - a hulking man who stood like a wall and had a stare sharp enough to skin a man alive . The servant recognized him immediately . He'd once heard this man had snapped an assassin's neck clean in one motion . Forget the boy . He himself might not come back from the stables in one piece . As for Elowen - mission complete , she walked away lighthearted and unconcerned . Gerda watched her go , lips twitching with suppressed laughter . Sometimes , being sweet and naïve was its own kind of weapon .

Back at Duskmoor Manor , Bran had just finished administering the Duke's medicine . He lit up when he saw Elowen . " Your Grace ! That bamboo strip trick you taught us - it works like a charm! I've never had such an easy time giving His Grace his tonic ! " Elowen smiled . " I'm glad to hear that . " She asked , " Everything went smoothly while I was out ? " " All good . Nothing unusual . " Elowen turned to Gerda with a " see , I told you " expression. Gerda smiled , shaking her head . The rest of the afternoon passed peacefully . Elowen immersed herself in reviewing the manor accounts .

It was tiring work , but surprisingly satisfying . By the time she finally finished , the sky had turned dark . After washing up , she lay down in bed - but couldn't fall asleep . Beside her , Cassian stirred faintly , picking up on her restless movements . That jasmine scent clung to her skin , light and lovely , sometimes sharp , sometimes mellow . It tickled his nose . Elowen tossed again and finally gave up , turning to face him . 2/3 12:06 pm ppp . Chapter 18 A Slap Heard Across the Hall She whispered , " I can't hold it in anymore ... just a little bit . " Cassian stilled .

What was she about to do ? +20 Free Coins Then , she sighed in frustration . " My lord ... I'm the kind of person who talks a lot . If I don't say something soon , I'm going to explode . " 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. Cedella's storytelling style is immersive and addictive-perfect for fans of heated romances and heart-pounding twists.

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Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 19: Chapter 19 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 19 Whispered Secrets Cassian was speechless . Ah . She's speaking . So she was just talking . He had thought it was something else . " Right , " Elowen suddenly said , brightening with an idea . +20 Free Coins She lay sprawled on the bed , her hands propping up her chin on the pillow , lifting her upper body slightly . " My lord , I'm going to talk to you now . Since you're unconscious

and all . " She figured he couldn't hear a word she said . And having convinced herself of that , she went right on . Her legs kicked up behind her , ankles crossed and swaying lazily in the air .

Her whole posture was cheerful and relaxed . " I went through all the account books today , " she began . " Sorted the finances for the past year , and even tallied up the wedding expenses from this month . Next , I'm planning to do a full inventory of the staff - every page , maid , guard ... even the horses . Nothing gets overlooked . " Cassian raised a brow . Her parents had clearly trained her well . " I also ran into this boy earlier today , " she continued . " He has eyes like His Highness's .

Said he stole one of Lucien's writing brushes and broke it , so some servants tried to beat him to death . But he said he wants to work for me , claimed he could serve me ... ' comfortably , was how he put it . " Cassian was stunned . " But Mira , Bran , and Cora already take care of me just fine , " Elowen said matter - of - factly . " They're more than enough . " Cassian fell silent So maybe her parents hadn't trained her that well after all . " I didn't let them beat him to death , " Elowen admitted . " Had him sent to the stables instead . I guess ...

I did feel a little bad for him . " Cassian's chest tightened slightly . So that so - called ' sympathy ' of hers was all because the boy looked like Alaric , that's what moved her heart . But Elowen grinned mischievously . " Mostly , I just wanted to see what Alaric would look like feeding horses . " Cassian raised an eyebrow . " Elowen murmured , " He's always so arrogant , looking down on everyone , throwing tantrums like a spoiled brat . Thinking about it now , he's actually pretty annoying ... " As she went on , her voice grew softer and softer . And eventually , it faded altogether .

She had fallen asleep . The Duke's Manor had been peaceful for a few days . But over at Rose Hall , tension was building . Marwen was growing impatient . " I thought you said everything was arranged , " she snapped . " You guaranteed it would work ! It's been two days , and not a single thing has happened ! " 1/3 12:06 pm ppp . Chapter 19 Whispered Secrets Vivian , however , remained calm . +20 Free Coins " Don't worry . Mother . She's still infatuated with His Highness . She always wanted to marry him . But she couldn't . She wasn't good enough .

So she was forced to accept the King's decree and marry our cousin instead . Now , if she sees someone who looks like His Highness , how could she possibly resist ? " Marwen glared . " If that's true , then where's the proof ? No word , no messengers , nothing ! " Vivian pressed her lips together . Truth be told , she was starting to feel a little uneasy herself . " She's young , " she said . " And this is her first time . She's probably being cautious . Maybe she's even detained our spies ... " " What do we do , then ? " Marwen was nearly trembling with frustration .

" We've been waiting for this moment to catch her red- handed ! " Just then , the sound of hurried footsteps echoed from outside . A maid rushed in , face flushed with excitement and nerves . " My lady ! That boy from the other courtyard - he finally left the house . He's heading for the stables ! " Marwen blinked . " The stables ? " " The stables ! " she repeated . Vivian chuckled . A sly smile tugged at her lips . " That little girl's more cautious than I thought , " she murmured . " Hiding him in the stables and sneaking off in the evening for a secret meeting ...

" The sky outside was already dark . If the two of them ducked behind some hay or snuck behind the stable wall , no one would notice for quite some time . Marwen's face flushed with excitement . " Then what are we waiting for ? Let's go catch them in the act ! " But Vivian caught her by the wrist . " Not yet . " Marwen turned , exasperated . " How can we wait ? This is the best chance

we've had ! " " If you go now , " Vivian said smoothly , " they might not have even taken off their clothes yet . Wait just a little longer . Half an hour at most .

Catch them in the middle of it , and they won't be able to run or hide . Everyone will see them for what they are . " Marwen's face lit up with glee at the image . Elowen had brought only Mira with her to the stables tonight . She was there to do a headcount of both staff and horses . But a problem quickly emerged . The number of horses didn't match the records . A group of stablehands gathered , trying to figure out if a horse had been lent out or if someone had miscounted . After much discussion , the truth came out . The horse hadn't been lent . It hadn't been miscounted . It was dead .

It had died just today . Fed to death - by that boy . 2/3 12:06 pm Ppp . Chapter 19 Whispered Secrets As Elowen approached , she could hear the shouting from a distance . +20 Free Coins " ... What exactly is that thing on your shoulders ? You call that a head ? What's inside it - manure ? Out of respect for the Duchess , I didn't give you hard labor . All you had to do was feed the horses . A little hay , a little water . That's it ! But you - you lazy bastard- complain all day about being tired , and now you've gone and killed one of the horses !

" Elowen followed the shouting and soon saw a tall man berating the same boy she'd seen a few days ago . The boy really did look like Alaric . Now , dressed in coarse stable clothes , he was being cursed out with finger pointed right at his nose - and it was honestly delightful to watch . Elowen took her time , lingering to enjoy the scene before finally stepping forward . The boy spotted her and lit up immediately . " Your Grace , " he said . His voice was soft and rich , drawn out like a lover whispering sweet nothings .

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Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 20: Chapter 20 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 20 Elowen , Come Here Chapter 20 Elowen , Come Here Elowen shivered . Goosebumps prickled down her arms at the way he said it . She rubbed at her sleeves and gestured toward him . " Come with me . " +20 Free Coins The boy turned back to the stablehand and shot him a smug , taunting grin . The man muttered under his breath . " Bloody pretty- face . " Elowen turned to leave . The boy followed close behind . Mira started to step forward as well , but Elowen held out a hand to stop her . " Wait here , " she said softly .

Mira didn't understand the reason , but she had grown up under Elowen's care and never questioned her decisions . She simply nodded and stayed put . Elowen led the boy toward the

western side gate . A lantern hung near the archway , its dim light casting a warm , flickering glow . A small flight of stone steps led down from the gate . Elowen was just about to descend . Suddenly , the boy stepped up behind her , a little too close . His voice dropped low , soft and honeyed . " These past nights , I've waited for Your Grace in the stables , " he murmured . " And tonight ... you came .

Just for me . You won't leave now , will you ? " He was far too near . Elowen instantly recoiled , a frown creasing her brow as she took a step away . But the boy kept whispering , " I don't need a title . I don't want status . All I want is to stay by your side . I can do so much ... " " Oh , you mean like killing a horse ? " Elowen cut in sharply . The boy froze . " W - what ? " " You were working off a debt for a single writing quill , " she said coldly . " Feeding the horses for a few days would've paid that off . But now , you've gone and killed one of the finest warhorses in the manor .

That horse was bred from the Northern Plains , one of the best we've ever brought in . Worth more than you , frankly . " She folded her arms across her chest , anger simmering beneath her calm tone . " If I hadn't been doing a full count of the horses today , no one would've even known it had died . " Elowen had grown up in the Hale military estate . She understood exactly how precious a trained warhorse was . And more importantly - if not for this mess , she would've been in bed already . Not out here , still chasing down problems . The boy looked stunned . " I ... I didn't ...

" " I should never have put you in the stables , " she said bluntly . " I thought , well , you're grown , and feeding horses doesn't take much brainpower . But who knew you'd manage to kill one . And you have the nerve to say you're ' good at many things ? " Her disdain was obvious in her tone . The boy's face flushed red with shame . " I ... I wasn't talking about feeding horses ... " 1/3 12:06 pm Ppp . Chapter 20 Elowen , Come Here +20 Free Coins " Oh , I know what you meant , " Elowen snapped . " You meant sex . The things that happen in bed between a man and a woman .

" She didn't understand it at first , no . But she had questions . And she wasn't afraid to ask . She had consulted Gerda over the past few days . She wasn't the same innocent , clueless girl she had been . The boy bit his lower lip . Then , slowly , he walked down the stone steps , stopping in front of her . He stepped into the path of her light and knelt , eyes tilted upward as he looked at her . " You only say that , " he said softly , " because you haven't experienced it yet . But you came for me tonight . You brought me out here , just the two of us . Was it really only to scold me ?

" He didn't look away . The lantern cast soft shadows along the line of his jaw and down the length of his throat , his posture relaxed , almost graceful . He tried to move closer . His voice dropped lower . " You came out here for a reason , didn't you ? " " Your Grace , " he breathed , " just for tonight ... let me serve you . " His hands reached for her ankles . And just as Elowen drew back her foot , ready to kick him away ... A voice cracked through the dark . " You filthy harlot ! Meeting a stable boy in the dead of night ?! " Elowen's head snapped up .

Marwen had arrived , flanked by a dozen maids and guards , striding down the path like a battle charge . Elowen's voice rang out , calm as ever . " Aunt Marwen . What brings you here ? " " As if you don't know ! " Marwen practically spat the words . " You're here , late at night , sneaking off to meet your lowborn lover ? After barely a few days of marriage ? While your husband lies unconscious ? " Her finger jabbed toward the boy . " And what ? Still pretending you're innocent ?! " The boy immediately played along , shrinking back behind Elowen , voice trembling . " Your Grace ...

" The sight only fueled Marwen's fury . " Caught red - handed ! There's no denying it now ! " She turned to the servants . " What are you all standing around for ?! Bind this whore and drag her out of the manor ! In a few days , she's to be cast out in shame ! " " Wait , " came a sharp voice from behind . It was Bran . Marwen turned , scoffing . " Bran , don't let yourself be fooled by this woman ! She's nothing but " " Is she ? " Another voice spoke , quiet and raspy , but steeped in undeniable authority . Every face on the path blanched in an instant . Marwen's eyes went wide .

She turned slowly , lips parting , breath catching in her throat . Wheels creaked over the cobblestones . 2/3 12:06 pm Ppp . Chapter 20 Elowen , Come Here +20 Free Coins Elowen turned too . Cassian sat in his chair , his face pale , striking , and impossibly composed . Bran was behind him , pushing the chair slowly forward . Elowen's heart skipped . He was awake again ? But ... why was he here ? Did he hear everything ? She couldn't help but feel a pang of dread , wondering how much he'd overheard . The chair came to a halt - close enough to see , but not so near as to give anything away .

" Perfect timing , Your Grace , " Marwen said quickly , her voice regaining strength . " Just look at the kind of woman you married ! Not even a week into her vows , and she's sneaking off in the middle of the night to lie with a stable boy ! " 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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