

Hellbound Heart #Chapter 81 -90

Raven quickly stepped in to block Elle before she could reach out and touch the wolf.

"Princess, is this... wolf really your pet?" the man questioned. Though his tone was respectful, with the slow way he had asked the question and his awkward looking face, Elle could tell that he was totally doubting his own question.

Elle could very clearly see the doubt and firm alertness reflected in his eyes. "Do you think I'm a fool to ask you guys to bring me a dangerous animal right here into my room if that isn't my pet?" She held his eyes with such fierceness that Raven had been unable to say whatever it was that was about to come out of his mouth.

Then he eventually gave in, bowed his head a little and stepped aside, making way for Elle to approach the wolf.

However, Elle did not move closer to the animal anymore and instead, gave out an order. "Have him brought into my room."

Raven and Rion's eyes widened in shock at her words. But Elle ignored them and acted as though she did not see their skeptical expressions.

Turning, she began to walk back towards the bedroom and pushed the large double doors opened by herself.

"Well... It's better than having her coming out of her room to see her pet, right?" Rion whispered to Raven. But the big man was still pretty unconvinced that placing a wolf inside the room with the princess still there was a good idea at all!

"Hurry." The princess' voice echoed and the duo looked at her as she stood there at the entrance to the bedroom. Her gaze was daring them to just listen to her and do what she wished.

"If we lose our head for this, I'll haunt you forever in hell, Rion." Raven hissed as he finally moved to carry the huge cage into the room as the princess had ordered.

,m Rion gave a nervous laugh as he helped him carry the cage. "I'll pray to god I'll go to heaven then. Haha." His reply was met with a sharp glare from Raven who was currently opposite him from the cage.

By the time the duo put the cage down by the window, Elle faced Rion and stretched out her hand to him. "Where's the key to the cage?"

"Here, Princess." Rion pulled out the key from his back pocket and held it by the ring it was attached to.

Elle quickly snatched the dangling key from Rion's fingers. She had noticed how Raven looked utterly frustrated when Rion brought the key out of his pocket. It was obvious that the man was not planning on handing her the key, but Rion had unknowingly messed up his plan.

"Thank you. You both may now leave." Elle quickly shooed them off.

As soon as the door was closed behind them, Raven turned to Rion with a deadly gaze. "Are you an idiot?! You should've told her that you did not have the bloody key!"

"You seriously want me to lie to her?" Rion asked in a flat tone, one brow arching.

"What if something bad happens if she let that damned wolf out?!"

"Ah... stop being a worrywart. I don't think the princess is foolish enough to risk herself. If Snow White really isn't her pet, I don't think she'd be brave enough to even have such a huge animal brought into her bedroom. Do you think the princess is looking to harm or kill herself?"

Raven shut his eyes closed and let out a deep breath. His hands were braced on his waist as he tried to calm himself. "I don't know but, I don't think this is something you should be taking lightly. That's a wolf for goodness sakes!"

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Inside the room, Elle was still leaning against the door. Her eyes were set on the white wolf in the big cage settled there.

She was nervous now. Of course. There was a huge wolf right there now, inside her room. Though it was really beautiful, it kind of reminded her of Sebastian. Beautiful but – there was always a 'but' – most definitely dangerous. This beautiful creature could hurt her.

The only reason she was brave enough to dare have the wolf inside her room was the fact that she was not feeling a fear strong enough to make her change her mind. Again, very much like her feelings towards Sebastian during the first time she had met him. Knowing and feeling that he was dangerous and yet feeling the right fear... it was enough for her to take a chance. Of course, she still needed to be wary and careful.

Her plan was to have the wolf in her bedroom and not let it out until Sebastian comes home. She needed him back as soon as possible and have him explain all those confusing matters to her. Snow White was a solution she had thought of because she had seen how Sebastian had refused to let her touch him that time in the forest.

If he hears that Snow White had been brought into her room, he might rush back, right? Well, she was not too sure about that, but he might really rush home as long as she

manages to not let anyone take the wolf out unless it was Sebastian who will come himself.

For now, though... she thought she could start by befriending the wolf? She honestly wanted to. She had been dying to have a pet since she was young. And now, here was her chance. But could such a wild animal even be tamed?

That snow-white fur of it held Elle's attention and an urge to go and touch it rose within her.

So, she approached, carefully and slowly. Once she squatted near it, and it was the bars that were the only thing separating them, Elle whispered. "H-hello baby boy... can I touch you?"

The animal did not move. It just sat there looking up the moon through the windows as his back was facing Elle.

Elle stared at its furry white tail almost sticking out of the cage. Lifting her hand, Elle reached out to touch it.

A/N: If you can, please consider buying privilege even if it's just the first tier that cost 1 coin only. I am joining win-win this month. Hoping for your support hellbounders.

tysm guys. <3

The dog stilled at her touch. Elle had plucked up her courage and extended her hand to touch that extremely tempting furry white tail, only to realize how wooly and fuzzy it felt under her hands.

Elle held her breath. She thought that it was going to turn around and snarl at her for being so forward in touching it. But surprisingly, it did not. It did not even make a single move or sound. So, Elle carefully stroked its tail bushy again, using gentle and feather light movements. Still, the wolf did not even react.

Somehow, its lack of reaction to her touch made Elle relax a little. She was really glad that it was not reacting violently. Or was it because of his injury? That must be it, right?

"Hey... Snow White, baby?" she was suddenly baby talking, doing here very best to make the dog feel at ease, as she continued the gentle strokes on its fur. "I'm sorry I had to drag you over here even while you are recuperating. But don't worry, I promise you'll be safe here with me."

Still, no reaction from the huge ball of white fur. Elle creased her brows and wondered if wild wolves were this well behaved and cool creatures? Absolutely not, right? Could he

still be in pain? Or did he not like his name? But Snow White suits him really well! He was literally the most beautiful dog... or wolf she had ever seen!

A soft sigh escaped her lips as she leaned sideways against the cage's bars.

Somehow, seeing this beautiful creature being held captive inside the cage made her feel sad and melancholic. Maybe, this was why he was not giving her any responses despite her touching and stroking his fur. Having been caged like a prisoner must have made him feel remorseful or something.

"I'm actually being caged too, just like you..." she started speaking in a sad tone, leaning her head against the bars of the cage. Her hand still rubbing the wolf's fur as though she was trying to soothe him.

"I don't know why I'm even suddenly being confined in my own room like this. I'm sure there must be a reason for doing so. But... I really want to... to punch Sebastian right in the face now, and lord... I want to tie him down and imprison him here too. He has got to understand what it's like to be treated like this!!! Right?" Her eyes turned a little fierce at the idea that came to her mind. And then she suddenly imagined him being tied securely to a chair, not being able to go anywhere.

At first, the image of him in her head had her smiling a little evilly, but then that imaginary Sebastian said something like 'I hope you're ready to be punished for this, Izabelle'. She then blushed and bit down on her lower lip, immediately scolding herself for allowing even the imagination of him to lure this kind of reaction from her. Lord... she hated how easy it was for her to be distracted and affected by him!

"Well anyway, once he's back, I promise I'll make sure that everything will be fine. And then, the both of us will finally get out of our cages. Just hang in there, okay?" She smiled at the wolf who had yet to even turn around or look at her.

Though her words were filled with optimism, deep within her, she knew it would not be that easy to ensure that everything would be fine. Whatever it was that was going on, Elle felt a little uneasy. She was angry with Sebastian for doing this and she swore never to just forgive him so easily. She had already practiced the words she had wanted to say to him the moment he stepped through that door, but... but she somehow could not rid herself of that fear which was spiraling around in her heart. As though that there was something serious that had happened, and that he might enter through the doors angry and scare her again.

If that happens, would she be able to do or say anything? She honestly doubted she would be able to speak, much less ask him what the matter was. She would most probably be totally tongue-tied and felt like she was being strangled while just looking at him. Lord, she wished that she was like those people who could burst out and give a lashing of words whenever they get upset or agitated. She hated that whenever she

was hurt and angry, speaking would turn out to be so hard that if she even tried to force it out, she might end up crying or stuttering like a broken radio.

Elle did not know when she even fell asleep last night, but the next time that she came to, she had already found herself asleep on her bed. Wait... she did not remember herself climbing back onto the bed last night. She should have had fallen asleep right where she was seated, leaning against Snow White's cage. Though it was rare of her to fall asleep just anywhere, last night was... she was quite sure she had not tucked herself back into bed. Did Rion or Raven enter her room and carried her back to her bed after seeing her leaning against the cage?

But the guards would never enter unless she opened the door for them but. Creasing her brows, Elle looked at the white big bundle inside the cage. Snow White was sleeping in a curled-up position. Perhaps... Rion had peeked in to check on the wolf and saw her sleeping next to the cage. So he decided to tuck her back into bed? That should be what happened, right?

Hearing a soft knock, her head whipped towards the door. Was Sebastian finally home?!

Elle jumped down from her bed and immediately rushed towards the door that was currently being pushed opened.

This bonus chapter is dedicated to @MonsterUnderTheBed! Thank you so very much for the supergift!!!

Disappointment washed over Elle when she lifted her eyes and saw that it was not Sebastian who stood by the door. She had thought that Rion was going to inform her that her husband was about to reach home, as she knew it was still too early for Lorna to come knocking on her door to bring her her meal, but she was wrong on that count too.

"I think the wolf needs to get some time to go walk, princess. We can't have your room get... you know... dirty..." Rion explained the reason why he was there. "We'll also feed him –"

"I want to go on a walk too." Elle cut him off as she said that stubbornly. "I too, need to have some movement after being cooped up in this room for the entire day, not doing anything. I have already missed my daily exercise for a couple of days now. I can't miss it again today as well, especially since all that I've done for the past two days was to sit, eat and lie about in bed." She complained.

Rion rubbed the back of his neck, truly feeling sorry for the princess but knowing that he could not do anything about it. "I'm sorry princess –"

"This is important for my health. You do understand that I need to stay fit and healthy as well, right?" Elle challenged him, putting on the pressure.

"But if I grant you your request, I might lose my head, princess." Rion looked at her so helplessly. His green eyes pleading with her. He was even pouting slightly to make his look believable.

In the end, Elle could not convince the men. She had also held back, knowing that they could really get into trouble and be punished hard if they dared to disobey their master.

As she was left in the room by herself, Elle could only clench her fists in frustration. It was not working out as smoothly as she had hoped it would. Was it because Snow White was still left in the cage?

The heavy feeling in her chest continued to grow as the hours passed by. Sitting there in the room was just so boring to her, more so that her devices were not accessible to her. She felt as though she was about to go crazy! She must take on a more drastic action if she wanted to see any results.

And that afternoon, Elle approached Snow White's cage and reached out to touch the wolf's fur again.

"Do you want to get out of the cage?" she asked it fondly, but there was still a light hint of nervousness coloring her voice.

The animal's ear stood at attention, and he looked at her, but only sideways. His beautiful sapphire blue eyes stared at her, as though it truly understood what she was trying to say. It was... breathtaking.

Slowly, the wolf turned around to face her, straight on.

Her heartbeat hastened as this was the first time the wolf had set his full attention on her. He had completely ignored her since he had been brought into her room last night. It seemed... like he badly wanted to get out of the cage too... just like her.

"If... if you'll be a good boy, I'll let you come out of the cage. How about that?" she said in a coaxing voice. Suddenly, the wolf bent his head down against the cage. It was as if he was asking her to pet him.

Elle was awed and shocked at the same time. Awed that such a mighty beast would even bow its massive head to her, and shocked that it seemed to have such an intelligence! She had thought of getting the wolf out due to her anger and disappointment that her plan was not working. Despite knowing that it was too risky, she thought that it might be the only way for her to force Sebastian to come home and meet her.

She was not planning to have him bite her or something but, she would be crazy to want that to happen. But if she could have him out, maybe Sebastian would think she was putting herself at risk and might come back to scold her or remove Snow White from her room himself. Because she had planned to never let the guards remove Snow White unless it was Sebastian who will come to talk to her himself.

Taking a deep breath, Elle lifted her hand again. She was nervous but the nervousness was not enough to scare her. When her hand landed on the wolf's big head and start to pet it, it squinted its eyes until it was almost closed.

Elle's eyes widened in surprise, but she still did not dare to drop her guard down. She needed to test the waters first.

But Snow White did not react violently. He was doing the opposite in fact. He was so docile. So well behaved. And he seemed to like that she was petting him. Was this... normal? For a wild animal to let someone pet him like this? Was it normal for an animal like this to get easily attached to someone? Was it because he thinks that she was the one who had saved him days ago?

Time ticked by and Elle found herself enjoying what she was doing. She had wanted to pet him since last night itself, and now here she was, already really doing it! This was a huge sign that Snow White liked her right? He would not harm her if she let him out, right?

"Good boy..." she uttered, smiling. She even eventually snuck her other hand inside the cage to pat his fur.

After another long while, Elle had decided to take the leap. She looked at the leash and the dog muzzle in the basket Rion had used on him when they took him out earlier.

"Alright... let's put this on you, first, okay? If you remain a good boy while going around my room, I'll take this off too."

Elle struggled a little to put the muzzle on him as she was still incredibly wary and cautious in handling Snow White. However, after this, Elle's confidence that Snow White would not attack her had only risen. Because if he was truly a vicious animal and wanted to bite her or attack her, he would have done it already and would have bitten her hand. r

"You're such a good baby boy, aren't you?" She praised and finally, Elle took the key that was hanging on the cage's door and inserted it into the keyhole. The door to the cage was finally unlocked! r

This bonus chapter is dedicated to @Sacogun! Thank you once again for the supergift!!!

As soon as she pulled opened the cage door, Elle turned and ran towards the main door and held onto the door handle. Just in case Snow White might want to attack her, she would just be one move away to go out and have Rion and Raven help her to put the wolf back inside its cage.

Standing there with fingers tightly wrapped around the doorknob and knuckles already turning white, Elle was holding her breath as she watched what Snow White would do as he looked at the cage door swing open.

But he simply stood inside its cage, looking at her as though it was asking her what she wanted it to do.

Elle somehow felt bad of her mistrust towards the poor animal. So, she squatted down by the door and stretched one of her hands out. "Come here, baby..." she called. And surprisingly, the wolf moved, finally stepping out of its cage.

Slowly, it approached to where Elle was crouched.

She could hear her heartbeats drumming up a wild rhythm in her ears with every step that Snow White took. Still, whatever she was feeling was still not enough to send warning bells ringing in her head. She had yet to feel her guts screaming at her to 'run'.

Soon, snow White reached her and the first thing it did was to sit right before her.

Elle released her breath and laughed quietly. Relief and gladness washed through her as she reached out her free hand and petted the wolf. Oh dear... how lucky was she that this wolf was so docile and good? What a good wolf it was!

"Such a good boy..." she smiled from ear to ear, her nervousness was quickly evaporating. She could not believe at how easy it was!!! This was such a rare case, right?

Time passed and Elle did not even realize how easily she had dropped her guard down against Snow White. She had decided that Snow White's behavior towards her must surely be because he had already seen her as his savior. She knew that animals do remember the good someone had done to them. This was the thought that had made Elle relaxed and did not think too much about the reason why Snow White was easily tamed like this.

"Oh g-g-good heavens!!!" Lorna who had pushed the door opened to bring in the princess' dinner shut the door again and exclaimed. The middle-aged woman was clutching at the clothes on her chest as though she was going to have a heart attack.

"What happened?" Rion and Raven both shouted and rushed to the door.

"The wolf! Th-the wolf is out of his cage!!! And the princess is... she's cuddling with him!!!" Lorna stammered as she explained the situation that she had seen in that short while she had opened the door.

Rion and Raven had their eyes widening before rushing inside the room, startling both Elle and Snow White who had adjourned to the couch. The wolf's head was currently lying in Elle's lap while the princess was calmly reading a book.

Snow White lifted its head and snarled towards Raven and Rion who had taken a step towards them.

"It's fine, Snow." Elle said, petting the wolf's head as she looked at the guards' shocked faces. They looked like their souls were about to leave their bodies.

"P-p-princess! Why did you let the wolf out of its cage?" Rion asked, looking like he was about to cry.

Elle lifted her brow at them. "Why can't I? He's my pet and he's such a good boy." Her voice was full of pride for Snow White as he was being such a good and well-behaved pet.

Raven pinched the skin between his brows in exasperation as he witnessed how the princess was going on with the wolf.

"Can't you guys see how behaved he is? So, there is no need to panic. Go back to your posts." Elle shoed them away when the Lorna entered with Elle's food.

"Then I'll walk him first, while you eat." Raven later said and Elle could only give in, realizing that it was also time for Snow White to eat.

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That night Elle again waited for Sebastian to return while cuddling with Snow White on the couch. But again, Sebastian did not arrive.

The next day came and still there were no signs of him coming home.

Soon, the fifth day came and then it was night again. Elle stood by the window staring up at the dark sky. Her fists were clenched so tightly that her knuckles had turned bone white.

Her eyes were filled with so many intense emotions. Mostly, anger, and a tinge of... hatred. She looked like she was barely hanging on.

The wolf approached her and sat down next to her. Elle naturally reached out and pet the wolf that she had come to love within a few days tenderly. Without Snow White, she would not even know how she would be faring right now.

Still... this was getting too much for her to bear. She just could not take it anymore.

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Outside the door, Rion sighed. "The princess didn't eat much again. I hope she's not feeding her food to her pet. When will Prince Sebastian return? I don't think he should make the princess wait any longer than this. Why don't we call him back?"

Raven sighed as well, leaning against the wall. "Did you forget that he had ordered us to only call him if there's an emergency? He even emphasized that we can only call him if something that concerns the princess' safety goes wrong and if she feels any pain again."

"I know, but... I think he will regret it if he doesn't come home soon. The princess hadn't talk to any of us, and even to Lorna since yesterday. Not even a single word, Raven! Who knows what's going on in her head right now? I really think it's time to call him. Come on Raven... I'll make the call."

Raven stared at him but eventually, the man gave in. He too, was worried for the princess. "Fine. Do it then."

Rion did not waste a moment longer and took his phone out.

On the first ring, the prince answered it. "What happened?" Sebastian instantly asked.

"Uhm... Your Highness."

"Get to the point! Did something happen? Is my wife alright?!"

"Err... she's fine, Your Highness. Nothing happened actually."

Silence reigned for a moment. "Didn't I tell you to –"

A howl suddenly echoed.

"That howl..." Sebastian's voice rang out from the receiver.

"Ah... that's Snow White. The princess must have asked him to howl like the other day _"

"You've let her out of her room?" Sebastian's voice suddenly turned threatening.

"No. No. No. we would never go against your order, Your Highness!"

"Then why...??"

"She was the one who ordered us to bring the wolf into her room. And now –"

"What? The wolf is... In. Her. Room?!" Sebastian growled out menacingly.

"Uhm... well, yes, Your Highness. The princess insisted to have it in her room so we could do nothing but grant her wish. But don't worry because... Your Highness? Hello? Hello??" Rion looked down at his phone only to see that the call had already been disconnected.

Rion slowly turned to Raven. "There's no way the prince is heading back here now because of this... right, Raven? Should we go alert Her Highness?"

"She's already asleep."

"But... His Highness seemed angry."

"Well, Her Highness is definitely angry too."

"So you're saying let's just prepare for an upcoming war between the couple."

"It's not like we have a choice." Raven sighed. "I don't think the princess will ever let us take the wolf away now. She's very stubborn, you know that."

"Right." Rion nodded in approval. "And I feel like this is what the princess want to happen, anyway... For His Highness to rush back home."

"Let's just hope heads won't roll once he's back."

"Haha. I'll just go hide behind the princess if he comes for my head. Easy escape." Rion smugly said.

"You think the princess can save your ass?"

Rion smirked, looking so confident with himself. "You underestimate the power of the crown princess, bro."

A/N: Last day of voting for this month guys. Let's finish at top 2 in Golden ranking this month hellbounders! ^^

Elle could not sleep. Her mind had been busier than ever. Plans on how to escape had been crossing her mind, since the night before, one popping up before she discarded it and another popped up. She could not help it. Fear and uncertainties started clouding her heart, gripping her entire being. She was scared to death that she was going to be imprisoned here for a long time to come. Because from the way things were progressing, it did not seem that Sebastian was willing to come back and see her, much less talk to her. r

No matter how much she tried to tell herself that Sebastian was not Brandon Haze or her father, she still could not help but have the fear that perhaps something had happened which led Sebastian to come to that decision to imprison her. She feared that he might not be planning to let her out anytime soon. r

Burying her face into her pillow, Elle forced herself to get some sleep. But time seemed to tick by, and she was still wide awake. r

Suddenly sitting up, Elle turned her gaze to Snow White. Her lovely companion opened his dazzling blue eyes and stared up at her from his curled-up and obviously comfy position on the couch. She had long removed the muzzle basket and he had been sleeping on her couch for the past few nights now. r

"Come here, Snow." She called to him in a low voice, making waving gestures to him before stretching her arms wide towards the white wolf. r

He blinked and then reluctantly climbed off the couch before padding soundlessly over to where she was. r

p "Here, baby. Come here." She coaxed her big pet. Well, she had declared a few days ago that Snow White was now officially her beloved pet. He had been so well behaved, and he had also been her therapeutic companion while she was stuck in this ridiculous situation. r

Slowly, Snow White came closer to her bed. He sat next to her, looking up at Elle questioningly. r

"I'm sorry I disturbed your sleep. I was having a hard time falling asleep. So I thought... maybe cuddling you might help?" She said mischievously before giggling softly as she scooted a little to the other side of the bed. r

Patting on the empty side of the bed, Elle looked at Snow White expectantly. "Now come up here and sleep next to me." She stressed her point by patting on the spot a couple more times before smiling at the wolf.r

Again, the wolf only blinked and stared at her, causing Elle to burst out in a quick laugh. She found that Snow White's reactions were really just too human-like at times. "Hey, why do you look so hesitant? Don't look at me like I'm going to eat you up. Now come

here, quick, Snow." She tapped on the mattress, insisting even as the wolf seemed to really want to go back to his previous comfy spot. Oh dear, did he really not want to sleep next to me? Why though... he had been so obedient to me these whole time... could it be because the bed is too warm for him? r

Elle pouted. "You really don't want to sleep next to me? You hurt my feelings, Snow." She made her voice sound hurt and managed to make her eyes water to look more pitiful. r

The dog suddenly moved from his initially motionless position. Elle thought that he was going to go back to his favorite couch. But to her surprise, it had climbed up to her bed, making her smile again. "Aww... you're really the best. Love you, Snow. Thank you!" She squealed excitedly as she lunged over and hugged the big furry animal. It was truly magical as to how she somehow ended up having such an amazing pet in such a short time. It was still honestly a little hard for her to believe even now, as she hugged the wolf that was quietly sprawled on the bed, next to her. r

...r

It was nearly dawn when Rion and Raven stood in full alert at their post. This presence approaching them was none other than their prince! Even when they could not yet see him, the aura he was emitting was heavy enough to scare them!r

The moment they turned their heads, Sebastian was already upon them. His steps were quiet, and his movements were graceful as always. But the air around him was again, suffocating. Oh sh*t! It seemed that he was angrier than they had even imagined!r

Rion glanced at Raven. He could not help but feel worried about the princess now because he had not seen the prince this angry before. He used to always stay calm no matter what happened. But tonight, he seemed to be on edge and could not seem to control his emotions! r

"Y-your Highness." Rion stepped forward to greet him, but Sebastian just walked pass him. r

"Prepare yourselves." Was all Sebastian said, his grey eyes gleaming in the dark as he stood by the door. r

The two guards were visibly troubled as they were expecting the prince to just barge into the room and the poor princess would have to suffer his wrath. But the prince just shut his eyes and took a deep breath as he held the door now. r

Rion glanced at Raven again. It was clear that the prince was trying to calm himself. r

Once Sebastian opened his eyes, they saw the usual calmness in them and then he quietly pushed the door opened. r

The sound of the door being pushed slowly and quietly did not wake Elle up. But not Snow White. The wolf's sapphire blue eyes opened in the darkness. However, it did not move at all. He just remained docile as he laid there with his back facing the princess while the princess' arms were wrapped contentedly around him. r

A/N: It seems there will be mini mass release tomorrow, thanks to the latest 2 supergifts! I wasn't expecting it and thought we couldn't reach the goal this month. Thank you so much guys!!! T^T

Will be giving the mini mass release tomorrow and then the bunos chaps comes next. (There's still one hour before reset but i'll think positive. ^^)

Once again, thank you so much Hellbounders! Love you guys!

A/N: This mini mass release is dedicated to all my loyal readers who casted their golden tickets on this book and also to all the gifters and supergifters who gave additional GT's to reach our goal last month. With all my heart, I thank you all for your love and support! <3

The sight of his wife hugging a big white dog in their bed had Sebastian freezing in his steps and stood standing by the door, as still as a statue.

It took him a long while before his shocked expression finally unfroze and changed into something else... deep and heavy, utter jealousy. His face turned few shades darker, and his eyes glittered dangerously in the dark.

The small muscles on his face ticked as the air around turned unbearably heavy. But he once again took a deep breath, shut his eyes and clenched his fist tightly. It could be seen that his whole frame was even trembling slightly with the effort of him trying to suppress his anger. Once he opened his eyes again, whatever dark emotions that had been swirling in his eyes seemed to have been successfully controlled.

Quietly, he walked over to the bed with quiet and measured steps. His body remained a little tense as he walked around and stood next to the big white wolf that had dared to take his place on their bed.

When he stared at his wife and saw how comfortable Izabelle was as she snuggled herself against the wolf's furry back, Sebastian felt his dark emotions churn up again and almost blew up. His effort to keep his self-control at bay had been easily shattered. He just could not help it. This feeling he was having right now was just too strong for him to fully control. He knew it's insane and it's infuriating him how he had suddenly become such an emotional beast.

His eyes moved back to stare at the wolf that still remained docile beside his wife and even had its eyes closed again. That reaction from the wolf had Sebastian's face turned even darker. How dare this big fucking ball of white fur ignore him?

"Get. Off. Our. Bed." Sebastian hissed with so much effort, barely holding back from not just grabbing the wolf and throwing him out of their bed. His eyes that were currently staring down at the wolf was as deadly as could be.

The wolf opened his eyes again. His eyeballs moved and met Sebastian's infuriated gaze. Thankfully, the creature seemed intelligent enough not to provoke the raging beast of a man next to him.

But the moment the wolf lifted its head, Elle's arms that were wrapped around Snow White tightened. She even moaned softly as she held onto him tighter, as if afraid to let go, not wanting her furry and warm living pillow to run off somewhere.

That sight had Sebastian turning into a shocked statue once again. He looked as though he could not quite believe what he had just seen. He could not accept what had just happened.

His jaws worked even as his hands reached out. But just as he was about to violently grab Elle's arm, he stopped midway and clenched his fist so tight that his knuckles even turned white and made a cracking sound. Then after he slowly unclenched his fist, he then carefully reached out and gently curled his fingers around Elle's soft and small wrist. He just f**king needed to get her off this annoying wolf or he would go f**king crazy!!!

Just as Sebastian attempted to lift Elle's hand, the girl frowned and made a whining sound. She snatched back her arm from Sebastian's loose grip and burrowed herself into the wolf's fur and even hugged the wolf again. This time, even tighter.

Sebastian's hand trembled a little before he clenched them while holding it midair.

"You had better let go of this f**king wolf or I'll strangle him to death, Izabelle." He whispered in a tight voice. "I swear that if you don't, I'll gladly kill it immediately." He continued his threats.

She frowned again but did not even wake up. Instead, she lifted her leg and draped it over the wolf, as though she was hugging a bolster. It was also as if to block any possibility for it to be taken away from her.

Sebastian felt so frustrated. He had never felt this kind of maddening frustration before. He truly wanted to grab the wolf by force right now, without any care of what happens next. But part of him was still hesitating to go ahead with what he knew were his rash actions. The mere thought of her getting shocked or startled or the possibility that she might even get distressed because of his actions was enough to hold him back. And all

these dithering and going back and forth with his decision was what was making it even harder for him. He was dying with frustration and anger and yet he still had to be worried of her f**king reaction on what he would do!!! He was truly going insane whenever it comes to matters regarding this woman!

"I'm serious, Izabelle." He threatened in a calm voice. And then he gently grabbed Elle's hand again. "Be good and let go of him now, before I..." his facial muscles ticked again when she refused to budge. Instead, she turned her face to bury it into the wolf's fur, trying to get even more comfortable in her sleep.

The air around Sebastian just continued getting heavier, as though something in him was threatening to blow up if the matter was not resolved soon.

He could only pull away and stood there with his hands braced on his waist, looking up at the ceiling as he drew in deep calming breaths and tried to compose himself.

After exhaling another deep breath, he made another attempt to hold Elle's hand again. This time, his eyes gleamed with firmness, as though he was determined on getting her away from this damned wolf. He needed to peel her off this f**king wolf before he ends up doing something he might regret later.

So, he stubbornly peeled her off the wolf, not stopping even as Elle made sounds of disapproval. He hoped she would not wake up yet. But just as he finally succeeded, Elle's eyes slowly fluttered opened.

Time seemed to stop for a long while as they locked eyes with each other. Sebastian stilled in his movements while Elle blinked up at him. She could not react for quite some time as she was still bleary with sleep and her eyes were still unable to fully focus.

But then suddenly, she violently scooted back, grabbed the white wolf in her retreat from Sebastian. Even as she was struggling to even lift half of the massive wolf's body, Elle still insisted on bringing him along with her as she continued moving back and away from the figure that had suddenly appeared in her room.

Elle quickly reached for the lamp behind her and turned the lights on. Her other hand was protectively wrapped around Snow's neck.

Once the dark room had been lit up by the warm glow of that single lamp, Elle stiffened at the sight that welcomed her. Speak of the devil.

"S-Sebastian...?" she muttered under her breath, her eyes stretched wide as she looked up at him. She was still not quite believing what her eyes was seeing. Perhaps it was because she had been expecting him to come for so many days, but he still had not come. But now that he was here, it was as though she was seeing a vision.

The man was just standing there, tall and darkly handsome, and imposing as ever. He might as well be the life model of some dark evil prince from a fictional fantasy book right now. His looks and the aura surrounding him was just too perfect for it!

His intense grey eyes held her own for a long while before those breathtaking orbs moved down before blazing with even more intensity. She wondered what was it that he seemed to be so upset about and followed his gaze down, only to notice that his eyes were locked onto her arm that was currently curled around Snow's neck.

"Let go of that wolf. Now." Came his commanding yet calm voice. No, to be more precise, Elle was aware that he only sounded calm. That voice was enough to send goosebumps sprouting all over her body. That did not seem to bode well for her. Thus, she stiffened her back and opened her mouth...

"No." Came Elle's firm reply. Now that she had recovered from the shock and blariness of just waking up from sleep, everything from the past few days came rushing back to her. Her current situation. The fact that he had kept her confined here in the dark for five days straight without even saying anything at all. Now he was suddenly back and looking like he had been dragged through hell.

To think that his first words to her as soon as he returned was this! Elle felt the aching lump in her throat already. Good lord... she had practiced so many times on her own, while not knowing what else to do in her confinement to her room, that she was to lash out at him as soon as she saw him. But... now that he was here, before her in the flesh... this lump in her throat was tighter, more painful than she had ever imagined. If she spoke up now, she might... she might just break down and cry.

"Listen to me and let the wolf go, Izabelle." He relented and softened his approach, coaxing her to listen to him.

When he reached out to the touch the wolf, Elle glared at him and hugged Snow even closer to her. "I said no!" she burst out with the stress of the pent-up emotions from the last few days. She could only speak one or two words. If she said anything more, her tears would definitely come out and she would end up crying instead of confronting him.

Her breaths became labored. Now that he was here, her anger at him was back at full force. It was like all the pent-up frustrations and anger she had kept within her for five days were threatening to overflow and explode from within her. And due to all the violent emotions that were now crashing at her like waves, she did not notice the shock and that flash of something like hurt that had bloomed in Sebastian's eyes when she glared at him.

He retracted his hand and turned around, as if to hide his face from Elle. However, Elle could feel his rage. The familiar suffocating wave of his aura was filling the entire room.

"You don't know what kind of danger you are putting yourself into by keeping that wolf with you, Izabelle..." he spoke after a long while of strangling silence. He spoke to her without turning back to face her.

And Elle who had somehow managed to control her emotions a bit and lessened the tightness in her throat lifted her gaze at him. However, the turmoil that she somewhat suppressed were still raging within her expressive eyes.

"And you don't know... what kind of torture you have been putting me into... by imprisoning me here." She managed to say through gritted teeth. It had taken her so much struggle to keep herself from giving in and tearing up.

Her words seemed to have shocked him. He whirled around. "Imprisoned...?" he echoed. His voice filled with utter disbelief. He slammed his hands on top of the mattress as he looked at her with those raging eyes. "I'm not imprisoning you! I'm keeping you locked in here to protect you, Izabelle! Why can't you understand that?"

That last line had Elle jerking back in reflex and her whole body recoiled in the next second as she felt as though her entire world was falling apart. How many times... how many times had she heard that same familiar line before? For so many years it had been told to her. She wished... she had wished in her heart that Sebastian had never uttered those damning words to her. Ever.

Her eyes watered as she forced her words out of her trembling lips. "You... you sounded like my father... and Brandon Haze." She smiled. It was a smile with a touch of hysteria. "They used to... tell me that exact same... words."

A/N: Hi guys, if you like this book, do consider leaving a review. Reviews are like tips to the author and it means so much. Thank you in advance. <3

Sebastian just stared at her in dumb silence as she dropped her gaze fearfully and leaned her forehead against the wolf in her arms. It was like she was trying to curl herself around the wolf – as though in search for some security. He watched her shoulders as they trembled a little for a short while. Her fiery hair cascading over the pure white fur of the wolf, and the way she held onto him was like it had become her very own emotional support... Sebastian slowly pulled away. He moved unhurriedly in order to not startle her as he could sense her fragile condition at this moment.

That look in her eyes a while ago did something strange to him inside. Something inexplicable. He did not expect that. Never. He knew she would definitely get angry at him. He had anticipated that she would come at him the moment she saw him and demand an explanation of why he had kept her confined in her room.

Whatever she will ask him, Sebastian had initially planned on not telling her the truth. Not just yet. She was not ready to know anything about what was going yet. He was prepared to ignore her anger and sulking. Because to him, there was nothing more important at this moment than her safety. He needed her to remain hidden and out of anyone's reach, out of any possible dangers. At least for now, until he was able to eliminate whatever dangers that could possibly befall her. Until he solved this mystery he had been working on. That was all that mattered to him for now.

But after her earlier sentence... f**k him! He had not been prepared to see that flash of something like hate and despair in her eyes. And that strange smile she had given him as she told him that he sounded like those weak and disgusting men. He could not quite explain this foreign emotion she had made him felt. This was worse than the jealousy and rage she had evoked from him when he had seen her dancing with Elijah. It was far worse. And he honestly did not know what to do about it.

He thought that he could easily tolerate and ignore whatever she threw at him. Because like always, he believed that he would remain unfazed. Unless of course if she seduces him. He was only not confident in that one matter. But to think that it was not just actually his lust and desire for her that would faze him to this extent... what the fucking hell...!! He did not want this woman to come to hate him. He did not want her to think that he was anything like those assholes. He never wanted to see that strange and blank smile ever again.

Something in him was asking him what he was even doing. Letting a woman affect him to this point. A part of him refused to back down, believing that she should be thankful he was doing all these things for her, to keep her safe. Part of him could not accept that she had thrown him a look of hatred instead. Part of him hated the growing strength of this woman's hold on his emotions. Part of him hated that she had awakened all these unwanted foreign emotions in him.

"Fine... tell me... what do you want?" he asked. His face was stony and his voice neutral. Emotionless. "You want to get out here? Fine... Izabelle. I'll give you what you want. No, you just do whatever you want." He had suddenly changed his approach and pulled back all his anger and frustration. That sudden change in his attitude to her sent Elle reeling in shock. It was just too sudden of a change that she had no time to adjust to it. Before she could formulate a response to his words, he had spun around and faced away from her.

And he strode towards the door.

Elle immediately lifted her head to look at him. When she saw him already storming out the door, she sprung up from the bed. "Wait..." she called out to his retreating back, but her voice was drowned by the sound of the door when he had shut it closed.

Before she knew it, she was chasing after him. But he was already nowhere to be seen once she was out of the door.

Rion and Raven looked at her. Their expressions were troubled.

"Where... where did he go?" Elle asked the two who were guarding the door.

Blinking, Rion quietly pointed at the direction that Sebastian had gone in. And without another word, Elle ran to chase after him. Neither of the men had tried to stop her from running off.

When she reached the grand staircase, she creased her brows in panic as she could not even catch a shadow of him. How could he have disappeared so fast?

Quickly, Elle rushed down the stairs and then out the main door. She was already panting hard once she reached and looked around the vast courtyard. She saw a car parked to the side and unhesitatingly ran towards it.

To her dismay, the car was empty. She looked around again but there was nothing else in the vicinity. There was no one to be seen.

Feeling the cold wind blowing against her skin, Elle shivered as she lifted her hands and rubbed her arms that were covered in goosebumps.

Soon, she looked up at the starry sky and smiled sadly. What was she even doing? Why was she chasing after him?

'How could you mindlessly chase after him like this? He might see this as you starting to fall for him or something, you know?' her mind told her. And she squatted down to the ground right where she was, burying her face into her cupped palms. Lord... what kind of situation had she ended up finding herself into now?

A/N: Goal this month of September

Top 1 in GT ranking = mass release

A series of loud noises of something hitting on metallic bars echoed inside the underground chambers of the castle. Then it stopped and everything returned to being quiet again.r

What could be heard next was some heavy breathing that was also then followed by a deafening silence. r

It was so dark that nothing could be seen inside, but pure inky black darkness. A few moments later, a buzzing of a phone broke the silence. r

The light from the phone's screen created a dim light in the dark and revealed Sebastian who was sitting on the ground, his wrist resting on top of his bended knee, as he leaned his head back against the bars that seemed to be like an ancient prison – an underground dungeon. r

His grey eyes gleamed in the dark as he swiped on the button to accept the call. r

"Your... Your Highness? Uhm... it's the princess." Rion's voice instantly made him squeeze his eyes closed. As though the mere mention of the princess had done something unspeakable within him. r

"What happened this time?" Sebastian asked in a low tone, running his fingers through his hair before silently sighing. r

"She's been running around everywhere looking for you, Your Highness. Where are you right now? Did you already leave the castle? She's outside right now and –" Rion dutifully reported to his lord about the matters of the princess.r

When he had heard Rion mention that she was outside, Sebastian sprung from his sitting position and left without even ending the call.r

In just a matter of a few moments, Sebastian was out of the dungeon. He ran swiftly towards the courtyard and the instant he saw Isabelle's silhouette squatting dejectedly on the ground, his entire frame stilled as he froze in his tracks. His face looked like he could not believe what he was witnessing. r

When he came to, he slowly approached her. His footsteps were light as he did not want to startle her.r

He knew when she had felt him when she suddenly stiffened. She did not lift her head even as he stood just one step away from her. r

His gaze fell to the goosebumps that were raised all over her skin. His jaws tightened as he took his jacket off and draped it over her. What on earth was she doing out here in just her thin clothes?! r

Finally, she lifted her slightly pale face. Their eyes held as Elle opened her mouth to say something, only to close it again without saying anything. But Sebastian waited patiently and did not interrupt until she eventually spoke. r

"I... I thought you left... again..." she said in a small and weak voice. r

"So, you came running after me?" he asked. His expression was well masked. Nothing could be gleaned from his neutral looking face.r

Elle's eyes wandered from his head to his toes, before she found herself staring at his hands that seemed to have been stained with some kind of liquid that was dark. She could not quite tell what it was as it was dim outside. She thought at first that it was blood, but there seemed to be no wound on his knuckles. But she noticed that there was a tinge of coppery tang that tinted the air. Was that really blood? Where did he get it?r

Despite the curiosity, Elle decided to shift her attention from it. She might be wrong anyway and she was afraid the conversation will only lead her away from the very thing she had wanted to say to him first and foremost. r

p "I... need you to explain to me why... why you locked me up." She met his gaze again as she voiced out those words. She did not want him to leave without saying anything again. "Why did you take my phone away? Why can't I meet with other people? You should give me some kind of reasoning if you wanted to restrict my freedom so much!" r

Elle was not sure what had gotten into her to chase after him unthinkingly. Her body had just made a move even before her mind could even react. If she let her mind think first at that moment, she would most probably have kept herself inside the room and swallow everything within herself, like she had always done in the past. r

She was still worried and fearful of what he would think of her for chasing him even until to the extent of following him down here into the courtyard. But she had an excuse now to not appear desperate in stopping him from leaving, so she relaxed a little. She was also thankful because it seemed that all that running had made her feel a little better. And now the stupid lump in her throat that had initially made talking even a struggle to her, now seemed to have reduced in size and was much better. r

Those questions she threw him... she truly wanted to know the answer. She wanted him to explain to her everything behind his unreasonable actions. Because if he would not... r

"Please... answer me... don't keep me in the dark anymore." She pressed. "I am not some pet you can keep at home and lock up whenever you want to." Her tone became a little hard saying this sentence.r

Sebastian stared at her without speaking, but Elle could not fathom what was going on in his mind as he gave her that peculiar look. Try as she might, she could not read his expression.r

"Fine, I'll explain some of it to you. But not everything. For now, only some can be revealed." He responded. r

Elle momentarily thought about it but eventually nodded. That was a good compromise. He did say 'for now' so it meant that he was not keeping whatever he was hiding from

her forever. That was enough for her. For now, she just wanted him to say something. To tell her something. r

"Okay." She agreed after some thought. r

"But on one condition, Izabelle." His tone suddenly became a little intense as he stretched his hand and pointed to their room above where they were standing. "I want that f... wolf out of. Our. Bed." r

Chapter 90

Elle fell silent. The lump in her throat tightened again when he mentioned that there was to be a condition involved. Her anger of him did not disappear, she had simply managed to forcefully swallow it down. But at the thought that he was going to ask her for another ridiculous condition had her emotions surging forth once again. r

However, what he said next rendered her mute. She had not expected him to mention Snow White. Why did he seem so sour about Snow anyway? Did he not help her save the poor wolf too? So why was he acting like he hated Snow White now? r

Silently, Elle hesitated for a moment. But eventually, she nodded. She thought that his condition was not that big of a deal anyway, as he only did not want Snow sleeping in their bed. That only means she was allowed to cuddle him anywhere else except on the bed. Perhaps Sebastian had some issues with having wolf fur in his bedsheets?r

"Fine... I'll keep him off the bed." She relented. "Now please talk and explain." Elle did not want to delay anymore. She was still angry at him, so badly mad at him that she was afraid that his explanations will not be enough to soothe her at this point. r

Sebastian stood so Elle rose to her feet as well, clutching onto his jacket that he had draped over her. It was cold. Bitingly cold. But she did not show any signs of how cold she was feeling. She could be stubborn if she wanted to.r

"You are in danger, Izabelle." He said after sighing, causing Elle to crease her brows in confusion. r

"Danger? From whom? There's no way that I am being targeted by an assassin, right?" she replied in disbelief. In her mind, she could not figure out who was it that wanted her dead. Did she even have such enemies?r

Sebastian held her eyes for a while. "That's right. And we'll leave it at that for now." r

Shaking her head, Elle took a step back from him. "No. I think you're lying. I don't think anyone would want to assassinate me in the first place. I am not important enough to be targeted by anyone right now. I mean, who am I to be made a target of an assassination?" Elle was adamant in her belief.r

"Not important enough...?!!" he echoed rather disbelievingly. "You are my wife. The crown princess of this country. And you still think you're not important enough? Do you even hear yourself speak?" r

His words had her speechless. Then... does he really think that she was that important? Was she not just a wife only by name, and one that he could divorce anytime he wished? r

"So, you're saying that someone in this country... is after my life? But why? Why would they even want my life? What would they even gain from killing me?" r

Elle herself find this a little ridiculous. She was aware she held no real power even if she did marry into the Reign family, and to the Crown Prince. Right now, she was merely a powerless crown princess. Not that she had been anyone powerful before she married Sebastian. Her point was, it was simply ridiculous for anyone to go after the life a powerless royalty. Unless... it was merely because of... envy?r

Sebastian's eyes narrowed. "What would they gain from..." he suddenly trailed off, looked away and ran his fingers through his hair. r

When he looked at her again, he calmly told her, "That's what I'm trying to find out right now." r

Elle did not know why, but she somehow felt like what he had just said was half-truth and a half-lie. She fought not to burst out shouting protests at him. r

"Then why must you cut off my connection to everyone like that, and even to you? You do know that you, taking away my phone and keeping me out the Internet is such a ridiculous thing to do, right?" she could not help that her voice was a little aggressive when she asked this.r

"It's not ridiculous, Izabelle. It's necessary. I don't want you getting contacted by someone unknown and revealing secrets..." he cursed under his breath. r

"Secret... what secret?" r

Sebastian shook his head a little. "You're not ready for this information, Izabelle. Believe me." His voice weakened as he said that. r

"Believe me, I'm ready for anything, Sebastian." She pressed. Whatever this secret, she knew she must know it, or she would not be able to sleep in peace again. r

"No. I know you're brave, but this is something you are not able to handle. Not just yet... Trust me on this." r

The absolute certainty in his voice had Elle feeling like she wanted to blow up at him. She hated how he treated her like some weakling who needs to be confined in a bedroom because she was in danger to survive. She hated that he thinks of her as someone so weak willed that just knowing a secret would break her mind. r

Smiling bitterly, Elle stepped back from him again. Her emotions... she could not seem to hold them back anymore. This was not getting her anywhere. This only gave her more questions than any sort of answers. And it seems, he truly was not willing to reveal anything more in the first place. r

She felt needles prickling in her chest. She hated how this man could hurt her so easily with all his actions and words towards her. She hated it so much. r

Suddenly, he stepped forward. His face had softened, and she knew it must be because she could not hide her emotions anymore. r

"Listen..." his voice became a lot softer. "You are not ready to know about all this yet. In fact, the moment you learn of all these secrets, there will be no more turning back for you. You won't be... able to leave this place ever again..." he trailed off again, looking like he had said something he had instantly regretted. r

What did he even mean by that? Was this all because she was expected to leave this place one day and that was why she was not allowed to learn about whatever this secret was? r

Elle could not speak. She wanted to. But she could not. The pain in her throat had become so unbearable that it was getting harder for her to breathe. r

So, she turned around and started walking away without saying anything else to Sebastian. r

Sebastian only stood there, watching, as she got further away from him. He did not know what to even do or say. It seems that everything that he did or say to her had the opposite effect of what he was intending for her to feel. F**k it all. Why was everything getting so...r

His eyes slowly widened at the realization that Izabelle had been moving around barefooted. The phone in his hand fell to the ground, unheeded, and he just rushed towards her. His eyes locked onto those bare feet walking on such freezing cold ground.r

He grabbed her arm to stop her from walking. "Why in the world are you bare —" he broke off and his entire being froze the moment he saw her face. r

A/N: Mini mass release done! We will aim for a mass release next month so don't forget to vote for this book with your Golden Tickets. Let's get HH to top 1 Hellbounders!

Once again, a big big thank you to everyone who voted for this book. Really appreciate you guys. <3