

The Forced Maiden For The Cursed Alpha King

C 165

Chapter 165

Chapter 165

Sabrina

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“What? No, it’s not!” I huffed out before huffing out a long breath. I was so over this fucksss dinner and wish I could leave for my room right now.

“Why do you keep bringing up the king?” I asked, genuinely wanting to hear his response. However, I’ve easily put two and two together and the answer is quite obvious because he’s insecure and jealous of his elder brother.

He rolled his eyes and snorted out a laugh before reaching for my cup to pure me a drink. That was all I’ve been doing tonight, drinking and drinking, because unlike the food, the drink was easier to keep downing,

“Because I’m curious, I mean... who isn’t?” He arched a brow at me before laughing again but I had to resist the urge to roll my eyes for the hundredth time tonight because he really wasn’t as funny as he probably thought he was.

“It’s just normal for me to be curious, seeing as I left for months and you were alone here with the king, you know? So, who knows, you might have grown to care for him, even if it’s a little. He spoke this time, all traces of playfulness wiped away from his face.

I blinked a few times while staring at him before sighing and shaking my head.

“Um, you’re quite wrong, Calden. I really don’t care about him, like... at all.” I breathed out even as my heart stuttered in the inside of my chest.

“He’s literally the reason I got kidnapped and sold, I definitely don’t care about someone like that.” I continued, rolling my eyes a little. As I said those words, I was reminded of the whole hurdle I experienced, then I was wondering why I was even worried about him tonight. After passing through all of that she returned back to listen to him talk about how he barely noticed my absence and all, I definitely wasn’t supposed to care for him a little. I should be happy that he

might most likely die tonight. But I really wasn't, despite trying and trying, all I could feel for him was worry, and hope that he'd end up surviving tonight.

"You don't believe me?" I asked and he shrugged before settling down his fork to reach for my hand across the table. I instantly tensed up, hating the way his thumb rolled over my knuckles. He was clearly trying to soothe my nerves but it was having the complete opposite effect on me.

"I *do* believe you." He spoke softly and I swallowed emptily before smiling at him because it felt like that was what I was supposed to do right now.

"Why were you tense, my girl?" He asked, still dragging his thumb over my knuckle. I shifted a little in my seat, struggling to come up with a tangible response at first.

"About tonight." I blurted out because that sounded logical in this situation. He seemed to agree with me because he beamed before leaning forward to kiss my knuckle. I rolled my eyes when he wasn't looking and was glad when he finally let go of it.

"There's no need to be nervous, sugar." He drawled and grinned again.

"I'll take good care of you tonight, and of course, I'll make it **feel** so damn *good*. I'm gonna have **you** on cloud 9 in no time once **I get** my hands on you: it's gonna **be** your best **night of** pleasure, so **fear** not and have no doubt." He continued and I nodded slowly, while a nervous knot settled in the lowest **part of** my stomach.

"Women— love me **for a reason**, it's because **apart** from the privileges **that come with** being together with me, they do call **me a beast** in bed." He began and I groaned internally as he continued.

13:19 Sat, Jan 25 **G.**

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"I can effortlessly make women reach their peak. I can even do it in my sleep, that's how good I am." He gloated and I averted my gaze so he wouldn't see the disgust in them.

Is this really the person I might spend tonight with?? I asked myself quietly while listening to him give out more and more details of his experience in bed, which I never asked for in the first place.

I was beyond relieved when he said we could finally leave the table, shortly after the plates got cleared away. But at the same time; the nervousness inside of me grew tenfold.

because

as soon as we get to his wing, he'd expect me to accompany me into his room so we could fuck. But I didn't want that, like at all.

As we walked down the hallways, I was extremely tense. His hand dragging over my hip wasn't helping matters *at all*. I felt like I might faint from how nervous I currently feel.

In no time, we got to his door, and I was still yet to make a decision. If I'll willingly let myself fall into his bed even if I don't want it, but I'll let it happen anyway just to save myself, or if I'll make an excuse at the doorway and see how he'd react.

He got the door open and his hand on my lower back tightened, like a silent warning. The words I was about to say got trapped in my throat and I awkwardly let him lead me into the room. The sound of his door closing behind us made me stiffen and jolt with shock, and I whirled around, my heart hammering away in my chest. He was standing with his hands in his pockets, his lips twitching in clear amusement as he took in my facial expression.

"Don't think about coming up with an excuse tonight, we're gonna do this and it will make us connect to each other even more: you'll love it, I promise." He began as he closed the distance.

"But..." I began just as his lips closed over mine in a deep kiss.

+23)

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Sabrina

His kiss was deep and almost bruising this time. At dusk, it didn't feel good, just extremely disgusting. When he slipped his tongue into my mouth this time, unable to stop myself, I shoved at his chest till he stumbled. I was slightly caught off guard by the realization that I managed to push him off, but I was more worried about what my excuse could be right now.

He was panting and the bulge in his pants was indicating that he was very turned on right now. He huffed and shook his head out of his face before sauntering forward. I took a step back before I could stop myself and held a hand up.

"Stop." I whispered and to my surprise, he did stop, and a frown was across his face as he regarded me.

“Stop?” He echoed. The word sounded foreign on his tongue and he was staring at me like he couldn’t comprehend the

word.

I let out a shaky breath while nodding.

“What’s wrong?” He ended up asking and I swallowed emptily while my heart pounded away.

“I- I’m sorry. I know you were looking forward to us doing this tonight.” I gestured between us and at the large bed looming behind me as I spoke. “But I don’t want to. I- I feel very pressured and cornered and I know you don’t intend to make me feel this way, it’s just how I feel. So can we not do this tonight, maybe some other time?” As I spoke, I held my breath, knowing I was literally grasping for straws right now.

His face gave nothing away as he spoke next. “Till when?”

I swallowed emptily again, reeling extremely nervous. I didn’t want to give him a timeframe knowing my mindset still won’t be changed by then. And so I carefully picked out my response.

“I um..., let’s just see how it goes, I guess. Perhaps after we get closer to each other...” I was still speaking when he threw his head back and laughed loudly.

“What type of bullshit are you saying right now,” he demanded and I instantly tensed up; eyes starting to widen as he began to close the distance between us once again.

“I meant that...” I began but ended up trailing off to squeak when my legs hit the foot of the large bed. Panic gripped across my face while

a grin slowly spread across Calden’s **face** as he stepped forward even more.

“You’re saying a bunch of nonsense because we already know each other enough. We are already close enough, and we are already good to cross over to the next step in our relationship, which is getting to know each other’s bodies.” As he spoke this time, his hands settled over my hips. I tensed up again and tried to push his hands off but they didn’t budge.

I was very frightened at this point.

“I still feel very uncomfortable and would like to leave.” I whispered, my voice shaking a little. There was nowhere for me to run to, no one to save me. **It’s** either he willingly lets me leave or I’d be completely doomed.

"I'm afraid that can't happen, baby." He crooned before pushing at my head and I fell into the bed just as a squeal burst out from my mouth. Panic flared in my insides and I felt dizzy as I frantically rolled to the side of the bed, but Caiden was quicker and as soon as his hold clamped over my ankles, he was climbing over me and automatically trapping me underneath him.

My heart felt like it might burst out from my chest at this point and as I stared up at him, my eyes began to sting. I cursed myself out, feeling like a stupid fool because in a way, all of this was my fault. Perhaps if I hadn't agreed to get into that ridiculous relationship with him, this might not be happening right now.

"Don't look so scared, I'm not gonna hurt you." He whispered as he kissed my throat and collarbones and my voice trembled as I responded.

1/2

12.26 Wed, 5 Mar

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"But I don't want this, you're forcing me to do what I don't want to do." I whispered quietly and he pulled away to peer down

at me.

"Why don't you want it? You have no reasonable reason and you're also not a virgin, so I see no reason why you aren't bursting with excitement over being let into my bed. Only a few are privileged enough. Most of the girls I've fucked are over furniture and definitely not in here." As he spoke, I silently wished I could spit in his face or claw his eyes out. He sounded so haughty that it was sending disgust crawling over my skin.

"I still don't want it." I said, voice stronger this time.

He rolled his eyes and leaned down to kiss me deeply, not minding that I was completely unresponsive.

"You know my secrets, all my plans, and you also want to be my queen. If that's gonna happen, we're gonna do this at the end of the day," he mumbled as he kissed over my cleavage while groaning.

I swallowed back a sob, unable to believe this was my life right now.

"Maybe I don't want to be your queen anymore." I breathed out.

Caiden pulled away from me as if scotched.

At first, I was internally rejoicing that the response had worked; that it had made him finally decide to leave me alone tonight. But I was wrong, because he slapped me across the face the next moment.

I gasped in shock just as he grabbed my throat tightly, sneering into my face. "You can't back out now!"

I stiffened as shock flowed through my veins, then I tried fighting him off me with everything in me. But he was stronger so he only laughed as he pinned my hands effortlessly and shoved a leg between my legs, tearing off my dress with the second hand and crackling with I let out a terrified and horrified scream.

At this point, I had completely lost all hope, already believing he'd end up having his way with me.

But the complete unexpected happened in the very next moment.

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Sabrina's POV:

The next thing I heard was a deafening crash, and the sound of a body hitting the wall.

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I raised my head up, shocked at what had just happened. My hands glowed with a faint pale light, and in seconds it was gone. In the wall opposite the bed was Caldan.

There was no way he had moved back on his own. There's no way he slammed into that wall on his own.

"Oh my goodness," I gasped, my eyes wide with surprise.

My powers! They were back!

I brought my hands up to my face and stared at my shaky hands.

It was real. I had almost gaslighted myself into believing that those papers were simply an effect of my hallucinations. Ever since that day with Acheron they refused to show up, I thought it was something that would never happen again.

Caldan groaned, his voice deep with pain.

I snapped out of my daze and swung my legs off the bed. "Caldan?" I called, a tremor in my voice. I inhaled sharply, putting together what I was going to say in apology. He tried to force his touch on me, I see no reason why I should be the one apologizing

Just as I opened my mouth to reply, he began to laugh.

I froze, a deep frown on my brow.

"Caldan?"

He gathered himself up from the floor and looked up at me. Blood trickled down his nose to his chin. He wiped it off and stared at his fingers. Then he scoffed.

"I'll be damned." He muttered to himself under his breath.

My heart skipped a beat.

What is he doing? He's laughing, like he didn't just make an indent in a solid wall. I'm sure that blast broke a few bones of his.

Why the fuck is he laughing right now?!

My stomach twisted in painful knots of worry. I couldn't shake off the feeling that something was wrong, something was terribly and deeply wrong.

"What is so funny?" I whispered, my throat clogged with fear. I swallowed thickly and focused my gaze on him.

He wiped the blood on his trousers and stared at me. "So it's finally happened. Took long enough."

"What do you mean? What are you talking about?"

He rolled his shoulders and took a step forward. My instant reaction was to move back, my hands raised in front of me protectively.

"S—stay back!" I said, trying to sound brave.

1/3

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He didn't listen to me.

51%

My heart was pounding like a furious war drum in my chest. I tried to feel whatever I was feeling when my powers came alive. And instead of the feeling of heat rushing through my veins, I felt cold dread.

It quickly dawned on me that I was very likely doomed.

I still have no control over my powers. This was a coincidence, a trick. One that wasn't going to repeat itself again.

I took a step back and the back of my knees touched the bed. A gasp spilled from my lips and I jumped away, in case he tried to push me into the bed again.

Instead, he walked over to the bedside table. His strides slow and relaxed **as** if he had all the time in the world.

"You have powers huh?" He said and turned to glance at me. I swallowed the lump in my throat.

"I"

"Why did you keep it from me?"

"I didn't think they were powers," I managed to say. "I thought I was cursed that it was a curse."

"You kept something this big from me."

"I'm sorry." I choked it out, the words like venom on my tongue. I grit my teeth hard and glared at him. "I didn't realize it was important to mention what I thought was a curse to you."

He chuckled to himself. "Liar."

I blinked. "What?"

"You're. A fucking liar, Sabrina. You knew and you kept this from me. You lied to me."

"I didn't!" I screamed out. "I didn't keep **it** from you! I didn't know!"

"That's a fucking lie. You never wanted to tell me!"

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I gasped, my breath shuddering in my chest. "I'm telling you I didn't!" I can't understand why I feel the need to explain to him. But something about being accused brought up deep emotions I had shoved down. And I wanted to do everything to prove him wrong.

"Did the king know?" He snapped, and I sealed my lips.

My hands were beginning to tremble from being held up for so long. I shakily lowered them to my side. The silence between us stretched for what seemed like minutes but were in fact seconds.

He clicked his tongue and laughed, his laugh cold and bitter. "I thought **so**."

"That's not " I started to say and paused.

"You know," He said and leaned on the table, his legs stretched out in front of him. "I fail to understand why you would deny me your body. What's fucking one more brother? You've already fucked one, **so** what's the big deal?"

My blood turned to ice.

"W-what?" I whispered.

"Don't even try to deny it. You fucked the king, didn't you?"

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"I didn't," I snapped immediately, "I didn't...I didn't fuck him. What are you on about?"

He stared at me like I was the most stupid thing on the planet. "Really?"

"Yes! Really! I didn't!"

He threw his head back and laughed. "You must think I'm a very stupid person, Sabrina. And I can't even say I'm surprised." He looked at me, his chin tilted and a look of disgust on his face. "I'm not stupid, and I'm not blind either. I know that you fucked him."

"I didn't..."

"Really? Well, let me tell you this. You really think I was just gone? You really think I didn't have people watching you and reporting every move back to me?"

The cold hand of fear grabbed my guts and twisted hard. I felt cold and sick. Bile rose in my throat and I gulped it down.

“And let’s not even go there, forget the eyes. He seethed, his eyes dark with anger. “You think I didn’t smell his scent on you? Marked so deep into your skin that your scent was gone?”

“That’s because I...”

“That was when I found you.” he said, and all my arguments died. “He scent marked you, and you tell me that you didn’t fuck him?”

Fuck. Just fuck.

3/3

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Sabrina’s POV:

“You...you knew,” My words are soft as cotton, contrasting the hard breaths I sucked in. “You knew and you..”

“Oh so now you admit you fucked him.”

“If you knew then why did you act like you didn’t?!”

This means he’s always known. He has people watching, when I thought he was gone he was still there. He knew. Everything, every detail. And when he found me, he knew.

“It was fun.” He said with a lazy shrug. “Watching you lie. Watching the look what passed your eyes whenever you’d see him. All the jokes, the double meanings. It was **so** much fun, Sabrina. You both must have thought that I was stupid.”

“That’s enough.”

“That I didn’t know. How funny it must have been. My brother, fucking you while knowing that I was in love with you.”

“That’s enough, Caldan stop.”

“Tell me. Did you both ever laugh about it? Huh? Oh what a fool Caldan is, his girl is fucking his brother.”

Shame twisted in my belly. His words hurt. More than they should have.

"I didn't mean to..."

"Oh of course you did. It's not like you fell on his duck by accident."

I grit my teeth and swallowed my shame. "That's enough. You knew, you've always known. That saves me the stress of telling you."

"Look at you. How shameless you are."

I let the insult fly right

over to head. "You're done. Can I go now."

He shook his head. "You're going nowhere. We aren't done here. Not by a long fucking shot."

"No." I said, putting strength into my voice. "I am done. Done with you, I want nothing more to do with you. I don't even mind, going back to being a maid. I am done."

"Well it's too late for that now."

"I'm leaving."

He took a step closer to me and began walking up to me.

"Stay back!" I raised my hands and spread my palms, directing them at him. "Don't come any closer!"

He laughed, his eyes glinting with evil. "What do you think you're going to do to me, Sabrina?" He said. He looked at my hand and laughed again. "You'll use your powers?"

"I will"

"Sorry to burst your bubble, but you can't. It's clear you didn't even understand how to use them"

I took a step back. "You didn't think that when I blasted you off, did you?!"

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"Try." He said, still walking up to me. "Go ahead, use those powers of yours again."

Anger and hatred mixed in my chest. Fuck. He's right. I can't understand these powers. I can't even use them.

"Told you." He said with a smug smile. He paused a few steps in front of me and shoved his hands into his pockets. "You haven't asked why I played along with your lie."

"Why"

"I needed you. Scratch that. I need you."

"I've told you. I don't want to be your queen anymore"

"Are you fucking dumb? Whatever made you think I wanted you to be my queen in the first place?"

"What?"

"You think I meant that? You actually believed that?"

I shook my head. Of course not.

"I don't need you, Sabrina. All I need are those powers that are inside you."

"Well newsflash, even I can't use them."

"I know." He said with a smug grin. "I've known since the day I met you. I knew about them."

"And I said I can't control them at all. How the fuck do you think I'm going to help you with it? And even if I could, I won't do it. There's no fucking way I'll agree to help you!"

"Really?"

"Yes! I will never use my powers to hurt anyone. You are an evil person, Caldan. You're horrible and disgusting. How could you try to kill your own brother?!"

"Oh please, you hypocrite. Like you weren't in on it too. You were part of the plan, every step of the way."

"I was never! Never! I would never try to kill someone. The only reason I pretended to be part of it was to make you believe I was with you. Any other way, I would never try to hurt the king."

"Excuse, Sabrina. That's all I hear. And I don't give a shit. I wasn't even asking for your permission to use your powers, whatever gave you that stupid idea?"

“What are you on about”

“I wasn’t asking, Sabrina. I’m telling you. I need your powers, I’m going to get them when I kill you and extract it. Simple.”

Chills ran down my spine. I grabbed the hem of my torn skirt to steady myself. My heart beat so hard I feared I’d pop a blood vessel and die on the spot. “You wouldn’t.”

“With your powers, I will have immortality. For so long I’ve waited, patiently. Befriending you. Wooing you. Everything in-between, all while you lusted after my brother like a cheap fucking slut.”

My eyes darted to the door, and I estimated how long it’d be before I reached it. I didn’t have the time to stop and ponder on his words. Or let the weight of his betrayal sink in.

Run. All the voices in my head screamed for me to run and never look back.

He’s going to kill me.

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J

Chapter 168

And to think I used to believe he **was** my friend, that he cared for me. When from the beginning, even before I knew I had powers, he had planned to kill me.

I looked back at him, and I was tempted to ask how he knew.

But fear won’t let my words come out.

I can’t use my powers. They won’t listen to me. No one **is** coming to save me. No one will hear my screams. And Caldan won’t let me leave.

I bolted for the door. I ran as fast as I could move and grabbed the doorknob. I pulled, yanking as hard as I could.

It was bolted shut.

I heard his cruel laugh behind me. I turned, my back flattened against the door. The next thing I felt was a cloud of powder poured over my head.

It got into my nose and eyes, and it burned. I began to cough, a sneeze building up in my nose. I doubled over, violent coughs wracking my body.

“Easy..” Caldan said, his voice soft and mocking. “Just let it do its thing.”

My vision turned blurry, his voice sounded drowned out and distant.

My knees gave way and I crumbled to the ground. My body went weak, every inch of me tired and feeling *like* a ton of lead.

Caldan laughed. His laughter echoed in my head, promising of nothing good to come.

“Goodnight, my Rina.” His whisper was the last thing I heard before the darkness claimed me.

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Xander's POV:

“Oh my Heavens, I can't believe this is happening,” Taryn said, fanning her face with her hands and blinking upwards.

“Taryn, please don't cry. That will be very very uncomfortable.” I said, already feeling uncomfortable. I don't think she's going to cry, but I can't be sure at the same time.

Outside the throne room, the night is still young. The sun just went down a few minutes ago, and it was time to leave. My stay with Taryn and her band of elves has come to an end. And as much as I dread it, I have to return back to my kingdom.

I still am a king, after all.

Taryn looked at me, her brows drawn and her inky black eyes actually misty. The next thing I knew, she pulled me into a hug and pressed my head to her chest.

“Taryn...”

“Shush now, my prince. Let me hold you, heaven alone knows when I'll see you next,”

“You will see me soon.” I said, having a feeling that it would happen as I said. “You can let go now.”

She pulled back and smiled softly. “I will work hard on me about.”

on

your cure. And not to worry, I'll also look into that woman you told

her tea

Sabrina's face filled my mind. Her laughter, her anger, For a trip that was supposed to take my mind off her, I found myself thinking of her every fucking minute.

"Thank you," I said, grateful to her. "What would I do without you?"

She suddenly became solemn. "You turned out fine, my Prince."

The hidden meaning of her words was hard to miss. For a few seconds, a heavy silence reigned between us. Her eyes told me all I needed to know.

"Let me hold you again, one last time?"

I let her hug me. She exhaled softly.

"Everything will be fine." She said. I doubt that, but I wasn't about to say it. So I hugged her back.

"Thank you, Taryn."

"Mother! Have you seen-" a loud voice cut through the throne room. Taryn and I pulled back and turned. Orion ran into the throne room, lugging behind him a bag. He sighted me and smiled broadly, white teeth flashing from the distance. "There you are! Hello!"

Oh no.

"Dear, what is this about?" Taryn asked.

Orion walked up to us and slapped my arm. I moved away before he could touch me. He burst out laughing and faced his mother.

"Mother, I am leaving with my new friend."

"Really?" Taryn and I echoed.

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Mar

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Orion turned to me. "Yes. Remember, I told you about coming back with you?"

"And I told you I think about it"

"Oh my! This is wonderful!" Taryn said with a clap,

"No, no it is not." I took a step back from them. "I never agreed to this, Orion"

"You did."

"I didn't."

"Yes but I didn't and I'm coming with you."

"You are not leaving with me. Taryn, you've been a wonderful guest but this is where I say my goodbyes."

"Please!" Orion grabbed the sleeve of my shirt and tugged. "I'll be useful to you. I am very skilled in elven magic, always top of my class.."

"No."

"I can make the elf wine! I know you love it! Think about it, fresh elf wine at every dinner! I'm the only one who can make it, well besides Faye, unless you want to take her with you."

"I am not taking either of you!"

"Think about the wine! Think about all I could do for."

I stared at him. "Why on earth are you so hellbent coming with me?"

"I want to?"

on

I turned to Taryn. She cocked her head in a question. I looked back at Orion, his eyes shining and a smile on his face like a puppy waiting for a treat.

I let out a loud sigh and rubbed my temples. I am so going to regret this.

"Fine. You can come with me."

"Wonderful!" He said and tried to hug me. I grabbed his face and held him at an arms length away. Taryn laughed softly and pulled him back.

“You should get ready now and go say goodbye to your sister.” She said to him

“Faye doesn’t care about me and I’m ready to go now. Goodbye mother! I’ll come visit!”

I’m already regretting my decision.

It’s barely been an hour. And my ears are close to bleeding.

“And then I told him that I can’t teach him the secret of elven wine. It’s passed down only in the royal family, if you miss it at birth you missed it forever. And he attacked me! Can you imagine? Attacking me because I said no?!”

“How original.” I grumbled darkly, a deep frown on my brow.

He won’t stop yapping.

Chapter 169

Mar

Ever since we left the elven lands. He’s been talking

Non fucking stop.

No filter absolutely. No sense of preservation either. He talked about anything everything. A but would flatter by and bad talk about it, and the story will lead to one time he was enchanted to turn into a tomato and nearly taken by a bard

“You are aware of who I am, right?” I asked, pausing in my tracks.

He blinked innocently at me. “You’re the Chronicle, *alpha* of alphas. Yes I know

I narrowed my eyes. He doesn’t act like *he* knows. I’ve never met anyone who was so easy to keep talking and talking,

“Very bold of you.” I said.

He smiled. “You think I’m bold? That’s crazy. Because I remember this time when Faye and I ended up in the dark forest and we were chased by literal demons and she was the one to fight them off. And...

And **on** and on.

I rubbed my temples. My head hurts, literally. He just won’t shut up.

Deciding I've had enough, I raced ahead of **him** with **my** speed. At a safe distance away, I paused and exhaled

"That was fast!" His voice said right behind me.

"Oh for fucks sake!" I groaned. "How the fuck did you even manage that?!"

He laughed heartily. "I knew you'd do something like this. Seeing how cranky and irritable you are, so I prepared a little speed spell"

I deadpanned. "Really?"

He nodded enthusiastically. "Really!"

I rolled my eyes. "You sound so proud of yourself."

"I am! That spell took a while! Whew! And to think I had to ask-
* I didn't wait for him to finish and I sped ahead.

Let's see how long his spell lasts.

"Hey!" He yelled after me.

I picked up my speed. And he did too. Irritation began to simmer in my gut. How hard is it to lose one fucking kid?!

After a few minutes, his speed began to slow.

Finally, I thought to myself.

"Slow down!" He yelled. "Hey buddy! Slow down!"

I thought it was going to be a phenomenal task to lose him. I guess the spell doesn't last that long.

I kept going, his cries getting lower and lower.

After a while, I stopped and looked behind me. He was gone, not even a glimpse of him.

I was tempted to keep going.

08:27 Fri, 7 Mar

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But that's Taryn's kid. And I can't leave him alone. He may be an annoying piece of shit, but that's still her son. And he didn't do anything wrong. He just didn't know how to shut up.

With a heavy sigh, I retracted my footsteps with the same speed.

I realized I didn't hear his voice anymore.

Perhaps he got mad? Or he got tired. Should I just keep going? What if he went back to his people?

A feeling of unease settled over me.

I kept going. I can't leave him behind.

"Orion?!" I called out. I got to our starting point. There was no sign of him anywhere. "Orion? Where are you?" I called out, louder.

He was gone.

There's no fucking way he just vanished. He's an elf, they don't just disappear.

Unless he used a spell of some sort.

But that doesn't make sense. He wanted to come with me so badly. Using a spell to vanish? That doesn't add up.

I searched the bushes, calling out his name.

I can't believe I'm looking for an annoying kid right now. And it's at the back of my mind to give him a piece of it when I see

him.

"Orion! For fucks sake, if this is a game I'll—"

A swish cut through the air. I felt a blade graze my neck, and time seemed to slow.

I used my powers and disappeared from the spot I stood. The same time a sword sliced right where my head was.

This **all** happened in a second.

Two cloaked figures appeared in the night. Each of them holding a long glinting sword. One of them had a snake wrapped around his neck and shoulder, the reptile a bright red and orange colors. The other had unnatural yellow eyes. Yellow like a fucking sunflower.

"Close," The snake one said.

"Close indeed. The yellow eyed one replied.

I touched my neck.

If I hadn't moved out of there in time, my head would have rolled on the forest floor.

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Xander's POV:

My gaze travelled between the both of them. Without a doubt, they were informed that I'd be taking this route. It can't be a mere coincidence that they would show up here right now. I laughed to myself, at the sheer madness of it all.

They must be incredibly foolish to pull this trick on me. Some low grade assassins they are.

But then there was a gnawing thought at the back of my mind. I had been so distracted searching for Orion that I failed to be aware of my surroundings. If it weren't for that, their blade wouldn't have dared to get closer to my neck.

"what do you want?" I asked,

"You, your majesty."

"Ah, so you are aware of who I am. So tell me, are you here to kill me or do you want the honor of being killed by me? Which will it be?"

The one with the snake around his neck raised his sword. It caught the weak rays of the moon and glinted. "Say your last prayers, your majesty. Tonight you will meet your death."

"Meet my death? You lot seemed well informed. Didn't your findings tell you that I **was** immortal? You cannot kill me."

If death was an easy thing to come by, I would have done it multiple times in the past. Nothing I did to kill myself worked. And these band of mercenaries think they can do it with a sword?

"We are aware, your majesty." The yellow eyed one said with a cackle. "Which is why we came prepared."

"These swords are coated with a magical potion that can kill even a god. If we can kill a god, who then are you, O great chronicle?"

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"The best thing to do will be to simply lay low and die. Let us do what we were asked to do."

A tingle ran down my spine. There was someone in the shadows. I felt their eyes on me, but it was hard to place exactly where they were watching me from. There was one more assassin, I could feel it.

Barely a second later, I felt a solid presence behind. From the corner of my vision I spotted a glinting blade aimed at my side. Using my speed, I quickly moved out of the trajectory and appeared a safe distance away.

"Oh come on!" a feminine voice whined. "I was **so** close! I perfected my technique!"

"Aeris, I could hear you from miles away."

The last of my assassins was a woman. She turned to me, and I could see her pale skin and fangs poking out of her mouth. She raised her hands up, brandishing fingernails as long and sharp as knives.

A snake charmer. A vampire. And whatever the hell the other one was.

"We're complete now," the vampire said. "Have you said your last prayers? You do know you're about to die, right?"

I'm quite used to people trying to kill me. It happens all the time. When people are faced with something they don't understand, and something they fear, their first instinct is to destroy it.

However, how these assassins came to find me boggles my mind. I left the castle under the cover of moonlight. There's no way they should have been able to find me.

"Who

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sent you people to kill me?" I asked, my gaze focused on the one with the snake.

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Chapter 170

"We are under no obligation to speak."

"Meaning it is none of your business, your majesty."

"Caldan. Your brother." The vampire spat out.

I turned my attention to her. "Caldan put you up to this?"

"Aeris you stupid fucking bitch! Why the fuck did you have to talk?! We were to remain silent!" the one with the snake snapped.

"Please like it matters! He'll soon be dead anyway, the least favor we can do him, is to let him know the truth." She met my eyes and grinned. "Caldan is going to be the king when you're gone."

"You're just desperate to fuck Caldán, that's why you can't keep your damned mouth shut." The yellow eyed one said.

It was hilarious, watching them go back and forth like children.

"Well, Batu, I am going to do more than fuck Caldán, okay? He is going to make me his queen once he becomes king. Now, for that to happen, we have to hurry up. We **have** a mission to complete."

"Caldán promised to make you his queen?" I asked the vampire. She looked at me with a smug look and nodded. I couldn't help but laugh. "If I had a gold coin for each time he has made such a promise."

I'm surprised.

—

Not to hear that Caldán wanted me dead that was no news to me. I was used to the hatred and anger in his eyes, although he thought he did a good job at hiding it. He thought I didn't know. He thought me a fool.

I was more surprised he had the gall to send assassins after me.

I had underestimated him.

I thought he was harmless. I thought he was till that starry eyed little kid.

I thought his hatred was based on the fact that I made him my representative and that made him bitter.

But I was wrong. It wasn't a harmless anger or simple jealousy. It was something darker, more twisted. I should have noticed it the moment Sabrina came into play.

Caldan, my blood brother through and through, **just** sent assassins after me.

The three of them came together, weapons raised and ready to strike.

"Before you kill me, I'd like to know where my elven friend is." I said.

The snake man pointed to a large tree. I followed his eyes, and the sight that met my eyes made anger simmer in Orion, tied up and gagged, unconscious.

"We're gonna kill him after we kill you. **Use** his blood for a potion." The vampire said.

"Oh for heavens sake!"

my

chest.

"He ruined our plans! The plan was really fucking simple. Lay out the trap, and he falls into it. But no! the talkative elf had to ruin it. If he hadn't, we would have been done by now and on our merry way home!"

I stared at Orion's body and silently gauged for any injuries. Thankfully, I saw none. They had a trap set for me, one that was ruined because I had to go back for Orion.

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If it hadn't been for him, things could have been much worse.

He just saved my life. And to think I was so against him coming with me.

AD

