

### Chapter Three

Ember

Today is the day. I'm out of the human city and now on my way to my interview at the castle. I had to change my name, so I am now Julieta Price. I had to get new documents but here I was with Mare in my purse, walking up the steps of the castle.

It almost feels surreal. I lived here with my parents as a young child. Until they moved to a little house. My father was an Earl to the former king. He worked his way up from warrior. He did everything right and it got him and my mother killed. And now it was my turn to kill everyone involved with their deaths and the royal bloodline. There will be nothing left of that fucken king.

"Miss, are you Julieta Price?" A woman asked as I stepped foot into the foyer. This place hasn't changed much from what I can remember. White with green accents. Maybe a bit more modern now.

"I am, yes," I answered her, shaking her hand.

"Great. I'm Fran, one of the headmaids here. I'll be conducting your interview. Will you follow me?" She introduced herself. I gave her a nod before she turned on her heel and headed into a room off the foyer.

Fran was an older woman. Maybe in her late forties. She had bright blonde hair and blue eyes. She was of average height. She seemed friendly but I'm sure that is a facade. Everyone is nice in the beginning. Especially in a place like this.

I followed her into a small oce. I could see a few schedules posted on the walls. There was a desk with a computer and two chairs in front of the desk.

"Please have a seat and we will get started," she said as she sat behind the desk. I took a seat in one of the chairs and placed my bag on the oor.

"Now, Miss Price. I see you have experience working in a motel. And you were there for a few years before it closed down. I was unable to reach anyone who had previously worked there." She told me.

"I'm sorry about that. Before the owner's death, it was just me working there. His death was sudden and with no family to take over, it closed." I explained the lie I had rehearsed. This was all part of my new fake life I bought. I needed everyone to believe I was someone I wasn't.

"Oh, I see. I'm sorry to hear that. Well, with the experience you have noted here, I would be willing to give you a chance. It would be probationary to start but if, after three months, everything is going well, you will become full-time. How does that sound?" She explained.

"That's wonderful. Thank you," I exclaimed. I was excited about getting close to the King. I needed to learn the ins and outs of the castle if my plan was going to be successful.

"Excellent. Now I will have you ll out a few forms and then I will show you to your quarters. Your shifts will start at six in the morning, Wednesday to Sunday. Monday and Tuesday will be your days off. These are ten-hour days. Lunch is one hour and will be provided, as will breakfast and dinner. This is your home, so feel free to enter the kitchen for something to eat. Just make sure to clean up after yourself. Your job will be to clean rooms and do the laundry. Do you have any questions for me?" She asked after explaining everything to me.

"Not at the moment," I told her.

"Alright then. If you think of anything, you can come and nd me. Now, ll this out, so you can get settled." She smiled at me as she handed me a few papers.

After everything was lled out, I followed her out of the oce and through the castle. I was trying to memorize the layout. I needed to learn this quickly. The coronation was next weekend and I needed this plan to work. And in my free time, I will take advantage of the library here and hopefully learn more about the case against my parents. I wanted to get everyone who was involved.

I was surprised when I walked into the maids' quarters. It looked like the rest of the castle. Which to me was odd. Why was the help treated so well?

"When King Nathan took over he had this wing renovated. All the rooms have private bathrooms. There is also a small kitchen in the main area if you'd prefer to cook here. And the room also has TV and internet access. You are welcome to come and go as you please, as long as it's not during your scheduled time to work. Am I clear?" I nodded.

"Good, now let me show you to your room." I followed behind her down a corridor. The main area not only had an impressive kitchen but there was also a massive TV with theatre-like chairs. There was also a mini library and lounge.

Fran stopped several doors down from the common area. She opened the door using a key, before handing the key to me.

"This is your room. Please keep it neat. The laundry is at the end of the hallway. Uniforms are hanging and you can nd one that ts. And if you have no questions, I will see you tomorrow morning in the common area to hand out your assignments for the day. Do you understand?" She asked.

"Yes, ma'am. Thank you. I will see you in the morning," I said.

"Dinner is served at seven or you are welcome to make something in the kitchen." She said before she left me standing at the door to my room. I will have to go back to the run-down motel I was staying at to grab the rest of my things.

I entered my room and closed the door behind me. The place was bright and clean. There was a queen-sized bed placed under a window. A dresser and a desk on the other side. This place was better than any place I had ever stayed after my parents left.

I place my bag on the bed before opening the doors around the room. One was the bathroom. It had a shower bathtub combo, a toilet, and a sink. It was done in white marble. The quality of this place is outstanding. I would never have believed this place was living quarters for maids if I wasn't standing here in my own room.

"Seems this new king might actually care?" Mare said. I walked out of the bathroom to nd her cleaning her paw on the bed.

"That doesn't change his blood or the plan," I told her as I opened the other door. It led to a closet. He may be an okay king, but that doesn't change what his father did.