

Forgotten Wife : Let the Traitors Kneel Down Novel

c 101

102 I 'm getting selfish After such a hectic afternoon, Abril slept deeply.

Alessandro stayed up to watch over her.

He had only been away for a few days, but for him those days had seemed like an eternity.

It was becoming increasingly difficult for him to be away from her.

Alessandro hated the idea of starting a war, he knew that when that happened he would have to be on the battlefield for a long time and although at first he had thought about using April's power to win the war, he no longer thought that way, the mere idea of April being on the battlefield surrounded by death terrified him, because he could no longer imagine a life without her.

But war was imminent, Alessandro knew that they had to finish off King Venobich before he continued to unleash more horrors on his kingdom.

What he didn't understand was why he was doing his experiments on his kingdom, he should have known that he would notice and be prepared for what was to come or maybe that was just a small part, the spoils he didn't need and what was to come would be even worse.

Alessandro got out of bed, when he did Abril woke up and asked him.

_ Where are you going? _I was going to get something to eat.

April looked out the window, it was already completely dark, she sat on the bed while covering herself with the sheet, she asked.

_ Did we miss dinner? _I think so, are you hungry? _Yeah.

Alessandro gave her a soft kiss on the lips and said.

_I'll go ask for dinner to be brought to us, I'll be right back.

_Don't be late.

_Don't worry, I won't.

After Alessandro left, April got out of bed, went to the closet and took out a white silk nightgown, then went out to the balcony, a soft, fresh breeze caressed her face, she looked at the garden, it looked beautiful, the moonflowers shone beautifully.

She sighed heavily, her journey was coming to an end, the next day she would be returning to the royal palace, something she did not feel very keen on, for the first time she had left the palace walls, for the first time she had tasted what freedom was like and for the first time, she wished that her freedom would not be taken away from her, she wondered how long she would spend locked behind the palace walls before she could leave again.

_ I'm getting selfish.

Alessandro had returned to the room and had heard what Abril had said.

_ Why do you say that? _You're back.

Alessandro approached, put his arms around her and asked again.

_ Why do you say you're becoming selfish? _Because even though I had nothing before, now I want more things.

_You know that you can ask for whatever you want and I will give it to you.

_I know.

_Then why don't you tell me what you want.

_I...

_Come on, say it, ask me what you want.

_We might not return to the palace.

_ Don't you want to come back? _It's not that I don't want to go back, it's just that it's the first time I'm away, that my eyes look at the horizon and there is no limit, I wish this would last a little longer.

_I can't give you that, although I would love to continue traveling with you, showing you new places, but I can't, as king I have a responsibility to my people, I am tied to them.

_I know and that's why I said I'm selfish, because even though I know you can't abandon your obligations as king, I would like you to do so, to always be with me.

Alessandro kissed her, when they separated their lips he gently caressed her hair and said to her.

_Then I am also selfish, for wanting the same thing as you.

April hugged him, Alessandro hugged her back and said.

_Sometimes I too would like to be free from my obligations and relax by your side, but right now that is not possible for me, a war will soon begin and my duty is to fight in it to protect my kingdom, its inhabitants and above all, to be able to protect you.

April stepped back a little to look Alessandro in the eyes and asked.

_ That war will be against my father? Alessandro did not want to lie, he answered.

_That's right, your father has been unleashing beasts created by darkness in my kingdom and I'm sure that's just the beginning, that's why we must attack before it gets worse.

strong, before it's too late and your father throws everything into chaos filled with violence and darkness.

She looked down and said to him.

_My father is a bad man, I don't want him to destroy your kingdom and much less its inhabitants, so I also want to help you in this war.

_No, when the war starts everything will be chaos, death and blood everywhere, I don't want you to see that.

_All the more reason to let me help you, so I can use my power to heal the wounded.

_No, it is very dangerous for others to find out about your power, your mother thinks the same, that is why she told you to hide your magic, so for now it is we will keep it secret.

_But...

_At least until the right time comes.

The best for children 103 Cassian was about to go to sleep when someone knocked on his bedroom door, when he opened it he found Maya with a bottle of wine, she held it up high and said to him.

_ Would you like a drink? _You should be sleeping.

Maya entered the room without being invited and said.

_I'm not sleepy, do you have something to help me with this? _No.

Maya opened the bottle and drank directly.

_Then you will play like this.

Maya walked to the balcony, Cassian followed her and said.

_You shouldn't be here.

_ Why not? Does it bother you? _It's not that, but it's not well seen for a lady to enter a man's room.

Maya laughed, took another sip from the bottle of wine and said.

_I guess it's some stupid custom that nobles have.

- Why do you despise noble things so much? _Because I think they're stupid, having to restrict yourself just because of what others think of you, I think that's stupid.

_ Have you always done what you wanted? _Yes, I have always gone where I wanted and been with whoever I wanted, no one has ever put shackles on me.

_ How old are you Maya? _ Why are you asking that now? -Out of curiosity.

_This year I turned 22.

Since Maya was thin and somewhat short he thought she was much younger, but in reality she was only a year younger than him, she asked.

_ How old are you, little prince? _I am 23 years old.

_ And you still haven't married? I thought that nobility married young and royalty even younger.

_Not necessarily, it is women who tend to be engaged and married before the age of 20.

_How horrible that you are forced to marry at such a young age.

_ Don't commoners get married at that age? _Most commoners don't even get married, I mentioned that to you before.

_It's true.

_I'm glad I'm a commoner, so I can be free.

_You talk as if being noble was a bad thing.

_In my opinion it is, I would hate to have my freedom taken away from me, to be tied to one place.

Maya took another sip of wine and as she looked at the moon shining high in the sky she asked.

_ Are you happy being a prince? Cassian took the bottle from Maya, took a swig, and answered.

_It's not that bad.

_I guess if you're a man it's not, you're free to do whatever you want.

_Don't believe it, as a prince I have obligations to fulfill, although until now I have been ignoring them, but when I return that will end, I will no longer be able to continue running away.

_ What are you talking about? _When I return I will leave the royal palace, take a territory and become a duke.

_ Why would you do that? _There are many nobles who are not very happy with the decision my brother made by marrying April, she is the daughter of the enemy, with the injury to my leg the nobles disqualified me as a possible king, but now that my injury has healed many will want to remove my brother from the throne and make me king.

_And I guess you don't want that.

_I have never been interested in the throne, to be honest it is a nuisance, besides, I would never betray my brother, that is why I must renounce my title of prince, take that of duke and swear loyalty to my brother.

_I guess I'll have to stop calling you little prince and call you duke.

_That's how it is.

_Tomorrow we will return to the royal palace, what will you do? _I'll go with you.

_If I'm honest, I still don't know why you came.

_I came out of curiosity and since I haven't satisfied it yet, you'll have to put up with me a little longer.

Maya moved closer to Cassian, she put her hand on his chest and said.

_So we can have fun as long as we're still together.

Maya tugged on Cassian's shirt causing him to lean over, They were both so close that I could feel each other's breathing, Cassian felt trapped by her gaze, by those beautiful red eyes that looked like two rubies, she kissed him, her lips were warm and soft, he stayed completely still, when she separated their lips Maya took the bottle of wine from him, took another sip and said.

_You are very rigid.

_ That? _I thought you were more passionate, I guess I was wrong.

Cassian didn't have much experience with women, he had always spent his time training and on the battlefield and when the war ended he didn't want anyone to see him that way, so he began to avoid everyone, so he didn't really know how to respond to her kiss, with his face red from embarrassment he responded.

_I don't have much experience in that kind of thing.

Maya smiled and asked.

_ So if we practice it will be much better.

_I didn't say that.

_I usually like men with initiative, but I must admit that you are adorable, you catch my attention.

_You don't hold back one bit, do you? _I've already told you no, I always express my honest opinion.

Cassian took the bottle from Maya and took a long drink, Maya told him.

_Hey, calm down a little, I don't want you to get drunk so soon.

_I don't get drunk that easily.

-We'll see.

They both continued drinking for a while, Maya was perfectly fine, but Cassian ended up completely drunk, Maya had to help him get to the bed, she covered him with a sheet, looked at him for a moment and said.

_I thought you didn't tolerate much alcohol, you got drunk on half a bottle of wine.

Maya went back to her room, the next day when she left her room she met Cassian, he seemed to have a bad face, she asked.

_ How did you wake up? _I feel like my head is going to explode and my stomach feels like it's melting like hot iron.

_I guess that means you're okay.

Cassian stared at Maya, she looked good, too good, he asked.

_ Are you okay? _Yeah.

_ Because? _Unlike you, I don't get drunk easily, I can handle alcohol very well.

_I don't know why that bothers me.

Alessandro and Abril came out of their room, seeing Cassian pale and sickly looking Alessandro asked.

_Cassian, are you okay? _Yes, or I will be in a while.

_Well, it doesn't seem like it.

_ When will we leave? _After breakfast, April stepped forward and said.

_I'll go get the kids, I'll see you later.

As she passed Cassian, she asked.

_Are you really okay? You don't look well.

_Don't worry, after breakfast I'll be as good as new.

April went to the room where the children were staying, they were already awake, one of the maids was helping them get dressed, Otis who was already ready ran to April, gave her a hug and asked her.

_ Are we going to play in the garden today? _No, we will leave today.

Otis was saddened to hear that they would be leaving that place since they had really liked the duchess, April understood the boy's feelings, she felt the same way, she wanted to stay a little longer in that place, however, that was not possible, she asked him.

_ What's wrong Otis? Don't you want to go? _ We really like the duchess, if we leave she'll be alone again.

The Duchess entered the room at that moment and said.

_Your Majesty, I would like to speak to you for a moment.

_Of course.

The children were already ready, the duchess ordered the maid to take them to the dining room for breakfast, when they were alone April asked.

_ What do you want to talk about, Duchess? _I heard they're leaving today.

_That's how it is.

_I don't want to be insolent by saying this, but I would like your majesty to leave the children in my care.

_ That? _I know that your majesty picked up those two children, they are commoners if you take them to the palace they will not be welcomed by the nobles.

April knew that perfectly, she knew that the nobles in the capital hated her for being the daughter of the enemy and that even though she was the king's wife, she was not even respected by the servants since she had no power, she could not be of help to the children, she knew that if she left

them with the duchess they would grow up without difficulties and without knowing the evil of the nobles.

_I promised I would take care of them.

_I will take care of them, my husband and son died, if you leave them with me I will adopt them as my children, they will be my family, _If they don't want to stay.

_If you don't want to stay, I won't hold you.

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104 Sad farewell When they returned to the dining room with the others, April looked at the children.

She was sorry to leave them, but she knew that they would be better off with the duchess than with her in the royal palace.

After breakfast everyone headed to the entrance, April stayed behind with the children and the duchess, she gave them a hug and said to them.

_Children, do you want to stay and live with the Duchess Mollin? _ Are you going to leave us? Otis asked with glassy eyes.

April caressed his cheek and answered.

_Only if they want to stay.

The duchess approached them and said.

_I have also lost my family just like you, wouldn't you like to be my family? Otis, upon hearing that the Duchess had also lost her family, felt sorry, since he also knew what it was like to lose the people you love.

_No one is going to force you to stay, but I would love for you to do so.

Since you arrived, this house has been filled with laughter, I would like it to continue being that way, of course that is if you want too.

_If we stayed, we wouldn't see April again.

_Of course.

The duchess replied with a sweet look.

_We can go to the palace to visit her.

_I'll come see them too.

April replied.

_I will come to see them whenever I can and write them letters.

_But we don't know how to read.

But they will learn, the duchess replied.

_I will adopt you as my children, I will hire teachers and they will teach you to read and write, so you too can send letters to his majesty.

Otis and Joe had loved that place and after learning that the duchess had also lost her family they did not want to leave her alone, Otis asked his brother.

_Joe, what do you want to do? Do you want to stay? The boy nodded and said.

_I like being here and playing with the puppies and I don't want the duchess to be alone.

April looked at Otis and asked.

_ And what do you say, Otis? What do you want to do? Otis looked at the duchess and replied.

_I also want to stay, but we will go visit you.

April gave them a hug and said.

_I'll do it too.

After saying goodbye, April left the mansion.

Alessandro, not seeing the children, asked.

_ Where are the children? They went out with the duchess and waved goodbye, April responded.

_They stay.

Alessandro, seeing the sadness reflected on Abril's face, asked her.

_ Are you sure? _Yes, I think it will be the best for them, the duchess said she would adopt them as her children.

April waved goodbye to them even as the carriage began to move away.

When they left the mansion behind, April began to cry.

Although she had been with them for a short time, she had grown fond of them and parting from them had been difficult.

Alessandro silently comforted her until she stopped crying.

They traveled all day, and at dusk they stopped at an inn.

Maya and Cassian were already there, they had traveled on horseback and had arrived earlier.

Maya handed them a key and said.

_Here you have the key to your room.

April took the room key and said.

_Thank you.

_There are not many rooms available, so the guards will have to share a room.

Cassian said.

"Maybe we should have looked for another inn," Alessandro replied.

_It's starting to get dark, we may not be able to find another inn, it would be better to stay here.

_So let's go to our rooms, today has been a long day.

Maya was completely exhausted, traveling by horse was hard, especially because she was not very used to doing it, she thanked God for being able to go and rest.

Alessandro asked for dinner to be brought to their rooms, then they went up to the second floor and shared the rooms, in the end only Maya and Cassian remained, he gave her the key to the remaining room and said.

_You can have the remaining room, I'll stay with the guards.

Maya took Cassian's hand and said to him.

_Don't be silly, stay with me.

_I don't think that's right.

_I say it is.

Maya dragged Cassian to the room, he tried to stop her, but she didn't give in, as she closed the door to the room she said to him.

_Stop acting like I'm going to eat you, I won't, unless you want me to.

_Don't talk nonsense.

_They're not, it's just that you don't take me seriously.

Maya lay down on the bed, patted the bed and said.

_Come, lie down, the bed is big, I won't touch you.

Cassian sat on the edge of the bed and said to her.

_You're too trusting, I could be the one who ends up attacking you.

_I'd like to see that.

Maya sat up and said.

_I give you my permission to do so.

Cassian blushed, covered his face with his hand and said.

_I can't beat you.

_I don't think so, you still have a long way to go before you can do it, although you can try.

Cassian sat back and said.

_I won't do it.

*** April went out onto the balcony, Alessandro told her.

_You better not go out.

_ Why not? _It may be dangerous.

_In this inn people come and go, we must be cautious about security.

Alessandro put his arms around her and said.

_ How are you? _Okay, just a little tired.

_ Do you miss the children? _Yeah.

_ And why did you decide to leave them? We could have brought them with us.

_That was the best for them, the duchess would take good care of them.

_Yes, I'm sure they'll be fine with her, besides, the war may start soon, the duchess's territory is far from the borders, when it starts they won't be affected, they'll be safe.

c 103

105 Racing heart Cassian stared at Maya, she was sleeping peacefully beside him, however, he couldn't fall asleep.

He was nervous, Maya turned over she put her arm around his abdomen, Cassian felt his heart racing from having her so close, in the end he couldn't take it anymore, he got out of bed, put a pillow on the floor and settled down to sleep.

The next day when Maya woke up and saw him sleeping on the floor, she lightly moved his shoulder to wake him up and asked him.

_What are you doing sleeping on the floor? Don't tell me you fell out of bed.

_Of course not, the bed wasn't comfortable.

_And the floor was more comfortable? Cassian stood up and answered.

_Yes, it is better for the back.

_If you say so.

Cassian shook his clothes and said.

_I'll go ask for breakfast to be brought to us.

As he left the room Cassian covered his face with his hand.

He was embarrassed that Maya had seen him sleeping on the floor.

One of the guards who was standing guard in the hallway approached him and asked.

_Prince Cassian, are you okay? _Yes I'm fine.

Cassian pulled himself together and asked.

_ Do you know if my brother has woken up yet? _Yes, just now he ordered us to prepare the carriage and horses, we will leave after breakfast.

_Then I'll go order my breakfast, I'm sure we'll be leaving soon.

_ If you want, I can go ask you for your breakfast? _Thanks, but I'd rather go myself, it would help me clear my head.

Cassian headed to the inn's tavern, he approached the bar and asked the innkeeper to send breakfast to the room, when he was going back he was very surprised to see Ethan, the elf they had met at the information guild.

Instinctively he hid and wondered what that man was doing there.

He kept watch for a moment, until a guard approached him, it was Rafael, and he said to him.

_Prince Cassian, His Majesty has summoned you.

Cassian did not respond, he still did not take his eyes off Ethan, Rafael turned his gaze where he was staring at the prince and seeing a blond man with golden eyes in the tavern he said.

_ What is that man doing here? _ Do you know him? _ To the blond man with golden eyes?
_ Yes, do you know him? _ It's not that I know him, he approached her majesty Abril when we escorted her in the town.

_ What did he say? _ He called her majesty Sophia, I think he confused her with someone else.
_ Let's go back and don't go near that man.

_ As Prince Cassian commands...

Cassian went to look for his brother, he knocked on the door of the room with great insistence, when he opened the door Alessandro asked.

_ What's wrong Cas? _ I need to talk to you.

Alessandro, seeing him so anxious, became worried.

_ Did something happen? _ Maya could you leave us alone? _ Of course.

When Maya left Cassian said.

_ The elf I met at the information guild is here.

_ What? _ I think you're looking for April.

_ Because you said so? _ Apparently he has already seen her.

_ We'd better talk alone.

_ April, I'll be back now.

Leaving the room Alessandro and Cassian went to Cassian's room, Maya seeing the king asked.

_ What's happening? _ Could you leave us alone, I need to talk to my brother.

_ Of course.

When Maya left the room Cassian said.

_ The elf I met at the information guild is here.

_ You're sure? _ Yes, apparently elves have a unique characteristic, their golden eyes, they can't hide them even with magic, I'm sure it was him and I think he's looking for April.

_ Why would he be looking for her? He doesn't know her.

_ You're wrong about that, apparently when April went for a walk around the town where she picked up Otis and Joe, he saw her, she used magic to change the color of her hair, do you remember? _ And.

_ That day April said that she looked a lot like her mother with her blonde hair, that it was as if she saw her reflection in the mirror when she looked at herself.

_ What do you mean by that? _ One of the guards who accompanied her that day told me that the man called Abril, Sophia, that is the name of Abril's mother, I think he confused her and is now looking for her thinking that Abril is his mother.

Alessandro was silent for a moment, Cassian broke the silence by saying.

_ I think it would be best for us to leave immediately, I don't know if it's true or not, but Maya told me that the elves didn't let their descendants wander around because they considered

themselves to be of noble blood, if they discovered April's identity they could try to take her away.

_I won't let them take her away, I will kill anyone who tries to take my wife away from me.

_I wouldn't let them take her either, but we must be cautious, it would be best to leave quietly, we don't know how much Whatever strength or power the elves possess, we don't even really know anything about them, we can't start a war with them, remember that right now we have a very powerful enemy to defeat, King Venobich.

Alessandro knew that his brother was right, that the best thing to do was to flee at that moment.

He didn't want to risk that man seeing Abril and trying to take her away from him.

_You are absolutely right, I had already asked for the carriage and horses to be prepared, we will leave immediately.

104

106 Alone After leaving the room Maya went to the tavern to get something to eat since she had been kicked out of the room.

At the tavern she bumped into someone since she wasn't paying attention while walking.

_I'm sorry, I didn't look where I was going.

_It's okay, Miss Maya.

Hearing his name Maya raised her head, it was Ethan, the elf who regularly visited the information guild.

_What a coincidence, I didn't expect to see her in this place.

_I'm traveling with a friend, what are you doing here? With a shadow of sadness on his face Ethan replied.

_I'm still looking for someone important to me.

_I hope you can find her soon, I know you've been looking for her for a long time.

_So? _I accidentally heard it from my brother.

_There was a time when I thought I would never see that person again, but I have seen her recently, now that I know she must be somewhere, I will not rest until I bring her back to our home.

Maya had been interested in April, but she had never really asked about her mother, at that moment she wondered if she was still alive and if so, she wondered why she was hiding from that elf, he seemed to be someone who held affection for that princess because otherwise he would have already given up, and stopped looking for her, she told him.

_Haven't you thought that maybe that person doesn't want to come back, otherwise they would have already done so, don't you think? The expression on Ethan's face hardened, his response cold.

_Our race cannot live among humans.

_ Do you hate humans? _It's not that, I know that there are good people among humans, but I also know how evil they can be, that's why we can't live among humans, I must go, have a good trip.

When Alessandro left the room Cassian looked for Maya in the hallway, but she wasn't there, Cassian approached one of the guards and asked him.

_ Do you know where Maya went? _Miss Maya headed to the tavern, Do you want me to go find you? _No, I'll go get her, you guys prepare everything, we'll leave immediately.

_As Prince Cassian commands.

When Cassian went to the tavern he saw Maya having breakfast quietly at a table, he looked around for Ethan, and when he couldn't find him he approached Maya and said.

_ Why did you leave? _I didn't know I couldn't leave, and I was hungry.

When you left the room you said you were going for breakfast, but when you came back you didn't bring any food, just the king, and even though it's good, I can't eat it, it already has an owner.

_ Didn't you meet anyone when you came here? _If by someone you mean Ethan, yes.

_ Have you talked to him? _And.

_ You haven't told him about April, have you? _Of course not, but we talked about the person he's looking for, although he didn't say who it was, he seems very determined to find her and take her back to his kingdom, he said that those of his race could not live among humans.

Cassian frowned, they had to make sure that this man didn't find out about April's existence, because if he did, he didn't know what he would be capable of.

_There's something that's made me curious, is Abril's mother still alive? _No, she died when April was a baby.

_But that Ethan claimed to have seen her.

_ That was April, she had changed her hair color with magic, that day she had blonde hair and according to April, she looked exactly like her mother, he must have confused her.

_Maybe we should tell him that she is dead, that man has been looking for her for years, he is suffering.

_ And do you think he will believe you? _Maybe not, when you've been looking for someone for so long it's hard to believe the truth when it's hard, I've seen Many people go to the information guild and when they get it they refuse to accept it.

_He has also seen April, he thinks she is the person he has been looking for, even if you tell him she is dead, he will not believe you.

_You don't want him to find out about April's existence, do you? _No, you already said that elves do not allow their race to live with humans, April is my brother's wife and he loves her, he would never allow her to be taken away from him, he would be capable of starting a war.

_Then I'll make sure not to say anything, I'll keep April's existence a secret.

_Thanks Maya.

_Still, you have to be aware that maybe Ethan will find out on his own, he's getting closer and closer.

_I know, but in the castle it will be harder for him to find her.

_Still, don't underestimate him, that elf is desperate to find her and when someone is that desperate, they find what they're looking for.

One of the guards approached them and said.

_Prince Cassian, we are ready to leave.

Cassian stood up, placed a silver coin on the table and said.

_It's time to go.

That day the trip was long, they used several teleportation scrolls, when they arrived at the royal palace it had completely gotten dark, Maya seeing that magnificent castle told him.

_Wow!, this place is amazing.

_I'm glad you like it.

When April got out of the carriage she felt dizzy from using so many scrolls, Alessandro caught her in his arms.

_ Are you OK? _Yes, I'm just a little dizzy from the trip.

Alessandro took her in his arms and said to the butler, ask that a bath be prepared for my wife and a light meal.

_As your majesty commands.

Alessandro carried Abril to the room, he gently placed her on the bed and said to her.

_Take a rest, the maids will come and help you with the bath.

_ Are you leaving? _There's something I have to do, but I won't be long.

Alessandro kissed her on the forehead and said.

_I promise you.

Alessandro left, April stayed in bed looking at the door, one of the things she hated most about being back in the palace was that Alessandro was always very busy and had almost no time to be with her.

They were back and although Alessandro had only been through the door for a few minutes, she felt alone again, as she had often done in that palace.

*** Alessandro went to his office, there was Sirius waiting for him, when he saw him he stood up, bowed and greeted him.

_Welcome, your majesty.

_Thank you for coming so soon.

_His message seemed urgent, How is the princess? _Alright.

_ Your magic? _It's under control, but she must learn to control her magic.

_ Is that why you called me? _Yes, soon we will start a war against darkness, I do not want her to be a participant in this war, however, I want her to be able to protect herself and for her magic to not get out of control again and endanger her life.

_War is inevitable.

_That's right, the only thing we can do is attack first and destroy King Venobich before he does it first.

c 105

107 Do n't hold on to the past Two maids entered April's room, she didn't recognize any of them, she wondered if they were new or if they had been assigned to another part of the palace and that was why she had never seen them before.

One of them spoke up bringing her out of her thoughts and asked.

_ What would you like to do, your majesty? Do you want to eat first or take a bath? April had been sweating a lot and had not been able to bathe, so she ordered that the bath be prepared first.

They took care of her with great care, during the bath they praised her beauty and the softness of her skin while they applied perfumed oils and massaged her body, April found it strange to be treated in that way since in that palace the maids had never been kind to her, what's more, at that moment She remembered when the maids would constantly come to her little house in the far corner of the palace, she remembered how she would throw dirty water at them to keep them away as she flatly refused

to return to the main palace as she had only been a prisoner there.

Back then the maids would harass her and be rude to her, however, that seemed to have changed, she wondered if all those maids had been replaced, although it was selfish she wished that they had.

When they finished changing their clothes and combing their hair, April asked one of the maids.

_Do any of you know where the little fox I have as a pet is? _Yes, your majesty, the little fox has been taken care of by us, although I must say that he is not so little anymore.

Do you want me to bring him? _Yes please.

The maids left, shortly after one returned with dinner and the other with the fox in her arms, after seeing her he jumped from the maid's arms and went straight to April, he had grown a lot since the last time she had seen him, his fur was even fluffier.

-Koda, did you miss me? April asked him as she hugged him and enjoyed the softness of his fur.

One of the maids answered.

_I think his majesty missed you a lot, it seemed like he was looking for you all the time.

_Thank you very much for taking care of him, it is obvious that you have treated him well.

_It's his majesty's precious pet, we had to do it.

_Still, thanks.

When the table was set one of the maids said to him.

_Your majesty, dinner is served.

April left Koda on the floor and went to the table, dinner was a soup that smelled wonderful, it made her mouth water.

While eating, one of the maids told him.

_We have brought something light for dinner since his majesty, the king, ordered it.

April's stomach was a little upset from the trip, although she was hungry, eating something heavy would not have agreed with her, so she told them that it was fine.

After finishing the soup she ate the dessert, it was something fresh and sweet with a lemon flavor, that made her feel good, then she ate a few grapes and asked for the tray to be removed, she was satisfied, she took Koda in her arms again and asked.

_ Do you know if Alessandro has had dinner yet? _No, your majesty, the king is still meeting with the leader of the wizard tower, do you need anything else? _No, that's all, you can leave now.

April was tired, she just wanted to sleep, but she wanted to wait for Alessandro, she didn't want to go to sleep without seeing him since the next day he would most likely get up early and she wouldn't see her until nightfall, she went out to the balcony to clear her head, a soft, fresh breeze ruffled her hair, she stared into the distance, she was back and the days when she had been elsewhere seemed far away.

Alessandro entered the room, Abril was so absorbed in her thoughts that she didn't feel him arrive until he put his arms around her and said.

_The trip has been tiring, why aren't you resting? _I was waiting for you, I didn't want to go to sleep without seeing you before doing so.

Alessandro noticed that Abril had a ball of fur in her arms, since she was facing away he didn't know what it was, so he asked.

_ What do you have in your arms? April turned around to show him what it was and said.

_It's Koda.

_This furball is still alive.

The maids have taken good care of him.

_Speaking of maids, has any of them been rude to you? _No, they have been very kind.

_If anyone is rude to you, tell me, I won't let anyone disrespect you.

_ The maids that were there before? _They've all been replaced, I can't let someone who doesn't respect his queen work for me.

April felt calmer knowing that all those maids who had treated her so badly were no longer in the palace.

Alessandro could see the relief on April's face when he had said that those maids were no longer in the palace, he hugged her leaving Koda in the middle of the two of them and said to her.

_I'm sorry.

_Why are you apologizing.

_For all the harm you experienced in this place, for all the humiliations they made you go through.

_That's in the past, you've already apologized enough and I've already forgiven you for that, so you don't have to keep doing it.

Alessandro gently caressed April's cheek and said to her.

_You are wonderful, there are few people who forgive and leave the past behind.

_People who cling to the past die a little every day, and I don't want that, I prefer to live and I want it to be by your side, I don't want what happened before to tarnish our future.

Alessandro gave her a soft kiss on the lips and said.

_Without a doubt you are the best, I love you Aby.

April returned the kiss by pressing her lips softly and responded.

_I love you too Lessan.

Koda began to feel suffocated, he began to move nervously in April's arms, she laughed and said.

_We're crushing Koda.

Alessandro stepped back a little and asked.

_You're really going to stay with that ball of fur.

His name is Koda and yes, once I tried to free him, he didn't want to go back into the forest.

_If you are happy with him I will let him stay.

April gave a long yawn, Alessandro told her.

_You're tired, today has been a long day, we'd better go to sleep.

108 If you treat me well I will keep you company After closing her eyes and falling asleep, April found herself in a beautiful garden.

The flowers there had beautiful, vivid colors.

She had never seen flowers as beautiful as those, and her mother was in the middle of them, smiling warmly.

_Hello my little one.

_Mom, why haven't you visited me before? _Appearing in your dreams is not easy.

_ How have you been? _GOOD.

Sophia approached April, took her hand and asked her.

_ Are you ready? _ So that? _To learn how to use your magic and break the next seal.

April was a little nervous, but she was determined to do her best to be of help to Alessandro, she nodded and said to him.

_Yes, teach me everything I need to know to control my magic, I'm ready.

The next day April woke up at noon.

She had done the training to control her magic in her sleep, however, she was completely exhausted, Koda had climbed on top of her, April caressed his ears.

_Good morning Koda.

April sat on the bed, Koda must have been hungry like her, as she didn't have the strength to get up she stretched a rope that was next to the bed, shortly after one of the maids arrived.

_Your Majesty, I'm Vero, may I come in? _And.

That servant girl bowed and asked.

_Have you sent for me? _I'm hungry, could you bring me some food? _Of course, I'll bring it right away._ Before leaving, Vero asked him.

_ Would you like me to help you get dressed or ask one of the other maids to come? April used to dress herself most of the time, that's why she had asked for her clothes to be easy to put on since she didn't like to depend on someone else to get changed, but that day her body felt so tired and heavy that the simple act of getting out of bed was a problem for her.

_I'm still tired from the trip, I'll stay in bed, you don't need to help me get changed.

_Then I'll bring your food right away.

_Thank you.

Maya was very bored, she had been alone all morning and at lunch time she thought that maybe she would see April or Cassian, however, neither of them showed up at the dining room.

After finishing her meal she went for a walk around the palace, it was beautiful everywhere she looked, however, it was also quiet and that made it boring, she ran into Cassian in one of the hallways, she approached him and said.

_I haven't seen you all morning.

Where have you been? I was meeting with my brother, is something wrong? _ Am I bored?

Although the palace is beautiful, it is quite boring and tiring since I get lost all the time.

_Then I'll ask someone to escort you so you won't get lost.

_I want you to be the one to escort me, let's take a walk in the garden, it seems to be very beautiful.

_I'm sorry, but I can't.

_ Why not? _I'm leaving right now.

_ Where are you going? _I will soon be leaving the palace so I will go see the territory that will be granted to me when I become a duke.

_Then let me accompany you.

_ Are you sure? He might not come back today.

_Anyway, I have nothing better to do, I prefer to go with you than stay in this boring palace.

_Okay, even though you might be bored, it's not like I'm going to do anything interesting.

_If I'm with you I'm sure I won't get bored, there are many things we can do to have fun.

Cassian started walking and said to him.

_Hurry up or you'll be left behind.

_Wait for me, don't walk so fast.

As they left the palace there was a carriage, Cassian opened the door.

_Get in, we'll go by carriage.

The interior of the carriage was large and the seats were soft, she was grateful not to have to travel on horseback as she found it very uncomfortable, when the carriage started moving Maya asked.

_ What territory will they give you? _The territory of Kover.

_Those lands are near the palace, I heard they were very fertile and prosperous.

_That's how it is.

Maya, seeing the little interest Cassian showed when talking about the lands he would be receiving, asked.

_You don't seem very excited.

_I've always been close to my brother in the palace, I'm not excited about having to separate from him.

_You seem very close, it has always been that way.

_Not really, when we were kids we used to fight over everything, but when the war started we used to spend a lot of time together and became closer, and when our parents and siblings died, that made us closer.

_I heard what King Venobich did to your family, that must have been very hard.

That man destroyed my family and I will make him pay for it.

_There is something I have always wondered, why did King Venobich start the war and why is he about to start it again? There are many other kingdoms, why is he so obsessed with conquering the kingdom of Cosset? _That's something I don't know either.

_ Do you think there is something in this kingdom that he is looking for? _Maybe you're right, but what do you want from Cosset's kingdom? _I don't know, if I were you I would find out.

If we knew what he was looking for, maybe we could find a faster way to defeat him, don't you think? _That won't be easy.

_There's nothing to lose by trying.

_I guess you're right.

_I'm a smart person, you should listen to me.

When they arrived at the lands of Kover, at the mansion that Cassian would be residing in upon becoming Duke, Maya told him.

_Wow, your new home will be great.

_Yes, it's not bad, although I would prefer to continue living in the palace, although this house is smaller than the palace, it seems like it is even bigger.

_If you treat me well and pamper me, I might think about it and stay with you, then you wouldn't feel alone.

_Thanks, but no.

_Think about it.

107

109 I do n't want to lose my dear friend When dinner time came, Alessandro went to the dining room, but he was very surprised to see that there was no one there.

He knew that perhaps Cassian would not return that day since he had gone to Kover's territory to see the lands he would be receiving when he became duke, but April always had all her meals in the dining room, even if she was alone, the only times she didn't do it was when she was unwell.

_ Where is my wife? _She is in her room.

_Have you gone to rest so early? _Actually she hasn't left her room all day, she said she was still tired from the trip.

Alessandro went straight to Abril's room, when he entered and saw that she was in bed sleeping he became worried, he approached, sat on the edge of the bed and with his voice full of concern he asked her.

_Aby, are you okay? April woke up hearing Alessandro's voice, when she opened her eyes he caressed her cheek.

_ Are you OK? _Yes, I'm just a little tired.

_The maids said you've been staying in your room all day, are you sure you're okay? _Actually last night I dreamed about my mother, she is teaching me to control my magic, although I only do it in my dreams it makes me feel exhausted.

_Maybe Sirius should be the one to teach you how to control your magic, then you wouldn't be so exhausted.

_I don't know, I'll tell my mother.

_Don't put so much pressure on yourself, I don't like seeing you so exhausted.

_OK.

_You must be hungry, I'll ask for dinner to be brought to our room.

_Yes, that sounds good to me.

Alessandro called the maids, they were quick to serve dinner, Alessandro helped Abril get out of bed and arrived to the table, despite being exhausted, April did not seem to have lost her appetite.

Alessandro laughed as he watched her eat with such appetite.

_ What's happening? _I was worried about you, but seeing you eating so well makes me think you're okay.

_I'm fine, I just feel very sleepy.

Koda approached Abril, she gave him some chicken, Alessandro asked her.

_This furball has been with you all day.

_Yes, Koda likes to sleep next to me, will you be busy tomorrow? _Yes, there are still many things I have pending since I was away for some time, by the way, we will have a dance soon.

Hearing that there would soon be a ball at the palace, April's eyes lit up.

_ Really? Cassian will be given the title of duke and we will have a ball to celebrate.

_ Duke?, but Cassian is a prince.

_Yes, but to avoid divisions, the princes renounce their title, take that of duke and swear loyalty to the royal family.

_So it's just a formality.

_Let's say yes, although Cassian will have to leave the palace and take control of the lands that will be given to him when he becomes duke.

_So Cassian will leave the palace.

Alessandro, seeing a shadow of sadness on Abril's face, asked her.

_ You don't want Cassian to leave? _He is my dear friend, I wouldn't want to lose him.

_You won't do it, even if he is far away he will still be your friend.

_This place will be lonely without him.

_ I will be here for you, I will not let you feel alone.

After finishing dinner, April gave a long yawn.

Even though she had been sleeping all day, she felt like she hadn't been able to sleep for days.

Her eyelids felt heavy and she just wanted to close her eyes and sleep.

_ Are you still sleepy? _Yes, I think I'd better go to sleep.

That's a good idea, I'm tired too, I've had a pretty busy day today.

Alessandro took Abril in his arms, carried her to the bed, gently placed her down and said to her.

_I'll ask them to pick up all this so we can sleep.

Alessandro called the maids who were waiting outside the room, after they cleared the table and left, he lay down next to her, put his arms around her and began to caress her hair without saying a word, April stared at him for a moment, he said to her.

_If you don't close your eyes I doubt you'll be able to sleep.

_It's just that I would like to keep seeing you, we haven't been together for very long today, I would like to see your face a little more.

April yawned, it was obvious she was fighting sleep so she wouldn't fall asleep, he caressed her soft cheeks and said.

_You don't have to fight with sleep.

_But when I wake up you won't be there anymore.

_Don't worry, I'll be here by your side, when you open your eyes it will be the first thing you'll see.

Alessandro covered Abril's eyes with his hand, forcing her to close them.

_But.

_Go to sleep, you need it so that your magic can recover and your body stops being so tired.

_Using magic is always so exhausting.

_No, that only happens when you don't know how to control it since you let your magic escape without control, when you learn to control it, you won't feel tired.

_I hope so, I want to stop being so weak and be able to help you, to give back a little of the much that you give me.

April said before falling asleep.

Alessandro kissed her on the forehead and said.

_You don't need to give me anything back, seeing you happy is enough for me, my beloved Aby, I just want you to be happy.

c 108

110 It's time to go back Ethan was camping in the Xein forest, he had been looking for Sophia in all the nearby towns for several days, but none of them gave him any information about her, it was as if she had disappeared, sometimes he wondered if it had all been an illusion, if that woman he had seen weeks ago was really Sophia or if She was just someone who looked like her, if only he had confused her because of his eagerness to see her again.

It had been 20 years since he had last seen her, however, he had not lost hope or he did not want to, he wanted to continue thinking that she was fine.

He needed to think that she was.

When Sophia had left the elven kingdom, the queen had entrusted him with bringing her back, however, he still had not found her whereabouts, but as a knight he could not fail to comply with

the order that had been given to him, no matter how long it would take him to fulfill it and even if he had not been ordered to, he would have gone to look for her, because she was someone very dear to him.

Ethan raised his gaze to the sky, the stars were shining brightly, he gave a long sigh.

_Sophia, where are you? Ethan heard someone moving through the trees, he took his dagger and stood on guard, a tall man, with waist-length brown hair, strong and broad-shouldered, emerged from between the trees.

_Dantriel, what are you doing here? _Long time no see Ethan.

_You still haven't answered my question.

_The queen has sent me to find you, she wants you to come home.

_I haven't found Princess Sophia yet, I can't go back yet.

_It's been 20 years Ethan, if you still haven't found her, it's because she doesn't want to be found.

_I will not give up, I will not go back to you Dantriel.

_You'll have to come with me Dantriel, whether you want to or not.

_You can't force me.

_Of course I can and you know I will, the queen's orders are absolute.

_A few weeks ago I saw Princess Sophia, give me a little more time, I'm sure I'll find her, I beg you.

_I'm sorry Ethan, but your time in the human realm is over, you must return home, to your people.

_I can't, I don't plan on returning without Princess Sophia.

_You are a fool.

_And there is something else, I recently found out that humans have reawakened the darkness, they are creating monsters with it.

Dantriel frowned and asked.

_ Is what you're saying true or is it just a ruse to gain time so you can stay in the human realm to continue searching for Princess Sophia? _I'm not lying Dantriel, that's what a human from the kingdom of Cosset told me.

_ From the kingdom of Cosset? _That's how it is.

_You have verified the information.

_I haven't done it yet.

_Finding out about the darkness is much more important than finding the princess, don't let your feelings cloud your judgment.

Ethan didn't answer, he was silent for a moment and then said.

_This is not our war, why should we help them? _If they invade Cosset's kingdom, it will be our war too.

Dantriel was going to put out the fire in the campfire when Ethan stopped him and asked.

_ What do you think you're doing? _We must go to the information guild, we need to know more about the darkness to return to the kingdom and report it to the queen.

_But.

_After we do that I'll let you stay a little longer looking for Princess Sophia.

_ Do you promise? _Yes, I give you my word.

_Then let's go.

*** Maya was leaning on the balcony railing, looking at the beautiful starry sky, Cassian went out to the balcony when he saw that there was still light in Maya's room and when he saw her he asked her.

_ What are you doing? _Nothing.

_ Can't sleep? _No, that's why I went out to enjoy the night, I usually do it whenever I can't sleep, today the sky looks more beautiful than usual, don't you think? Cassian raised his gaze to the sky, that night the stars decorated the immense and vast sky and he said to her.

_Yes, today the stars shine beautifully.

_There is a lot of peace, I wonder how long we will be able to enjoy this peace.

_Don't know.

_I've never been in a war, what are they like? _It's something you should never see.

_ Is it that bad? _Bad is an understatement, during war the battlefield is the last place a man should go.

_ Will you go to the battlefield when war breaks out? _Yes, although I was far from the soldiers, I am a general, just like a prince, my duty is to protect my kingdom and encourage our army in the front ranks.

_I thought that because you are a prince you would be exempt from going to the battlefield.

Cassian shook his head.

_King Venobich is a man of great power and his army is not something to be underestimated, if the soldiers do not see someone from the royal family fighting for the kingdom, many would become discouraged and surrender.

_When that happens I'll be worried about you.

_You don't have to be, I'll be fine.

_Even if you tell me that, I can't help but be afraid that something will happen to you on the battlefield, that you will die.

_I won't die so easily, there are still many things I must do.

111 Meeting with the nobles When Alessandro woke up, he found himself alone, April had gotten up at some point without him realizing it.

He looked for her in the room, she was on the balcony receiving the first rays of the sun, her reddish hair was waving in the breeze, she looked beautiful, he stared at her and for a moment he

felt as if he was going to lose her, as if she was going to fly away from the balcony leaving him behind and that terrified him.

April came back into the room and when she saw that he had already woken up she greeted him.

_Good morning Lessan.

_Good morning, Aby, how are you? _I'm fine, I just needed to have a good night's sleep, I have renewed energy.

_ Did you dream about your mother last night? April knew that every time she told Alessandro that she had dreamed about her dead mother, he worried.

He didn't want to lie to her, but he thought that would be best, otherwise he wouldn't stop worrying.

_No, she doesn't always visit me in my dreams, sometimes days go by without her appearing.

Alessandro got out of bed, approached her, removed a small leaf from her hair that had flown towards her, he showed it to her and said.

_ Have you been awake for a long time? _No, I recently woke up, saw that the sun was rising and wanted to see the sunrise.

_ Why didn't you wake me up? _Because you seemed tired, I know you have a lot of work to do, so I didn't want to interrupt your precious sleep.

_I used to sleep very little, for me three hours of sleep is enough.

_Of course not, three hours is far from enough, if I only slept three hours I would end up sick, so don't do it, I don't want to see you sick.

_Don't worry about it, your husband is full of life, I won't get sick.

April sat on the edge of the bed and said to him.

_Don't do it even if it's not, I couldn't bear to lose you.

Alessandro caressed Abril's cheek, gave her a kiss on the forehead and said to her.

_That won't happen, I will always be by your side.

Alessandro stayed with Abril for a while, then he had to get out of bed even though all he wanted was to hug Abril and stay with her like that for the rest of his life, but he knew that was impossible, as king he had many obligations that he had to fulfill and that day in particular he couldn't stay with Abril and escape from his work, since he had a meeting with the nobles, that day he would be announcing that Cassian's appointment as duke would soon be taking place.

Alessandro knew that this would cause annoyance among the nobles, however, Cassian seemed to have made a decision and he wanted to respect it.

Above all, because that would be of great help, the war would start at any moment and the last thing the kingdom needed at that moment was an internal war, that the kingdom would begin to fragment, they had to be united to be able to face what was coming.

He knew that with Cassian recovered from his injury, many nobles who had created factions before the war would rise again since there were many nobles who felt hatred for him, for not being a puppet that would let himself be bossed around by them.

What they didn't know was that his brother was even worse than him, Cassian never bowed down to anyone.

Alessandro hugged Abril tightly, she patted his arm to get his attention.

_Lessan, not so loud, I can't breathe.

_I'm sorry, I got carried away.

c 110

112 Bad memories April felt Alessandro very anxious, as if something was worrying him, she asked him.

_I feel you very anxious, is something wrong? _No, nothing.

_ Sure? _I just don't want to leave you, I want to be by your side, whenever I'm away from you I feel anxious.

_I'll be fine, you don't have to be anxious.

Alessandro caressed his cheek and said.

_I already know that, but it's something I can't help.

Someone knocked on the door, it was Alessandro's assistant.

_Your Majesty, there are many things for today.

Alessandro sighed and said.

_I'll be there soon.

He kissed April on the cheek and said.

_Duty calls, I must go.

_ Will you eat with me? _I don't think it's possible, but I'll try.

_I'll be waiting for you.

Alessandro changed and then went out, his assistant was standing by the door waiting for him, he bowed and greeted him.

_Good morning Your Majesty, I'm sorry to come so early, but there are many things for today, documents that need your approval and the meeting with the nobles.

_I know, today I have to meet with that flock of crows.

Alessandro started walking, Gabriel walked a few steps behind him and said.

_Your Majesty should not speak like that about nobles, they would be offended if they heard you.

_But if it's true, they are like crows waiting to devour my flesh at the first moment of carelessness, I want you to talk to the temple, I want the swearing-in ceremony to take place as soon as possible and make sure you find a dance teacher for my wife.

_ A dance teacher? _Wait, a teacher would be better, I think Lady Elizabeth would be perfect to do it, ask one of the servants to bring her.

_Your Majesty, are you planning to take the princess to the ball? _That's right, she will be formally introduced as my wife and my queen.

Gabriel was very surprised by the king's words, since only a few months ago he had shown contempt and indifference towards the princess.

Alessandro continued walking as he spoke.

_I also want you to start organizing everything so that my wife is crowned as my queen.

Gabriel stopped again and asked.

_ What? Crown the princess as queen? _Yes, do you have a problem with that? _No, but I don't think the nobles will like that.

_That doesn't matter to me, April is my wife and therefore my queen, her opinions don't concern me.

Alessandro continued walking, Gabriel had to quicken his pace to catch up with the king.

_Your Majesty, you are completely sure of what you are saying.

_Yes, are you also against my wife taking her place on the throne next to me? _Of course not, but I'm not sure she's ready to be queen, so far she's never been involved in anything, when she becomes queen she'll have to start being part of social circles and take on her obligations as queen.

_Don't worry about it, when that time comes she will be.

Gabriel, seeing the confidence that the king showed in the princess, could not say anything else.

_I also want you to organize a meeting with the generals this week.

_War is imminent, isn't it? _ This is not the best place to talk about it, there are many ears and eyes that see us.

_I'm sorry, your majesty, I was reckless.

_ Choose better where you ask sensitive questions next time.

_I will do so, your majesty.

After Alessandro left, Abril called the maids.

After breakfast, they prepared her bath.

When they finished, while Abril was sitting at the dressing table and they were combing her hair, one of the maids asked her.

_It's a beautiful day today, wouldn't your majesty like to take a walk in the garden? Although that maid had not suggested it to her, that was precisely what she had planned to do, but upon hearing that maid's suggestion she could not help but remember that the first time one of the maids had suggested taking a walk in the garden, she still had some marks on her body from the thorns that had stuck into her body that day.

April shuddered.

_ Is something wrong, your majesty? _No, I just remembered something unpleasant.

_There is nothing better than fresh air to clear the mind.

_I guess you're right.

After that maid finished combing her hair, April asked her to go get something to eat for Koda, when she left, April wrote a note, left the room, in the hallway there was another maid, she handed her the note and said.

_ Can you give this to guard Noa please? _Of course, your majesty.

April returned to the room, the other maid who had been attending to her returned with Koda's food, after he ate, they headed to the garden.

While they were walking through the garden, the maid insisted on going to the rose garden.

April had bad memories of that place and didn't want to go, but the maid kept insisting until she made her go.

When she got to the rose garden, a blonde woman came out from between the rose bushes.

April had only seen her once, but she recognized her right away: it was Victoria Vampel, the woman who had been Alessandro's ex-fiancée.

April looked at the maid who had brought him there, she avoided her gaze.

April didn't want to be there, she backed away, but Victoria told her.

_Stop her.

That maid grabbed April, preventing her from leaving.

_ Where do you think you're going? _I have nothing to do with you, tell him to let me go.

_Of course I have business to attend to with myself.

Victoria approached Abril, lifted her face with the fan she was carrying and said.

_It seems it is true that you have begun to gain his majesty's favor.

_If you don't let me go you'll get into trouble.

_ Alessandro will always put me above you, don't think that because of a few days of kindness that Alessandro showed you, you are important to him, he and I were engaged for years, our bonds are stronger than he will ever have with you.

_You don't know anything about my relationship with Lessan.

_Lessan, are you trying to seem close to him by calling him by his nickname? _You can think whatever you want.

She is the queen 113 Since she was a little girl, Victoria heard repeatedly that she would be Cosset's queen, that there would be no one above her, and she believed it.

But one day a letter arrived for her father, who had become furious, he had destroyed the whole room to vent his anger.

When Victoria entered his office and saw everything destroyed, she asked him.

_Father, what happened? Alfonso threw the letter at her.

Victoria, seeing that the letter had the royal seal, picked it up from the floor and upon reading its contents she felt just as furious and humiliated as her father; it was a letter breaking the engagement between her and Alessandro.

_ What does this mean, father? _Your engagement to the king has been broken.

_ What? But my wedding was supposed to be in a few months, I was going to be the queen, father you have to do something, my marriage can't be cancelled.

_ And what do you want me to do? That letter came from the royal palace, it was sent by the king, there is nothing I can do.

_ But why did you cancel the engagement? _Don't know.

Alfonso took Victoria by the shoulders and began to shake her.

_ What did you do to offend his majesty? What did you do to make him want to break the engagement? _I haven't done anything, father, I swear.

Alfonso threw Victoria to the ground and said to her.

_Damn it, then why did your majesty cancel the engagement? _Don't know.

_Go away, there are many things I have to think about.

That day all his dreams and all his plans were shattered.

She felt that her life was losing meaning.

Victoria went to the palace every day trying to talk to Alessandro, but he did not receive her.

A few months later Victoria learned of Alessandro's marriage to the princess of the kingdom of Laios.

She was present at the wedding and, upon seeing her, she hated him for having taken away everything that should have been hers.

Although several years had passed since Alessandro had married, he had never recognized her as his wife, since after several years they still had no children and neither as a queen since she had still not been crowned as such, that filled Victoria with hope, she still had the opportunity to become queen and for her children to be the only heirs to the throne.

But for a few months now, Victoria's spies in the palace had told her that the king's attitude towards the princess had changed, that their relationship had begun to improve, and this worried Victoria because, although her father was pressuring the king to take her as his wife, if the relationship between the princess and the king became better, she ran the risk that the king would not agree to take a second wife.

When the princess had been attacked by one of the maids and seriously injured, Victoria wished with all her might for her to die, but her wish did not come true and when the princess had recovered many of the maids had been replaced from the palace and of the spies she had only one remained, the maid who had brought April to that garden to meet her.

Victoria wondered if the princess was pregnant, if that was the reason for the king's change towards her, Victoria touched her belly with her fan and asked.

_ Does your confidence come from a son? April was upset by Victoria's attitude, she hated that she tried to treat her like someone worthless.

April pushed her, Victoria got angry and raised her hand to slap her.

_How dare you touch me, you damn wretch, scum of the kingdom of Laios.

April closed her eyes waiting to receive the blow, however, someone stopped Victoria's hand, it was Noah, he had arrived just in time, April was glad she had sent him that letter before following that maid, she had distrusted her because of her insistence for her to go out into the garden and she had not been wrong, that maid's intentions were not good.

_Don't you dare touch Princess Lady Victoria.

_Let me go, you idiot.

Noah let go of Victoria's hand and seeing that the maid was holding April back, he said to her.

_How dare you treat his majesty like that, his head is so bothering you on your neck.

That servant let go of April and stepped back in fear under the intense gaze of that gentleman.

Noah asked April.

_Your Majesty, are you okay? _I'm fine.

Noah turned to Victoria.

_I don't know what Lady Victoria's intentions were when she had this servant bring Her Majesty the Queen to this remote place.

Victoria, upon hearing that Noah had called April, Her Majesty, the Queen, laughed out loud and said to him.

_The queen, this woman is not and will never be the queen, don't talk nonsense.

_She is the wife of his majesty the king and it is only a matter of time before she is crowned queen.

If I were you, I would be careful with my words, otherwise I doubt she will enjoy a good and long life in the future.

_Are you threatening me? _No, I'm just giving you some advice.