

Forgotten Wife : Let the Traitors Kneel Down Novel

51 It 's just the first of many When they reached the beach, Alessandro stopped his horse.

Abril was enthralled by the calm sea, the waves moving like arms and forming a mother-of-pearl foam.

A little further away she saw some boats approaching the port, several seagulls were fishing in the sea.

landscape was beautiful.

April could never have imagined that one day she would be able to enjoy a landscape like that.

She had resigned herself to living her entire life locked up and that her only moments of freedom were in that small house on a corner of the royal palace.

She never wanted to go out, or even be free, because she had never known what freedom was.

Without realizing it, her tears rolled down her cheeks.

Alessandro got off the horse and seeing that she was crying, he asked her.

_ What's wrong? Why are you crying? _It's no big deal.

Alessandro stretched out his hands to help her get off the horse, April threw herself into his arms and remembering that Lady Elizabeth had told her that she could express gratitude with a kiss, she kissed him and said.

_Thank you very much for bringing me, for showing me what's out there.

Alessandro felt bad, she was thanking the one responsible for her confinement for giving her freedom, for showing her what was behind the palace walls, he returned the hug and responded.

_I want to show you everything there is in my kingdom, this place is just the first of many.

Alessandro looked at Abril's face, wiped her tears with his kisses and said to her.

_I like to see you smile more, so don't cry.

April nodded her head, he gave her a soft and sweet kiss on the lips and said.

_ Do you want to walk a little? _Yeah.

_So come on, let's enjoy this beautiful scenery while we're here.

Alessandro crouched down, burying one knee in the white sand and said to him.

_Give me your foot, _ So that? _Now you will see, April lifted her right foot, Alessandro took off her shoe, then asked for her left one and did the same, April's feet sank into the white sand, it was a strange sensation for her and she said.

_It feels weird.

_I know, but it's nice, isn't it? _Yes it is.

Alessandro took off his shoes and left them next to Abril's, took her hand and said.

_Come on, this isn't what I wanted to show you.

April followed him while enjoying the sensation of her feet sinking into the sand, when they reached the seashore the waves splashed April's dress, when she saw that Alessandro was entering the water she said to him.

_ What are you doing? _We will enter the sea.

April stopped dead in her tracks and said.

_I don't know how to swim.

_I know, but you have nothing to fear, I won't let you go, and we'll only go in far enough to get our feet wet.

April held the skirt of her dress so it wouldn't get wet and continued walking, when the water touched her feet she smiled Alessandro told her.

_You see, it's not scary.

April stepped on something that pricked her foot, she complained, Alessandro took her in his arms and asked her.

_ Are you OK? _I think there was something that stung me.

April stared at the water, at the bottom she could see something that was shining, she pointed at it with her finger and said.

_Look, I think that was it.

_ Did you hurt yourself?' April moved her foot and responded.

_I didn't hurt myself, I'm fine.

Alessandro put her back on the ground and took out of the water what Abril had pointed out, it was a seashell of a beautiful pink color, he handed it to Abril and said.

_ Was this it? April took it, looked at it carefully and answered.

_Yes, it was this.

She looked at him and said.

_It's very pretty, what is it? _It is a seashell, these in particular are used to make pendants among commoners.

_ Can I make a pendant with this? _Yes, but I don't think it's something a princess should wear.

_ Why not? I like it, besides I don't have any jewelry.

Alessandro felt like he had failed as a husband when he heard the princess say that she didn't have a single piece of jewelry, he told her.

_If you want jewelry, just ask for it.

April extended her hand showing him the seashell they had just collected and said.

_ Then you could make a pendant with this, I would really like this to be my first piece of jewelry, so I can remember this day every time I see it.

Alessandro couldn't refuse after hearing that, he took the seashell from Abril's hand and said to her.

_When we get back I'll ask them to make you a beautiful pendant with it.

April smiled happily and said to him.

_Thank you so much.

Alessandro put the seashell in his pants pocket and put his arms around her waist and said.

_If you are grateful, you shouldn't thank me in any other way.

_ Like which one? _Like you did a moment ago, with a kiss.

April put her hands on his chest, stood on her tiptoes and kissed him, her kiss was sweet and soft just like she was.

Alessandro deepened his kiss, kissing her passionately while his hands wandered aimlessly over her back and hips, wishing he could take off her clothes right then and there and feel her bare skin again, the warmth of her body, he sighed heavily and said to her.

_I wish I could be in our room right now and make you mine.

April felt scared as she remembered how painful her first time had been.

_I don't want to.

Alessandro gently stroked Abril's hair and brushed a strand of hair away from her face, tucking it behind her ear, and said.

_This time everything will be different, you'll see, there will be no pain, I'll make sure it is that way.

52 A bath together April and Alessandro stayed on the beach all afternoon, they were sitting in the sand when the sun began to set April was amazed to see the beautiful colors of the sunset dyeing the sea, orange, yellow and violet, the sun slowly set on the horizon as if it were sinking into the water, the view was so beautiful that she couldn't look away until the sun completely set.

The colorful landscape disappeared completely as if it had been a dream, Alessandro seeing the disappointment drawn on her face asked her.

_ What's wrong? Didn't you like the sunset? She shook her head.

_On the contrary, I liked it so much that it's a shame it's over.

Alessandro stood up, extended his hand to Abril and said.

Just because it's over doesn't mean you'll never see it again, we can come back again and watch the sunset sitting on the sand just like we did now.

_ Really? _Yes, I will do whatever you ask of me.

"Except letting you go" Alessandro thought as he helped him up from the ground.

_It's getting late, we should go back before my guards come looking for us.

Alessandro helped Abril get on the horse, after getting on he wrapped his arms around her waist, she told him.

_ Will we really come back one day? _Yes, I promise.

April leaned on Alessandro's chest and stayed still, listening to his heartbeat, until they reached the mansion they were staying at.

Upon arriving, Alessandro helped her get off the horse.

The servants approached them, took the horse and entered the mansion.

They went straight to the dining room.

Cassian was waiting for them.

When he saw them, he said.

_It's about time, where have you been? April responded with great excitement.

_We were at the beach, we saw the sunset and it was beautiful, I've never seen anything like it, you should have come.

_I'm glad you had a good time too.

During dinner, April kept saying how wonderful the walk on the beach had been.

After dinner, Alessandro and she said goodbye and went to their room.

The room was large, it had a huge four poster bed and white curtains falling on the sides, April was sweaty and had sand everywhere, she told him.

_I should take a bath, or I'll fill the bed with sand.

Alessandro hugged her from behind and said.

_You're right, we should take a bath before going to bed.

April didn't mind Alessandro seeing her body, although touching her was another story, it made her very embarrassed and she told him.

_It would be a little awkward for the two of us to get in the tub, but I guess it's okay.

_I was joking, but I see that you don't dislike the idea so let's do it.

Alessandro guided Abril to the bathroom, the bathtub was full, the maids must have filled it before they arrived, Alessandro took off his clothes, Abril did the same, he stared at her figure, when she approached the bathtub with her back to him, he kissed her on the back and said.

_You are beautiful.

April blushed, although she didn't mind him looking at her naked body, she was a little embarrassed that he kissed her back, it made her feel weird.

Alessandro entered the bathtub, then she told him to get in, Abril got between his legs and asked him.

_ How many days will we be here? _I don't know yet, but I don't think I can take you to the beach again, I have work to do here.

_I understand.

_But this mansion has a beautiful garden, I would like to be able to take you to the port, but at the moment it is not very safe so it will be until I have finished my work.

April nodded, although she wanted to see more places she didn't want to be a bother so she didn't insist on going out.

Alessandro brushed April's hair back and gave her a kiss on the neck while his furtive hands slid down her body feeling her soft skin, she told him.

_What are you doing? _I'll help you take a bath.

_I can do it alone, _I know, but I still want to do it.

Alessandro's hands cupped her breasts, squeezing them gently, eliciting a moan of pleasure from her, he told her.

_But it seems to me that you want me to do something more than help you bathe, am I wrong?
April was embarrassed.

_That's not true.

Alessandro hugged her and whispered in her ear.

_But I do, I'm dying to make you mine.

53 With a clouded mind Alessandro continued kissing her neck while his hands gently caressed her breasts, filling her back with kisses making her moan.

Alessandro felt the fire burning in his veins, his manhood woke up immediately, April felt something pressing on her back, although she couldn't see it she knew what it was, she was scared when she remembered how painful her first time had been, she tried to get out of the

bathtub and run away from that situation, but Alessandro didn't allow it, he continued hugging her and said.

_You don't have to be afraid, I told you this time it would be different, I'm not going to hurt you.

_ You promised the same thing last time.

_That time I said it would hurt a little.

_It hurt a lot, I felt like my body was going to split in half.

_This time it will be different, I promise.

After several kisses and caresses Alessandro managed to convince Abril to become one with him, doing it in the bathtub was uncomfortable, he got up with the princess in his arms and kissed her mouth as they returned to the room.

He did not stop kissing her at any time, when he reached the edge of the bed he gently placed her down, both were soaked since they had just gotten out of the bathtub, Alessandro used his wind magic and causing a warm breeze to dry their bodies, Abril was surprised, he settled on top of her and said.

_It's more comfortable this way, we don't have to waste time drying our bodies, although it won't do much good, I plan on making you sweat all night.

April didn't quite understand what he meant by making her sweat all night, she wondered what exactly he meant.

Alessandro ran his mouth over her entire body, his hot tongue tasting her soft, delicate breasts.

April clutched her hands to the sheets, every part of her body that he kissed and licked burned like embers coming out of a fire, a suffocating heat flooded her.

Without realizing it, she sank her fingers into his hair, feeling the softness of his hair as he took a bite of her breasts, while he made her shudder with each touch of her skin.

Alessandro kissed her mouth and sucked her tongue, making obscene sounds emerge, he licked her lips and at the same time, his gentle hands caressed and massaged her breasts.

He kissed her neck, went down to her breasts and began to suck them sweetly and lightly nibbled on her nipples.

April did not She couldn't help but scream when she felt a sweet paralysis spread throughout her body and made her tremble.

Alessandro raised his head and asked.

_Hum...

Does this make you feel good? He touched her hardened nipples again, begging for him to continue touching them, and as he did so a wave of pleasure washed over April, she responded with her cheeks tinted red.

_And.

She liked that, it made her feel good.

He stole her mouth again, he loved how sincere and sweet the princess was, how innocent and provocative she could be without realizing it.

Alessandro continued to run his hands over her naked body, she put her arms around him and hugged him tightly, losing herself in the pleasure of being caressed.

They continued kissing each other until Abril was a little calmer.

Alessandro slid his hand between her legs and gently caressed her slit.

Abril was startled when she felt his fingers caressing her most intimate part and squeezed the king's back tightly.

As they parted their lips, she saw that there was hunger in his gaze, a devouring, hot hunger that frightened her.

It was the same look she had seen in him the first time she had been his wife.

Alessandro could see the fear in her eyes.

He gave her a kiss on the palm of her hand, another on the back of it, covered her face with his kisses and said.

You don't have to fear, I'm not going to hurt you, this time it won't be the same.

He kissed her, his tongue exploring her mouth before it moved up to her neck, she felt the wet heat of his lips on the hollow of her collarbone and almost screamed in pleasure.

But instead she clung to him, running her hands all over his body, wildly free, as free as she wanted, she slid her hands down his back, over his chest and the muscles in his arms, feeling him completely just as he was feeling her.

He kissed her shoulders and breasts, her stomach, her hips, kissing her everywhere as she gasped for air and before she knew it she started moving against him in a way that made him moan and beg her to stop before he lost what little control he had.

Every kiss he gave her was like a spark of fire growing inside of him, it was like he wanted to put out the fire with oil, all he did was fan the flames.

In the end Alessandro could no longer hold back and caressed her entrance with his hardened member and slowly made his way inside her.

April shuddered, feeling a little pain.

He stayed still when he heard her moan and stole her sweet lips again to make her forget the pain.

After a while the feeling of pain disappeared changing into pleasure, he began to move slowly so as not to hurt her, a sweet and pleasant pleasure flooded his body, her voice escaped from her mouth, he could feel her warm breath on his neck and in his ear, making his desire and passion overflowed, he began to move a little faster, he could not take it anymore, his senses were completely clouded.

She dug her nails into his back and he kept moving, increasing the speed of his hips, until they both reached climax, he deposited his seed inside her, April felt her vision blur and her body shake.

Alessandro stayed on top of her without moving until they both recovered, he wanted to continue making her his, but she looked completely exhausted, so he held back, got off of her and put his arms around her and asked her.

_ Are you OK? April felt like she was everywhere and nowhere, her senses were still clouded, so she just answered yes, settling into his chest, feeling exhausted, he caressed her hair gently as if it were cotton, afraid of hurting her, in the end she fell asleep in his arms.

54 The love of a husband The next day when Alessandro woke up the first thing he saw was his wife's sleeping face, she was hugging him, Their naked bodies intertwined, he could feel her breathing, her heartbeat.

He stroked her hair, she settled into his arms and moaned, she was tired and didn't want to wake up.

Alessandro hated the idea of getting up, he wanted to continue enjoying the warmth and softness of his wife, but he had many things to do that day and he couldn't afford that luxury, he gave her a kiss on the forehead and got up, being very careful not to wake her, but when he moved, Abril woke up and asked him.

_ Where are you going? _I have business to attend to, how are you? April felt tired, but otherwise she was fine.

_I'm fine, just tired.

Alessandro stood up, took a change of clothes out of the closet and said to her.

_Go back to sleep, rest all day if necessary, I'll be out all day, but I promise to have dinner with you.

_Have a good day.

Alessandro finished changing, then approached Abril, gave her a kiss on the forehead and said.

_I'll see you tonight, if you need anything ask the servants and don't leave the mansion, the city isn't very safe right now.

_I won't do it.

When Alessandro left the room he met the butler and said to him.

_Take good care of my wife.

_Yes, your majesty.

Alessandro went to the stables, took his horse and then went to the port where he met the head of the marine guard.

Koved Nerris the captain of the guard bowed and paid his respects to the king.

_Your Majesty, it is a great honor to have you here.

_ How are things going? Have you been able to catch the pirates? _Not yet, your majesty, we still haven't been able to find their hiding place, they are very elusive.

_ Are they still attacking merchant ships? _Yes, and they have also started attacking ships carrying people.

We have heard rumors that they are selling them as slaves in the kingdom of Battet.

Alessandro clenched his hand into a fist and said.

_Damn bastards, we have to find them, there must be a place where they hide their ship, we have to look on a map for the places where they can hide a big ship without anyone being able to see it.

_Yes, your majesty.

Koved called one of the guards to take the king's horse and asked him to follow him, he led him to a small house that they were using as a meeting point to keep a closer eye on the port, to watch all the ships that docked at the pier in search of pirates, when the guards who were there entered they bowed to the king.

Koved led the king to a room that he was using as an office, showed him a map that he had on the table, he pointed out a few places that were marked with an x on the map and said.

_We have checked all these places so far, but we have had no luck.

_Keep looking, I will accompany you today, catching them must be our top priority.

_Yes, your majesty.

*** April stayed sleeping in bed all morning, at noon two maids went to help her get dressed, April felt her body sticky after having such an intense night, she asked the maids to prepare the bath for her, while they helped her bathe they saw several kiss marks scattered across April's body, one of them said.

_ Apparently her majesty is very loved by the king.

_ That? _ The king is very kind to your majesty and cares a lot about you, this morning he gave the order that we should take good care of his wife.

_ Did he really say that? _ Yes, one of the maids who was there told us.

One of the maids was rinsing April's hair while the other was sponging her arm, she said.

_ Your majesty is very beautiful, it is no wonder that the king is so in love.

April stared at her reflection in the water and asked.

_ Am I really beautiful? _ Of course, your majesty is very beautiful.

After the maids finished bathing her, combing her hair and changing her, they guided her to the dining room.

Those maids were very kind and courteous to April, which surprised her a lot.

They were nothing like the maids in the palace who had always been rude and evil, and although they had changed their attitude since the death of that maid who had tried to kill her, she still felt uncomfortable under their gaze.

But she knew perfectly well why those maids were so kind, Lady Elizabeth had explained it to her on one occasion, The more loved and respected a wife was by her husband, the more authority and respect she received from the servants, although she did not believe that the king felt love for her, however he had become very kind to her, so she cared little if his feelings for

her were real or just a lie, she only wished that it would not change and if it did, she wished to be the forgotten wife again.

in, she did not want to again have the hatred and contempt of the man who had made her his wife and who in the future would be the father of her child.

Unconsciously she touched her belly and wondered when she would become pregnant and if that would produce any change in her relationship with the king.

She was sharing a room with Alessandro because he wanted an heir, but when that happened, she wondered if she would have to move rooms and if he would stop visiting her at night.

April realized something at that moment, she had become too used to being with Alessandro and sleeping in his arms.

April felt a pang in her heart as she imagined herself alone again and wished that wouldn't happen, that the day would never come when she would have to be alone again.

55 True love When April arrived at the dining room she greeted Cassian and took her place at the table, throughout the meal she looked downcast, as if something was worrying her, Cassian noticed this, he thought it was because April missed Alessandro who would be away all day.

the day, that made his heart ache, it seemed April had also fallen in love with his brother, it was more than clear that there would never be a chance for him, Cassian wanted to do something to cheer her up and he told her.

_ It's a beautiful day today and the garden here is beautiful and a bit different, why don't we go for a walk? April nodded, she wanted to put all those thoughts aside, it was useless to think about what would happen in the future.

She stood up and said.

_I would love to go for a walk.

The sun outside was very strong so one of the maids brought April a wide hat and a small parasol.

When she got to the garden, April was amazed.

In the garden there were only white flowers, of all kinds but only white.

There was not a single flower that looked out of place in that beautiful garden.

She smiled and said.

_It's actually a somewhat different garden, why are there only white flowers? _This garden was commissioned by my father, it was a gift for my mother who loved white flowers, whenever we came here she would spend hours walking through this garden on my father's arm, this was her favorite place.

_It is very beautiful, I understand why your mother liked to walk through this garden so much, it is so beautiful that I would also like to walk through it every day.

_I'm glad you liked it and that you were encouraged.

_ What has encouraged me? _During the meal you seemed very sad and thoughtful.

_I wasn't sad, my mind was just somewhere else.

_ May I know what worries you so much? April caressed the soft petals of some white roses that were near her and said.

_I was just wondering what will become of me when I manage to get pregnant, if his majesty will continue to be as kind as he is now or if he will forget about me again.

Cassian had thought that what April felt was just sadness because her brother was not there, but apparently her thoughts were deeper and more complex than he had imagined.

_I don't think my brother is going to do any of those things, he really cares about you and I think his feelings for you are stronger than you imagine.

_ Why does everyone say the same thing? _ The same? What do you mean by that? _Everyone talks about the love that his majesty feels for me, but that is not true, he does not love me, I am aware that my marriage is something that his majesty hates, he is only putting up with everything to be able to have an heir, for him I am not important, only a vessel that will carry her child in her womb, that is why she takes care of me.

_That's not true April, I know my brother and I know that his feelings for you are not a lie, when my brother is with you his eyes shine and he really smiles, like he hasn't done in a long time, when he is with you he looks happy.

For April, believing that the king's feelings were real made her happy, but she was also afraid that she would make up a love story in her head and that one day she would suffer when she realized that none of it was real, that he did not love her and that he would never love her, just as

he had told her on their wedding night when he had refused to be with her, those words had remained burned into her mind.

I will never treat you like my wife, I will never touch your disgusting body, you will not have a place in my bed and you will never have my heart She knew he had only started being nice because she was the vessel that would carry his child in her womb, that he had only touched her body and shared her bed because he had been forced to and that was why she couldn't believe he had fallen in love with her.

April smiled, but that smile was laden with sadness and loneliness, she told him.

_If I'm honest, I doubt that's true.

_ Why can't you believe that my brother's feelings for you are real? Because I know they aren't and I don't want to believe an illusion and get hurt later, if he forgets me again like he did for four years, it will be less painful for me if I don't believe that he loves me.

Cassian knew that Abril had deep wounds in her heart, at that moment he realized that Alessandro was guilty of one of them and perhaps the deepest of all.

He had hurt her heart with his words and that prevented Abril from opening her heart completely.

April continued walking, Cassian followed her in silence without knowing what to say, he couldn't find words that would help heal his wounded heart.

After walking a little, April stopped in front of the statue of a beautiful woman.

_She is very beautiful, who is she? _It's my mother, I told you that my father had this garden made for her, the statue was proof of that.

Cassian replied as he looked at the statue with a certain sadness in his gaze.

April realized that she actually knew almost nothing about her husband's family.

She knew that they were dead and that her father had been at fault, but nothing more.

She was completely unaware of the details.

The statue was so well carved that it was a marvel.

It was as if she had turned into stone.

The details were truly amazing, she told him.

_In every detail of this garden you can feel how much love your father felt for your mother, she must have been very lucky to have a husband who loves her so much.

_Yes, it was.

56 She doesn't deserve to suffer Alessandro spent the whole day helping to find the pirates who were threatening the merchant ships leaving the port of Battet.

The subject of slaves had him very upset; he was not going to allow innocent people to be treated as merchandise.

When he returned to the palace it was late, dinner time had passed hours ago, he went straight to the room, in the hallway Alessandro met Cassian, he seemed to be waiting for him.

_ What are you doing here? Why aren't you sleeping? _I'd like to talk to you for a moment.

_ About what? Cassian opened the door to his room and said to him.

_Come in and I'll tell you.

Alessandro followed him and said.

_ What is the mystery? _It's about the princess.

_ Has something happened to you? _Not exactly, it's just that she seemed to be sad.

_ Because? _She thinks that when she gives birth to your heir you will ignore her and forget about her like you did for four years.

_That won't happen again, she's too valuable to us, she needs to be close where I can see her and make sure nothing happens to her.

_She is important to you because of her magic or because you love her.

_Her magic is unique, I couldn't let anything happen to her, our peace won't last, King Venobich has started to move his pieces, she can be of great help.

_Just for that, brother.

_Why more serious? _Maybe because you love her.

_Don't talk nonsense Cassian, if everything you had to say is over I'll go and rest, I've had a very hard day today.

_Lessan, you may regret your words later when you realize that she is much more than just a vessel like she said.

_I have never said that.

_Well, your words seem to be what you think, the princess thinks that's how it is, that for you she is only the vessel that you will use to carry your child in her womb.

_ Did she tell you that? _Yes, she has always been alone, always forgotten and hated by everyone, don't hurt her more than she already is, I won't forgive you if you do.

_Sometimes I think you care too much about my wife, are you in love with her? Cassian wanted to yell yes at her right then, but he knew that would only drive a wedge between them so he bit back his words.

_It's not that, brother, but she's a good person, someone who doesn't deserve to be hurt, or to be used as if she were a tool.

Alessandro walked to the door and said.

_ She is my wife Cas, what I do with her is not your problem.

After Alessandro left Cassian said.

_I hope you don't regret one day what you're doing.

*** Alessandro went straight to his room, he approached the bed, Abril was sleeping peacefully, her reddish hair framed her face contrasting with her white skin, he moved her hair away from

her face, admiring her beauty better, she was so beautiful and gorgeous, everything about her was like a work of art.

He couldn't deny that he was attracted to her, but it wasn't love, he would protect her, but he would also use her if necessary.

April woke up to the soft touch of Alessandro's fingers, when she opened her eyes she said to him.

_You're back.

_I'm late, I'm sorry I didn't keep my promise.

_It's okay, I know you're busy.

_ Are you OK? _Yes I am.

Alessandro caressed her cheeks and said.

_Go back to sleep, it's late.

_ Aren't you going to sleep? _I'll take a bath before going to bed, so go back to sleep.

_OK.

April put her head back on the pillow, Alessandro went to the bathroom, when he returned the princess was asleep again, he lay down next to her, surrounding her with his arms.

The next day he had to leave very early in the morning, when April woke up she found herself alone, that day she dedicated herself to walking through that beautiful garden with Cassian; when

night came April thought that Alessandro would arrive for dinner, however he did not, that situation was repeated for a whole week, since that night when he had woken her up in the middle of the night she had not seen him again, she began to feel anxious and wondered when she would be able to see him.

Cassian noticed April's feelings, as they walked through the garden she looked dull, sad, he told her.

My brother must be very busy lately, I haven't seen him for a week.

_I know.

_If you want we can go to the port to greet him.

_ Can we really go? _Of course.

April was excited, but at the same moment she remembered that Alessandro had told her that she couldn't leave the mansion.

_But his majesty forbade me to go out, he said it could be dangerous.

_You don't have to worry, you will go with me, I will protect you.

_But I don't want his majesty to be upset for having disobeyed him, he could punish me if I do.

_My brother won't do it, I'll make sure of it.

April hesitated for a moment, she didn't want to lose the king's favor by not obeying his command, she was going to refuse when Cassian told her.

_ I'll tell my brother that I insisted you come with me, so if he gets upset I'll take the blame.

_But his majesty can punish you, I don't want that to happen.

_That won't happen, my brother has never punished me even though I've been a bit rebellious, so I don't think he'll do it now.

Cassian took April's hand and said to her.

_Come on, I'll ask them to prepare a carriage, the port is incredible, I'm sure you'll like it.

In the end, April agreed to Cassian's insistence and hoped that everything would go well, that his majesty would not get angry with them for disobeying his orders.

57 An unexpected visit As they rode in the carriage April looked very restless, Cassian told her.

_Stop worrying, Lessan won't be angry with you.

_ Do they learn? _It's a nickname, I call him Lessan affectionately, my mother called him that.

_Nobody has ever given me a nickname, well, nobody has ever felt affection for me either.

_I love you.

Cassian replied as he stared at him.

_ Do you love me? _Yes, you are my friend, I love you as a friend, just as a friend.

_Then you will give me a nickname like your brother.

_If that's what you want.

_Yeah.

_Hum...

let me think of a good nickname for you.

Cassian thought for a moment and said.

_Aby, what do you think of that nickname? April smiled widely and replied.

_I love it.

_Then I'll call you that, Aby.

As they passed through the city Cassian drew the curtains and said to April.

_Aby, look out the window.

April felt something strange in her heart when Cassian called her by her nickname, she looked out the window, outside she could see a crowd of people walking back and forth visiting the shops, she stared at everything in amazement until she reached the port, Cassian got off first and helped April get out of the carriage.

In front of them were several ships, from a distance they had seemed small to April, but when she was so close she realized that it was not like that, those ships were huge.

Cassian was glad he had taken her to the port seeing her so happy and especially because they had become closer.

*** Alessandro was heading out in search of the pirates after organizing the soldiers when he saw a woman wearing a large white hat with red hair.

Without thinking, he approached her, he wanted to check that the woman was not his wife.

"It's impossible, I forbade him from doing it" When they got close enough, Alessandro saw that the woman was indeed his wife and the person accompanying her was his brother.

Alessandro shouted furiously.

_ What are you doing here? April was startled when she heard the stern tone in which Alessandro was speaking to them.

Cassian stepped between them and told her brother.

_Calm down, brother, I asked her to accompany me, she didn't want to come, but I persuaded her to accompany me, don't be angry with her.

_It's dangerous for them to be here, take her back.

April lowered her gaze, she knew she shouldn't have agreed to accompany Cassian, Alessandro looked furious, maybe he didn't even want to see her.

_I'm sorry, I shouldn't have disobeyed your majesty.

Alessandro saw that April was about to cry, apparently he had been too hard on her.

He tried to get a little closer to her, but Cassian didn't let him.

_Cassian steps aside.

_We will leave now.

Cassian took April's hand and said to her.

_Come on Aby, we better get back.

Alessandro grabbed Abril's hand and said.

_Hang on a minute.

_We're leaving now, brother.

_ It's hot, let's go inside for a moment to cool off before leaving, I don't want you to faint on the way.

_I'm fine.

April replied while trying to cover her face with her hat, Alessandro took it off and said to her.

_Your face is red, you don't seem well, let's go inside.

Cassian let go of April's hand under his brother's hard gaze that seemed to ask when he would let go of her hand.

He stayed a few steps behind as they headed inside a house near the port.

Upon arriving inside the house Alessandro asked a servant who was arranging some flowers to bring him some fresh drinks for his guests.

That servant stared at the king's hand holding that of a beautiful redhead, he knew that red hair was rare, that only the direct dependents of the Venobich family possessed it, he immediately

deduced who that woman was, she was the king's wife, he bowed his head and for a moment a slight smile appeared on his lips, Alessandro had walked past, however, April saw something sinister and terrifying in his smile.

She felt a chill run down her spine, it was as if he knew what was in her heart and it was nothing good.

Alessandro led them to a small room, Cassian sat on a brown sofa, Alessandro sat on the one in front of Cassian, Abril stood not knowing what to do, Alessandro took her hand and said to her.

_Sit down, you look tired.

April sat down next to him, she was moving her hands nervously like she used to do when she was really nervous.

Alessandro held her hands and said.

_I'm sorry, I didn't mean to scare you just now, I'm just really tired and this place isn't very safe right now.

_I understand.

That servant entered the room with a tray in his hands, offered them some lemonade and then got ready.

As he crossed the door he looked at the princess for a moment and then left, leaving them alone.

58 I will wait for your return April tasted the lemonade, it was fresh and sweet, she felt the heat fade a little, Alessandro moved a lock of hair that was coming out of her braid and placed it behind her ear and said.

_ Are you OK? _Yeah.

_It's so hot, your cheeks are still red.

Cassian seeing his brother flirting with April made him feel bad, he stood up and said to him.

_I'll go out for a moment, I'll be right back.

_Don't go too far away.

_Don't worry, I won't.

After Cassian left, Alessandro told April.

_I'm not upset that you came, I liked seeing you, but right now the port isn't a very safe place, I was thinking of showing it to you when I had everything sorted out.

_I'm sorry for not paying attention to what you said.

_No problem _I'll leave after drinking my lemonade, I'll wait for you to come back tonight.

_I promise to show you the port properly next time and we'll take another walk along the beach.

_That seems fine to me.

After April finished her lemonade she asked him.

_ Are you coming to dinner today? _Don't know.

Alessandro saw a shadow of sadness on the princess's face, he approached, gave her a soft kiss on the lips and said.

_But I'll try.

He kissed her again, his kiss was deeper, April wrapped her arms around his neck and enjoyed his kisses.

Alessandro hated the idea of having to leave, but he had to continue looking for the pirates, every day that passed was another day in which they kidnapped people to sell them as slaves.

As he separated his lips from hers, he said.

_If I don't get home by dinner time, wait up for me.

I'll try to get back early today.

_I will do so.

When Cassian returned the two had separated, April seemed more cheerful than before, he wondered if the two had made up.

Alessandro told Cassian.

_Go straight home, don't get distracted on the way.

Cassian had heard from some guards what the pirates were doing, that they were kidnapping people to make them slaves.

At that moment he realized that he had been very reckless to leave the mansion with April.

Don't worry, we'll do it that way and I'm sorry for coming, now I realize my foolishness.

_I didn't tell you anything about what was happening, so don't worry about it.

_Then we're leaving, good luck with your work.

Alessandro walked them to the carriage, before Abril got into the carriage Alessandro told her.

_I'll see you later.

As the carriage moved Cassian said to her.

_I'm sorry, my brother did get a little angry in the end.

_No, thank you for bringing me, even though it was just for a moment, I liked seeing your majesty.

_I see you get along better with Lessan.

April moved her hands nervously and answered.

_Yes, I think we've been getting along well lately.

_I hope everything remains the same for you.

_I wish this lasts a little longer.

As they began to move away from the port, April looked out the carriage window to see the landscape, when she saw a completely black carriage approaching them.

They stared at it for a moment, April said.

_There is a strange carriage approaching us.

Cassian looked out the window, seeing a completely black carriage with no windows he knew it was strange.

He shouted to the coachman.

_Hurry up, they're chasing us.

The coachman tightened the reins of the horses and said to them.

_Hold on tight.

The carriage rocked, April held on tightly to her seat and asked.

_ What's going on? _They are chasing us and I don't think it's for anything good.

Cassian drew his sword as he looked out the window, Cassian told him.

_Don't be afraid, I will protect you, I won't let them hurt you, I promise.

The coachman made the horses go as fast as they could, however, the carriage that was chasing them soon caught up with them and began shooting arrows at them, Cassian told April to crouch, he did the same.

The carriage soon stopped, the coachman had not been able to avoid the arrows as he was riding in front.

The carriage door swung open and several disheveled men entered, Cassian killed the nearest one preventing them from reaching April, she was on the ground screaming and crying.

_Please stop.

As April cried non-stop Cassian used his magic, roots came out of the ground, trapping his attackers, for a moment it seemed that everything would turn out well, that they would win, however, the others threw some jars to the ground and a strange smoke began to come out, Cassian knew what that smoke was, he covered his mouth with the sleeve of his shirt and said to April, don't breathe, this smoke is not good.

April held her breath for a moment, but then she felt hands grab her and began to scream.

_ Let me go.

Cassian couldn't use his magic because because of the smoke he couldn't see anything, nor could he use his magic.

He couldn't hold his breath anymore and ended up breathing that smoke, his vision became blurry and his whole body began to paralyze.

He tried to grab April, however, he couldn't, the smoke He fainted, Cassian watched helplessly as April was taken away and loaded into a completely black carriage.

He could see a familiar face, it was the servant who had brought them the lemonade.

After that, Cassian fainted, and April also fainted, not knowing what was happening or why they were capturing her.

59 Save me After putting the princess into the carriage, Saren, a tall, dark-skinned man who was shirtless, approached Nil, one of the pirates who was working in the royal guard barracks as a servant, to obtain information and said to her.

_It might be dangerous for you to return to the marine guard barracks, it would be better if you came with us.

_Yeah.

_I was really surprised to hear that the king's wife had gone to the port, this will be our insurance, the captain will be very pleased to see the loot we have obtained.

_It's not every day that you catch someone so important, the daughter of King Venobich and the beloved wife of King Cosset.

"And what do we do with the prince?" Saren glanced at him and said.

_Leave him alone, he will carry the good news to the king.

_ Are you sure? Wouldn't it be better to kill him? _No, there must be a witness to carry the message that the king's wife has been kidnapped and we have killed the coachman, so leave it and let's go.

Several pirates climbed into the carriage and others went into the forest where they had their horses to return to their hiding place.

*** When Cassian woke up he desperately looked for April with his eyes, but she was nowhere to be found.

He got out of the carriage and tried to go out to look for her, but his legs were still affected and so was his head, he could barely stand up.

He looked for the horses, untied one of them and got on.

As best he could, he returned to the port and desperately looked for Alessandro.

He was boarding a boat at that moment, he screamed at the top of his lungs.

_Alessandro.

Alessandro came back, Cassian didn't look well, he had a bad feeling, he ran to his side and asked him.

_ Are you okay? Where is April? _They took her away.

_ Who is it? _I don't know, a group of men attacked us, they were in a black carriage, they used smoke to immobilize me, before I fainted I could see the servant who brought us the lemonade.

_ That? _I'm sorry Lessan, I couldn't protect her, I'm sorry.

After saying that Cassian fell unconscious to the ground.

_Cassian, wake up.

Alessandro shook him, he asked some guards to take him back to the mansion and went to look for Abril for some clue that could help him find her.

He searched everything thoroughly and found something that gave him an idea of who had taken his wife.

The jars on the floor were the same ones that had been found on the ships that the pirates had attacked.

_ damn Alessandro exclaimed, the pirates had taken his wife, He remembered that Cassian had told him that the servant who had attended them was with the pirates, at that moment he returned to the port and looked for him everywhere, however, he could not find him, he seemed to have completely disappeared.

*** When April opened her eyes she found herself in a strange place, it was a dirty cell with a wooden floor, April was tied hand and foot, she tried to break free but all she managed to do was hurt herself.

Her wrists burned and began to bleed.

April began to cry, she was scared and in pain, all she wanted was for Alessandro to come and rescue her and to be able to take refuge in his arms.

April heard the footsteps of a person approaching, the sound of wood with each step he took.

She became even more scared, she was so scared that she began to tremble and between murmurs she called Alessandro over and over again, begging him to come and save her.

A tall, terrifying-looking man, with several scars across his face, April screamed in terror and said to him.

_Please don't hurt me, I beg you.

That man came a little closer to her, April tried to get away from that terrifying man, however it was impossible, that man caressed her face and said to her.

_Hello beautiful, how are you? _Let me go.

_I can't, I won't let you go, you are the king's wife, I'm sure I will get something good from you.

_His majesty will come to rescue me.

_I'm counting on it, darling, so I can kill him and get rid of that damn king who keeps getting in my way.

_You won't be able to defeat him, my father couldn't defeat him, you will never defeat him, he will rescue me.

That man laughed loudly and said to him.

_I hope you really are as valuable as you think you are.

That man began to walk away and April began to cry, she said through tears.

_Come save me Lessan, you promised we would see each other tonight, you promised.

60 The comparison Alessandro mobilized the entire guard to look for the pirates, they must have April in their hiding place, but when the day began to end they still hadn't found them, Alessandro decided to use his magic to find them, until now he hadn't done so because to do so he would have to use too much magic at once and it would leave him weak for a few days, but that was a desperate situation, April must have been scared and who knows what they planned to do with her.

Alessandro channeled all his energy, called the winds and joined them, looking for April, everywhere, as he was using so much magic suddenly he began to feel dizzy, he was using Too

much magic at once, but he still hadn't found it, he couldn't stop, he dug a little deeper, he could hear thousands of distant sounds at the same time, he searched for April's voice among all the sounds until he found it.

April was crying and begging him to save her, that she was very scared.

That broke his heart, he wanted to take care of her, be there with her, put his arms around her and tell her that everything would be okay, that he would go save her, with his magic he made his voice reach her, it was barely a whisper, but April could hear it.

_I'll go save you, I'll be with you soon.

Alessandro was able to find the place where they had her locked up, it was a ship hidden in the depths of a sea cave, that was why they had not been able to find the ship, if he had not used his magic he could not have found them either.

Alessandro could not take it anymore, he had completely exhausted his magic, he fell to his knees, one of the guards approached him and helped him stand up, the king asked him to take him to the barracks, he needed to rest a little before going for April, he had to go alone with his knights since he did not know if there were more spies among the marine guard.

While he was resting he called his knights, when they were all gathered they went to the port, when they met with the king, Alessandro saw his brother among the knights.

_ What are you doing here Cassian? _I'm also a gentleman brother, I know I'm not in my best shape, but I'm still useful, let me accompany you.

Alessandro had completely emptied his magic when looking for April, in the fight he was not going to be able to use his magic, he could only use his sword, despite the injury to his leg Cassian still had a great amount of magic power, although he did not like the idea of his brother accompanying him, he needed him if he wanted to save April so he agreed to let him accompany them.

_Okay, but be very careful.

_ Where are they? _ I'll tell you when we arrive, I don't want them to be put on notice, I don't know how many spies the pirates had infiltrated.

_I agree with you.

_ Come on, let's not waste any more time.

Alessandro got on his horse, Cassian and the rest of the knights did the same and followed him to a cliff, Cassian saw nothing on that cliff, not a small cabin or a place to hide, he asked.

_ What are we doing here Lessan? _The pirates are the ones who kidnapped April, she is here, they have her locked in a boat in a cave on this cliff.

Cassian looked over the cliff, it was too high and steep to descend.

_How will we get down? _ Can you use your magic to bring us down? _Of course, but I think it would be better if you do it with your wind magic.

_I can't, I exhausted my magic looking for the pirates' hideout, so you'll have to do it.

_I will do it, although the descent will be a bit bumpy.

Cassian used his magic to make roots emerge from the ground that wrapped around the waist of each of the knights, Cassian walked to the edge of the cliff and said.

_Let's go.

They all began to descend the cliff with Cassian's help, when they reached the end they saw a large cave, Alessandro told them.

_The pirates are at the bottom of the cave, Cassian, could you make a boat with your magic?

_Yes, no problem.

Cassian used a branch and made it grow and tangle together until it became a boat big enough to fit ten people.

Upon entering the cave everything was dark and completely silent, it seemed like there was nothing in that place, however, at the end of the cave they saw light, they stuck as close to the wall as they could, they got off on a small ledge, they approached stealthily, the cave was illuminated by several oil lamps that were hanging throughout the cave, but there was no one, that place seemed to be completely devastated, there was only the boat at the bottom of the cave.

cave.

Alessandro went ahead and told the knights to be careful, all the pirates must be inside the ship.

They unsheathed their swords and boarded the ship.

There was no one on deck.

This seemed very strange to Alessandro.

It had to be a trap, but he couldn't abandon Abril, so he was going to have to take the risk and continue.

_Keep your eyes open, this could be a trap.

They all nodded and continued cautiously behind the king.

Alessandro went down to the cell where April was being held.

She was in a corner crying, shaking with fear, she seemed more affected than when he had seen her with his magic.

Alessandro's blood boiled with anger.

He would kill all of those pirates, cut off their hands and feet, and then hang their bodies for the crows to eat.

Alessandro approached the cell, Abril was curled up with her hands and feet tied, upon hearing the sound of footsteps she looked up, there was terror in her eyes, then she saw Alessandro, he opened the cell breaking the chain, approached her and asked her.

_ Are you okay? Are you hurt? What did those bastards do to you? April began to shed tears of relief, Alessandro untied the ropes from her hands and feet, April hugged him and said.

_You came.

_Of course we did, we had a promise remember, we would be together tonight.

Alessandro returned the hug and said.

_Don't cry, I'm here, I won't let anything bad happen to you, you're safe.

A hoarse voice was heard saying.

_I don't think that's the case, your majesty, this is just beginning.

Everyone turned around, a tall, scary man with a scarred face was standing by the door.

_ Are you the chief of the pirates? _I'm not your boss, I'm your captain, Narrei calls me, it's a great honor to have your majesty on my ship.

Alessandro ordered the knights to attack, but they could not touch him, there was an invisible wall that did not allow them to advance.

Alessandro knew what it was, a wall of wind.

_You are a wind magician.

_That's right, that's why I knew his majesty would come, I could feel his magic, the truth is I didn't think he would fall into my trap, but he was so worried about his wife that he didn't even notice my presence.

_I'm going to kill you, you fucking bastard, I'll make you regret having touched my wife.

_I don't think that will happen, his majesty has exhausted his magic and now you are my prisoners.