

Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 41: Chapter 41 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 41 The Royal Invitation Chapter 41 The Royal Invitation Elowen couldn't help but take another long look at him . Piers had no patience for Daphne's theatrics . " Hurry up and apologize ! " he snapped at her . +35 Free Coins Daphne flinched at his tone , her shoulders trembling as she stammered toward Elowen , " I - I'm sorry ... " " And ? " Piers pressed , his voice still sharp . Daphne shuddered again , her face flushing crimson with humiliation . " I shouldn't have slandered you ! " Only then did he relent , turning to Elowen with a respectful nod .

" Duchess of Duskmoor , I owe you an apology as well . My sincerest regrets . Is there anything else you require ? " Elowen accepted gracefully . " Nothing else , thank you . " He gave a short nod and gestured toward the palace gates . " Then please , proceed inside . " He shot a stern glance at Daphne . " She will remain under my watch , waiting outside the gates until all other guests have entered . Consider this my recompense for my earlier mistake in misjudging you . " Order was restored at the palace entrance .

Elowen settled back into her carriage as it rolled through the towering gates . After a short journey , they reached the carriage park , where dozens of coaches already stood . Elowen alighted and continued on foot . Maerwyn's birthday banquet was to be held in the Gilded Hall , but Elowen was in no rush to go there directly . Following Cassian's instructions , she first made her way deeper into the palace complex to inform the King of his awakening . Meanwhile , carriages continued to stream into the palace grounds .

Daphne arrived at the Gilded Hall much later than the others , her eyes red - rimmed and swollen from crying . Maerwyn , seated and chatting with Alaric , noticed Daphne's distressed state from across the room . Curiosity piqued , she called out , " Lady Daphne , what's wrong ? Has someone upset you ? " Daphne's gaze flitted almost imperceptibly toward Alaric before she lowered her tearful eyes . Her maid , bursting with indignation , answered for her . " It was Lady Elowen ! " Alaric , who had been lounging listlessly , his attention elsewhere , felt a subtle shift within him at the name .

His brow twitched slightly , and he lifted his gaze . 00 MON 11 KIKAG O 1/3 16:22 Mon , May 11 Chapter 41 The Royal Invitation +35 Free Coins " Don't talk nonsense ! " Daphne chided her maid with a delicate sob . " I'm sure Elowen didn't mean any harm ! And if Lord Piers chose to side with her over me , well , that was his choice to make . We cannot blame Elowen for it . " Maerwyn's interest deepened . " So she did bully you ? " She cast a thoughtful glance at Alaric . " And Lord Piers was involved ? Does he fancy Elowen , then ? " Alaric's frown deepened . " Come here !

" Maerwyn beckoned Daphne eagerly . " Tell me everything ! What exactly happened ? " In the Gilded Hall , the birthday festivities were underway . The hall was filled predominantly with ladies of the court , clustered in small groups , their laughter and chatter weaving a tapestry of merry sound . The moment Elowen stepped through the doorway , that tapestry unraveled . The voices hushed , one by one , until an unnatural , heavy silence blanketed the entire hall . Elowen felt the weight of their stares - mocking , scornful , derisive . She didn't need to guess the cause .

Daphne had clearly been here first , sprinkling her own embellishments onto the story . In her past life , such scenes had been all too common . She was almost numb to them . Besides , mere looks could not touch her . As the Duchess of Duskmoor , her status was exalted, surpassing even that of today's birthday girl , Maerwyn . Her seat was at the very top of the hall , beside the Queen herself . If they wished to look at her , they would have to look up . " Elowen , my dear , you're here ." As Elowen approached , Isla greeted her with her customary , benevolent smile . " Your Majesty .

" Elowen offered a slight curtsy " Please , sit . We've been waiting for you , " Isla said warmly . No sooner had Elowen taken her seat than Princess Maerwyn , seated nearby , spoke up with a sly grin . " Lady Elowen , mind if I ask - why did you come into the palace so early , yet show up here so late ? You didn't sneak off to meet someone , did you ? " Elowen lifted her gaze to meet hers and asked calmly , " What are you implying , Your Highness ? " " I'm merely curious , " Maerwyn retorted , her tone deceptively light . " Is it such a difficult question to answer ? Or perhaps ...

you were meeting a secret lover ? " oo 11 1 RIKA GI 2/3 16:22 Mon , May 11 O Chapter 41 The Royal Invitation In her past life , Elowen had arrived late for a different reason . +35 Free Coins Maerwyn had posed the same insinuating question, her words dripping with the implication that Elowen had been off rendezvousing with some random man . Back then , fearing Maerwyn's displeasure , Elowen had offered only soft - spoken explanations , enduring the veiled barbs with a fragile , forced smile . She had no intention of enduring such treatment now. " A secret lover ?

" Elowen arched a delicate eyebrow . " Surely , Your Highness , you do not customarily refer to His Majesty the King as such ? " Maerwyn froze . She went to see Father ? Her expression remained dubious . " Why would you need to see Father ? " " His Majesty is deeply concerned about Cassian's condition . As his wife , I went to provide the King with an update . Is there anything improper in that ? " Elowen's voice was gentle , yet each word carried undeniable weight . " If you doubt my word , you are welcome to seek an audience with His Majesty and ask him directly .

" All color drained from Maerwyn's face . She was terrified of her father . And she had just alluded to him being a secret lover ... If this ever reached his ears , she'd be confined to her chambers for months ! " Elowen , please forgive her . Maerwyn is still just a child , " Isla stepped in at the perfect time to smooth things over . oo 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 42: Chapter 42 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 42 A Proper Gift Chapter 42 A Proper Gift +35 Free Coins " That's true , she is still just a child , " Elowen agreed amiably , nodding . " After today , she will be seventeen , won't she ?

Practically a wonian grown , and nearly my own age . " Isla's gracious smile flickered for just a fraction of a second . Elowen then heaved a theatrical sigh . " At such an age , yet she doesn't address me as ' Aunt ' , but calls me by my given name with such impertinence . And to speak so carelessly of His Majesty ... " Isla forced an apologetic expression . " ... You are quite right .

The King and I have been so occupied with affairs of state that we've regrettably neglected her education in proper conduct . " Elowen tilted her head , her gaze steady on Isla . " Cassian and I , as her elders , naturally wouldn't hold a grudge against a child . But she represents the royal family's dignity . If she shows no sign of improvement , people outside the palace will surely gossip . Don't you agree , Your Majesty ? " Cornered , Isla could only nod with a strained smile . " Yes ... I shall ensure Maerwyn receives stricter guidance from now on .

" Only then did Elowen allow a faint , satisfied smile to touch her lips . She gestured to her maid . " Mira . " Mira stepped forward , holding an ornate lacquered box . Elowen's expression was all polite warmth . " This is a humble birthday gift from Cassian and me . We wish Princess Maerwyn endless joy and blessings in all the years to come . " Maerwyn wanted nothing more than to snatch the box and hurl it to the marble floor , followed by a torrent of scathing remarks to salvage her wounded pride . But her mother's hand clamped firmly over hers , a silent , unyielding command .

Isla's smile was perfectly measured . " Thank you both for your thoughtful gift . " She signaled a maid to accept it , then turned a pointed look at her daughter . " Aren't you going to thank your aunt ? " Maerwyn's brow furrowed , " I won't- " " Say it . " Isla's words were slow , deliberate , her eyes sharp with warning . A cold dread prickled Maerwyn's scalp . She feared her mother's displeasure far too much . With immense effort , she forced the words out toward Elowen , " Thank you ... for the gift ." Elowen raised a single , questioning eyebrow . " Hmm ?

" Maerwyn knew she was being toyed with . Fury simmered , but under her mother's gaze , it was forced into a suffocating submission . The word was ground out between clenched teeth . " ... Aunt . " Elowen's smile blossomed , genuine and bright . " You're most welcome . It's the least an aunt can do . " O 11 1 K I K A G O r 1/3 16:22 Mon , May 11 JO Chapter 42 A Proper Gift +35 Free Coins Maerwyn , clearly fuming and desperate to end the interaction , turned away . But Elowen wasn't finished . " Aren't you going to open it ? " Maerwyn looked to her mother . Isla gave a slight , permissive nod .

Gritting her teeth against the vitriol rising in her throat , Maerwyn snapped open the box's clasp . Expecting a hairpin or bracelet , she was instead greeted by the sight of several slender , cloth - bound volumes . The title on the top one read : The Conduct of Noble Ladies . Beneath it lay another : Admonitions for Women . Maerwyn stared , aghast . Her voice rose to a shrill pitch . " What is this ? Who wants this junk ? " Elowen had initially prepared jewelry . First , the bracelet was taken by Alaric .

Then , upon reflection , she realized she no longer needed to curry favor with a mere princess . She was the Duchess now . She explained with serene grace , " The Conduct of Noble Ladies was penned by a Queen . A King declared her work a guiding light for future generations . Like Admonitions for Women , it serves to instruct young women in proper speech and behavior . As a princess of the realm , it is most fitting for you to study such texts , to understand your duties and govern your conduct accordingly .

Only then can you truly honor the expectations His Majesty and Her Majesty have placed upon you . " She paused for effect . " These particular copies were personally transcribed by the late ,

revered Queen Genevieve of the previous dynasty . They are quite precious . It took no small effort to procure them . " Genevieve had been famous for her gentle virtue and submission , a model Isla often held up for the court ladies - and one she had frequently used to criticize Elowen in the past Now , Elowen presented these very books . The sentiment was impeccable , beyond reproach .

Both Isla and Theodric could only praise her for her thoughtful consideration . The important part was that Maerwyn was thoroughly miserable . " Elowen , you are truly thoughtful , " Isla said , her praise sounding genuine enough . " It is my duty , " Elowen replied modestly Maerwyn's expression was one of pure disgust , as if she'd swallowed a mouthful of flies . Elowen took in her discomfort with immense satisfaction , so much so that the honey cakes and fruits on the table suddenly tasted even sweeter , Fuming , Maerwyn shoved the books aside , her entire demeanor radiating discontent .

" Your Highness . " Daphne approached and curtsied , her voice meek , 2/3 00 MON 11 O KIKI G 16:22 Mon , May 11 KISA Chapter 42 A Proper Gift " What is it ? " Maerwyn snapped , her temper frayed . " I've come to present my gift , " Daphne said respectfully . +35 Free Coins Maerwyn's heart sank as she noticed the book in the hands of Daphne's maid . " What now ? More books on how to be a proper lady ? " " Of course not , " Daphne said softly , a gentle smile playing on her lips .

" I bring you Tales of Luminara . " At the title , Elowen's hand , which had been reaching for another cake , froze mid - air . That name ... Maerwyn's face lit up with instant delight . " Truly ? You managed to get a copy of Tales of Luminara ? " Daphne's smile widened . " Not just any copy . This is the original manuscript , penned by Azure . Very rare . " Azure was the anonymous author of popular serialized romances . No one knew if they were a man or a woman , young or old .

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Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 43: Chapter 43 - Read Free English Romance Novel

16:22 Mon , May 11 Chapter 43 Poisoned Wine Chapter 43 Poisoned Wine +35 Free Coins Back in the day, Tales of Luminara had taken Vanelle by storm , sparking a frenzy among the young noblewomen , many of whom revered the mysterious Azure as a genius . None more so than Maerwyn . After finishing Tales of Luminara , Azure had vanished without a trace . It was said Maerwyn had even shed secret tears over the disappearance . Hearing it was the original manuscript , Maerwyn was electrified . She shot to her feet . " Quick ! Bring it here at once ! " The maid presented the volume .

Maerwyn took it with reverent hands , stroking the cover / " Azure's own handwriting ... " She opened it . The page revealed an elegant , flowing script . Maerwyn froze for a second , struck by a strange sense of familiarity . At a glance , it looked almost like ... Elowen's writing ?! The thought startled even her . She shot a quick glance at Elowen , her mind racing . How could she possibly be Azure ? A woman like her , writing such inspired tales ? Impossible ! With a derisive snort , she dismissed the absurd idea .

" Lady Daphne really knows how to pick a gift and how to give one ," Maerwyn huffed , sliding Elowen a sidelong look . " Not like some people ... " Her voice was pitched just loud enough to carry . Elowen looked up , a pleasant smile on her face . " What was that , dear niece ? Are you saying you don't care for the books I gave you ? " " I- " Maerwyn began , the insult already forming on her tongue . But then she caught her mother's gaze . Isla's eyes held a heavy , unmistakable disapproval . Maerwyn choked back the words , her face contorting . She forced a different tone . " I ...

I need some air . " She clutched Tales of Luminara to her chest and stalked out , frustration in every step . Daphne shot a look at Elowen and followed . Truth be told , Maerwyn didn't like Daphne much . Few people in the world met her standards - basically just her father , mother , brother , and Azure And her uncle , Cassian . Though " met her standards " wasn't the right phrase for him . Regarding Cassian , Maerwyn felt only 1/3 O MON 11 o O KIKA G [1] Γ 16:22 Mon , May 11 A ♡ Chapter 43 Poisoned Wine * +35 Free Coins bottomless dread .

In short , she'd always looked down on Daphne . But today , gifted with the precious manuscript , Maerwyn was in a lenient mood and didn't immediately send her away . " Your Highness , please don't be too upset , " Daphne murmured softly as they walked . " Lady Elowen has just married into such a lofty position . It's only natural she'd become a bit full of herself . " Maerwyn just snorted . Daphne watched her carefully . " Though , given how familiar she is with so many gentlemen , such a . free- spirited nature , I can't imagine the Duke of Duskmoor would- " " Oh , shut up !

" Maerwyn cut her off irritably . " You kept hinting that Elowen and Piers were having an affair , that she was late because she was meeting him secretly . And what was the truth ? She was with my father ! Do you have any idea how humiliating that was in front of my mother just now ? " Daphne blinked , then forced a placating smile . " But , Your Highness , whether she truly saw the King or not ... that's merely her word , isn't it ? " Maerwyn couldn't be bothered to argue . She couldn't exactly go and interrogate her father . Daphne sighed , as if speaking to herself .

" If only one could catch her in the act with another man - that would settle things . " Maerwyn suddenly stopped and turned to look at her , a new light in her eyes . Back in the hall , not long after , servants entered bearing wine . A delicate , ornate carafe was placed on each table , its rich , heady aroma quickly filling the Gilded Hall . Maerwyn returned shortly after . Elowen glanced up and saw that the sullen , stifled anger from before had completely vanished . In its place was a smile of sure victory .

From across the room , Maerwyn's gaze met hers , glittering with a barely - contained excitement laced with unmistakable malice . The expression was a perfect match for the one from her past life , A cold weight settled in Elowen's stomach .. Last time , Maerwyn hated her for trying to marry Alaric .. She had secretly plotted , drugging the wine , O O MON 11 o O 1 KIKA G O 2/3 16:22 Mon , May 11 J Chapter 43 Poisoned Wine +35 Free Coins Back then , Elowen had no clue . She told herself this was the palace , and it was a princess ' birthday feast- what could possibly go wrong ?

She had underestimated just how vicious Maerwyn could be . Elowen had drunk the offered wine without a second thought . The heat had come upon her swiftly , a relentless , uncomfortable fire spreading through her veins . Feigning concern , Maerwyn had then suggested a maid escort her to a nearby antechamber to freshen up and sober up . But that antechamber had already been prepared . Two guards were hidden inside . They were tall , well - built , handsome men . And they were shirtless . Dizzy and disoriented , Elowen had entered .

The maid had " accidentally " spilled water on her sleeve , coaxing her to remove her overdress . The maid had then slipped silently away , and the two guards had emerged from the shadows . By the time Elowen realized the trap , it was too late to flee . Their hands , strong and unyielding , had closed around her wrists . And then Maerwyn had arrived , kicking the door open with her entourage in tow . What the assembled ladies had witnessed was the scene Maerwyn had engineered : two half - naked , muscular guards , and a disheveled , flushed Elowen caught between them .

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Chapter 44 A Tainted Toast That incident had quickly reached Alaric's ears . He had refused to hear a single word of Elowen's explanation . He already despised her , and this had pushed his disgust to its absolute limit . +35 Free Coins Perhaps a part of the reason he later refused to touch her was the deep - seated belief that she had been " soiled . " Back then , because the marriage contract between Elowen and Alaric still stood , Theodric and Isla had issued a strict , absolute command : the matter was to be sealed , not a whisper allowed to escape .

Yet , rumors of Elowen's alleged tryst with the guards spread like wildfire regardless . Elowen became the laughingstock of the entire Vanelle . She dared not leave the palace , dared not face anyone . She hid in her chambers , drowning in misery , humiliation , and a venomous hatred directed inward . Later , Elowen slowly figured it out . She shouldn't hate herself . She was the victim . She had committed no crime . The guilt lay with Maerwyn , with the two guards , with the maid - with all those who had conspired against her .

Now , reborn , Elowen would never again let herself be cornered . She would fight back . She would ensure the wicked tasted the full bitterness of their own poison . " Aunt Elowen . " Maerwyn , now seated , poured herself a goblet of wine . Just as she had done in that other life , she raised it toward Elowen . " A toast to you . " Elowen met her gaze , her expression polite but distant . " I'm

not much of a drinker . " Maerwyn wasn't about to let her off so easily . She pouted . " No way you don't drink . Isn't it said that everyone from a military family can hold their liquor ?

Don't tell me you're the exception ? " She then adopted a penitent sigh , " Aunt , I was disrespectful earlier . I truly see my error now . I'm offering this toast to make amends . You wouldn't refuse me , would you ? " Elowen's eyebrow arched slightly . So , emotional blackmail it is . Isla intervened diplomatically . " Elowen , if you truly don't want to drink , then don't . " Maerwyn panicked at once . " How could that be ?! " 1/3 O MON 11 KIKAAG 16:22 Mon , May 11 Chapter 44 A Tainted Toast Isla now frowned , sensing something was amiss . +35 Free Coins " I ...

I really just want to make things right , " Maerwyn insisted , forcing a contrite tone . " To mend our relationship ... " Isla clearly didn't believe a word of it and opened her mouth to press further . " Alright then , " Elowen said , sounding as if she had reluctantly relented . " Since Maerwyn is sincerely remorseful , I wouldn't want to disappoint her . " She gestured to Mira to fill her goblet . Lifting her own cup , she then turned to Isla . " Your Majesty , won't you join us ? That we have become family is a rare blessing . It would be lovely to share this toast together .

" Isla was not fond of wine and hesitated . Maerwyn , now wholly focused on getting Elowen to drink the drugged wine , eagerly chimed in . " Yes , Mother ! It's my birthday . Just one cup , please ? " Unable to withstand the combined pressure , Isla gave a reluctant nod , Three goblets met in the air with a soft clink . Watching Elowen drain her cup in one go , Maerwyn nearly laughed aloud . Oh , Elowen . Now you're truly finished ! A short while later , Elowen raised a hand to her temple , her eyes growing hazy , as if filmed with moisture . " Your Majesty , Princess Maerwyn ...

my head really hurts . " Before Isla could speak , Maerwyn jumped in eagerly . " Aunt must be feeling the wine ! Autumn ! Quickly , escort her to the antechamber to rest ! " A maid named Autumn stepped forward from behind Maerwyn . This way , Your Grace . " Elowen rose , her steps slightly unsteady as she followed the maid out . Maerwyn only saw her retreating back . She did not see how , once out of sight , the feigned drunkenness melted from Elowen's face . Her eyes were clear and sharp , and a subtle , cold curve touched the corner of her lips .

Maerwyn watched her leave , a triumphant , poorly - concealed smirk twisting her features . Isla saw it and her frown deepened . " What mischief are you plotting now ? " Maerwyn adopted an innocent expression . " Whatever do you mean , Mother ? You wrong me . " Isla knew her daughter all too well . She lowered her voice . " In the past , if you teased or bullied Elowen a little , it was of little consequence . But now it's different . She has married Cassian ! Need I remind you of his standing with the army ? Or how dearly your father holds his brother ?

Elowen is the Duchess of Duskmoor 2/3 MON 11 KIKA 1 G 16:22 Mon , May 11 Chapter 44 A Tainted Toast +35 Free Coins now . If you cause trouble for her and word reaches your father , not even I'll be able to shield you from his wrath ! " A flicker of genuine fear passed through Maerwyn . She had almost forgotten . Elowen was no longer just that annoying woman clinging to her brother . She was her aunt by marriage now . She pursed her lips , muttering , " But Uncle Cassian is still unconscious , isn't he ? And even if he wakes , he might not take her side ...

" Before she could finish her thought , Isla's body gave an involuntary shudder . " Mother ? " Maerwyn asked , concerned . " Are you unwell ? Your face is so flushed ... " Isla fought against a strange , creeping discomfort spreading through her limbs . She took a steadying breath . " Maybe I'm drunk . I don't usually drink , and this wine is strong today ... " Maerwyn hissed , " It's

Elowen's fault ! Why'd she have to rope you into drinking ? " " I ... I shall be fine after a short rest ,
" Isla said , pushing herself to her feet . Her form swayed unsteadily .

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Chapter 45 A Trap Sprung Chapter 45 A Trap Sprung A nearby lady - in - waiting hurried forward to steady her . +35 Free Coins Maerwyn watched her mother's unsteady retreat with a flicker of worry , but it was quickly smothered by a surge of glee . As soon as Isla was out of sight , Maerwyn began counting on her fingers , a triumphant smile spreading across her face . Just a little while longer , and I'll lead everyone to witness the scandal ! Elowen was seated on a stone bench in the palace's rear colonnade . Mira stood beside her , gently fanning her with a silk fan .

At the sound of approaching footsteps , Elowen looked up to see Isla , her steps faltering , her cheeks tinged with an unnatural pink . Elowen rose and approached , her face a mask of concern . " Your Majesty , are you quite alright ? " " A bit too much wine , nothing serious , " Isla managed , her mind still clinging to a thread of clarity . She glanced behind Elowen . " Wasn't Autumn supposed to be with you ? Where is she ? " Elowen's expression didn't waver . " I sent her to fetch a sobering draught from the royal physician . " Something felt off to Isla .

But her head felt stuffed with wool - swollen , dizzy . A strange , insistent heat was beginning to prickle beneath her skin , making coherent thought difficult . She swallowed , her hand unconsciously tugging at the high neckline of her gown . " You seem unwell , " Elowen said , her voice soft with feigned worry . " Perhaps you should rest in the antechamber . Autumn should return with the draught soon . " Dazed , Isla could only nod . Supported by her lady - in - waiting , she turned toward the side chamber . Behind them , Elowen's composed expression hardened slightly .

Earlier , when no one was watching , she had switched their goblets . The wine Elowen had drunk was perfectly fine , The wine Isla had consumed was the one Maerwyn had tampered with . Maerwyn's willful , domineering nature was , in large part , a product of Isla's indulgence . Time and again , no matter the offense , Isla had covered for her , meting out no real punishment . In Elowen's past life , even after the truth of Maerwyn's plot had come to light , Isla had only offered a token O MON 11 o O KIKAG O 16:22 Mon , May 11 ↓ Chapter 45 A Trap Sprung reprimand .

Not even a confinement to quarters . +35 Free Coins Instead , she had turned the blame on Elowen : " How could you not even know what you were drinking ? Besides , it was only some aphrodisiac

wine . The body is your own couldn't you control yourself ? " Now , watching Isla's renting back , Elowen thought coldly . Your turn now , Your Majesty . Do you know what you just drank ? Is your own body under your control ? " Let's go , " Elowen said quietly to Mira . She did not return to the Gilded Hall . Instead , she turned toward the heart of the palace . This way led to Theodric's study .

Halfway there , however , she came face - to - face with a familiar , and utterly unwelcome , figure - Alaric . Without a second thought , Elowen moved to step around him and continue on her way . Alaric's brow furrowed . He raised an arm , blocking her path . " Stop . " Elowen turned her face to the side , refusing to meet his gaze directly He looked down at her , his eyes inscrutable . " I've just come from Father . I hear Uncle Cassian is fully awake now ? " Elowen gave a slight nod . " So you'd do well not to offend me .

My husband would not take it kindly ." A low , derisive laugh escaped Alaric . " Husband ? You speak as if he dotes on you . If that were true , why didn't he accompany you to the birthday banquet today ? " Elowen remained unruffled . " He has important matters of his own to attend to . " " Fool , " Alaric sneered . " You understand nothing of men . He didn't accompany you because , in his eyes , his affairs are more important than you are . My uncle already has someone in his heart . Do you truly believe that person is you ? " He didn't wait for a reply .

" And you , wielding your new title like a bludgeon , humiliating others at the palace gates - if word of that reaches my uncle , he will despise you for it . " Elowen knew it . He had swallowed Daphne's twisted version of events whole . Just as he always had in the past . Her expression cooled several degrees . " Whether he likes me or hates me is a matter between husband and wife . Not your concern. Now , move aside . I need to see His Majesty . " The words " husband and wife " grated on Alaric's ears like shards of glass . His jaw tightened .

He took a sudden , aggressive step toward her , his voice dropping . " You marred my uncle , and yet you carry on with Piers ? If my uncle learns of this , he will not spare you ! " DO MON 11 o O 1 KIKKA G o r 2/3 16:22 Mon , May 110 Chapter 45 A Trap Sprung Elowen nodded absently . " Mm - hmm . Noted . I'm terrified . " But her tone and the detached look on her face made it clear his words held no weight with her . The dismissiveness only fueled Alaric's agitation . Elowen arched a brow . " Now , can you move ? " +35 Free Coins He stood his ground , his gaze boring into her .

" Elowen , don't think I don't know ! You're hiding a man at Duskmoor Manor ! " Elowen paused , genuinely taken aback for a moment . So much had happened these last two days , she'd totally forgotten about that stable boy ! If Alaric knows ... that has Marwen and Vivian's meddling written all over it . I'll settle that score later . MON Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter.

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Chapter 46 A Confrontation and a Lie Exposed Chapter 46 A Confrontation and a Lie Exposed Right then , Alaric caught every tiny flicker on her face . Guilty ? +35 Free Coins His eyes narrowed . " So full of talk about marrying my uncle willingly , about loving him. And yet you hide a man who looks so much like me in his manor ." A strange , unwarranted pleasure bloomed within him . His eyebrow arched . " Elowen , do you regret it ? Back then , you lashed out and said you'd marry the Duke of Duskmoor instead of me .

Since you moved into Duskmoor Manor , you dream about me every night , don't you ? " Elowen felt a wave of revulsion . She'd had enough . " Alaric , " she snapped , her voice cold with fury . " Did that last fever of yours finally cook what little sense you had left ? " He smirked . " Struck a nerve , have I ? " " You're not just wrong , you're delusional ! " Her brow furrowed in disgust . " If I harbored feelings for you , wouldn't I treat a man who resembles you like a treasure ? Wouldn't I , like some ancient king , build a gilded cage to keep him in luxury ?

Why would I have him shoveling manure in the stables ? " Alaric faltered . His smirk vanished , his lips pressing into a thin line . Slowly , the memory clicked into place - when he first saw that man , the guy was caked in mud , pale as a sheet . Clearly not living well . She was using him like an animal . " You're a grown man , the Crown Prince no less . How can you be so utterly witless ? " " You- " Alaric's eyes turned icy , her insult hitting its mark . " And another thing , " Elowen cut him off , her tone frosty . " My admiration for the Duke of Duskmoor is genuine .

Marrying him was a considered choice , never a whim . I do not dream of you . I don't even think of you ! Today is a celebration . I've just eaten . Spare me your nauseating drivel . " Alaric's handsome face darkened with rage , his jaw clenched so tight it ached . Suddenly , Elowen took a step closer , invading his space . " I should be asking you . Why do you keep questioning if I regret my marriage ? Why do you keep asking if I still pine for you ? Your Highness ... could it be that you are the one with feelings ? That you are the one filled with regret now that I've married the Duke ?

" Alaric stiffened , his face draining of color , then flushing with a sickly pallor . She had struck a nerve , deeper than he cared to admit . He had been dreaming of her . Sometimes it was the past , when he and Elowen were inseparable . MOK 11 1 KIKAG O 1/3 16:23 Mon , May 11 Chapter 46 A Confrontation and a Lie Exposed +35 Free Coins Sometimes it was strange scenes - maybe in the Crown Prince's Wing - where he and Elowen were together , like they were wed , living as husband and wife . The past was razor sharp . The future felt fogged over , like seen through mist .

Bottom line , those dreams were hitting more and more often . Now , with her so close , the delicate fragrance from her hair filled his senses . It twisted inside him , stirring unwelcome memories and a chaotic , restless agitation . In a burst of irritable violence , he shoved her away . " Nonsense ! The sight of you disgusts me ! How could I possibly regret anything ? I'm overjoyed you're no longer clinging to me ! " Elowen , caught off guard , stumbled backward . Her back slammed hard against the cold palace wall . The impact was solid , knocking the breath from her lungs .

A sharp pain blossomed , followed by a numb tingling across her shoulder blade . Alaric belatedly realized his overreaction . His hand started to reach out to steady her . " You two - what are you doing here ? " Theodric's voice cut through the tension . Alaric's arm froze mid - air , then snapped back to his side . He struggled to compose himself , but his expression remained strained . " ... Father . " Theodric , ever perceptive , noted his son's disquiet with a barely perceptible frown . He turned his attention to Elowen , studying her face . " Elowen , are you unwell ?

" Alaric jumped in . " She's fine , " Theodric's gaze flicked to him . " I was speaking to Elowen . Do not presume to answer for her . " Chastised , Alaric pressed his lips together , his eyes darting nervously to Elowen . A memory from her past life surfaced . They'd never consummated their marriage . When Theodric found out , he asked about it . Alaric had answered with gentle concern , " Father , Elowen has been feeling unwell . Out of consideration for her health , we've postponed the consummation .

" When Theodric had turned to Elowen for confirmation , Alaric's eyes had held a sharp , unmistakable warning . Unable to meet his gaze , Elowen had lowered her eyes and whispered , " It's true . It's all my fault . Please , Your Majesty ... do not blame His Highness . " Now , from an angle Theodric couldn't see , Alaric was looking at her with that same cold , warning glare . 00 MON 11 KIKAGOR 2/3 16:23 Mon , May 110 Chapter 46 A Confrontation and a Lie Exposed +35 Free Coins He wanted her to hide what just happened .

If Theodric learned Alaric had shoved Elowen in a fit of temper , he'd tear into him . After all , Elowen was the Duchess of Duskmoo now . That title carried weight . Elowen straightened up , rubbing her sore back . " In truth , Your Majesty , I am not unwell . It's just that His Highness pushed me rather forcefully . My back met the wall quite abruptly , and it stings a bit . " Alaric stared at her , stunned . She ... she just said it . Just like that . Theodric looked equally surprised . " Alaric pushed you ? Whatever for ? " Elowen let out a small , weary sigh .

" I cannot claim to know His Highness ' mind . I was on my way to see you when he stopped me . He demanded to know if I regretted marrying the Duke of Duskmoo . I told him I had not a single regret . That seemed to anger him , and he pushed me . " 2 Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter. With a flair for crafting emotionally intense plots and unforgettable characters, she blends love, desire, and drama into every story she writes.

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Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 47: Chapter 47 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 47 The Trap Closes Alaric's face turned deathly pale . +35 Free Coins Theodric's brow furrowed into a deep , angry crease . His gaze , heavy with authority and displeasure , fixed on his

son . " Is this true ? " Alaric's lips parted , but no sound came out . Theodric's expression turned icy . He turned to Alaric's attendant . " You speak . If you dare shield him , you will answer to me ." The attendant dropped to his knees with a thud , his voice trembling . " Y - Your Majesty ... it is true . His Highness ... did push the Duchess .

" Which meant the rest of it was likely true as well . Theodric's eyes darkened with growing anger , his gaze sharp as a blade . " Are your days still too idle ? Was my recent admonition wasted ? I told you to comport yourself as a Crown Prince should ! Yet here you are , accosting Elowen with such nonsense ! Need I remind you she is now your aunt by marriage ? " Alaric dared not argue . He hung his head like a scolded child , accepting the reprimand in silence . After delivering the rebuke , Theodric turned to Elowen , his tone softening into one of gentle apology .

" The fault lies with me for failing to instill proper discipline . Elowen , please ... accept my deepest apologies . " He then asked , concern etching his features , " How is your back ? Shall I summon a physician ? We can't have it scar . " A wave of bitter irony washed over Elowen . In her past life , after Maerwyn's " discovery , " Theodric had not openly chastised her , but neither had he stood by her . He had not declared his belief in her innocence , nor had he ordered a true investigation . Isla had openly favored Maerwyn .

Theodric , while perhaps sensing the impropriety , had not pressed the issue . After all , Maerwyn was his daughter by blood , Elowen was only a future daughter - in - law - an outsider . Besides , Elowen's father and brother were gone , Alaric had been indifferent . In all the world , she had had no one to champion her . What did the honor or life of a lone orphan girl matter ? Only now was it different . Elowen had married Cassian . MON 1 11 KIKAG O 1/3 16:23 Mon , May 110 Chapter 47 The Trap Closes No matter what , Theodric had to give Cassian face .

It proved a harsh truth - who a woman married mattered above all else . But that was not the most pressing matter now . +35 Free Coins " Thank you for your concern , Your Majesty , " Elowen replied . " The injury is minor . However , there is another , more urgent matter ... " Back in the Gilded Hall , Maerwyn's mind was far from her own celebration . The aphrodisiac wine had been prepared well in advance of her birthday . Maerwyn was of an age to be betrothed . From her parents ' hints , they intended to choose a husband for her from among the newly elevated young lords of merit .

She found the idea utterly beneath her . A princess of the realm deserved a scion of a great noble house . She had set her sights on the youngest son of a general . He came from a military family , was handsome and tall , and by all accounts , lived a clean life with no mistresses . She had sounded out her parents , and their response had been far from enthusiastic . So , she had prepared the potion . If necessary , she would have used it on him . Once they had sex , her parents would have no choice but to consent . Too bad he hadn't come to the palace today . Still , it wasn't wasted .

Using the potion on Elowen wasn't a loss . Maerwyn counted the minutes . It had been quite some time since Elowen drank the wine and left with Autumn . The effects must be in full force by now . Maerwyn felt a thrill of curiosity . What did Elowen look like when the heat took her ? And how " spectacular " would she be , clothes a mess , trapped with those two guards ? Impatience burned within her . The time had come . She sprang to her feet and caught Daphne's eye from across the room .

00 MON 1 11 O KIKI G O 2/3 16:23 Mon , May 11 Chapter 47 The Trap Closes +35 Free Coins
Daphne had already gathered four other young noblewomen , their heads bent together in gossip . Meeting Maerwyn's gaze , she immediately understood . " Shall we accompany Princess Maerwyn for some fresh air ? " she suggested brightly . The group rose and followed Maerwyn in a chattering procession toward the side chamber . Maerwyn led the way , a triumphant smile playing on her lips . She had already dismissed the guards from this area under a pretext . The corridor was deserted and silent .

As they neared the chamber door , faint voices drifted out . The specific tones were muffled , but it was clearly a man and a woman . A man asked , " How did it end up like this ? " A woman answered , " I don't know ... I feel awful , I want you ... please ... give me ... " Maerwyn felt a prickle of vicarious shame . How brazen ! She threw the door open with a dramatic flourish , her voice ringing with accusation . " Who dares engage in such debauchery here ?! " A startled gasp came from within the room . For some reason , that gasp sounded eerily familiar .

Before she could process it , Daphne gasped behind her , pointing . " Your Highness , look ! " Maerwyn's eyes snapped to the scene before her , and her pupils dilated in shock . The man inside the chamber was stern and imposing , wearing the royal diadem . His dark robe , embroidered with subtle patterns , seemed to absorb the dim light . " ... Father ?! " The word escaped her in a strangled whisper . Why is Father here ? Where are the two guards I arranged ? There was no time to ponder . Her gaze shifted to the disheveled woman in her father's arms .

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Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 48: Chapter 48 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 48 Reversal of Fortune Chapter 48 Reversal of Fortune The woman was trembling violently , desperately burrowing into Theodric's embrace . Seeing that , Maerwyn exploded and stormed forward . " You bitch ! " " Maerwyn ! " Theodric snapped , his brow furrowed . +35 Free Coins " Father ! How could you do this to Mother ? And you're protecting her ? " Maerwyn retorted , her neck rigid with outrage . If Elowen really got into her father's bed , was she supposed to call Elowen Mother from now on ? No way in hell . She reached out to claw at the woman's shoulder . " Have you no shame ?

Married to my uncle , yet you dare seduce my father ! You vile , immoral- " Her wrist was caught in a vice - like grip . Theodric's face was dark with anger , his words slow and deliberate . " Maerwyn . Enough ." Wait - was Father really shielding Elowen like this ? Rage boiled over . " No , it's not enough ! " She was about to unleash her fury on her father when a clear , calm voice sounded from

the doorway . " Your Majesty , the physician is here . " Maerwyn froze , Elowen spoke again , sounding puzzled . " Why is there such a crowd ? " Maerwyn turned her head .

Standing in the doorway , perfectly composed , was Elowen . Then who is in Father's arms ? A dreadful realization dawned . Maerwyn turned back , her movements stiff , and finally saw the woman's partially revealed profile . Isla's cheek was flushed an unnatural crimson , her eyes glazed and unfocused , her lips a vivid , swollen red . " Mother ... ? " Maerwyn's voice trembled . How ? How is it Mother ? Elowen drank the wine ! What went wrong ? Her head swam . Theodric's voice , heavy with command , cut through the silence . " All of you , out !

" 1/3 DO MON 11 00 KIKA G 16:23 Mon , May 11 ♂ Chapter 48 Reversal of Fortune He meant Daphne and the others . No one dared disobey the sovereign . They scrambled over each other to flee the scene . +35 Free Coins " Have the physician administer the antidote for Her Majesty , " Elowen suggested softly . Theodric gave a curt nod . He lifted Isla in his arms and placed her gently on a nearby chaise lounge . The physician behind Elowen stepped forward , examined Isla briefly , then proceed with the acupuncture .

Theodric sat on the edge of the chaise , his sharp gaze settling on Maerwyn , filled with a cold , regal fury . " Explain yourself . What happened ? " Maerwyn knew she had been outmaneuvered by Elowen . She shot a hateful glare her way before clenching her jaw . " It was Elowen ! She did this ! " Theodric's eyes narrowed dangerously . " You accuse the Duchess of Duskmoor ? " " Yes ! " Maerwyn hadn't yet pieced together how the trap had been sprung , but her only recourse now was to push all blame onto Elowen . She adopted a pitiable expression . " Father , how could I ever harm Mother ?

It must have been Elowen ! She must have drugged Mother's wine ! " Elowen , standing to the side , seemed to startle at the accusation . She gave Maerwyn a look of innocent bewilderment but ultimately said nothing , only letting out a quiet , resigned sigh . She lowered her eyes and kneeled before Theodric . " Your Majesty , the fault is mine . Today is Princess Maerwyn's birthday . Let her enjoy the remainder of her celebration in peace . " Maerwyn snorted inwardly . Just as I thought . A spineless coward . She doesn't dare expose me .

But her moment of triumph was cut short by Theodric's gentle yet firm reply to Elowen . " This matter has nothing to do with you . I know you are kind - hearted and wish to avoid conflict , but this child has been spoiled beyond measure by her mother and me . After what she did today , she needs to be taught a lesson . " Maerwyn stared , stunned . Theodric turned his stern gaze back to her . " You claim the Duchess plotted against you ? Then explain how you knew your mother would be here.

When you burst in just now , before you'd even seen the scene clearly , the first words out of your mouth were ' bitch . You obviously knew exactly what was happening inside . You just thought the woman was the Duchess . " Maerwyn struggled for words . " I ... I heard strange noises from outside ... I suspected someone was inside , behaving improperly ... " Theodric pressed on , his voice icy . " When you entered , before you saw your mother's face , what were your 00 MON 11 2/3 1 O KIKA G ||| O < 16:23 Mon , May 11 Chapter 48 Reversal of Fortune exact words ? Do you recall ?

" Maerwyn's face went ashen . +35 Free Coins " You said , ' Married to my uncle , yet you dare seduce my father , " Theodric quoted coldly . " Now , tell me . If the Duchess were the one who drugged the wine , why would you be so certain the person in this chamber was her ? " " I ... I ... "

Panic seized Maerwyn's heart . Theodric had already reached his conclusion . His words were final . " It was you . You drugged the wine intended for the Duchess . You sought to ruin her ! " Maerwyn's knees gave out . She collapsed to the floor with a thud .

Elowen watched her quake and grovel , feeling no sympathy at all - only a rush of savage relief . In the last life , she'd been the one interrogated like this . Isla had not been so merciful as to dismiss the crowd . She had confronted Elowen in front of everyone , demanding to know what had happened . Elowen had said Autumn brought her here ; she hadn't known anyone was inside . DO 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 49: Chapter 49 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 49 A Reckoning +35 Free Coins Back then , Autumn had wept , claiming Elowen had insisted on entering the chamber and refused to be dissuaded . The two guards had sworn that Elowen had dragged them inside , stripped their shirts , and told them that since she was to marry Alaric soon , she wanted a final taste of freedom . Elowen had desperately denied it . She had tried to explain about the wine . Isla had ordered the wine from the table to be examined . The physician had declared it perfectly untainted . In that moment , Elowen had felt as if she'd been plunged into an icy abyss .

She had looked instinctively at Maerwyn and met her gloating , triumphant smile . She had understood everything then . Kneeling on the floor , disheveled and humiliated under a barrage of pointing fingers and scornful looks , she had been consumed by helplessness and shame . The memory still chilled her blood . She could never understand how one woman could so callously destroy another's honor . But she had learned - a blade doesn't hurt until it cuts your own flesh . The reprimand Maerwyn was receiving now was nothing less than she deserved . And it was still not enough .

Collecting her thoughts , Elowen spoke softly . " Your Majesty , it was surely an error of judgment . I'm certain Princess Maerwyn regrets it deeply . Now that I married Cassian , and she calls me ' Aunt , ' let's just drop it today . " Invoking Cassian ensured Theodric could not let the matter slide / easily . Cassian wasn't here , so she might as well borrow a little of his influence discreetly . Strategic retreat was an excellent tactic . Hearing this , Maerwyn twisted around , furious , " Quit playing saint ! You think I don't know what you did ? If it weren't for you- " " Maerwyn !

" Theodric roared , cutting her off . " Your aunt shows you mercy , and you have the gall to press your advantage ! I have indeed spoiled you beyond reason ! " Tears welled in Maerwyn's eyes , a

mix of fury and self - pity . " I didn't- ! " " Silence ! " Theodric thundered . Maerwyn flinched , tears finally spilling over her cheeks , She had never seen her father this angry . MOL 11 KIKA G 111 O 1/3 16:23 Mon , May 11 Chapter 49 A Reckoning " Bring them in ! " Theodric commanded . +35 Free Coins Heavy footsteps sounded from the corridor .

Guards entered , escorting three individuals : Autumn and the two palace guards . Maerwyn's defiant posture crumpled instantly . Elowen watched her reaction coolly . Earlier , when Autumn had been leading her to the side chamber , Elowen had stopped midway , claiming a sudden , severe headache and ordering Autumn to fetch a physician . Autumn had frowned . " Her Highness instructed me to take you directly to the chamber to rest , Your Grace . Please try to endure it . A headache is nothing serious ." Mira had stepped forward without hesitation and delivered a sharp slap across Autumn's face .

" Do you remember who you're addressing ? The Princess ' order is important , but the Duchess ' health is not ? Telling Her Grace to ' endure it ' - have you lost your mind ? " It was a tactic Mira had picked up from watching Edith . Stunned by the blow and Mira's fierceness , Autumn , clutching her reddened cheek , had scurried off to obey . Elowen had praised Mira quietly . The area around the side chamber had already been cleared by Maerwyn's orders , so it was easy for Elowen to have the two guards she had brought with her enter and subdue the waiting palace guards .

As instructed , they gagged the men and held them elsewhere . Then , Elowen had waited in the colonnade for Isla . Once Isla entered the chamber , Elowen had gone to find Theodric . She could have left Isla alone with the two guards . But she could not bring herself to do something so vicious to another woman , no matter her faults . Besides , bringing Theodric made everything cleaner and more definitive . She had told Theodric that while resting from the wine , she had heard strange noises from the side chamber and had people seize them . Then she saw Isla heading that way , looking unwell .

Being young and unsure , she had sought his guidance . Theodric had gone to calm Isla . Elowen had excused herself to fetch the physician . And just as she returned , Maerwyn had stormed in to catch the adulterers - her own parents . Theodric said coldly , " You three . Speak the truth ." 11 O O KIKA G 2/3 16:23 Mon , May 11 A Chapter 49 A Reckoning Autumn prostrated herself on the floor , not daring to look up . Theodric pointed at the two guards . " You . Speak ." They served Theodric , not a princess . They dared not lie .

Just as they opened their mouths , a weak voice came from the chaise . " Your Majesty ... " +35 Free Coins Thanks to the physician's injection , the effects of the potion had receded enough for Isla to regain some clarity . She had heard most of the exchange between Theodric and their daughter and understood the gist of what had transpired . Theodric turned to her , his tone softening . " Are you feeling better ? " Isla pushed herself up to a sitting position . " I am fine . But Elowen was wronged today because of me . The fault is mine , as Queen . Please punish me .

" She made as if to rise and kneel . Theodric quickly took her wrist , stopping her . " This has nothing to do with you . The blame rests solely on Maerwyn for her wicked , reckless plot ! " 11 Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter. With a flair for crafting emotionally intense plots and unforgettable characters, she blends love, desire, and drama into every story she writes.

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Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 50: Chapter 50 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 50 True Mastermind Is Someone Else +35 Free Coins Isla cleared her throat softly . " Maerwyn is still a child . She doesn't know any better . How could this be her doing ? " Elowen wasn't surprised . Isla had chosen , once again , to shield her daughter . She had to admit , while Isla might not be a just queen , she was a fiercely protective mother . Even after being drugged herself and suffering for it , she still wanted to cover for her daughter . Bolstered by her mother's words , Maerwyn sniffed and straightened her spine . Theodric frowned , his voice growing colder .

" You have always coddled her . This is the result . The evidence is before us , and you still seek to conceal her guilt ? " Isla glanced calmly at the kneeling Autumn and the guards . " Maerwyn may be willful , but she has a good heart and knows right from wrong . She would never drug her own aunt . Clearly , someone with ill intent sought to harm the Duchess and chose to pin the blame on my daughter . " As soon as the words were spoken , despair flashed in Autumn's eyes . She bit her lip , then pressed her forehead to the floor . Her voice trembled . " It ... it was me ! I am to blame !

" Elowen's brow furrowed slightly . Pick a few servants as scapegoats . Wash the master's hands clean . Die in their place . Her sister - in - law had told her it was a common , ugly tactic in palaces and great houses . " You see ? " Isla said with a sigh . " She must have meant to harm the Duchess , but I drank the wine by mistake . " Theodric opened his mouth to speak , but Isla pressed on , " I am unharmed , and the Duchess is unharmed , too . Didn't she just say she wouldn't pursue it ? " Theodric fell silent , momentarily at a loss . Isla seized the advantage .

" Today is Maerwyn's birthday , after all . To make a public spectacle of this would only invite ridicule . Let us resolve this quietly and be done with it . " Elowen could not accept this outcome . She lifted her face . " Your Majesty- " " Elowen , " Isla interrupted smoothly , " surely you would not wish the Duke to learn of such an unpleasant affair ? He and His Majesty share a deep fraternal bond . It would be a pity for such a trivial matter to sow discord between them . " She was using Cassian to silence her ! Elowen's lips parted , but the words died in her throat .

She had no ground to stand on . If Cassian found out , he would blame me , wouldn't he ? 1/3 00 11 0 O K I K A G O Γ 16:23 Mon , May 11 Chapter 50 True Mastermind Is Someone Else She slowly lowered her eyes , a sense of defeat settling over her . +35 Free Coins Just as she was resigning herself to retreat , a distinct sound echoed from the corridor outside - the steady , rhythmic creak of wooden wheels on flagstone . Then , Cassian's voice , cool and deliberate , cut through the tense silence . " Your Majesty .

Seems you are bullying my wife ." Everyone in the room stiffened , their expressions shifting in varying degrees of surprise and apprehension . Elowen stared , stunned . Cassian ? How is he here

? He said he had urgent business . And his words ... Is he standing up for me ? While she was still reeling , the sound of the wheelchair grew closer , finally coming to a halt beside her . Elowen saw a broad , long - fingered hand extend towards her . She turned her head and met Cassian's deep , dark gaze . He raised an eyebrow . " Why are you kneeling ? You've done nothing wrong .

Aren't your knees sore ? " A warm rush of emotion flooded Elowen's chest . She placed her hand in his palm and let him help her to her feet . " Cassian ! What brings you to the palace ? " Theodric's voice held genuine pleasure as he looked Cassian over . " You look much better ! Color has returned to your face ! " Unable to rise for a proper bow , Cassian inclined his head from his chair . " Thanks to the diligent care of my wife . " Theodric beamed . " Is that so ? Then it seems my matchmaking was inspired ! " " Indeed , Your Majesty was most wise , " Cassian replied with a faint smile .

His ga Majesty . Do you hear clearly now ? " Isla was momentarily confused . " Hear ... what ? " shifted back to Isla . " Your Cassian spoke slowly , each word weighted . " Elowen and I were married by His Majesty's decree . I hold my wife in the highest esteem . To insult her is to insult both His Majesty and me . " Elowen's heart felt suddenly , wonderfully warm . He was drawing a line , telling Isla and everyone else that she was under his protection . Isla forced a smile . " Of ... of course no one would insult the Duchess ...

" O 11 O O KIKI G 2/3 16:23 Mon , May 11 O Chapter 50 True Mastermind Is Someone Else Theodric added firmly , " You have my word , Cassian . I'll not allow any slight against your wife . " +35 Free Coins " With Your Majesty's assurance , I'm at ease . " Cassian's gaze swept the room once more . " All right . Let's get back to dealing with what just happened . " Isla hesitated . " What ... happened ? " Cassian's fingers tapped twice on the arm of his wheelchair . " I listened for a while outside . The story grows more curious by the minute . This maid ...

how many times has she even laid eyes on my wife ? What motive could she possibly have to use aphrodisiac wine in such a scheme ? And even if , against all reason , she bore some petty grudge , how did she manage to enlist palace guards in her plot ? " His eyes , cool and assessing , settled on the kneeling Maerwyn . " It stands to reason the true mastermind is someone else . " MON 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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