

Love's Unexpected Awakening: Elowen's Choice Novel Chapter 91: Chapter 91 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 91 The Plea +20 Free Coins Upon seeing Elowen , Rowena immediately rose to her feet , her face etched with apology . " Just now , my daughter Elara behaved improperly , barging into your private chambers without permission . It was a grave offense . Please accept my deepest apologies on her behalf . " She performed a formal , perfectly measured curtsy . Elowen was somewhat taken aback but maintained a pleasant smile . " It's alright . " But Rowena continued to offer profuse apologies , even nudging Elara to make her own . Elowen finally caught on .

No wonder Cassian had told her not to worry - Rowena was clearly a woman of proper decorum . Once they were seated , Rowena spoke first . " Yesterday , I mentioned my nephew's marriage prospects to His Grace . He said the matter could be discussed with Your Grace . " Elowen smiled , " Here's the situation . The Duke's uncle , General Aldric Ashcroft , has a younger daughter , Sylvia . She has come of age , and I thought , as the two are of similar years , perhaps they could be introduced . " 4 Rowena nodded . " General Ashcroft and my husband are old acquaintances .

I have met Sylvia a few times in the past - a lively , pretty girl . She must have grown into a fine young woman . " " Mother ..." Elara's voice was soft and pleading from the side . " I'm of age too , and I still haven't married . " Rowena shot her a glance but said nothing . Elowen looked over . " Yes , Miss Wrenner is at a perfect age . Have any suitable matches been considered ? " Elara whispered , almost to herself , " Cassian is quite good ... " Rowena's expression darkened . First , the girl had barged into someone's private chambers unannounced .

Now she was praising another woman's husband to her face . Her daughter , usually so obedient , seemed to lose all sense and reason whenever Cassian was involved . As her mother , Rowena was burned with shame , wishing the floor would swallow her whole . Elowen's voice remained calm and measured . " The Duke is , without doubt , an exceptional man . But the world is full of different people , and the most suitable husband is different for each woman . Take your father , for instance - he is a truly good man . Marrying him was a great fortune in your mother's life , was it not ?

" Rowena started , looking at Elowen with a mix of shock and admiration . They were nearly the same age as her daughter , yet so much wiser . What Elowen said was both perceptive and tactful . Rowena remembered that Elowen's mother came from a distinguished background- no wonder she had raised such a daughter . 1/3 12:35 pm Chapter 91 The Plea She felt utterly inadequate by comparison . Forcing a smile . Rowena opened her mouth to agree and smooth things over . But Elara seemed to have reached a resolution .

She suddenly stood up and knelt heavily before Elowen , The smile vanished from Elowen's lips . Rowena's brow furrowed in anger . " Elara ! What is the meaning of this ? Get up at once ! " " Mother , I missed my chance with him once before . I cannot let it happen again ! " +20 Free Coms Tears welled in Elara's eyes as she gazed imploringly at Elowen . " Your Grace , Cassian and I grew up together . Since I was a child , I vowed I would marry him . If I cannot have him , I will shave my head and join a convent ! " " Elara , what nonsense are you spouting !

" Rowena's voice trembled with fury . Elara's face was set in stubborn defiance , refusing to look at her mother . Elowen looked down at the kneeling girl . " You speak of your feelings for the Duke . But what of his feelings for you ? Did he ever vow to marry you and no other ? " Elara flinched slightly but pressed on , " He may not have said the words , but his actions speak ! If he held no affection for me , why would he be so kind ? He sends an allowance for Mother and me every month , and he assigned his most trusted guard to protect us ... I must be in his heart !

" Elowen sighed , " He looks after you and your mother out of respect and concern for your father . " " No ! It's not because of Father ! " Elara shook her head vehemently . " If he weren't waiting for me to grow up , a man his age have married and had children long ago . But he hasn't . He's waiting for me ... " Elowen opened her mouth , then closed it , at a loss for words . would Sometimes , people - whether due to youth or lack of hardship - cling stubbornly to their delusions , refusing to see the truth until they crash headlong into it .

In her past life , she had been that person , blind in the midst of her own folly . Even when Alaric had treated her so cruelly , she had gritted her teeth and persevered , always thinking , What if tomorrow he finally treats me right ? Elara was the same now . " Your Grace , I beg you ... " Elara knelt on the floor , shuffling closer on her knees , her plea desperate . " Please , allow me and Cassian to be together ... As long as you agree to let me in , I'll serve you well and- " Smack ! Rowena could bear no more . She sprang up , strode forward , and struck Elara hard across the face .

Elara froze , her hand flying to her cheek , staring at her mother in disbelief . 2/3 12:35 pm Chapter 91 The Plea +20 Free Coins In all her years , her mother had never struck her . The sting of the blow and the harshness of the reprimand broke the dam , tears streamed down her face . Rowena's face was dark with shame and anger . " You shameless girl ! " Her fingers trembled violently , but she did not let it show . Taking a deep , steadying breath , she turned back to Elowen , her eyes filled with profound remorse . " I have spoiled this child beyond reason .

She is not in her right mind today and has spoken unforgivable nonsense . Please , Your Grace , don't take it to heart . " Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter. With a flair for crafting emotionally intense plots and unforgettable characters, she blends love, desire, and drama into every story she writes. Cedella's storytelling style is immersive and addictive-perfect for fans of heated romances and heart-pounding twists.

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Chapter 92 Your Beloved Is The Duchess ? Chapter 92 Your Beloved Is The Duchess ? +20 Free Coins " This is not nonsense ! " Elara cried out , tears streaming down her face . " I love him ! I will have no one but Cassian ! " Rowena's composure crumbled further . She shot Elowen a mortified look before gripping Elara's wrist and hauling her up from the floor . " Enough ! We are leaving .

You will not disgrace us further here ! " Elara fought back with desperate strength . " No ! I won't go ! I must see him ! " " Enough ! " Rowena's voice was sharp , a whip - crack of maternal authority .

" There is no ' him ' for you here ! Only His Grace , the Duke of Duskmooor ! If you continue this unseemly behavior , I will have you married off to the first suitable match I can find by tomorrow ! Perhaps that will finally cure you of this madness ! " " I'll marry no one else ! " Elara's voice rose to a near - shriek , hysterical . " If you won't let me have Cassian , I'd rather die ! " The word " die " hung in the air , heavy and dangerous . Elowen immediately stood . " Mrs. Wrenner , Miss Wrenner , please calm down...

" She gave a quick , meaningful glance to Mira and Cora , signaling them to be ready . Don't let her do anything rash . At that moment , the sound of wheels rolling over flagstones came from outside the door . Elowen looked up to see Cassian in the doorway . Dressed in dark charcoal , his expression was unreadable , cold . " Cassian ! " Elara saw him too . With a burst of frantic energy , she wrenched her wrist free from her mother's grasp and stumbled towards him . " Cassian , I can't outargue them ...

They won't let me marry you , but I- " " I heard , " Cassian's voice cut through the room , calm and measured . Elara stopped , sniffing . When she saw him , her heart steadied at once . He's come to stand up for me . Cassian's next words shattered that hope completely . " Elara , I will not marry you ." Elara jerked as if struck , her eyes wide with stunned disbelief , fresh tears welling . Cassian's face showed no pity , no softening . " I do not know what I have ever done or said to give you such a mistaken impression .

My support for you and your mother has always been , and will always be , because your father served as my lieutenant and now suffers alone in Nordia . I have no romantic feelings for you . I never have . " " No ... that can't be ... " Elara stared at him , her gaze desperate , searching . " How can you not care for me ? You assigned your own guards to protect me ... " " The Nordians seek to turn your father , " Cassian stated flatly . " You and your mother were targets . The guards were a necessity . " 1/3 12:35 pm Chapter 92 Your Beloved Is The Duchess ? +20 Free Coins " But ...

you never married . All these years ... You only have a Duchess now because the King arranged it , " Elara choked out between sobs . " You were waiting for me , weren't you ? All this time you waited ? " Cassian's expression remained impassive . " I did not marry because I chose not to settle . Not because I was waiting for you . " Elara wiped her face roughly with her sleeve . " Then ... then they say you have someone in your heart ... Cassian , that person is me , isn't it ? " Cassian didn't hesitate . " It's not you . " Elara stood frozen , her lips moving soundlessly , " Not me ? How ...

how can it not be me ? Then ... then who ? " Cassian's gaze lifted , crossing the room , and found Elowen . Elowen , however , was not looking at him . Her brows drew tight , worry filling her eyes as she watched Elara . Her nerves were strung taut - she clutched Mira's hand beside her . " Who is she ? " Elara's eyes were red - rimmed , burning with a final , stubborn demand . " If it's not me , then who ? Tell me ! " Following Cassian's line of sight , Elara turned her head . Her bewildered , tear - filled eyes landed on Elowen . " Don't tell me ... your beloved is the Duchess ?

" Elowen started , looking from Elara's shattered face to Cassian . Her eyes met his - deep and utterly serious . That look sent a jolt of pure , unadulterated panic through her . No. It can't be ... can it ? " Yes . " 4 Cassian's answer was calm , deliberate , and devoid of any hesitation . A simple , devastating admission . A roaring filled Elowen's ears , as if something had violently exploded

inside her skull . Cassian ... loves me ? Elara let out a broken , disbelieving laugh . " Cassian , to reject me , you would go so far as to invent such a tale ...

If the Duchess truly held your heart , why did you not seek her hand at Hale Manor ? Everyone knows the marriage was the King's decree , that she was meant for the Crown Prince ... " " I did not seek her hand formally only because I didn't have time . " Cassian's interruption was final , his demeanor now distant . " Elara , this ends now . For your father's sake , my protection for you and your mother remains . But I will not see you alone again . You are not to come to Duskmoor Manor , I will give the order ; you will not be admitted . " All strength left Elara's body .

She slumped to the floor , a puppet with its strings cut , utterly broken . Cassian turned to Rowena . " Mrs. Wrenner , you may still call upon the manor if you have need . But do not bring Elara again . " Rowena , her own face streaked with tears , nodded meekly . " I understand . Thank you , Your Grace . " She understood perfectly . After Elara's appalling behavior today , the fact that Cassian still offered his protection was an act of 2/3 12:36 pm Chapter 92 Your Beloved Is The Duchess ? profound generosity .

+20 Free Coins She took a deep breath , bent down , and pulled her weeping daughter up from the floor . Her voice was low , firm , and heavy with finality . " We are leaving . " Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter. With a flair for crafting emotionally intense plots and unforgettable characters, she blends love, desire, and drama into every story she writes. Cedella's storytelling style is immersive and addictive-perfect for fans of heated romances and heart-pounding twists.

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Chapter 93 She Doesn't Understand At All Chapter 93 She Doesn't Understand At All Elara was a portrait of shattered grief , her face a mess of tears , moving like a puppet as her mother led her away . After the Wrenners departed , a heavy silence settled over the room . Cassian's mood was palpably grim . +20 Free Coins Elowen was the first to break the stillness . She approached him , her voice gentle . " It's alright . She's young , and she's stubborn . She'll understand better when she's older . " Cassian lifted his gaze to hers , deep and inscrutable .

" That is all you're concerned about ? Elara ? " Elowen blinked , processing his question . " Oh , and Mrs. Wrenner , of course . She's very sensible . Before you arrived , she even slapped Elara . " She sighed softly , " She must be feeling terribly guilty and heartbroken . " Cassian pressed his lips together , frustration simmering . He spoke slowly , deliberately , " A moment ago , I said the one in my heart was you . " At this , Elowen actually smiled , a reassuring , understanding smile . " I know . I understand . " His eyebrows shot up . " You ... understand ? " She nodded .

" Of course . Elara's infatuation with you is too deep . Telling her you love me was the only way to make her let go , at least for now . " Cassian could only stare . So she doesn't know . She doesn't

understand at all . And she was being so terribly considerate about it . V " You can rest easy , my lord . I won't breathe a word of this to anyone . " Otherwise , the woman you truly love would surely be heartbroken . A mix of exasperation and reluctant amusement tugged at him . " What makes you so certain I wasn't speaking the truth ? " Elowen tilted her head slightly , thinking .

" My lord , our ages ... " She chose her words carefully . " There's a bit of a gap . While I don't recall us ever meeting before , I would have been very young then . You couldn't possibly have been in love with me when I was seven or eight , or even eleven or twelve , could you ? " Cassian's lips parted , ready to explain . Just then , Bran entered from outside . " Your Grace , Lord Jett from the palace is here . " He meant Quin Jett , the King's personal attendant . Cassian's explanation died on his lips .

1/3 12:36 pm Chapter 93 She Doesn't Understand At All +20 Free Coins " Really , it's fine , " Elowen said , giving him another comforting smile . " My lord , you should go see Lord Jett . I'll get breakfast going . Anything you're craving ? " Cassian looked almost troubled . He raised a hand to pinch the bridge of his nose . " You decide . " " Okay . " Elowen took Mira's hand and headed for the small kitchen , while Cassian went to the main hall to receive Quin . Quin had served Theodric since boyhood and was an old acquaintance of Cassian's .

A man in his forties , slightly built and perpetually cheerful , his smile widened upon seeing Cassian . " Your Grace . " Cassian's mind was elsewhere . " Does His Majesty have a message ? " he asked , cool . " Your Grace knows His Majesty best , as always , " Quin chuckled . " You left the palace in a hurry last night . His Majesty had an important item he forgot to give you and asked me to deliver it today . " Cassian raised an eyebrow . " And what is it ? " Quin's expression turned conspiratorial . He drew a small , leather - bound volume from his bag and presented it with both hands .

Cassian took it . The title , embossed in gold , read : The Art of Intimacy . This title ... He flipped it open at random . The page that met his eyes depicted an illustration of two intertwined figures on a garden swing . A violent jolt shot through his chest . He snapped the book shut . Quin beamed . " His Majesty said this should be instructive for you and Her Grace . " The image he had glimpsed burned behind Cassian's eyes . If that were Elowen and I ... His throat tightened .

A sudden , sharp regret pierced him - why had he filled the courtyard with a study and a kitchen , but never thought to build a swing ? After a pause , Quin added , " Ah , there is one more thing . " He leaned in slightly . " During the morning council today , His Majesty reprimanded Lord Garrett . " This was the Lord Chancellor , Daphne's father . Cassian wasn't surprised . Last night at the palace , he hadn't only discussed the letters from Nordia , but he had also relayed the events at Miren Lake . The King had cursed Galen then . " It was before the entire court , " Quin continued .

" Lord Garrett's face turned white , then red . He knelt and kowtowed , begging for forgiveness . His Majesty only permitted him to rise after the council adjourned . " 12:36 pm Chapter 93 She Doesn't Understand At All " He got what he deserved , " Cassian said , his tone cool . +20 Free Coins " Indeed , " Quin agreed with a smile . " No doubt Lord Garrett will be taking a firmer hand with his children at home henceforth . " Before taking his leave , Quin remembered something else . " Oh , and Your Grace .

Starting tomorrow , His Highness the Crown Prince will resume his duties in the council , assisting His Majesty with state affairs . " In other words , while Alaric bore some responsibility for the Miren Lake incident , he was , after all , the Crown Prince . The King hoped Cassian would show his

nephew a measure of patience . Cassian gave a noncommittal grunt . " Noted . " In the palace , news from the morning council travelled swiftly to the Queen's chambers . Isla sent for Alaric to join her for the morning meal . As soon as they were seated , she fixed him with a direct stare .

" What exactly happened at Miren Lake ? " Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter. With a flair for crafting emotionally intense plots and unforgettable characters, she blends love, desire, and drama into every story she writes. Cedella's storytelling style is immersive and addictive-perfect for fans of heated romances and heart-pounding twists.

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Chapter 94 A Sudden Collapse +20 Free Coins Alaric recounted the events at Miren Lake , of course , omitting his own tangled feelings for Elowen and Cedric's disparaging remarks about Julian . Isla frowned . " Cassian is getting way out of line . Your father even favored him - he actually scolded Galen in council today ... The poor man , at his age , was humiliated before the entire court for no good reason . I heard he invoked house discipline the moment he returned home and gave his son a sound thrashing .

Daphne escaped punishment , though she's said to be walking with a limp today from yesterday's punishment . " A limp ? Alaric's mind stirred . He suddenly remembered his uncle mentioning that he had punished Daphne with kneeling at the verse salon . That day , it was said the true Azure would appear , walking with an intentional limp . Everyone had assumed it was Daphne . Only Elowen had voiced doubt . Could it be that Daphne wasn't Azure at all , but had somehow taken the credit by mistake ? And Elowen , the one who questioned her ... could she be the true Azure ?

The sudden thought shocked even him . " Enough about them , " Isia's tone shifted , focusing on him . " What is your opinion of Daphne ? " Alaric pulled his scattered thoughts together , answering vaguely , " She is ... fine . " Isla pressed on , " Would you be willing to take her as your Crown Princess ? " Alaric instinctively frowned . " ... Father reprimanded Lord Garrett today , clearly displeased with the family . He's unlikely to favor or promote them in the future . For me to marry his daughter might only anger Father further . " Isla waved a dismissive hand .

" Your father scolded him today , but who's to say he won't praise him tomorrow ? The tides of court change in a heartbeat . No one can guarantee the future . Besides , your uncle grows more arrogant by the day . He'll incur the wrath sooner or later . Mark my words , he won't last . " Her voice turned earnest . " You are the Crown Prince . You must begin cultivating your own faction at court . In my view , the Garretts are a perfect choice . After the Miren Lake incident , they will surely bear a grudge against Cassian .

If you marry Daphne , the Garretts will devote themselves to supporting you . And Daphne herself is Azure , the writer Maerwyn admires so much . " The more Isla spoke , the more she warmed to

the idea of this match . Alaric's brow remained furrowed . He picked up a spoon , stirring the frumenty in his bowl aimlessly . Isla watched him for a moment , then her voice turned cold . " Don't tell me you're still pining for Elowen ? " Alaric's heart gave a violent lurch . His hand stilled . He gritted his teeth . " You misunderstand , Mother . My feelings for Elowen ... are nothing but annoyance .

" 1/3 12:36 pm Chapter 94 A Sudden Collapse Only then did Isla look satisfied . The rest of the meal tasted like ash in Alaric's mouth . +20 Free Coins Before he took his leave , his mother offered one final piece of advice . " You may resume your council duties tomorrow . Attend to them diligently , strive to please your father . I will find an opportunity to speak with him and arrange the marriage this year . You will wed Daphne . " Alaric forced a smile . " As you wish , Mother . " He returned to the Crown Prince's Wing as usual and went to his study to read .

But shortly after sitting down , a sharp , crippling pain seized his abdomen . Alaric couldn't focus on a single word . He slumped over the desk , trembling , a cold sweat breaking out across his skin . " Your Highness ? Your Highness ? " A servant , noticing his distress , approached . Alaric's hair was plastered to his damp forehead . He forced his eyes open , but the servant's face swam and blurred before him . His throat worked . " Elowen ... " he croaked . The servant froze . Alaric grabbed the man's wrist , his own hand shaking . " I ate something bad ...

" His constitution had never been robust . Isla , managing the harem , vying for the king's favor , and securing her own position , had little time or attention to spare for her son's delicate health . There were many things Alaric couldn't eat , but Isla seldom remembered , and even Alaric himself sometimes forgot . Only Elowen had known it all . The food she used to bring him had never caused any trouble . And whenever he did fall ill from something he ate , she would brew him a special , warm broth . He never knew what she put in it , but drinking it always brought profound relief .

" I want that broth ... Elowen , go make the broth for me , " he murmured . The intense pain was sapping his strength . His grip loosened , his voice growing faint . The servant heard him but was utterly confused . " What broth , Your Highness ? What kind of broth do you mean ? " Before he could get a clear answer , Alaric's eyes rolled back , and he lost consciousness completely . The servant hastily reported the incident to the Queen and summoned a royal physician to the Crown Prince's Wing . Seeing her son's paper - white face on the bed , Isla flew into a rage .

" Are you all corpses in this wing ? Can you not even care for the Crown Prince properly ? " The servants trembled , kneeling in fear . 2/3 12:36 pm Chapter 94 A Sudden Collapse Isla's face was like stone . " How did this happen ? " A servant prostrated himself on the floor . " The physician says ... it was something he ate at the morning meal . " +20 Free Coins 3/3 12:36 pm 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 95 Alaric's Whisper Isla's face hardened . On the bed , Alaric drifted in and out of consciousness . His lips moved , mumbling something . Leaning closer to listen , Isla immediately frowned . +20 Free Coins A short while later , Theodric arrived , his voice carrying into the chamber before he did . " How is Alaric ? Has he awakened ? " Isla rose and curtsied , a shallow smile on her lips . " Your Majesty , you really should arrange a marriage for Alaric as soon as possible . " " Oh ? " Theodric raised an eyebrow . " What prompts this sudden urgency ?

" Listen to what he says in his delirium . " Isla gestured slightly towards the bed . Theodric bent down , hearing Alaric's hoarse whisper . " Elowen ... " Theodric straightened , his expression turning grave . " She is a Duchess now , and yet she still clings to Alaric's mind . Who knows what she has said to him in private ? Look what she has done to our son , " Ista hissed , venom in her tone . Theodric shot her a sharp look . " What does she have to do with this ? She fulfills her role as Duchess without a hint of impropriety .

Several times now , it has been our son who overstepped and offended her . If anyone has been improper , it is Alaric . I should be asking you how you raised him !" Chastened , Isla lowered her head . But as he looked at his son on the bed , Theodric felt a headache brewing . " Still ... you are not wrong . His marriage should indeed be arranged quickly . " A nephew crying out his aunt's given name in his dreams ? If such a thing became known , the royal family would be a laughingstock . And more importantly , if word of this reached Cassian ...

Theodric sighed wearily , " I had thought the Garrett girl suitable , but now ... " Isla saw an opening and seized it . " The Garretts are a fine family , a worthy match for Alaric . And Alaric likes their daughter . " Theodric's gaze was skeptical . " You are certain he likes her ? " On the bed , Alaric murmured Elowen's name again . Isla forced a brighter smile . " Even if his affection is not yet deep , marriage will foster it . It is the same in the end . " Theodric weighed the options for a long moment , then sighed in resignation , " Fine . He is your son .

You may make the arrangements . " 1/3 12:36 pm Chapter 95 Alaric's Whisper +20 Free Coins After breakfast , Elowen took a stroll through the courtyard , inspecting the rooms under repair and exchanging a few casual words with the servants tending the grounds . Mira came in from outside and approached her . " Your Grace , I was passing by Rose Hall earlier and heard Lady Marwen shouting . I asked around - turns out Lady Sylvia went out . " Cora was surprised . " Lady Sylvia left the manor ? " " Is that so strange ? " Mira asked , glancing at her . " Very !

In the past , she scarcely set foot outside all year ! " Elowen was also curious . " Sylvia merely went out . Why would Lady Marwen berate her for that ? " Mira's eyes widened . " Your Grace , you should have heard the language ! She called Lady Sylvia shameless , said she must be sneaking out to meet some random man . " Cora couldn't help but add , " She says such things when her daughter steps out once , yet her son visits the Velvet Lantern every other day , and she never breathes a word . " Elowen sighed . Later , in the study , she drafted an invitation .

It was for Rowena , asking her to bring her nephew to visit Duskmooor Manor the day after tomorrow . Elowen's thought was simple - if Sylvia and Rowena's nephew proved suitable , Sylvia could marry and escape her mother's suffocating control . However , this was the first time she had composed such an invitation herself . Worried her wording might be incorrect , she took the draft to find Cassian in his study . As she approached , she could hear someone reporting from inside . She caught the word " Crown Prince " and paused just outside the door .

The voices inside fell silent at the sound of her footsteps . Cassian looked up from his desk , his gaze finding her in the doorway . " Elowen . " He raised a brow . " Come in . " Elowen walked in obediently . Cassian watched her , his tone unreadable . "Have you come because you heard the Crown Prince fell ill ? " Her expression was earnest . " I came specifically to see you , not because of him . I only just heard about his illness outside the door . " Cassian said nothing Elowen asked curiously , " How did he fall ill ? Too much wickedness catching up with him ?

" A faint smile touched Cassian's lips . " No. He ate something that disagreed with him . " " I see . " 2/3 12:36 pm Chapter 95 Alaric's Whisper +20 Free Coins Elowen nodded , not at all surprised . Alaric's constitution was notoriously weak , with many dietary restrictions . In her past life , she had been the only one who remembered them all . She would try to remind him , but he often found her bothersome , dismissing her concern as nagging . Only when he was truly suffering , pale and miserable , would he call for her . Her heart would soften , and she would brew him a special broth .

It was a tonic her aunt had taught her - delicious and remarkably effective . Her aunt had developed it out of concern for her uncle's frail digestion and later passed it on to Elowen . Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter. With a flair for crafting emotionally intense plots and unforgettable characters, she blends love, desire, and drama into every story she writes. Cedella's storytelling style is immersive and addictive-perfect for fans of heated romances and heart-pounding twists.

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Chapter 96 Wish Him Ill Chapter 96 Wish Him Ill The broth was a complicated affair , taking hours to prepare each time . Alaric would drink it eagerly when unwell , only to complain about its smell and shoo her away once he recovered . Looking back , Elowen felt the urge to curse Alaric for his foolishness , and her past self for her own blind devotion . +20 Free Coins Now , she had no interest in the matter . She simply held out her draft invitation , blinking with a smile . " My lord , would you look this over for me ? How is it ? Does anything need changing ?

" Cassian lowered his gaze to the parchment spread before him . The handwriting was elegant and graceful , much like the woman herself . Several edits were visible ; she had clearly taken great care .. His mood lightened considerably . A faint smile touched his lips . " It's well written . "

Elowen eagerly selected a quill from the stand , dipped it in ink , and presented it to him with both hands . Cassian took it , making a few notations and circling a phrase or two . He gave it a final look . " That should do . Just transcribe a clean copy .

" Elowen leaned in to read , her eyes shining with admiration . " Truly worthy of the Duke of Duskmoor . Your edits make it far more appropriate than my draft . " Cassian's smile deepened , unbidden . " Sweet talker . " Elowen beamed . " Then I'll take my leave . I'll have it sent as soon as it's copied . " She turned to go . " Wait . " Cassian raised a hand . His initial impulse was to catch her wrist , but some unspoken thought redirected his movement . His arm rose higher , settling instead around her waist . A faint blush colored Elowen's cheeks . Her voice softened . " W - what is it ?

" Cassian's palm rested against the soft curve of her waist . " One more thing . Regarding the Crown Prince . " Elowen thought for a moment . " Don't tell me it's ... " Cassian's look was encouraging , inviting her to guess . Elowen seemed to have an idea . She lowered her voice , her eyes alight with hopeful curiosity . " Did he ... eat something so bad that he's gravely ill and won't recover ? " A low chuckle escaped Cassian . " No . " " Oh . " Elowen sounded almost disappointed .
1/3 12:36 pm Chapter 96 Wish Him Ill +20 Free Coins Cassian looked amused .

" From your tone , one might think you wish him ill . " Elowen gave an embarrassed little laugh . " Not at all ... I was just guessing . " Cassian studied her intently . " The royal physician prescribed medicine . He should wake soon . What I want to tell you is news from the palace . " " Yes ? " " The Queen and the King have discussed it . They intend for the Garrett girl to marry into the Crown Prince's Wing as his Princess . " As he spoke , Cassian watched Elowen's expression closely . He detected no trace of sorrow , not even surprise . His eyebrow lifted slightly .

Elowen nodded thoughtfully . " Seems a fitting match . " Then , blushing again , she whispered , " My lord , is there anything else ? If not , could you let me go ? I'm a little ticklish ... " Cassian's gaze dropped to her waist , darkening for a moment . He held it there a beat longer before releasing her . Elowen left the study , carefully transcribed the invitation , and had it delivered to Rowena . A prompt reply arrived , along with a letter containing the name and a brief introduction of her nephew , complete with a small portrait . Elowen was quite pleased .

As she examined the portrait with a bright smile , Cassian glanced over her shoulder . " Do you favor that type of an ? " he asked . Missing the hint of jealousy entirely , Elowen smiled , " What's not t like ? He's young and handsome . " Cassian blinked . Young ? So she doesn't like older men like me ? Unaware of his internal shift , Elowen closed the portrait . " Well then , I should go find Sylvia now . " She sent Cora to Rose Hall to summon Sylvia , arranging to meet in the receiving parlor .

For some reason , Elowen felt Sylvia seemed more vibrant , as if parched earth had been gently revived by rain , finally showing signs of life . After curtsying , Sylvia asked , " You want to see me , Your Grace ? " " Your mother asked me to help find you a nice match , " Elowen said warmly . " I've met a lovely young man - around your age . Name's Kaelan Page . He comes from a good family ; trained as a scholar at the royal abbey , and his way with ancient texts got him a spot in the Royal Archives two years back . " Sylvia blinked , taken aback ..

2/3 12:36 pm Chapter 96 Wish Him ill +20 Free Coins " The day after tomorrow , he will be visiting Duskmoor Manor . You could meet him then . " Elowen reached for the portrait . Sylvia's expression grew conflicted . Elowen paused , the portrait half - unrolled . " Do you have some

concerns ? " Sylvia hesitated , words seemingly caught in her throat . " It's alright , " Elowen reassured her , her voice gentle . " Speak your mind . This is your marriage , your future . I merely wanted to make an introduction if it suited . If you like the idea , we can proceed . If not , we forget it .

I would never force you . " Her soft tone gave Sylvia courage . She bit her lip , summoned her resolve , and sank to her knees with a soft thud . " Your Grace , I ... I already have someone in my heart . " 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 97: Chapter 97 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 97 An Old Man's Intuition Elowen was taken aback . She first helped Sylvia to her feet . " Get up . " Sylvia rose with Elowen's help . Elowen asked , " Who is he ? When did it start ? " : +20 Free Coins Sylvia blushed . " It's the gentleman I met on the hill that day . His name is Peres . Though he's a merchant's son , he is courteous and kind to me . " That explained Sylvia's unusually bright mood that day . A memory clicked for Elowen . " And you went out today to see him , didn't you ? " Sylvia's face flamed crimson . " We didn't do anything improper !

Just sat talking a while - nothing more ! We didn't even touch ! " Elowen chuckled , " Relax . I'm not a prude . " Sylvia only turned redder . " But there's one thing I should remind you . " Elowen's tone turned serious . " Mr. Page is in royal service . Peres is from a merchant family . In our world , commerce will always rank lower than official position . When we marry , we cannot consider only our present affection . We must look to the future . What will your life be like ? What of your children's prospects ? These require careful thought . " Sylvia nodded . " I get it .

" But Elowen could see the lingering naivety in her eyes . Sylvia didn't truly understand . Still , Elowen had given her counsel . The final choice was Sylvia's own . If Elowen pushed too hard and Sylvia later regretted it , resentment would follow " Well , as long as you understand , " Elowen said , Yet Sylvia's brow furrowed . " But , Your Grace ... " letting it go . She bit her lip , looking crestfallen . " My mother will never agree . She is determined for me to marry into a high - ranking family . She would never accept a merchant . " Elowen thought for a moment .

" Then have Peres come to Duskmoor Manor the day after tomorrow as well . " Joy illuminated Sylvia's face . " Thank you , Your Grace ! " As Sylvia left , practically floating with happiness , Elowen felt a lightness too , humming a little tune under her breath . " Sylvia is right . Lady Marwen will never consent to her daughter marrying a merchant . She will make a dreadful scene , likely directing her fury at you . " Cassian's low voice came from the doorway . Elowen looked up ,

tilting her head . " How do you know ? " Cassian raised a brow . " An old man's intuition , perhaps ?

" Elowen blinked , then laughed , " What's with this ' old man ' talk all of a sudden ? " 1/3 12:36 pm Chapter 97 An Old Man's Intuition Cassian's gaze flickered to the portrait still lying near her hand . +20 Free Coins 107 Elowen didn't realize he was sour about the age thing . She didn't dwell on it . She stood up and went to him, her skirts rustling . " My lord , you said Lady Marwen would blame me . But am I not the Duchess ? Would she truly show me so little regard ? " Cassian nodded . " She would . " Elowen was stunned again .

Bran , standing behind Cassian , chimed in , " Your Grace , you should have seen it ! During the arrangements for Lady Vivian's marriage , it was chaos for months . Lady Marwen complained that one suitor had too many brothers to split the inheritance , or that another's family had no title , their rank too low . And she said these things to their faces ! When His Grace reprimanded her , she simply collapsed on the floor , wailing about how pitiful General Ashcroft was , how pitiful her children were , threatening to follow the General to the grave ...

" Elowen could already picture Marwen pounding her chest and howling . Just imagining it made her scalp prickle . Yet she had already promised Sylvia she could invite Peres . The day after tomorrow , Rowena and her nephew Kaelan would be guests at Duskmoor Manor . If Marwen caused a scene , as the hostess , Elowen would be mortified ... This type of person was the hardest to handle . Reasoning with her was a total waste of breath . Even the most skilled were helpless against someone who discarded all dignity and was willing to overturn the table at any moment .

Elowen closed her eyes in despair " Need help ? " Cassian's voice , calm and measured , broke through her thoughts at just the right moment . She opened her eyes , hope blooming . " Really ? " A faint smile played on Cassian's lips . " Really . But there's a condition . " " What condition ? " " Make me happy . " " Ah ... " Elowen thought seriously . How could she make Cassian happy ? Perhaps ... A divorce ? If she voluntarily stepped aside and returned the title of Duchess to the woman he truly loved , surely that would make him ecstatic ?

2/3 12:36 pm Chapter 97 An Old Man's Intuition For some reason , watching the play of emotions across her face , Cassian felt a distinct sense of foreboding . He tapped his fingers lightly on the arm of his chair . " I'm hungry . " Elowen immediately volunteered , her face brightening . " My lord , let me fix you something warm - just for you ! " Cassian's gaze deepened . " Hmm ? " +20 Free Coins Elowen beamed . " I'll knead the oat - and - wheat dough myself - promise it'll be tender and flaky , with a hint of rosemary mixed right in !

Then I'll fill it with caramelized onions and sautéed mushrooms , and crack a lovely runny egg on top before baking . It'll be a perfect herb - crusted savory tart - will that do ? " Cassian paused for a moment . 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 98: Chapter 98 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 98 Shall We Continue Tonight ? Of course . She was utterly guileless , understanding nothing . What had he been expecting ? A faint , almost imperceptible smile touched his lips . " Very well . " Elowen promptly disappeared into the kitchen . +20 Free Coins Alaric's abdominal pain had kept him unconscious for much of the day . By evening , the worst of it had finally subsided . Following the royal physician's instructions , he was allowed simple , easily digestible food . Yet , nothing the servants brought stirred his appetite . " " Your Highness , please , eat something .

You haven't had a thing all day , " a servant pleaded . " Take it away , " Alaric said , his face expressionless . The servant dropped to his knees , nearly weeping . " This is the fifth dish the kitchens have prepared , Your Highness ! If you touch none of it , Her Majesty will have my hide ! " Alaric glanced at him , a rare flicker of sympathy crossing his features . Seizing on that slight softening , the servant asked tearfully , " Is there anything you crave ? Name it , and I will have the kitchens make it at once . " Alaric's throat worked .

The words slipped out almost against his will . " Tart . " " Pardon , Your Highness ? " " Herb - crusted savory tart . " Alaric's brow furrowed . Elowen used to make them for him . He could always eat two whole ones . She would always ask , hopeful , " Are they good ? " He , thinking her too proud , needing her spirit tempered , would deliberately scowl and declare them flavorless , dreadful . Now , thinking back , it seemed an age since she had last baked those tarts for him . Looking at the dry , crumbly pastry on the table , a strange , sharp pang of regret twisted inside him .

But then another thought occurred : she must have stopped making them because her skills had declined . No way she'd be making them over at Duskmoor Manor for Cassian . And even if she were , a man as aloof and refined as Cassian would never deign to eat more than a single , polite slice . 1/3 12:36 pm Chapter 98 Shall We Continue Tonight ? +20 Free Coins Elowen had been busy for quite some time . When she emerged , a kitchen boy followed , carrying a large ceramic platter piled high with golden - brown tarts .

She served Cassian a slice herself , her heart fluttering nervously as she watched him lift a forkful to his mouth . She had once believed her herb - crusted savory tarts were among her finest dishes , impossible to dislike . Until Alaric . Every time she asked , he would coldly declare them tasteless . It had eroded her confidence so deeply she had never dared bake them again ... until today . Holding her breath , she asked , " ... Are they good ? " " Delicious , " Cassian replied without hesitation . Then , he proceeded to eat two full slices .

For the first time in recent memory , he felt genuinely , pleasantly full , sitting back in his chair in a slight daze . Thinking he was merely being polite , Elowen turned to Bran . " Would you like some ? I made plenty . " Bran looked to Cassian . Cassian gave a slight nod . " If you wish . " So Bran tried a slice . Then he ate three . In the eight years since joining the household , living in comfort with ample food and warmth , this was the first time he had eaten to the point of pleasant stupor .

Standing beside the wheelchair , one hand on his rounded belly , he gave Elowen a thumbs - up with the other . " Your Grace , these tarts are incredible ! The herb - infused flaky crust , the rich , earthy filling - truly the best in all the kingdoms ! " Elowen smiled , a little abashed . But a small piece of her long - lost confidence seemed to drift back into place . " I know how to make many other kinds of tarts , all quite good , " she said brightly . " My lord , if you like them , I could make them for you every day . " She looked at Cassian expectantly . " Would that make you happy ?

" Cassian , feeling pleasantly lethargic from the meal , murmured , " Not bad . " Elowen blinked . " Then ... shall we continue tonight ? " Cassian paused , the lazy contentment evaporating . He said nothing . Thinking he hadn't heard , Elowen repeated cheerfully , " My lord , I will certainly continue striving to make you happy tonight . " Bran's eyes widened comically beside them . 2/3 12:36 pm Chapter 98 Shall We Continue Tonight ? A sharp glance from Cassian silenced him . " Still staring ? Duties all finished ? " Bran grinned . " Right . I'll be off then .

" +20 Free Coins Watching him leave , Elowen asked curiously , " Why did you send him away ? It might have been fun to have him here later . " " You wanted Bran to watch later ? " he asked slowly . Elowen tilted her head . " Is that not allowed ? It's more lively with company . " " Lively is a consideration for this sort of thing ? " Was she suggesting Bran cheer from the sidelines ? " It was like that in my family home ... " Elowen murmured , then quickly brightened . " But just the two of us is fine too !

That way , we can concentrate properly on where to place the pieces ." Cassian finally sensed a disconnect . " Place the pieces ? " " Yes . " Elowen nodded . " Playing chess with you , my lord . " Cassian stilled . " ... Chess . " A faint , almost imperceptible thread of disappointment colored his tone . 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 99: Chapter 99 - Read Free English Romance Novel

Chapter 99 Let Me Make You Happier Chapter 99 Let Me Make You Happier Elowen tilted her head . " What else would we be doing , my lord ? " Cassian averted his gaze , his tone vague . " I just thought ... we might share a cup of spiced tisane or something ... " He quickly changed the subject . " You know I play chess ? " +20 Free Coins Her attention was successfully diverted . She nodded . " My brother told me ! Lord Piers Leofric of Falconcrest is a chess prodigy . He never lost a match and was so arrogant that he'd wager heavily , demanding his defeated opponents quit the game .

Over time , he nearly ruined the spirit of chess in Aventor . Then you challenged him . The wager was simple : the loser would serve as the other's personal manservant for three days . Lord Piers

agreed ... and lost the very first game . " The reality had been far more dramatic than her retelling . The match between Piers and Cassian had drawn massive crowds . Elowen , visiting her grandfather's estate at the time , had missed it , hearing the tale later from Julian . It was said that during the match , Cassian had calmly sipped water while playing .

While Piers agonized over his moves , Cassian lazily took a sip and told Bran , " I'm hungry . Fetch some pastries . " And still , Piers lost . Cassian , eating a pastry , had offered one to his opponent . " Care for one ? " Piers ignored both the pastry and the offer , grinding his teeth . " One game doesn't count ! I wasn't ready ! Best of three ! " Piers lost the second game . He stared at the board in disbelief before looking up at Cassian , fists clenched . Cassian raised a brow . " Best of five ? " Mortified but stubborn , Piers nodded . He lost the third game .

He didn't propose a best of seven , finally admitting defeat in despair . " I will never touch a chessboard again ... " " No need , " Cassian interrupted . " Just don't touch one for the next three days . " Piers was confused . Cassian reminded him , " The wager was three days of service . For those three days , you are my servant . I don't allow my servants to play chess . But as the young lord of Falconcrest , whether you play or not is none of my concern . " Piers froze . After that , the chess circles of Aventor settled down .

The match between Piers and Cassian became an unparalleled legend . Elowen smiled softly , " I also heard that you learned chess from Dowager Queen Selene . That you and Her Majesty would play late 1/3 12:36 pm Chapter 99 Let Me Make You Happier into the night . I may not be very skilled , but I thought ... perhaps you miss those times ? " Cassian's heart softened unexpectedly . He did . He missed it . +20 Free Coins His mother had been a woman of gentle strength . Were she not born a woman , she might have become Avenlor's foremost chess master .

Instead , chosen for the palace , she had to feign losses to please the King during their games , only to teach his brother and himself in secret and then thoroughly trounce them match after match . " Well , my lord ? " Elowen's eyes were shining with an impossible light . " Shall we play ? " Looking at her , something stirred within Cassian . Interest sparked , and a smile touched his lips unbidden . " Let's . " Elowen fetched the chessboard and set it up on the table , her expression earnest . " Your Grace , don't go easy on me . The important thing is that you enjoy yourself !

" As the game began , Cassian discovered , to his surprise , that Elowen's skill was remarkably high - perhaps even surpassing Piers ' Truly a clever girl . However , as they progressed into the mid - game , she began to struggle , pondering each move at length . Cassian watched her carefully , then subtly eased his offensive pressure . In the end , Cassian lost to Elowen by a half - point margin . Realizing she had won , Elowen blinked in disbelief . " I won ? I actually won ? " Cassian smiled , " Indeed . You won . " Elowen studied him . " My lord , did you let me win ?

" " Did it feel like I let you win ? " he countered . She shook her head . It hadn't felt that way . " Then you won , " Cassian affirmed , offering an excuse . " It's been a while . I'm out of practice . " Elowen looked from him to the board , and finally , a delighted smile blossomed across her face . In the warm glow of the lamplight , her eyes and the curve of her lips softened with pure joy , like ice thawing , rivers flowing again , spring flowers covering the hillsides - a breathtaking kind of beauty . Cassian found himself unable to look away for a long moment .

He thought he understood now why his mother had always let his father win . " Happy ? " he asked . 2/3 12:36 pm Chapter 99 Let Me Make You Happier +20 Free Coins Elowen nodded , though she felt a flicker of confusion . Wasn't she supposed to be the one making him happy ? " Then let me

make you happier , " Cassian said , his gaze gentle . " What do you mean ? " " I'll take you to meet someone . " After that meeting , Elowen decided the plan would proceed . Rowena and her nephew would come as scheduled . The guest list had simply grown by one .

On the appointed day , she chose the manor's relatively cool pavilion by the water for the gathering , setting out pastries . Cedella Cedella is a passionate storyteller known for her bold romantic and spicy novels that keep readers hooked from the very first chapter. With a flair for crafting emotionally intense plots and unforgettable characters, she blends love, desire, and drama into every story she writes. Cedella's storytelling style is immersive and addictive-perfect for fans of heated romances and heart-pounding twists.

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Chapter 100 Showdown At The Pavilion Chapter 100 Showdown At The Pavilion +20 Free Coins
The appointed hour had not yet arrived . Elowen was making a final check to ensure everything was in order when Marwen arrived early . " Lady Marwen , you've come , " Elowen greeted with a smile . " If I hadn't , my daughter's entire future would be ruined beyond repair ! " Marwen's voice was icy , her face devoid of any warmth , her expression grim . Elowen's smile faded . Sylvia spoke softly , " Mother , Her Grace is kindly arranging a match for me . This is unseemly . " Marwen glared at her .

" This is unseemly ? It would be truly unseemly for you to marry into that Page family ! " She had been kept in the dark for days , only learning this morning that Elowen was arranging a match for Sylvia - with the nephew of Lieutenant Wrenner's wife ! She was furious . The Pages held no title ! They spoke of generations of scholars , but what of it ? They hadn't produced a high - ranking official in years ! Marwen's tone was dripping with sarcasm . " Some people , having married into the highest nobility themselves , arrange matches for others with mere scholars !

Is it fear that others might fare better than they do ? " Sylvia's face paled . She tugged at her mother's sleeve . " Mother ! " Marwen coldly shook her off . Elowen spoke slowly , " You are dissatisfied with Mr. Page ? " Marwen offered a thin , insincere smile . " I wouldn't dare ! Your Grace , you preside over the household , arranging a marriage for Sylvia . How could I be dissatisfied ? I am merely an aunt - by - marriage , an outsider ! My opinion holds no weight ! " Elowen's brow furrowed slightly . " I just find it odd , " Marwen continued , her voice sharpening .

" The Garrett girl is deemed worthy of becoming Crown Princess . Yet my husband gave his life for the kingdom ! Can't our daughter even be taken as a concubine ? " Elowen didn't hesitate . " No. Absolutely not . " Her tone was final . Marwen , enraged at the rebuff , snapped , " Perhaps you're jealous , having failed to marry the Crown Prince yourself ! " Elowen's already tight frown deepened . Mira stepped forward , her voice stern . " How dare you insult Her Grace ! " Marwen paused , reining in some of her visible anger , but her tone remained caustic . " I meant no insult to Her Grace .

I merely speak the truth . Those past matters between Her Grace and the Crown Prince- " " Mother ! " Sylvia could bear it no longer . 1/2 12:37 pm Chapter 100 Showdown At The Pavilion Marwen turned on her , displeased . " What is it ? " +20 Free Coins Sylvia , bolstered by the encouraging words Peres had spoken to her , summoned a rare courage . Clenching her fingers , she said , " The match Her Grace has arranged for me today ... is not with Mr. Page . You should not speak to her so harshly . " Marwen's focus snapped to the first part . " Not the Page boy ? Then who ?

" Sylwia took a deep breath , steeling herself . " He is ... a gentleman I met on the hill . He- " " A gentleman ? " Marwen cut her off sharply , her expression turning suspicious . " When did you meet a gentleman ? " " When I accompanied His Grace and Her Grace to pay respects to Father ... " " What family is he from ? What title does his house hold ? " Marwen pressed . Sylvia lowered her eyes , her voice growing faint . " He ... is not from a great family . They hold no title . He is ... a merchant . " " A merchant ? " Marwen's voice rose to a shriek . " You want to marry a merchant ?

" Before Sylvia could explain , the scolding slammed into her like a storm . " You foolish girl ! I bore you , raised you , so you could marry a tradesman ? You've been ruined by your father's influence , turned into a brainless simpleton ! Why didn't you just follow him to the grave ! " Then , a realization dawned . " That day you went out - was it to meet that vagabond ? " A flicker of guilt crossed Sylvia's face . Marwen caught it in an instant , shot to her feet , and slapped her daughter hard across the face . " Shameless hussy !

" The blow was so forceful it sent Sylvia stumbling sideways, her hair coming loose and tumbling about her shoulders in disarray . Elowen , caught off guard , started . She immediately . " Guards ! Restrain her ! " " I am disciplining my own daughter ! Who dares interfere ! " Marwen roared . She shot Elowen a venomous glare . " If you hadn't insisted on taking her picture ! " Elowen frowned . " He is not a vagabond . He- " her fury overriding all deference . " Aut that day , that vagabond would never have been in the " No name , no standing , what else is he but a vagabond ?!

" Marwen's shout drowned her out . She turned back to Sylvia , her voice a harsh demand . " Tell me ! How far has it gone with him ? Did you sleep with him already ? " Sylvia shook her head , tears welling . " We've done nothing ... " Marwen didn't believe a word . She let out a scornful laugh . " Still lying to me ! It seems a lesson is in order today , or you'll never learn ! " Her hand rose again . " Stop ! " Before Elowen could intervene , a man's voice rang out from the doorway .

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