

Forgotten Wife : Let the Traitors Kneel Down Novel

114 She is the daughter of the enemy Victoria became furious when she heard the guard's clear threats and told him.

_I've known Alessandro for a long time, do you really think he'll punish me? The one who'll be in trouble is you for being so insolent with me.

_If that's the case I'll accept the consequences.

April stepped between Victoria and Noah, she said.

_Noah is not rude, it is you who has come to the palace deceiving and manipulating the servants to bring me here.

April gathered her courage and told him.

_In this place you are just an unwanted guest, I don't know what your real intentions were when you brought me here, but let me tell you this, remember what your place is, I am Alessandro's wife and although in the past you were his fiancée, that no longer has value today.

April turned around and said to Noah.

_Let's go Noah.

Victoria was so upset by the princess's words that she broke the fan in her hands and whispered hatefully.

_I'll make you pay for this humiliation, you damn bitch.

After April disappeared among the rose bushes, Victoria turned around to leave.

The maid who had brought April there approached her and grabbed the skirt of her dress.

_Lady Victoria, what are you going to do with me? _Do what you want, that doesn't matter to me.

_But I'll be in trouble when the king finds out what I've done.

Victoria slapped the servant's hand away and responded.

_That's not my problem.

*** When they were far from that garden, Noah asked April again.

_Your Majesty, you are fine.

_Yes, thank you for coming to save me, _No, I'm sorry I didn't get to you sooner.

_You arrived just in time.

_You did well to send me that note, although perhaps you shouldn't have followed that maid if you didn't trust her.

_I wasn't sure if she was up to something or not.

_The palace had been cleaned, but it seemed that there were still some rats, but don't worry, I will make sure that this doesn't happen again.

_ Do you think I'm naive? _ Excuse me? _ Do you think I'm naive for trusting that maid even though I had my doubts? _Not at all, I would never think that about your majesty.

April touched a white rose, caressed its petals and said.

_I don't like to expect the worst from people, but on the contrary, I expect the best from them, because I know what it feels like to have a person judge you without even knowing you and I don't want to do the same.

Noah remembered that the princess had not always been loved, she was the daughter of the enemy and therefore she was forced to stay locked in a room and soon after to live away from everyone in a small cabin in the farthest part of the palace, a place where she was forgotten by everyone, until a few months ago.

_I really don't think that his majesty is naive, I think that his majesty is a good person.

_Thank you.

*** Alessandro was meeting with the nobles, since they had entered the room they did not stop asking the same question over and over again.

_ When will your majesty have an heir? _I'll have it when the time comes, there are more important matters to talk about now.

Duke Alfonso Vampel responded.

_The issue of an heir is important, Your Majesty.

You should not downplay who will be the next heir to the throne, and since it seems that it will be impossible for you to have children with the princess of the kingdom of Laios...

Alessandro did not let the duke finish what he was saying.

_Duke Vampel, my wife is no longer the princess of the kingdom of Laios, she is now the queen of the kingdom of Cosset.

The duke stood up, he was very upset and surprised at the same time and said.

_ She hasn't been crowned queen yet? _And why do you think that, with this meeting in place, my wife will soon be crowned my queen? _ She is the daughter of the enemy, how can he give her the kingdom, making that woman the queen.

_It is true that she is the daughter of my enemy, but she is my wife and I expect you to address her with respect, Duke Vampel.

Alessandro glared at Duke Vampel as if to say, shut your mouth if you want to lose your head.

Alfonso sat back down and said.

_At no time did I want to offend your wife, Your Majesty, I am only saying what is obvious, the queen's seat is something that should not be taken lightly.

_And I'm not doing that, she will be crowned as my queen, because I know she will be an excellent queen.

_The whole kingdom hates her for who she is.

_Well, they better change their minds, because I won't let anyone disrespect my wife.

Alessandro's words were firm, none of those present said anything else, everyone remained silent.

Alessandro continued saying.

_I also gathered them to tell him that my brother Cassian will take the title of duke, the ceremony to receive the title will be soon.

Hearing that Prince Cassian would be leaving the palace to take up a noble title caused everyone to start murmuring, Gabriel made them shut up.

_Silence, his majesty has not stopped talking yet.

Everyone fell silent again, Alessandro continued speaking.

When the meeting ended and they left the room Gabriel said.

_They have not taken very well the news that his wife will be crowned queen.

_I don't care about your opinions, I just hope you are careful with what you say if you don't want your heads to be separated from your bodies.

115 I don't want to be like my father Alessandro was heading to his office when he saw April walking through the garden with Noah, there was no maid accompanying her, that seemed strange to him and he told Gabriel.

_Go ahead, I'll go next.

Gabriel, seeing where the king was going, said to himself.

_This seems to be another day where I'll have to take charge of everything.

Gabriel knew that when the king met with his wife he left all his work behind, and he would disappear for the rest of the afternoon.

This still seemed strange to Gabriel; he found it hard to believe that the king who diligently fulfilled all his obligations would leave everything for her.

When Alessandro arrived where Abril and Noah were, he saw that Abril had red marks on her arms, as if she had been grabbed very tightly.

_ What happened to you? Why do you have red marks on your arms? Noah knelt down and answered.

_I'm sorry, your majesty, if I had arrived earlier she wouldn't have been hurt.

Alessandro furiously asked Abril.

_ Who dared to lay a hand on you? _Calm down Lessan, I'm fine.

_Noah, who did it? _She was one of the maids, she was a spy in the service of Lady Victoria Vampel.

_Send that servant to the dungeon and forbid Victoria from entering the palace, I don't want to see her around here again.

_Yes, your majesty.

Noah left to carry out the king's orders.

Alessandro approached April, caressed the red marks on her arm and asked her.

_ Do they hurt a lot? _They don't hurt, I'm fine.

_I thought all the rats had been eliminated, I guess there are still some left, a second cleaning will have to be done.

_Lessan, what will happen to that maid? _The sin of touching a member of the royal family is death _I don't want anyone's blood to be spilled because of me, don't hurt her, just expel her from the palace.

_That's too light a punishment, if you don't want me to kill her I'll cut off her hands for daring to touch you.

_No, I don't want you to hurt her.

_She hurt you first Aby.

_Don't do it Lessan, please, I don't want to be like my father, I beg you, don't hurt her, expelling her from the palace is more than enough, I'm fine, it's not like she mortally wounded me.

Alessandro felt his blood boiling with anger; he saw expelling that servant as too light a punishment.

Seeing that he did not respond, Abril told him again.

"Promise me you won't hurt that Lessan maid," Alessandro caressed her cheek and said through clenched teeth.

_Okay, I promise, I won't hurt her, I'll just kick her out of the palace.

_Thank you.

_This time I will be merciful because you are asking me to, but there will be no next time, you are very valuable to me April, if someone hurts you I will not hold back and I will make them wish they had never been born, no matter who it is.

_Bloodshed only brings more blood, and I don't want that.

_Even if you don't like it, sometimes it's necessary to shed blood.

_As long as I can avoid it, I prefer to avoid it.

_I will soon start the war, in war the spillage is inevitable, even if you ask me not to participate, to contain myself, I will not be able to do it.

_I know, but this time you can choose to do it or not, so don't do it.

_OK.

Alessandro still had a lot of work to do, but he didn't want to leave Abril alone so he told her.

_I have to go to my office to finish my work, do you want to come with me? _I don't want to be a bother.

_You never are, besides today there are too many nobles in the palace, I will feel calmer if you are by my side.

_Okay, then I'll go with you.

When they arrived at the office, Gabriel was surprised because he did not expect the king to return so soon, and even less that he would be accompanied, he greeted Abril.

_Good morning, your majesty.

_Good morning.

Alessandro took his place behind the desk and said to Abril.

_You can make yourself comfortable, Gabriel, what are the most important matters for today?

Gabriel reacted, handed him some documents and said.

_You must approve the budgets to begin work on the granaries that we will use to store supplies for the...

Gabriel remained silent, he didn't know if he should say what they were for in front of the princess, Alessandro told him.

_Continued.

_To save provisions for when the war starts.

_The border lands are always the most affected during the war, when the war starts we must move to those people to a safe place, I want my people to suffer as little as possible during the war.

_I've thought about that too, Your Majesty, but I haven't decided where we could move them yet.

Alessandro stood up and went to see a large map of the kingdom that had hung on the wall and said.

_Marquis Parret's lands are far from the border, although not too far, if we move them there they will be safe during the war.

_That's true, that's a good idea, but do you think he'll agree to take in all those people? _That had better be the case if he still wants to keep his title of marquis.

Alessandro returned to his seat behind the desk, signing the budgets after reviewing them.

Gabriel left, when he did Abril told him.

_I'm sorry.

_ Why are you apologizing? _I'm not the only one who wants to avoid bloodshed, you're doing it too, you also want to protect your people.

_I know that sometimes I can seem cruel, but that is not the case, I just want my kingdom to be at peace, but to achieve that peace war is imminent.

April approached Alessandro and said to him.

_You work hard for this kingdom, I would also like to do the same, how can I help you? _Being by my side is more than enough.

_I know I don't have the necessary knowledge to help you, but I learn quickly.

If you teach me, I can also be of help.

I don't want to be just a pretty doll that decorates the room.

I want to be your help and support.

_You really want to help me.

_Yes, I want to stop being the useless princess who does nothing but walk around the garden.

Alessandro saw conviction in Abril's eyes, he knew she was very serious, so he agreed to her request.

_Okay, if that's what you want I'll ask Gabriel to teach you how to manage some things.

_Although it may not seem like it, I am good at learning, you just need to tell me something once and I will not forget it, the teacher I had when I was young, although he did not like me, he always praised me for it, I learned to read and write at an early age, although they stopped teaching me when I turned 6 when they found out I did not have magic.

Alessandro was surprised to hear what Abril was telling him, although royalty began their studies earlier, they normally did not learn to read and write until the age of 7, he asked her.

_April, at what age did you learn to read? _I think it was when I was four.

_You were really very young.

_Yes, well, the heirs to the throne of the kingdom of Laios usually take classes at an early age, although according to my teacher I was the first to learn to read and write at such an early age, my brothers, for example, learned to read and write when they were 6 years old, they hated me for having learned before them, they never forgave me for that.

_You almost never talk about your brothers, didn't you get along with them? _They don't like me.

Alessandro saw some discomfort in April, it was clear that she did not want to talk about them, so he decided not to continue insisting on that subject.

116 I don't want to keep running away anymore Maya and Cassian were returning to the palace when the carriage suddenly stopped, Cassian got out of the carriage to see why they had stopped and said to Maya.

_Stay in the carriage, I'll be back soon.

Maya ignored him and got out of the carriage.

_I'm not going to stay in the carriage, I'm going with you.

_Okay, but stay behind me.

Maya laughed and said.

_I think it will be better if you stay behind me.

They both headed to the front where the coachman was, standing blocking the path of the carriage were two hooded men, immediately Cassian pulled out his sword and asked.

_ Who are you? What do you want? Both men removed their hoods, it was Ethan and another man that Cassian didn't recognize, what he did know was that the man was an elf like Ethan because of the color of his eyes.

Maya stepped forward when she recognized Ethan and said to him.

_ Ethan? What are you doing here? _We were looking for you, there is something we need your help with.

Cassian stared at Maya and asked quietly as he pointed at Ethan's partner.

_ Do you know him? _And.

Maya came over and asked.

_ How did they find us? _That doesn't matter.

Maya thought that her brother must have told her where they were so she just asked.

_ What do they need? _I want you to tell us more about darkness.

_I thought you said this time it would be our war and not yours.

Cassian replied, somewhat annoyed.

_Darkness is something that concerns us all, Ethan shouldn't have said that.

Dantriell replied.

_ What do you want to know? _Everything you know about darkness.

_Okay, I will answer all your questions, but in return you will have to answer my questions.

Dantriell nodded and replied.

_That seems like a fair deal to me.

*** When Gabriel returned to the king's office, Alessandro told him.

_I want you to teach my wife about accounting and how to manage the palace budget.

_Yes, your majesty.

Gabriel told April.

_Your Majesty, let's go to another room, so as not to interrupt the king.

_Of course.

Alessandro gave Gabriel a dirty look as if to say, You better take care of my wife.

Gabriel felt as if he were going to be killed if he was reckless and rude to the princess.

He headed towards the door with Alessandro's intense gaze on his back and said to April.

_Please follow me, your majesty.

Gabriel took April to the library, April had never been to that part of the palace, she was very surprised to see so many books, the library was huge, there were high shelves full of books, while she looked around her Gabriel told her.

_Your Majesty, we will start by reading some books, then I will teach you how to manage budgets and some matters that are usually the queen's obligations.

_Thank you so much.

Gabriel grabbed a few books from a nearby bookshelf and handed them to April.

She found a place to sit and began to read.

Gabriel stared, which made April feel a little uncomfortable.

_Sir Gabriel, there is no need for you to stay here, it will take me a while to read these books, I know you must be busy, so you can leave.

_I can't go and leave her alone, his majesty would kill me if I do.

_But Alessandro needs you to be by his side, I don't want this to affect him.

_Don't worry, I don't think that's going to be a problem, leaving her here alone would be a problem.

April continued reading, she just looked closely at each page for a few minutes and turned the page, Gabriel believed that the princess found reading boring and that for that reason she only pretended to do so, he had seen many noble women act that way to get the attention of men, he told her.

_Your Majesty, if there is something you do not understand, you can ask me, and if any of these books are too difficult, you can tell me.

_I don't think they are difficult, at the moment I am understanding what I am reading.

_ Really? _And.

April could see the expression of surprise and disbelief on Gabriel's face, he didn't believe her, he must have thought she was just pretending to understand him so she told him.

_Maybe my study method is a little weird, but I'm not pretending to understand it, I really do.

Gabriel wondered if the princess could read his mind.

_I haven't read your mind Sir Gabriel, it was because of the expression on your face, even if it doesn't seem like it, I'm good at reading people's expressions, that's how I managed to avoid problems, I avoided being punished.

Gabriel had thought that the princess had had an easy life, but her words said that this was not the case, that her life had been harder than he imagined.

_I'm sorry if I made you feel uncomfortable, your majesty.

_Don't worry Sir Gabriel, you haven't made me feel uncomfortable, I just want you to know that I'm really trying hard, I want to be of help to Alessandro, I want to be of help to this kingdom.

_I will help you in every way possible, your majesty.

_Thank you Sir Gabriel.

April spent the whole day in the library, she was so absorbed in reading that she didn't realize the day was ending until the light began to fade.

She closed the book and looked at the garden bathed in the last rays of the sun.

Just a few months ago it would have seemed like a waste to have to study in a room on such a beautiful day, but that had changed, she had changed.

She no longer wanted only her own good and that was because she was no longer alone, it was because she had met what was behind the palace walls, good people who deserved to be saved and protected, for the first time she felt that there was a place she could call home.

April had been reluctant to return to the palace because she had no good memories of that place, but she had to leave all her fears behind, it was no longer the same, she was no longer alone, Alessandro already had someone she could call a friend.

She had always escaped from her reality by isolating herself in that cabin, but at that moment she was grateful for that encounter with Alessandro in the forest, she was grateful for having opened her heart and thus knowing what love, friendship and happiness were.

117 Your words are my words Gabriel had fallen asleep at some point, when he opened his eyes he saw the princess by the window, she was truly beautiful, when he had arrived at the palace she was a little girl, but with the passage of time she had become a true beauty, but her beauty did not lie only in her appearance, there was something about her that attracted people.

April turned around and said to him.

_Sir Gabriel, perhaps we should continue tomorrow, it will soon be time for dinner.

Gabriel stood up and answered.

_Of course, excuse me, I think I fell asleep.

_Don't worry, the same thing usually happens to me on summer evenings, you'd better go, your family must be waiting for you for dinner too.

Gabriel rarely left the palace early, so his wife never waited for him for dinner, he replied.

_I don't usually get home early, my wife doesn't wait for me to have dinner.

_All the more reason you should come back early, it's sad having to have dinner alone every day, even if your wife doesn't say it, I'm sure she must wait for you every day to have dinner.

_I can't leave without the king's permission.

_Don't worry, I'll take care of telling him.

_Then with your permission your majesty, see you tomorrow.

Gabriel left the library, in the hallway he met the king, he asked him.

_ Where is my wife? _She is in the library.

_I see.

_Your majesty, she told me I could go home.

_Then go, your words are mine.

Gabriel bowed and said to him.

_Thank you, your majesty.

_He comes back early tomorrow.

_Yes, your majesty.

Alessandro went to the library, Abril was still reading a book, he put his hand on her shoulder and said.

_ Why are you still studying? Gabriel has already left.

_I know, but I wanted to continue studying a little more, I told you I would try hard.

_You don't have to try so hard, just do what you can.

_By the way, I told Sir Gabriel he could go, are you upset? _No, you must have done it for a reason, right? _I just wanted him to have dinner with his wife, he insisted that it was okay, that she was already used to it, that she didn't expect him for dinner anymore, but when you don't come I feel alone, she must feel the same.

Alessandro kissed her and said.

_I'm sorry.

_ Why are you apologizing? _For always being busy and leaving you alone.

_I know you can't always be with me, you carry a kingdom on your shoulders, that's why I want to learn quickly to be your help and lighten your weight.

_You already do, just by having you by my side every night you help me.

_ As? _I don't know if I've told you before, but after the war I couldn't sleep, I only slept a few hours and when I did I woke up more tired than when I went to sleep because to nightmares, but since we slept together that is over, I sleep deeply and I no longer have nightmares, every morning when I wake up I am rested, you have been my help for a long time, you have lightened my load.

_ Really? _Yes Aby, being by your side makes me feel calm and at peace.

April smiled widely and said.

_Thank you for telling me, it makes me happy to know that I am of help to you.

Alessandro saw that the last rays of the sun were setting outside and asked him.

_ Have you been here all day? _Yes, why do you ask? _You want to take a walk in the garden before dinner? April's eyes lit up and she replied.

_Yes, I would love that, Alessandro took her hand and led her to the garden, while they walked hand in hand Abril told him.

_Summer is almost over.

_That's how it is.

_Lessan, Will the war be during the winter? _ What is the point of that question? _I was just wondering, you said the war would start soon so I was wondering if it would be during the cold winter.

_I don't know yet.

_I hope not, all the knights and soldiers would suffer greatly if it were winter.

_Actually it's the opposite, I think they prefer the war to start in winter instead of summer, they wear heavy armor to protect themselves during battle, during the summer the armor gets hot and wearing it is uncomfortable, but during winter there is no such problem, on the contrary they like to wear it since it makes them warmer, and also since it's winter the farmers don't have to worry about their crops since there is nothing in the fields, so I wouldn't have to worry about them getting caught

ht in the battle.

_I hope that the seals that have sealed my magic are broken soon too, so I can heal your wounds and those of the soldiers.

_That won't happen.

_ Why not? _I won't let you go to the battlefield, I would never allow it, if something were to happen to you there I wouldn't be able to continue living.

_I'll be fine.

April looked at her hand and said.

_And even if you don't like the idea, I will accompany you, because just like you, I could not continue living if I were to lose you, because for me you are my everything, so you will not be able to push me aside, I will stay with you no matter what comes our way.

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

_You are a fool.

118 Allies Alessandro and Abril were heading to the dining room for dinner when Cassian and Maya arrived, Abril was happy to see them and said to them.

_ How good that you are back? Alessandro saw Cassian a little strange and asked him.

_ All good? _Not really, we can talk for a moment.

_Of course, let's go to my office.

Alessandro looked at Abril and said.

_If we take too long, you can go have dinner.

_I'll wait for you, I'm not that hungry.

Alessandro kissed her on the forehead and said.

_I'll try to come back soon.

Arriving at the office, Alessandro asked.

_ What happened? _When we were coming, two elves intercepted our carriage, one of them was Ethan, the other was a knight from the elf kingdom.

_ What did they want? _They wanted to know about the darkness, I told them everything I knew, although I didn't mention April at any point.

_ And what did they say? _They want to help us in the war.

_ That? _Ethan didn't seem very convinced to help us, but the other elf, Dantriel, seemed worried, he said he would help defeat King Venobich, who would fight with us in this war.

_I know we need all the help we can get, but I don't want an elf near us, I don't want them to discover April.

_Lessan, they are here.

_ That? _They followed me, they want to talk to you.

_ Have you brought them to the palace? _If I had refused, they would have suspected that we were hiding something.

_and that's why you brought them here! _They would have come even if I hadn't brought them and it would have been worse, now that we know they're here, we just have to make sure they don't see April, Lessan, this war will be different from everything we know, those who have fought with the darkness are the elves, if they are on our side we will have more chances to win, remember that we don't know what exactly King Venobich is up to, you have fought with the waste he has left scattered througho

ut our kingdom, we don't know what he hides behind the walls of his palace, nor the horrors he will unleash during the war, so I ask you to be reasonable.

Alessandro clenched his hands into fists, the fact that there were two elves in his palace filled him with anxiety and fear, he feared for April's safety, but Cassian was right, an alliance with the elves was something very advantageous.

Cassian put his hand on his brother's arm and said.

_I understand how you feel Lessan, but beyond what we want or not, this kingdom and its people are our responsibility, we cannot turn our backs on it.

Alessandro brushed his hair back and answered.

_You're right, but I don't want those guys to see April, I don't want them to take her away from me.

_They won't do it Lessan, I would never allow that to happen.

Alessandro sighed heavily, although he hated the idea of having those elves in his palace he couldn't just throw them out, especially since they still needed more information on how to fight the darkness.

_ Where are they? It would be best if I went and talked to them, I want to know what exactly they want to do.

_I took him to the small cabin in the farthest part of the palace, so there would be no chance of them finding April.

_You did well, let's go.

They both headed to the cabin, when they arrived Cassian knocked on the door and shortly after they entered, Alessandro stared at them for a moment, what caught his attention the most was that they both had golden eyes like April.

_Hello, my name is Alessandro Veriatte, my brother told me that they wanted to talk to me.

_You are the one who has faced the darkness.

_That's how it is.

_Your brother told me that you defeated them with fire, is it true? _If they seemed to fear the fire, they retreated before it.

_That's good.

_Those creatures born of darkness have attacked my people, how could that be good? _When the darkness fully awakens, the creatures born from darkness become even more ferocious and bloody, they are strong and difficult to defeat, a single creature can wipe out an entire village without any problem, if those you have killed retreated with the fire it means that they are still weak, their source of power has not yet awakened.

Alessandro was silent, Dantriell laughed and said.

_Believe me, you have been lucky because you have emerged victorious after facing the darkness.

_How they are killed after the darkness awakens.

_When that happens magic and normal weapons will be useless, the only way to kill them is to use weapons blessed by light magic or by using light magic, magic that only elven royalty can use.

_Wait, weapons blessed by light magic? _Yes, they are equally effective in ending the darkness, but only the best soldiers can get so close to a creature born of darkness and come out alive.

_You have spoken of the awakening of darkness, what exactly do you mean by that? _The source of power of darkness is a demon, its awakening means that it will come to this world and end everything known, that is why I will help you defeat that man, that king who is trying to bring darkness here.

_ And how do you plan to be of help? _In many ways, if you want to win this war, you will need me.

_Your friend not long ago said that this was not your war.

_He was wrong, this war concerns us all.

_ Will they stay here? _Just a few days, I hope that while I'm here you can give me information about that king who is trying to awaken the darkness.

_I will do so, I will also make sure that they do not need anything, but I hope that while they are in my palace they do not wander as they please.

_We won't do it, there's no reason to do that.

_Thank you for your understanding.

119 Even if it's not by my side Alessandro and Cassian were returning to the main palace, as they did so Cassian said.

_I'll talk to the butler so he can bring them food and I'll also put some guards to watch them.

_Tell the guards to keep watch from the shadows, I don't want them to see them, they should only intervene if they leave the cabin and head to the main palace.

_I will do so.

_You were right.

_ What? _We don't know anything about the darkness, they have told us more than we could have found out on our own and above all they said something that would help us face the darkness.

_You speak of the blessing of light.

_That's right, April doesn't have to be on the battlefield to help us defeat the darkness, she just has to bless our weapons.

_But to do that you need a lot of magic power, his magic is still sealed.

_He said that his mother is teaching him to control his magic, but I think it would be best to bring Sirius and have him teach him to control his magic, we can't wait that long, we don't know when King Venobich will start to move.

_You're right, that will be for the best.

Upon reaching the main palace they separated, Cassian went to look for the butler and the guards who would be watching the elves and Alessandro returned to the dining room where April was waiting for him for dinner.

They were talking and laughing, it was the first time Alessandro saw Abril chatting so happily with someone her age, at that moment he realized that she didn't really have any friends, that when he or Cassian weren't there she was always alone.

Abril smiled when she saw him and asked.

_Cassian hasn't come.

_He has something to do, he said he would have dinner in his room.

Maya felt like she was out of place there, so she got up.

_Maybe it would be best for me to go too.

_You don't have to do that.

Alessandro replied.

_You can have dinner with us, dinner will be served in a moment.

Maya was very hungry so she didn't insist on leaving, she sat back down, Alessandro motioned with his hand for dinner to be served, a few minutes later the maids served it.

Abril continued talking to Maya for the rest of dinner, when she finished eating Maya left, Alessandro ordered her bath to be prepared and told Abril.

_You can go ahead, I'll be there soon.

_You still have work to do.

_It will be something quick, it won't take long.

_Alright.

April left with a few maids and Alessandro went to his office, he took out a sphere that they used to communicate with Sirius when it was an emergency since it worked with magic and consumed too much, whenever he used it his magic was considerably reduced, everything depended on how long the conversation was, so it was short and concise.

_Sirius, come here immediately, Sirius knew it had to be urgent since Alessandro had used the magic sphere to communicate with him, so he used a teleportation scroll and arrived in a few seconds.

_ What's happening? _I have two elves in my palace.

_ Two elves? _They followed Cassian, they want to help in the war.

_That's good, isn't it? _Yes and no, I'm worried that they're so close to April, but we need them, they know how to fight the darkness.

_ And why did you call me? _I need you to teach April to control her magic, we need her to bless the weapons we will use during the war.

_To bless a weapon, a great amount of magic and the knowledge to control it are required.

_And that's why I called you, April said that her magic has several seals that block her magic, I need those seals to be broken.

_I will do everything in my power.

_Stay at the palace tonight, I want you to start tomorrow.

_As your majesty commands.

Alessandro returned to his room, April had already finished taking her bath, she was wrapped in a robe while one of the maids combed her hair.

_You're back.

Alessandro approached Abril, the maid had already finished combing Abril's hair and left them alone.

Alessandro caressed her hair, his fingers ran down her neck, slipping inside her robe he asked her.

_ Are you tired? April wondered why Alessandro was asking that question, with flushed cheeks she replied.

_No not at all.

Alessandro's lips rested on her neck as his hands aimlessly drifted down inside her robe.

A moan escaped from Abril's lips.

He turned the chair around, picked Abril up in his arms and carried her to the bed.

He gently placed her down and captured her lips.

They both joined in a deep, soft kiss.

Their kiss intensified and became more violent, more anxious.

As they separated their mouths, she asked him with labored breathing.

_ What's wrong Lessan? _You know I love you, right? April ran a hand through her short brown hair and answered.

_If I know, will you tell me why you are so anxious? _It's just that sometimes I'm really afraid of losing you.

_You're not going to lose me.

Alessandro hugged her without saying a word, she hugged him back, being so close she could feel his breathing, his warm breath caressing her neck.

_I love you Lessan, I love you, I will always be by your side, you will not lose me.

**** Cassian lay down on the bed with his arms behind his head, staring at the ceiling.

He was very worried, his mind was shaking like a nervous tangle thinking about what would happen and he couldn't sleep, although he had told Alessandro that they should think about the kingdom and its people above all else, that wasn't what he felt, he wanted to protect April, he just wanted her to be happy, even if it wasn't by his side.

After tossing and turning in bed, Cassian went out onto the balcony.

That night the moon was shining brightly.

He stared at it for a moment until he heard the sound of a door opening.

He turned his head and saw Maya.

She was wearing a light white nightgown that fluttered in the warm night breeze.

_ What are you doing here? _It's very hot and I felt suffocated, I wanted to go out to get some air to cool off, and you? _I think the same.

120 I appreciate our union Maya climbed up onto the railing.

_ What do you think you're doing? You could fall, come down quickly.

_I will not fall.

Maya jumped up to the balcony where Cassian was, he caught her and said to her.

_you're crazy!, you could have died.

_I knew you'd catch me.

_You are completely crazy.

_Maybe I am a little.

Cassian continued to hug Maya, feeling the warmth of her body, her soft breathing, her body giving off a sweet scent of flowers, he got nervous, let go of her and walked away.

_You are very reckless.

_They tell me that often.

Maya leaned on the railing and looked out at the garden.

_This place is beautiful, but it looks like a cage, a very beautiful one, but a cage, after all.

_ Why do you say that? _I've only been here for a short time, but that's what it seems to me.

I'm a free soul, I travel whenever I feel like it and I never stay in one place for too long.

Imagining myself living in a place like this for the rest of my life made me think that and I felt sorry for Abril, since that's her life.

Cassian stood beside her and answered as he looked around the garden.

This place isn't as bad as you think, I've lived here all my life and I've never felt that way, in fact, I wish I didn't have to leave, my happiest memories are in this place, in these gardens where I played with my brothers and walked with my parents.

Maya remembered that several of Cassian's relatives had been killed in an ambush by King Venobich, that of the entire royal family only two princes remained because they were on the battlefield at the time.

She put her arms around him and hugged him, Cassian blushed.

_ What are you doing? _Giving you a hug, it's not obvious.

_Yes, but why are you hugging me? _Because I thought you needed it.

_You shouldn't hug a man suddenly, he might misinterpret it.

Maya gave him a sweet smile and replied.

_ And how would you misinterpret it? _I could...

I'm a man if I have you so close, with your body pressed against mine it's natural that my body reacts to you, you are a very beautiful woman.

_Wow, I think this is the first compliment you've ever given me.

Maya reached out her hand and caressed his cheek.

_You can misinterpret it if you want, well actually I would love for you to do it, I like you a lot and I would like to make good memories with you before I go.

_ Like which ones? Maya stood on her tiptoes to reach him and stole a kiss.

_ Like these.

_ Maya...

Before he could continue replying, Maya kissed him again, preventing him from saying a word.

Their breathing began to become labored.

Without realizing it, Cassian had surrounded her with his arms and was returning her kisses.

_ This is a mistake, we should stop.

The kisses had become deeper, although Cassian's words saying that they should stop their actions said the opposite, he seemed to burn in the same way that she did, she dragged him to the room without stopping kissing, when they reached the edge of the bed she pushed him causing him to lie down, she lifted her nightgown and climbed on top of him, Cassian's hands were placed on her legs, both of them joined their mouths in a passionate kiss.

Their breathing was labored, the fire of passion burning in both of them, Maya began to open his shirt, her hands running over his well-defined muscles, Cassian turned her over so she was underneath him and said.

_ This is not right.

Maya began to take off his pants and responded while kissing his neck.

_ According to whom is it not correct? Because it doesn't seem that way to me.

Or maybe you don't like me? _Of course not, you are beautiful, but.

Maya kissed him without giving him time to make more excuses and said.

_So everything is fine, let's continue, don't even think about leaving me hanging.

Somehow Cassian felt like he couldn't stop either or he just didn't want to, his mind was clouded, in the end he let himself be carried away by his instincts, that was his first time and he felt that he touched heaven and returned to earth, he never imagined that the union between a man and a woman could be so wonderful and pleasurable.

*** After making love repeatedly, April ended up falling asleep in Alessandro's arms.

He gently caressed her back, feeling the soft breathing of his wife that rose and fell.

He had deeply hated that marriage, he hated having to marry the daughter of the man who had killed his family and massacred his people, but in those moments he thanked God for their union, for having become her husband, her man.

He gave her a kiss on the forehead and whispered in the silence.

_I love you, my beautiful April.

He placed her in his arms and they slept like that for the rest of the night.

April dreamed about her mother that night, that day her mother looked a little strange, she seemed restless.

_Mother, is something wrong? Sophia hesitated for a moment whether or not to tell her daughter what was troubling her.

_You can tell me what ails you, mother.

_Two old friends have come to the palace today.

I know that one of them has been looking for me for a long time, that he has tied himself to the human world and will not leave until he finds me, But I'm already dead, he won't be able to find me no matter how much he looks for me, no matter how hard he tries he won't be able to find me.

April thought it was very sad that someone was still looking for her mother even though she was dead.

Just imagining that she could die and Alessandro wouldn't find out, that he would continue to search for her desperately made her heart ache.

_Mom, if there's anything I can help you with, I'd love to.

_ Are you serious? _Of course.

Sophia took her daughter's hands in hers and said.

_April, would you lend me your body for a moment, would you let me meet my friend and tell him to stop looking for me, to stop insisting because my life is already over.

April nodded and said.

_Yes mother, I will help you in whatever you need.

Sophia gave her a big hug.

_Thank you my little one, you don't know how important this is to me.

121 You are not the first The next day when Cassian woke up he could feel a warm body next to him, when he opened his eyes he saw Maya sleeping next to him with her legs tangled in his, both were still completely naked, he closed his eyes again to avoid seeing her.

At that moment with a cool head he realized the mistake he had made; he didn't really know what to do, what he would say to Maya when she woke up.

While he was thinking about what to do or say when Maya woke up, she stood up and said to him.

_ Are you going to pretend to sleep until I leave? Cassian opened his eyes, Maya was completely naked, the light from the windows seemed to wrap around her body, he looked away with his cheeks tinted red and answered.

_I wasn't pretending to sleep, I was just organizing my thoughts.

Maya picked up her nightgown from the floor, after putting it on she said.

_And have you already organized them? Cassian gave a quick glance, seeing that Maya had already dressed, he turned his head towards her and answered her question.

_I don't think so.

_ Are you worried about what happened last night between us? Cassian remained silent, Maya deduced that was the case so she told him.

_You can act like nothing happened if that makes you feel better.

_I couldn't do that.

Cassian spoke with a serious face.

_I will take responsibility for what happened.

_ Responsible? What exactly do you mean by taking responsibility? _I will get married...

_For.

Maya interrupted him by raising her hands high.

_Don't even think about saying that you're going to marry me just because we spent the night together.

_But I...

Maya came over, sat on the edge of the bed and said.

_Listen to me, little prince, I slept with you because I wanted to, you are not the first, nor the last man I will sleep with and believe me, I do not plan to marry any of them.

_ So for you I'm just one more of the bunch? _I know my place, I am a simple commoner, you are a prince, we live in completely different worlds, I told you yesterday, I am a free spirit, I could never become your wife and live locked up in a mansion waiting for you to have time for me.

Maya stood up and said to him.

So don't even think about saying that nonsense about taking responsibility again, if you want we can be lovers, have a good time together, but then I'll leave and maybe we'll never see each other again or maybe I'll visit you from time to time until you find a young noble woman from a good family to marry.

Maya headed to the door, before leaving she said.

_I had a good time yesterday, I'm going to take a bath, think about what I told you and give me an answer.

After Maya left Cassian felt like he had been used, he didn't love her but he had thought about taking responsibility for spending the night with her, although he hadn't thought about it much he thought it was a bad idea to make Maya his wife, she was nice and a very beautiful woman, falling in love with her didn't seem impossible but Maya brought him back to reality suddenly.

She would never marry him, in the end he had only looked like an idiot to her for suggesting such a thing.

Alessandro was heading to his office when he saw Maya come out of Cassian's room, she was only wearing a thin nightgown, So it meant that the two of them had spent the night together.

He had been a little worried that his brother was so reluctant to marry, but apparently it was because he already had someone in his heart, otherwise he wouldn't have brought her to the palace.

Alessandro was working when Cassian knocked on his office door and asked if he could come in.

_Forward.

_Good morning Lessan.

_Good morning Cassian, I thought you would come later, you must have had a busy night.

_I don't know what you mean? "I saw your friend leave," Alessandro said ironically.

_From your room this morning.

_It's not what you think.

_ I didn't say anything, but if you're denying it, it must be because something happened.

Cassian looked away, avoiding his brother's gaze, and said.

_Nothing happened.

_I know you very well Cassian, I know when you're lying, but I won't force you to tell me what's going on between you and that girl, I just want to tell you that I'm glad you've found someone special for you, I hope you'll soon give me the news that you're going to get married.

Cassian looked out the window, he wasn't very good with the subject of women so he decided to talk to his brother about it.

_I don't think that's the case, Maya made it clear to me that she would never marry me, to her I'm just one more.

_So he rejected you.

_I guess so.

_I'm sorry bro, but don't be discouraged, if you love her don't give up.

In reality, Cassian wasn't in love with Maya, they had only spent the night together because they had let themselves go, neither of them held such feelings for the other, although he couldn't deny that Maya's words had left him hurt, so he just sighed.

_I don't think she wants me to keep insisting, she just wants to have a good time with me, she's already made that very clear to me.

_So he just wants to use you as his toy.

Cassian already knew that but for Alessandro to tell him so directly was like throwing darts at him.

_ Lessan, I already know that and your comments don't help, we'd better focus on what's important right now, What are we going to do with the elves? _ Use them, they know a lot about how to fight the darkness, I need you to go with them and get all the information you can, I also want you to give them information about King Venobich, but don't mention that my wife is his daughter, I want all the information about April to be kept secret.

_Okay, but maybe they'll figure it out on their own.

_When that day comes I'll take care of that.

_Then I'm leaving, I'll go with them.

Before leaving Cassian asked.

_ Did you tell April about the elves? _No, I don't want to tell you about them at the moment.

_You should do it, I think that would be best, in case he finds out on his own.

_I know, I'll tell him when the time comes.

When Cassian left Alessandro's office he asked the butler to prepare a basket with food to take to the elves, while he waited he met Maya, he didn't know very well how to act in front of her after what had happened.

last night, at that moment he wondered how he had been treating her until now.

_Hello.

_Hello, are you going somewhere? _ Why do you ask? _I heard what you asked the butler, that's why I'm asking.

_I'm not going anywhere, the food is for our guests.

_ Are you going to see them now? Then I'll accompany you, I also want to talk to them, there are a few things I'd like to ask them, I can accompany you, right? _Of course.

122 This is not my body When Sophia opened her eyes she felt strange having a physical body, she got out of bed and went straight to the balcony, a gentle breeze ruffled her hair, the warm rays of the sun caressed her skin, those were sensations that she never imagined feeling again, after all, she was already dead, only her soul had remained clinging to April in order to protect her.

She went back to the room and put on the first dress she found, then looked at herself in the mirror, April was identical to her, except for one thing, her long reddish hair, she put her hand on the mirror it was as if she was seeing her own reflection, she wondered what face Ethan would

make when he saw her, what he would say when he found out she was dead, that all this time he had been looking for a dead woman.

Although they were a little far away she could feel their presence, so she went out and went to look for them.

As she walked she saw the beauty of the gardens, for a moment she felt as if she had returned to the kingdom of the elves since the buildings and the gardens had a certain resemblance, it had been so long since she had left her kingdom for love, that she never imagined that she would miss it so much.

*** When Cassian and Maya arrived at the small cabin they found Ethan and Dantriell at the door.

_ Are you going somewhere? Cassian asked, seeing that they were wearing their cloaks despite the heat.

Since that morning Ethan had been sensing a presence similar to Sophia's, he had told Dantriell that he would go find her, before Cassian and Maya arrived, the two had been arguing as he told her that she couldn't move recklessly.

He didn't want to say what he was planning to do so he answered.

_We weren't going anywhere.

Cassian raised the basket high and said.

_We brought you something to eat.

Dantriell took the basket and replied.

_I doubt they just came here to bring us food, what do they want? _It's true, I didn't come here just for that, I want you to tell me how to fight the darkness, not something vague, I want details.

_Okay, but I also want details, I want to know who we are facing.

_Yes, I'll tell you everything you need, let's go inside, it's hot.

They were about to enter when Ethan turned around and ran away.

Everyone turned to see where he was going, when Cassian saw April approaching his blood ran cold, she shouldn't be in that place, she shouldn't have met the elves.

Ethan stopped in front of her, he touched her face, although her hair was a different color he recognized her immediately.

_Sophia.

He hugged her and said.

_I finally found you, finally.

Sophia was just as excited, she found that hug so comforting that she couldn't help but cry, her tears falling like pearls down her cheeks, she could barely articulate his name.

_Ethan...

Cassian, seeing April return the hug, wondered if they already knew each other.

He approached and asked.

_April, do you know him? Sophia separated from Ethan although he resisted a little, he didn't want to let her go.

_I'm not April right now, I've just borrowed her body for a while.

Cassian was very confused, he didn't understand what was happening.

It was scorching hot that day, she told him.

_It would be better to continue this conversation inside, there are many ears here.

They all followed her, as she passed Ethan he stared at her, he was the last to enter, he stayed by the door, blocking the exit in case she decided to escape.

Ethan stayed by Sophia's side.

_ What do you mean you're not April? And where do you know each other from? Cassian asked again with an expression of annoyance and confusion on his face since a moment ago they had seemed very close, _This is April's body, but right now it is my spirit that controls it, she is in a dream so to speak.

Ethan didn't understand what Sophia was saying and asked.

_ What nonsense are you talking Sophia? Sophia turned to Ethan and said.

_I no longer have a physical body Ethan, I died many years ago, today I only met with you because I want to free you from your obligations as my knight.

_It's a lie.

Ethan took her face in his hands, put his forehead on hers and said.

_You are not dead, you are here with me, I can feel your warmth, your breathing, if this is not called being alive, then I am dead too.

_She doesn't lie.

Dantriell replied as he stared at her.

_That's not Princess Sophia.

_Don't talk nonsense Dantriell, you have her in front of you, maybe you don't see her _It's you who is so blinded that you can't realize that she's not Princess Sophia.

Ethan stared at her, she looked exactly the same as he remembered her, the only difference was the red hair.

_Tell me it's not true, that it's all a joke.

_I'm sorry Ethan, but it's not a lie, I'm already dead.

123 Do n't touch my wife Sophia knew that it might not be a good idea to present herself to Ethan with April's body since she would be revealing her existence to him, however she couldn't let him continue looking for her, let him continue suffering because of her, she wanted to free him from the chains he had been carrying for more than 20 years.

_Could you leave us alone for a moment? Sophia told them as she stared at Ethan, Cassian refused to leave them alone, however, Maya and Dantriell dragged him outside.

When they were alone Sophia took Ethan's hand and said to him.

_I'm sorry Ethan, sorry for not seeing all the harm I've caused you.

Ethan caressed her cheek.

_It's not true, you're not dead.

_I died 20 years ago a few days after giving birth to my daughter, the body you are touching is hers.

_ As? _My girl is special Ethan, I was weak after giving birth and I used all my magic, my very essence to seal her magic, I wanted to keep her magic a secret so that no one would use it as a tool.

_ Why did you do something like that? Why didn't you take her to the elf kingdom? She would have been safe there.

Sophia shook her head.

_You know that's not true, my daughter is a half-blood, she wouldn't have been welcome in the elven kingdom either, you know what they do to half-bloods, even if she were my daughter, father wouldn't have been lenient with her, that's why I decided to leave her among the humans.

_Why did you have to give your life.

_She is my everything Ethan and even though it is selfish on my part, I want to ask you not to get involved in her life, do not try to take her to our kingdom and I ask that her existence remains a secret.

_Sophia...

_Promise me Ethan, tell me you won't do anything that will make my little girl sad.

_You say that your soul is with her, your soul is still intact, you can use her body and stay by my side.

Ethan told her as he hugged her, Sophia pushed him and said.

_No, I already lived my life, I would never take his.

_But I can't be without you Sophia, I can't accept that you're no longer in this world, I can't.

Sophia took Ethan's face in her hands and said to him.

_Even if you don't accept it, I'm already dead.

_Just your body.

_And soon my soul will be, that's why I wanted to come see you even though I knew it might not be a good idea.

_ What are you talking about? _I used my own soul to create the last seal, but when it breaks, I will disappear completely.

_No, I won't let that happen Sophia, I've already lost you once, I can't lose you again.

_That will be inevitable, you know that the darkness has awakened, right? April is the strongest light magician that has been born in centuries, her power is unmatched, to win this war her power will be necessary, she must break all the seals to be able to release all her magic.

_I don't care what happens with the darkness, nor with the entire world Sophia, understand that I only care about you, the rest can disappear completely, because a world without you can only turn to ashes.

Ethan looked him straight in the eyes and said.

_You are my everything and you know it.

_Ethan you know that I...

Ethan stopped her from speaking, he stole a kiss from her and said.

_I know what you're going to say, even if you tell me a thousand times, in my heart there will only be you.

Alessandro entered just when Ethan was going to kiss her again, he used his wind magic to push Ethan away and told him in an ice cold voice.

_Don't even think about laying a hand on my wife again if you still want to keep her.

Dantriell drew his sword and pointed it at Alessandro.

_And if you touch my friend again I will pierce your heart with my sword.

Alessandro put his arms around Abril to protect her and said to her.

- So you have really come to my palace? _We've come to help, but if you attack your allies, that means you're not someone to be trusted.

_That's what I should say, in this palace there is only one thing that no one can touch and that is my wife, anyone who dares to touch her will regret it.

Sophia intervened, before they could end up killing each other.

_That's enough, young king, I respect you for being my daughter's husband, however, be careful with your words, my friends are not people you can take lightly.

_ What are you saying April? _Although this is your wife's body, I am not her at this moment.

_ That? _I am Sophia Larrens, daughter of the elf king Graham Larrens, they are my friends and you owe them respect.

_You, you are using my wife's body.

_She allowed me, there was something I had to talk to them about.

_I don't care who you are, but I won't let you use my wife's body as you please.

A misunderstanding was brewing, Sophia didn't quite know how to handle that, at first she had thought about telling Ethan to stop looking for her and to promise that he would never reveal April's existence to her father the king of the elves, what she never imagined was that Ethan would cling to her so much and even less that April's husband would find out what she was doing, she sighed heavily and spoke with authority.

_That's enough, stop acting like little children, since we're all here, let's take advantage of this opportunity to talk about the awakening of darkness, that should be our main concern at this moment.

_ And what do you know about that? Alessandro asked, still upset by the reprimand he had received.

_More than you can imagine, since for some time I was the wife of the king of Laios, Vritra Vampel, if anyone knows what Vritra is up to, it's me.