Love's Unexpected Awakening Elowen's Choice novel Chapter 122

Chapter 122 A Secret Tryst

looked at Elowen.

Kaelan frowned and stepped forward, intending to cover Elowen’s ears.

She brushed past him and strode forward.

The Duke of Falconcrest hastily called out, “Duchess Elowen, don’t!”

He lowered his voice, “Barging in like this will only anger Duke Cassian!”

Elowen looked puzzled. “Why would such a thing anger him?”

The Duke was momentarily stumped. Why?

Looking at her innocent, youthful face, he sighed inwardly.

46%备

+20 Free Coins

Still so young, barely more than a girl. She probably dreams of a fairy-tale marriage with one man’s undivided love.

Just then, a derisive snort came from the crowd behind them.

Elowen turned towards the sound.

Galen wore a leering smirk. “Your Grace, surely your father taught you that it’s perfectly ordinary for a man to have mistresses and concubines? Never mind if His Grace wants someone; down the line, you’ll be the one picking out concubines for him.”

Elowen frowned.

“Besides,” Galen continued, his tone mocking, “His Grace is currently... occupied. If you burst in now and spoil his fun, his displeasure might mean he won’t speak to you for days!”

Finally, understanding dawned on Elowen.

So that's why they're all trying to stop me. They think it's Cassian in the grotto.

The sounds from the rockery continued, growing even more fervent.

Galen's voice took on a salacious edge. "It seems lis Grace was restrained for too long during his illness. To be so... energetic in broad daylight and in a rockery of all places..."

Someone in the crowd murmured, "Doesn't Duchess Elowen satisfy Duke Cassian?"

A wave of knowing, masculine chuckles rippled through the group.

The Duke of Falconcrest scowled, about to rebuke them.

111

2/4

19:26 Fri, Feb 13 TTD

Chapter 122 A Secret Tryst

46%

+20 Free Coins

Speaking so crudely in front of the young Duchess was beyond improper-they were taking advantage of her youth and lack of established authority.

But before he could speak, Elowen stated clearly "That is not Duke Cassian in the grotto."

The Duke of Falconcrest faltered. "It... isn't?"

Elowen shook her head. "No. The sounds are clearly not his."

The Duke of Falconcrest paused, listening more intently. The groaning did seem different from Cassian's voice.

Galen let out a scornful laugh. "If it's not Duke Cassian, then who could it be? We're all guests here. Who would be so unable to control themselves as to have a secret tryst in someone else's garden in broad daylight..."

Another man chimed in with a snicker, "Duchess Elowen is young. She's just trying to save face."

Galen nodded with false sympathy. “True. If she says it’s not Duke Cassian, then it’s not. Let’s just hope word doesn’t get out in a few days that he has taken on a beautiful concubine...”

The crowd burst into laughter.

Elowen studied Galen for a moment longer.

He was still smirking.

From the grotto, the sounds reached a fever pitch, the man’s cries growing louder.

Elowen cleared her throat and suddenly raised her voice, calling out crisply, “Lord Cedric! Stop that racket. Your father is here looking for you!”

Her voice cut through the air, reaching every corner of the courtyard.

Galen heard it. So did the couple in the grotto.

Galen’s face instantly drained of color. From the rockery, all sound ceased abruptly.

“Lord Cedric?”

“That’s... Lord Cedric in there?”

Whispers of disbelief spread through the crowd

Someone murmured, “Now that you mention it I haven’t seen Lord Cedric for a while...”

<

3/4

19.26 Fri, Feb 13 TTO.

Chapter 122 A Secret Tryst

All eyes swiveled to Galen.

His expression was thunderous.

He gritted his teeth. “That is absolutely not-”

46%

+20 Free Coins

Before he could finish, the foliage near the grotto rustled violently. A half-naked figure scrambled out from the bushes.

His torso was bare, marked with fresh scratches across his chest.

The face, flushed and frantic, was unmistakably Cedric.

Having heard Elowen's call, he'd tried to flee without even dressing, only to blunder straight into the waiting crowd.

Love's Unexpected Awakening Elowen's Choice novel Chapter 123

Chapter 123 Has My Wife Arrived?

健零46%額

+20 Free Coins

It wasn't just Elowen. Unexpectedly, there was the Duke of Falconcrest, and... his own father.

Cedric was dumbstruck. His legs gave way, and he crumpled to the ground with a thud.

"So it truly is Lord Cedric..."

"Who would have thought? In broad daylight, in the open air..."

The crowd murmured.

Elowen's clear voice cut through the chatter. "Lord Garrett, we're all guests here. How could Lord Cedric be so unrestrained as to have a secret tryst in someone else's garden in broad daylight?"

She was throwing his own mocking words back at him.

Galen's face darkened.

Elowen pressed on, unsatisfied, "Let's just hope word doesn't get out in a few days that Lord Cedric has taken on a beautiful concubine..."

Galen wished the earth would swallow him whole!

He had assumed it was the Duke of Duskmoor in the grotto and had taken the opportunity to mock Elowen.

Never could he have imagined the man hiding there was his own son!

And to be heard carrying on like that in front of so many colleagues...

The humiliation was absolute.

What made it worse-Elowen calmly repeated his words from earlier, every last one.

A profound disgrace!

Ever since distancing himself from the Hales, Galen's career had soared. He hadn't suffered such humiliation in years.

Yet the evidence was undeniable.

Facing Elowen, he couldn't muster a single word of retort. Gritting his teeth, he strode towards his son.

III

1/4

19:26 Fri, Feb 13 TTO.

Chapter 123 Has My Wife Arrived?

Cedric knelt, pleading. "Father, I was wrong, I-

Smack!

A heavy slap landed on his face.

"Shameless! Come with me!" Galen hissed through clenched teeth, his voice low and venomous. "I'll break your legs myself!"

Elowen watched, her heart cold, as the livid Galen dragged his disheveled son away.

46%

+20 Free Coins

In her previous life, she had heard of this little scandal at Falconcrest Manor much later.

Back then, Cedric hadn't been caught in the act and had ended up marrying the woman, who bore him a pair of healthy children.

In this life, Elowen had nearly forgotten the incident.

By chance, she had stumbled upon it, and so she had decided to settle it.

With Galen catching them red-handed, any marriage between Cedric and that woman was now impossible. Those children would never be born.

Years ago, Cedric had deliberately schemed, causing her sister-in-law to lose a child. This was merely a tooth for a tooth.

"Your Grace recognized Lord Cedric's voice?" the Duke of Falconcrest asked.

"No," Elowen replied. "I simply remember Duke Cassian's voice. I remember it well and would not mistake it."

After all, Cassian was, for now, her "husband."

She paused, then asked, "By the way, Your Lordship, how many rooms are in the west wing?"

"Perhaps ten or so."

Elowen gave a slight nod. "Have someone search them. Duke Cassian should be in one. Searching room by room myself would take too long."

"All right."

Following her instruction, the Duke of Falconcrest dispatched servants to search the west wing.

Soon, a servant returned and bowed low before Elowen. "Your Grace, only one room in the west wing is locked from within."

|

2/4

19:27 Fri, Feb 13 TTD.

Chapter 123 Has My Wife Arrived?

He lowered his head further. "We dared not disturb rashly."

If the Duke of Duskmoor was truly inside, barging in could cost them their heads.

Understanding, Elowen stepped forward. “Let’s take a look.”

The door to the main chamber was firmly shut.

Elowen stopped outside, uncertain of the situation within.

A faint, peculiar scent-not fragrant, just odd-teased her senses.

A thread of unease wound through her, and she frowned slightly.

46%

+20 Free Coins

The Duke of Falconcrest glanced from Elowen to the door, took a deep breath, and called out respectfully, “Duke Cassian? Are you within?”

No answer came from the room, not even the slightest sound.

The Duke of Falconcrest waited a moment, then looked questioningly at Elowen.

Elowen pondered aloud, “Are you certain this is the only locked room?”

Before the servant behind her could answer, Cassian’s low, languid voice drifted from within. the room. “Has my wife arrived?”

Elowen blinked, startled.

The Duke of Falconcrest was equally taken aback.

So, you heard none of my calls, but her single question reaches you...

He didn’t dare voice the thought, nor show any displeasure. He merely answered obediently, “Yes.”

The familiar sound of wooden wheels rolling across the floorboards came from inside-it was unmistakably Cassian. The door opened.

Cassian sat in his wheelchair, his face breathtakingly handsome yet devoid of expression, cool and aloof.

The Duke of Falconcrest and the others hurriedly bowed.

Once the formalities were complete, the Duke of Falconcrest ventured, “Might I ask why you’re here alone, Your Grace?”

Cassian’s eyes shifted, his icy gaze settling on him. “I was about to ask you the same. Why did

<

3/4

19:27 Fri, Feb 13 TTO

Chapter 123 Has My Wife Arrived?

you have someone bring me here?”

The Duke of Falconcrest faltered.

46%

+20 Free Coins

“They claimed my wife was waiting for me here Once I was brought inside, the door was shut without a word. My legs have not yet fully recovered, hindering my movement. I’ve been stranded here alone.” Cassian’s eyes narrowed slightly. “Duke of Falconcrest, was this your way of giving me the cold shoulder?”

Love's Unexpected Awakening Elowen's Choice novel Chapter 124

Chapter 124 A Calculated Weakness

The cold shoulder!

The three words fell like a massive boulder, crushing the air from the Duke of Falconerea’

A Duke, before a Prince–especially one favored by the King and wielding immense power was of hule consequence

A cold sweat instantly broke out on the Duke ofalconcrest’s back. He dropped to his knees in panic. “Your Grace, please see reason! This was not my arrangement! I... I wouldn’t dare!”

“How would you not dare?” Cassian arched a bro. “You and your wife host this lily viewing Resist. Even Mrs. Wren got the invitation, and then it arrived at Duskmoor Manor after a considerable delay”

The Duke of Falconcrest was stunned. “How could that belt Your Grace, I swear by the heavens, I ordered my servants to deliver invitations to Duskmoor Manor first. Why it was delayed, I truly do not know. Today as well. I gag clear instructions: the moment you arrived. I was to be informed so I could greet you at the gate. How could I possibly have had someone lead you to the west wing?”

He sounded dead sure.

Cassian’s gaze lingered on his face for a moment before withdrawing.

The Duke of Falconcrest remained on his knees terrified that Cassian’s anger would not subside.

But then, Cassian looked towards Elowen. The ig mouth melted like snow. Even his voice took on lady?”

edge in his eyes and at the corners of his gentle note. “You came looking for me, my

The abrupt shift in demeanor left the Duke of concrest momentarily bewildered.

Elowen nodded. “I saw Bran. He said you were in the west wing to see me, but I hadn’t gone there to wait for you. It seemed strange, so I can to find you.”

A slight smile touched Cassian’s lips. “Clever.”

The praise made Elowen flush slightly.

“Come in,” Cassian said, his tone shifting again.

Elowen blinked. Mel Inside

111

1/3

Chapter 194 A Calrutaled Weaknes

AC

Thave tomething to tell you, he saited

Secing no reason to denda tum. Earn stepped the room

Come the door, Cassian instructed

She obediently duter

The moment the door latched, Cassian finally and a wit, expressed confo to even if he'd been holding it back for a long time.

Blowen hurried doser. "What is it? Are you alrivat, my londr

Tam not, Cassian said, his handsome face dearly pale. "I have been audzet"

Elowen was taken aback. "Who ambushed your

In a flash of insight, a bold guess formed, "Was Parr

Cassian looked at her with appreciation surprise then gave a weak nod, "Yes. She had spe They lured me here, then used incense to rende me helpless, at her meres

Elowen crouched halfway in front of him, worry heavy in her eyes. "Mynd

wry

'Fortunately, my shadow guards were with me they intervened in time?

Klowen let out a sigh of relief, "Good, Thank Go

"But I was caught off guard. The incense left me weak hnd the forced me to dock aphrodisiac wine"

Elowen frowned, her gaze shifting to the incense burner on the othe

Indeed, that was the strange scent she'd detected outside. So it was a trap!

An empty wine jug and two cups sat on the table

She hadn't expected it to be an aphrodisiac and asian was forced to drink ...

Elsewhere, two shadow guards carried the unconciou klara away from prying eyes, asing concealed paths to swiftly exit Valconerest Mang

Vollowing Cassian's orders, they were to return her home, where she would be placed under strict house arrest, never to step beyond her farly's gates again.

街

19:28 Fri, Feb 13 TTD.

Chapter 125 Stay With Me

Chapter 125 Stay With Me

She steeled herself. “My lord, wait for me. I’ll fetch a physician!”

The moment she moved to stand, his hand shot out and caught her wrist.

Elowen stopped, looking down at him. “My lord?

His palm was rough, searing against her skin.

45%8

+20 Free Coins

He didn’t speak, but his grip tightened, pulling her off balance. She tumbled into his lap, seated squarely on his thighs.

Elowen froze.

Though they had shared a bed for some time, been close, even held each other... sitting on his lap was a bit too intimate.

She instinctively tried to rise.

Cassian gave her no chance-one arm circled her waist, anchoring her against him with deceptive ease.

“No physician,” he said, his voice strained.

Her attention shifted slightly, concern etching her features. “But you said you don’t feel well, do you?”

Cassian’s gaze held a wounded edge. “It’s because of an aphrodisiac.”

“Then a physician is even more necessary!” Elowen replied without hesitation, her memory surfacing. “That stuff harms the body. My brother was dosed with it once by a scheming maid. Fortunately, he realized in time and sent her away. Later, my sister-in-law cared for him. But they didn’t leave their chambers for a full day and night. When I saw my sister-in- law afterward, she looked utterly exhausted.”

Cassian gave her a long, deep look.

She’s too innocent. She likely has no idea what Julian and his wife were actually doing.

Elowen tried to reason with him. “My lord, please let me go? I’ll fetch a physician. You’ll feel better soon.”

Cassian shook his head. “...No.”

“But why?”

|||

☰

Love's Unexpected Awakening Elowen's Choice novel Chapter 125

Chapter 125 Stay With Me

“No physician.”

K = 4580

+30 Free Cons

As she opened her mouth to protest, he added, In this state, I cannot be seen by outsiders. Not even a physician.”

Elowen lowered her voice. “I remember there’s a royal physician... I’ve forgotten his name, but Bran knows which one. He cared for you during your illness.”

“If we trouble the royal physician, the King will learn of this. I do not wish to worry him.”

“I see...” Elowen was convinced, touched by the apparent depth of fraternal feeling between Cassian and the King.

Cassian’s palm moved slightly against her waist. Stay with me.”

He rested his head against her, his breath hot against her neck. “Stay with me a while. It will pass.”

His heated exhale ghosted over her skin. Elowen found no words or space to refuse him.

Nervousness gripped her. Sitting stiffly in his lap one hand tentatively resting on hist shoulder, she felt utterly at a loss.

“I thought you might suspect me,” Cassian murmured after a moment.

“...Suspect what?” Elowen asked, her mind catching up.

“Of meeting another woman.”

“How could I?”

“So certain?”

Elowen nodded. “Because Bran is your man. If you truly intended a secret rendezvous, you wouldn’t have sent him to find me. You’d have had him guarding the door.”

As she spoke, her focus successfully diverted, and her posture relaxed slightly.

Cassian didn’t withhold praise. “You are clever.”

“And...” Elowen bit her lip. “You have a beloved, don’t you?”

Cassian didn’t deny it. “I do.”

He looked at her. “Care to guess who?”

Elowen was taken aback. She couldn’t guess. She had once suspected Elara, but he’d denied it.

2/3

19:28 Fri, Feb 13 TTO

Chapter 125 Stay With Me

“She must be... a good person?” she offered vaguely.

Yes. Very good.”

A smile touched Cassian’s lips. “Clever. And once an excellent rider.”

Elowen, still oblivious, followed the thread. “A rider...”

I like riding too. If I met her, perhaps we could be friends.

“But later, she was injured. She hasn’t ridden in a long time,” Cassian added.

“How was she injured?” Elowen asked.

“While saving someone.”

“What a pity.” Elowen’s sympathy was genuine, born of shared experience.

Yet as the words left her mouth, a strange, unsettling feeling stirred within her.

Cassian’s description felt familiar, as if he were speaking of her.

But...

It couldn’t be her, right?

“I recall your childhood name is... Ella?” Cassian suddenly changed the subject.

45%

+30 Free Coins

“Yes.” She nodded. “My parents and brother call me that. The King and Queen do as well.”

Back then, Alaric used to call her that as well.

When she was young, following her grandfather to the palace, Alaric would smile upon seeing her. “Ella’s here.”

During her grandfather’s lessons for Alaric, she would listen beside them, often dozing off.

Alaric would laugh, “Master Hale, Ella has fallen asleep.”

3/3

19:28 Fri, Feb 13 TTO

Love's Unexpected Awakening Elowen's Choice novel Chapter 126

Chapter 126 The Only Way to Ease an Aphrodisiac

Or during weary lessons, he would lean over and whisper, “Ella, want to go play?”

¥幣45%話

*30 Free Coins

Elowen couldn’t recall exactly when or why that changed-when Alaric stopped smiling so easily at her, stopped calling her Ella.

“What about me?” Cassian’s voice drew her back

Elowen was slow to catch on. “What?”

“May I call you that too?”

Elowen blinked.

Slowly, his meaning dawned on her. He wants to call me Ella, too.

For some reason, her heart began to thump wildly against her ribs. Heat rushed to her cheeks.

“Ella.” It seemed to be his first time trying it, the name tentative on his lips.

Yet his voice was naturally magnetic and pleasing, and hearing it spoken so intimately sent an inexplicable shiver through her.

“You dislike it?” Cassian observed her expression.

“It’s not that…” Elowen flushed, unable to meet his gaze.

He gave a soft hum. “Then you like it.”

Elowen was taken aback. You can deduce that?

“Ella,” he called again.

The second time was smoother, laced with a subtle, unspoken intimacy,

Elowen’s face burned. She couldn’t answer.

Cassian’s eyes held hers. “Have you ever considered that my beloved might be you?”

Elowen stared, stunned.

His beloved? Me?

She had used that line to bluff Daphne, but she’d never truly considered it a possibility.

|||

r

19:28 Fri, Feb 13 TTD.

Chapter 126 The Only Way to Ease an Aphrodisiac

How could it be?

After a long silence, her fingers clenched. “My lord, is it…”

“Hmm?” His tone was questioning.

Elowen’s expression turned serious. “Is the aphrodisiac wine taking effect?”

This gave Cassian pause.

“I’ve heard that people will talk nonsense when under its influence.”

45%

+30 Free Coins

What she’d actually heard was: “at a time like that, a man will say anything-sweet lies included.”

And a time like that… probably meant after he’d had an aphrodisiac, right?

Cassian’s attention was wholly fixed on her face.

Her cheeks were flushed like sunset clouds, her lips full and soft.

Countless nights, in the dim light, he had watched her fall asleep.

Now, Cassian’s throat moved with a swallow. A raw, barely restrained emotion surged within him.

His palm stroked the small of her back. “Besides talking nonsense, what else does it do?”

“I… I don’t know. Perhaps… a little handsy?”

Cassian took her cue. “Yes,” he murmured. “A little.”

Then he leaned in. His heated lips met hers.

Elowen hadn’t seen that coming at all. Her eyes flew wide, shock crashing through her as she stared at Cassian.

She met his eyes-dark, deep, like a still pool.

He was looking down at her, a lazy yet intensely focused expression as he studied her reaction.

Elowen hurriedly shut her eyes.

His lips remained pressed against hers, unmoving.

Only then did she think to push him away.

|||

<

2/4

19:28 Fri, Feb 13 TTD

45%

Chapter 126 The Only Way to Ease an Aphrodisiac

+30 Free Coins

Her hands came up, but they met only the firm unyielding planes of his chest. He didn't budge. His lips moved against hers, a gentle, testing pressure.

A soft, muffled sound escaped her throat.

Cassian heard it and pulled back slightly.

Elowen's heart hammered. When she opened her eyes, they were slightly red-rimmed.

Cassian's throat worked. "The effects are worsening," he said, his voice rough.

If the potion's effects were worsening, there was no helping it.

Elowen peeked at him. "You... kissed me just now Is it better?"

Cassian shook his head. "Not that quickly."

"Then..." Elowen trailed off, too embarrassed to continue.

"It might require... another," Cassian finished for her, helpfully.

Elowen was dumbfounded. Again?

Her face, already crimson, now flushed a delicate pink down her neck.

“Do you hate this?” Cassian asked.

Elowen made a pained face. “I...”

She whispered, barely audible, “I’m... nervous.”

This kind of thing between a man and a woman was nothing like anything else.

She could be bold in other areas, but in this, her courage evaporated.

She often wrote of romance in her tales, but those were based on others’ stories and her own imagination. She always extinguished the candle at the crucial moment, skirting any detail.

Not because she didn’t want to write it, but because she didn’t know how.

She wrote of kisses, but only briefly.

This was entirely new to her, in both her past and present life.

Today was her first kiss.

“Nervous,” Cassian repeated the word softly.

|||

3/4

19:29 Fri, Feb 13 TTD

Chapter 126 The Only Way to Ease an Aphrodisiac

Then he sighed, “Forget it.”

45%

+30 Free Coins

He coughed. “They say the only way to ease an aphrodisiac is to be close to a woman. But if you don’t want that, I won’t push you. It’s just a damn drug. Strong, sure, but nothing I can’t take. Worst case, I pass out for a few days.”

He coughed again, his face visibly paling further a picture of profound suffering.

|

4/4

Love's Unexpected Awakening Elowen's Choice novel Chapter 127

Chapter 127 You Kiss Me

Elowen froze.

Her heart softened, and her resolve began to waver.

3.45%

+30 Free Coins

Setting aside the fact that in her past life, Cassian had been the only one to extend a helping hand to her...

In this life, since marrying him, she had often benefited from his influence, and he had helped her countless times.

Truthfully, she felt deep gratitude toward him. She believed him to be a good man.

Now, when he was in distress, how could she stand idly by?

Besides, she was his wife.

It was just a kiss!

“My lord...” Elowen clenched her fingers.

“Hmm?” Cassian’s gaze returned to her face.

“If... if you kiss me, will you feel a little better?”

“Yes.”

Elowen took a deep breath and finally made her decision. “Then... kiss me.”

With that, she closed her eyes, lifted her chin slightly, and pursed her lips.

From Cassian’s perspective, she looked more like a soldier marching bravely to her fate than a bride awaiting a kiss.

Cassian was not a man of a gentle nature at his core. Having feigned weakness this far, he saw

no reason to stop now.

His voice was low. “The wine’s effects are too strong. I don’t have the strength.”

Elowen opened her eyes a fraction. “What should we do then?”

He looked at her. “Ella, you kiss me.”

Elowen’s eyes flew wide open.

1/4

19.29 Fri, Feb 13 TTD

45%

Chapter 127 You Kiss Me

+30 Free Coins

Flushed crimson, her words tumbled out in a flustered jumble. “I don’t know... I... how do I kiss? I don’t know how...”

Cassian’s large hand settled on the small of her back. “I’ll teach you. First, sit properly.”

Elowen obediently adjusted her posture. “Like this?”

At that moment, Cassian suddenly felt his wheelchair was a bit too small.

It had always sufficed for him alone, but with Elowen added, the space felt decidedly cramped.

Yet, the lack of space had its advantages.

When space is limited, one must draw exceedingly close.

“Hold me,” Cassian instructed softly.

Blushing, Elowen complied.

“Now, you may kiss.”

Elowen gave herself a fierce mental pep talk. Gritting her teeth, she leaned down and pressed her lips to his, mimicking what he had done earlier, thinking that was all there was to it.

What happened next took her by surprise.

Cassian’s lips captured hers.

Before she could process it, he gently parted her lips and deepened the kiss.

She instinctively tried to pull back, but his hand was already cradling the back of her head, leaving her nowhere to retreat.

A bizarrely practical thought flashed through Elowen’s mind. So this is what it’s like. Maybe I can write about this in my next tale.

But soon, coherent thought dissolved entirely. Lost in the sensations Cassian evoked, she lost all sense of place and purpose.

She didn’t know how much time had passed when Cassian finally released her, just as she felt. she might faint from lack of air.

Elowen was left utterly boneless, slumped against his shoulder, her breathing shallow. “My lord... are you feeling better?”

Cassian’s voice was husky. “A little better.”

2/4

19:29 Fri, Feb 13 TTD.

Chapter 127 You Kiss Me

Relief washed over Elowen.

A little better was good. Her effort hadn’t been in vain.

“But not completely.” Cassian added.

Elowen blinked.

“Once more,” he encouraged.

And so, Elowen found herself enlisted again.

Her eyes were misty. “How long this time?”

Cassian’s voice was a rough whisper. “Quickly.”

She sniffled. “Truly?”

“Truly.”

45%

+30 Free Coins

Before his lips met hers again, Cassian offered a considerate reminder. “Ella, remember to breathe.”

When Alaric entered the west wing courtyard, the others had long since dispersed.

He couldn’t find anyone to ask where his uncle and Elowen were, so he began searching on his own.

After circling the area, he found only one chamber with its door closed.

Curiosity drew him closer. Outside the door, he faintly heard a soft, pleading voice. The tone was unmistakable-Elowen.

He had known Elowen for years. She was a girl who knew how to plead sweetly, and he had heard her do so many times.

But every previous instance was worlds apart from this.

Now... Elowen’s voice held a new, breathy quality laced with a faint sob.

A sudden, frantic unease seized Alaric.

What in the world is she doing in there?!

Driven by impulse, he crept closer to the door. Finally, he could make out distinct phrases.

<

3/4

19:29 Fri, Feb 13 TTD

Chapter 127 You Kiss Me

“You said it would be quick-why is it taking so long again...?

“No more... I can’t...

“My lord, please spare me today, alright?”

¥:45%

+30 Free Coins

Alaric felt as if he’d been struck by lightning. He stood rooted to the spot, utterly stunned.

As the Crown Prince, Alaric had been burdened with high expectations from a young age.

His father and mother were strict. While other young noblemen his age in Vanelle had taken bedchamber maids or concubines, sampling the pleasures of the flesh early on, he had not. Not a single one.

His father had put it plainly: “Decent young ladies these days don’t favor men with a string of mistresses. You’re just a young prince. Best keep yourself pure for your future wife.”

Even erotic tales or illustrated books were forbidden to him. He had never seen them.

<

4/4

Love's Unexpected Awakening Elowen's Choice novel Chapter 128

Chapter 128 Just Once More

The boldest thing he’d ever read was still Azure’s Tales of Luminara.

4.45%

+30 Free Coins

But his cousins all kept flocks of concubines. After a few cups at family banquets, they’d whisper about this stuff in private.

Their faces would flush with pleasure, their smiles turn lewd, their words growing increasingly unrestrained.

So Alaric was not entirely ignorant.

He had even dreamed of it.

Now, he heard Elowen's voice.

That syrupy, seductive tone-if she wasn't in there fooling around with Cassian, then what was it?

A sudden, irrational fury flared in Alaric's chest. How dare she? With him? What does she take me for?

Blind with anger, he raised his hand, intent on shoving the door open.

Inside the chamber, Elowen still sat on Cassian's lap, her arms loosely draped over his shoulders. She had lost track of how long the kiss had lasted.

To her, it felt interminable. She was drained, her head resting lightly against the side of his face.

Cassian's voice held a hint of amusement. "Is that all you can manage?"

"Yeah," Elowen breathed weakly.

Then she asked, "My lord, are you better now?"

Cassian's expression didn't change. He coughed naturally. "Almost."

Elowen fell silent for a long moment, unsure what to say. A part of her even felt a resigned despair.

If only Elara were here. Cassian could hold her to ease his discomfort, and I wouldn't have to endure this.

Chapter 128 Just Once More

Noticing her distraction, Cassian asked, "What are you thinking?"

45%

+30 Free Coins

Not daring to mention Elara, Elowen grasped for an excuse. “I... I was wondering if there might be aftereffects from the aphrodisiac wine

She said it offhandedly, but Cassian’s brow arched with sudden interest.

Why didn’t I think of that?

Aftereffects!

Today, the kisses sufficed. Later, if the symptoms “recurred,” another kiss would be “necessary.”

“The specifics are unknown,” Cassian murmured “We’ll have the royal physician examine me when we return.”

Elowen was about to suggest they stop for the day when his hand returned to the small of her back. “One last time.”

Tears welled in her eyes. “Again?”

Cassian coaxed, “Just once more.”

Elowen didn’t believe him.

“Truly.” Cassian’s voice dropped, low and slightly hoarse, carrying an indescribable allure.

Unable to resist, Elowen gave a soft, nasal hum and slowly turned her head.

Cassian lowered his head and kissed her gently.

Elowen closed her eyes, a slight frown creasing her brow as he deepened the kiss.

But his kiss was meticulous. Amidst the tingling sensations, Elowen began to discern a different flavor to it. Her head grew pleasantly foggy, and her hands crept up to rest on his back.

Suddenly, hurried footsteps sounded outside.

A guard’s voice followed immediately. “Your Highness!”

Elowen heard it and jolted, her body going rigid

Alaric?!

What's he doing outside?

ll

2/4

19:32 Fri Feb 13 TTD

Chapter 128 Just Once More

Was my voice too lond? Did he hear?

* 45%

+30 Free Coins

A wave of shame washed over her. She tried to push Cassian away, but he didn't budge. She attempted to lean back, to break the kiss.

His hand on her back held firm, not only refusing to let her retreat but deepening the kiss instead.

The movement was almost rough, tinged with imitation.

Elowen's thoughts scattered once more.

I'm here for my uncle." Alaric's voice came from outside, sounding calm.

The guard explained. "Your Highness, His Grace is resting within. He gave orders that no one is to disturb him except Duchess Elowen-"

"Duchess Elowen?" Alaric interrupted

Yes. Your Highness, the guard continued. "His Grace's command was explicit: no one but Duchess Elowen is to enter. I must ask you to leave."

How exceptionally special he makes her." Alaric's voice came through, sounding as if it were forced through gritted teeth.

Elowen's body remained taut, unable to fully relax.

"Can't focus, huh?"

Cassian finally let her go, eyes lowered, his gaze dark and unreadable. "What's wrong?"

It was a question, but his tone held clear displeasure.

Elowen flushed “There’s someone outside...”

“He can’t get in.”

‘But I feel... embarrassed.”

A slight, enigmatic smile touched Cassian’s lips.

His thumb brushed her burning cheek. “Ella. Are you embarrassed because someone is outside? Or because you don’t want him to know what we are doing?”

Elowen was taken aback. “Huh? What?”

“Your Grace!”

3/4

19:32 Fri, Feb 13 TTD

Chapter 128 Just Once More

Bran’s voice suddenly boomed from outside. “We caught him!”

林家45%醬

+30 Free Coins

Then, he said in a tone of surprise, “Your Highness? What are you doing here? Looking for His Grace?”

Before Alaric could answer, the guard hastily whispered to Bran, “Lieutenant Holt, His Grace and Her Grace are inside...”

Bran chuckled, “They’re husband and wife. It’s perfectly normal for them to be together.”

He glanced at the closed door and offered a heartfelt observation. “Their relationship’s getting better and better. Shutting the door in broad daylight-I daresay it won’t be long before we have a young lord in Duskmoor Manor.”

4/4

Love's Unexpected Awakening Elowen's Choice novel Chapter 129

Chapter 129 The Servant Is Caught

He then turned to Alaric. “Isn’t that right, Your Highness?”

45%

+30 Free Coins

Alaric clenched his fingers, gritted his teeth, and gave a distracted, non-committal grunt.

“Right, well, since His and Her Grace are... occupied, I’ll return later,” Bran added cheerfully.

He then addressed Alaric again, “Your Highness, shall we go together? Their Graces are busy. We can’t help, and eavesdropping here is just perverse.”

Alaric, who had already been eavesdropping for some time, froze.

Why had he never noticed before how utterly irritating this lieutenant of his uncle’s was?

Bran, grinning, made as if to physically pull Alaric along.

“Bran.”

Cassian’s voice drifted lazily from inside the room.

Bran’s footsteps halted. He turned back.

The sound of wheels rolling over the floorboards approached. The door opened from within, and Cassian appeared in the doorway.

Alaric looked over. His uncle still appeared pale and handsome, but unlike his usual cold, aloof demeanor, today, there was a faint trace of satiation on his face.

Alaric’s gaze dropped to his uncle’s collar.

There, a small, vivid red mark was visible. It looked like a smudge of lip color.

The shade matched exactly the color Elowen had worn today.

A vivid, unwelcome image of Elowen with Cassian flashed before Alaric’s eyes.

He frowned, a vast, hollow sense of loss suddenly welling up inside him.

“Your Grace, why’d you come out? Where’s Her Grace?”

Though it was Bran’s question, Cassian’s gaze slid sideways to Alaric. His voice was cool. “She is tired. Resting.”

Alaric stiffened.

<

1/4

19:32 Fri, Feb 13 TTD

Chapter 129 The Servant Is Caught

Tired?

She... they...

45%

+30 Free Coins

Cassian clearly had no intention of dwelling on the topic. His tone shifted. “You said you caught someone?”

Bran answered promptly, “Yes! Thanks to Her Grace’s excellent plan, assigning the Duke of Falconcrest and me to guard all the manor’s exits. The servant had just changed clothes to escape when I caught him on the spot.”

A slight smile touched Cassian’s lips first. “My wife has always been clever.”

Then he asked, “Have you interrogated him?”

“Yes. He’s tight-lipped and refused to say a word. Tried to bite down on a poison pill, but I managed to pry his jaw open and dig it out in time.”

Cassian gave a short hum. “Take him back. We’ll interrogate him thoroughly.”

“Yes, Your Grace.”

Bran left with his men, leaving the doorway quiet.

Cassian’s eyes settled on the remaining figure, Alaric. “You still need something?”

Alaric didn't dare meet his gaze, looking down. "No..."

Cassian's voice went cold. "Then go back."

But Alaric didn't move. He took a breath. "Uncle about Elowen..."

Cassian frowned, a clear, audible click of displeasure.

Alaric tensed and quickly corrected himself. "...Aunt."

Only then did the sharp edge in Cassian's expression soften slightly.

Alaric clenched his fingers. "Earlier, by the lily pond, I saw Aunt Elowen with Kaelan. They seemed quite intimate."

Inside the room, Elowen was sitting on a chair, catching her breath. Her face still felt hot, making it inconvenient to step out just yet.

With the door open, she heard Alaric's words clearly. Her eyes widened in shock, followed by a surge of anger and frustration.

2/4

19.32 Fri, Feb 13 TTD.

Chapter 129 The Servant Is Caught

Alaric! Always so detestable! Spouting nonsense to Cassian again!

Is he so pained to see my marriage undisturbed?

45%

+30 Free Coins

"Kaelan is your second uncle's grandson. He should address your aunt as 'Grandaunt. A bit of familiarity is not unusual," Cassian said, his tone dismissive.

"But Kaelan is close to Aunt Elowen in age. And when you were not present, it was just the two of them."

Cassian's gaze fixed on him. "Speaking of age, you and your aunt are also of similar age."

Alaric faltered.

“And childhood companions,” Cassian added, the last two words pronounced with particular weight.

“Uncle, I swear upon my honor, I have not the slightest improper thought toward her!” Alaric declared, raising a hand.

“You had better not.”

Cassian’s patience was clearly thinning. “You should leave now.”

Alaric glanced at him. “And you, Uncle?”

Cassian’s expression was cold. “Haven’t decided. Want to make the call for me?”

Hearing the sarcasm, Alaric hastily said, “I wouldn’t dare.”

Cassian said nothing more.

Alaric lowered his head. “I’ll take my leave.”

Watching him turn and walk away, Cassian couldn’t help but frown slightly.

He turned back into the room. Elowen was still in the chair. The color in her cheeks had faded somewhat, but her fine brows were knitted tightly together. She looked thoroughly vexed.

Cassian arched a brow. “What is it?”

Elowen puffed out her cheeks. “I’m angry.”

“Because of Alaric?”

Elowen didn’t answer, instead looking down at her knees, which felt a faint, persistent ache.

3/4

19:32 Fri, Feb 13 TTD.

Chapter 129 The Servant Is Caught

Cassian maneuvered his wheelchair closer. “What are you thinking?”

Elowen whispered, “I’m thinking... if only I had thrown myself forward that day.”

Cassian’s gaze also dropped to her knees.

The first time he had seen Elowen was on the race grounds.

45%

+30 Free Coins

<

4/4

Love's Unexpected Awakening Elowen's Choice novel Chapter 130

Chapter 130 You Hate Alaric?

45%

+30 Free Coins

Amidst a group of sweaty, grimy men, a young girl had suddenly appeared-radiant, with a smile as bright as the sun.

Dressed in a crimson riding habit, she galloped across the field, the spring wind whipping through her hair, revealing a full, luminous face flushed with excitement, like a streak of sunset glow upon flawless alabaster.

Cassian watched from a distance, his gaze lingering for a long time.

Later, he inquired casually and learned she was lowen of the Hale family.

She loved to ride and possessed a natural talent for it.

The kicker? She was only ten.

When he heard that. Cassian’s heart cracked a little.

The age gap was too vast.

Moreover, his attendants added that Elowen was a childhood companions with his nephew, Alaric.

Once, later, Alaric was in his study and accidentally touched his personal seal.

While Cassian was genuinely displeased about the seal, he allowed his private grievance to color his reaction, giving Alaric a sharp kick.

“Forget it. What’s done is done,” Elowen muttered even more softly to herself, deciding to let the matter go.

She had been reborn, but at the betrothal banquet, not at the moment she had pushed Alaric

away.

The injury was already there. Obsessing over it only hurt herself. It was better to let it be.

Thinking of Cassian’s words earlier, she leaned a little closer to him, her voice gentle. “My lord, were you bothered by my past closeness with the Crown Prince? And with Kaelan? I felt... you were somewhat upset.”

Cassian looked at her, not denying it. “Yes.”

Elowen blinked, speaking earnestly, “Don’t be upset. The Crown Prince and I have long since fallen out. He dislikes me, and I hate him. As for Kaelan, I see him only as a promising young kinsman.”

<

1/3

19:32 Fri, Feb 13 TTD

Chapter 130 You Hate Alaric?

“You hate Alaric?” Cassian asked suddenly.

Elowen tilted her head. “Yes. Why?”

45%

+30 Free Coins

Cassian’s tone was casual. “If you said you hated him, he would not remain Crown Prince.”

Elowen was stunned again.

She didn’t fully understand court politics, but she knew the matter of the Crown Prince was grave, significant, and complex.

Alaric’s mother was the Queen. The King seemed to favor this son.

How could it be decided by a single word from Cassian?

No matter how close Cassian and the King were, surely it didn’t extend to that degree.

Even if, by some stretch, Cassian could decide such a thing with a word, Elowen wasn’t about to push her luck and demand it.

In this world, giving and taking should be balanced. If she asked him for something so huge, what could she possibly offer in return?

She had no father or brother left. What she could give him was very, very little.

So Elowen curved her eyes into a smile. “I said I hated him, but it’s fine. Not like I hate him to the bone.”

Cassian said nothing.

“I’m the Duchess of Duskmoor now. He is soon to marry Daphne. We’ll go our separate ways. Nothing special there.”

“You are rather accepting,” Cassian said, giving her a deep look.

Elowen smiled, “Yes. I’ve always been that way.”

Otherwise, after the entire Hale family fell in battle, how could a young girl like her have held on?

Cassian saw the flicker of loneliness in her eyes and frowned almost imperceptibly.

“Come. Let’s go see the water lilies.”

As he spoke, he reached out and gently tucked a stray lock of hair behind her ear.

=

2/3

933 FM Feb 13 TTR

Chapter 130 You Hate Alaric?

By the lily pond, Alaric and Daphne sat side by side.

45%2

30 Free Cons

A slight, calculated smile graced Daphne's lips. She knew many eyes were on them, many whispers circulating

So many in Vanelle wanted to marry the Crown Prince, and even more wanted to serve him. Yet only she had the privilege of sitting by his side.

They must be seething with envy:

Thinking this, Daphne's smile grew even more demure. She picked up the wine jug.

"Your Highness," she said softly, pouring wine for him. As she moved, a slender, pale stretch of her neck was revealed.

Once the cup was filled, she looked up at Alaric with shy, expectant eyes.

To her surprise, Alaric wasn't looking at her at all He was squinting into the distance.

Following his gaze, Daphne saw Cassian and Elowen.

She could also sense that many others in the gathering had shifted their attention to Cassian and Elowen, no longer focused on her and Alaric

Daphne's grip tightened instinctively on the wine jug. She gritted her teeth briefly, then spoke up. "Your Highness. I've been thinking... of writing another tale."

This finally earned her a glance from Alaric. "You? Write a tale?"

Daphne's voice was pitched to carry just enough. "Yes. It's been years since I wrote Tales of Luminara. It's time for a new one."

She didn't lower her voice, and her words naturally reached the ears of several noble ladies seated nearby.

They exchanged glances and began to murmur among themselves.

"I heard before that Lady Daphne was the one behind Azure. Seeing her today, I'm pretty sure it's true."

3/3