

Exchanging Vows: The Swapped Wife Is a Top Shaman

C 51-55

Exchanging Vows: The Swapped Wife Is a Top Shaman

Seraphina's Point of View

Children drowning again? This has to stop... enough is enough. I balled my fist at the thought of such careless accidents happening repeatedly.

By the time everyone gathered at the lakeshore, the children had already been pulled from the water by maids and guards.

Pure anger surged through me as I surveyed the chaotic scene.

Bella was crying uncontrollably as soon as she saw her brother among the children who had been pulled from the water, his body lying still and unmoving.

Her sobs grew louder, filled with fear and desperation as she rushed toward him.

It was exactly the same horrifying scene as before, just like when we visited her father's pack... the same lifeless stillness.

Maybe this was a misfortune that had followed her here... but could I really feel any satisfaction when innocent children were involved? The thought alone left a bitter taste in my mouth.

Or was it because she chose to befriend that wretched Ivy, instead of me? My gaze shifted to them. Ivy stood beside Bella, offering comfort. This sight made my teeth clench.

Right, I myself had been standing beside Princess Aria, the Alpha King's eldest daughter. I was just about to greet her, to exchange pleasantries, when the sudden commotion broke out and stole everyone's attention.

"Call the doctor!" the Luna Queen ordered.

"There's no need for the doctor," I said suddenly. All eyes turned to me at once, some filled with disbelief, others thinking I had lost my mind.

“My cousin sister, Ivy, once saved little Luke along with other children when they drowned,” I continued ignoring their gaze. “It would be much faster for her to help these children now, before the doctor even arrives,” I added, standing my ground despite their doubtful stares.

All their eyes moved away from me and settled on Ivy with expectation.

“Won’t you, Ivy? You saved those children before... you can save these ones too, right?” I asked, fixing my gaze on her, pressing her to respond. I was silently seething.

Why wasn’t she saying anything? The silence stretched, making my heart beat faster. The Queen hurried toward her, desperation was clear in every of step.

“Ivy, is it true what your sister is saying? Can you help them, please?” she asked, tears brimming in her eyes as she looked at Ivy with hope.

“I can try,” Ivy said, trying to calm herself despite the tension, as she quickly scanned the area. “But I’ll need a few people to help me,” she added, already stepping forward with that infuriating composure.

That was exactly how she handled it back at Pearlside Pack... always needing people, always showing off.

“I’ll help,” Bella said immediately, pushing through her tears, ready to assist.

“And I too...” Princess Aria said, stepping forward as well.

“Me too,” I added quickly, following her as she joined. Wanting to impress Princess Aria, to overshadow Ivy.

“Each person, one child,” Ivy instructed.

Each of us took responsibility for one child, moving under Ivy’s direction. Since Princess Aria couldn’t attend to both of her younger siblings at once, she chose to focus on her brother, Samir.

Meanwhile, I moved toward her sister, Poline, kneeling beside her small, still body, pushing aside my thoughts as I prepared to help.

“Follow my steps you, and your heart. This is how you do it,” Ivy said.

It sounded so easy when she explained it, but my heart pounded as I knelt beside the child, trying to stay calm.

I followed my instincts, just as she had instructed, and carefully placed my mouth over her, blowing air gently into her. Around me, the others did the same with their assigned children, each focused.

One by one, the children began to cough and sputter, spitting out water, gasping for air as life slowly returned to them.

But Poline still remained motionless, unlike the other children who had started coughing out the water. My heart seized in fear, and every eye in the clearing shifted toward me.

Why wasn't she waking up? My hands trembled uncontrollably, and fear gnawed at me from the inside.

The Queen ran forward us, tears streaming down her face. "Poline, my poor baby!" she cried, her voice breaking.

Watching her, anxiety clawed at my chest, my heartbeat erratic. Had I somehow made things worse? Had I cost Poline her life?

Ivy quickly moved me aside and knelt beside Poline. She began performing the resuscitation, breathing into her mouth, pressing her chest repeatedly.

I watched, praying silently. Because if anything goes wrong, I'll be labeled as one who made things worse.

After a few tense moments, Poline sputtered and spat out water. Then, finally, she let out a loud cry.

This made everyone breathe out in relief. The Queen scooped her up into a tight embrace.

My chest heaved. My heart skipped a beat at the thought of what could have happened if Ivy hadn't been there. I forced myself to take slow breaths, trying to calm the whirlwind of fear inside me.

Though, my hatred for Ivy burned hotter than ever

*

*

*

Once everyone had regained their composure, the parents gathered their children and began heading home, eager to let them rest and recover from the frightening ordeal.

The joyous atmosphere of the Merriment Festival had vanished, the celebrations cut short by the chaos that had unfolded. What should have been a day of fun and laughter ended in tension, leaving the festival subdued.

I couldn't help but notice how much of everything seemed to center around Ivy, as if she had orchestrated it to make me look incompetent.

But I was on my way to the King's palace, because I summoned... not just me, but everyone who had helped save the children. I hurried along the path.

When I finally arrived at the palace hall, I realized Ivy hadn't arrived yet.

I scanned the grand hall, wondering where she could be and if she would arrive on time for the King's audience. This made irritation burned inside of me.

By the way, the King was speaking, his voice filled with admiration as he praised all of us who had helped save the children.

Just then, Ivy entered the room. The atmosphere shifted instantly, and people began whispering excitedly about how she had bravely and skillfully saved the children.

All eyes turned to her, filled with awe and respect. My teeth clenched. Of course... it was exactly as I had feared. She would steal every bit of attention, every ounce of praise, and leave me standing in the shadows.

“Here you are,” the King said, his voice warm and full of admiration.

“Your courage, quick thinking, and composure saved those children’s lives. Truly, your actions were remarkable, inspiring, and beyond anything we could have hoped for. You’ve shown extraordinary intelligence, and qualities worthy of the highest praise.”

Even the Queen nodded, mirroring the King’s admiration.

I couldn’t help but feel that the praise he was showering on her was far too much, making my teeth grit in frustration.

“Thank you so much,” Aria said, hugging Ivy tightly. I couldn’t help but roll my eyes at the display.

“You can always come to the palace to visit and chat with me often,” Princess Aria added warmly, clearly enjoying Ivy’s presence far more than I could tolerate.

Wait... even Princess Aria had befriended Ivy. I felt a hot surge of frustration and jealousy rise within me. I had been the one to tell everyone that Ivy could save those children, yet now it seemed as if I didn’t even exist.

Everyone's attention, admiration, and praise... the very recognition I had longed for were once again focused on Ivy. She stood at the center, confident and adored, while I was left on the sidelines, burning with envy and bitterness.

Exchanging Vows: The Swapped Wife Is a Top Shaman

Ivy's Point of View

The King's endless praises made me feel somewhat uncomfortable. Truth be told, I hadn't saved those children alone... I had received help from others, each person playing a crucial role.

It didn't feel right to take all the credit, and I wished the praises could be shared, acknowledging the courage and efforts of everyone who had rushed in to help.

"What's your background, Ivy?" the King Nero asked suddenly.

I straightened slightly, recognizing this as an opportunity to speak about my family. My father, and my younger brother, sharing the people who had shaped who I was today.

I bowed slightly, keeping my voice respectful. "My father and younger brother are preparing for the upcoming exam," I explained. "They have become pupils of Professor Aldwin, learning under his guidance and training." I said proudly.

“Wow, that’s impressive. Your father must be a remarkable man, and your younger brother equally talented, to have become students of the esteemed Professor Aldwin. Truly, they must be very smart people.” He said in admiration.

Then he turned to Luna Helena. “You’ve raised a daughter with courage, intelligence, and compassion. Truly, she is exceptional in every way. You must be proud to have a daughter-in-law like Ivy,” King Nero said, showering Luna Helena with praise.

“Yes, thank you, Your Highness,” Luna Helena said proudly.

I was certain the reason he was showering Luna Helena and me with praise was because I was Dominic’s wife.

And the acknowledgment made my heart lift slightly. I turned my head, only to see Seraphina staring at me with pure rage, her face twisted in anger.

She looked utterly displeased, clearly not expecting that this festival would end up making me so famous and admired.

She had put in so much effort, yet it was always me who received the recognition. It must be incredibly frustrating for her, I thought, noticing that Margot and Vivienne didn’t look particularly pleased either.

“We must take our leave now,” Luna Helena said, indicating that it was time for us to depart and bring an end to the festival.

Princess Aria approached me, a bright smile lighting her face, and wrapped me in a warm hug for the second time.

“Like I told you before, Ivy, you can always come to the palace,” she said cheerfully. “We can have some girly time together, just the two of us, laughing and chatting like friends do,” she added.

“Like I said before, you are always welcome at Pearlside Pack to spend some quality time with me,” Bella said warmly. “You are truly incredible, Ivy, and I’m grateful for everything you did.” She added.

“I’ll make sure to keep in touch with both of you frequently in the future,” I replied sincerely, smiling at them. “I don’t want to lose the connection we’ve built today.” I let them know.

The three of us shared a big, warm hug, our smiles bright and genuine, the kind that comes from relief and shared triumph.

On the sidelines, Seraphina was clearly neglected. Though she forced a smile, I could see the tension in her eyes, the tightness around her lips.

Deep down, I knew she was boiling with jealousy... this was exactly the recognition and attention she had wanted.

*

*

*

It had been three hours since we returned to our pack, and I was finally finishing tidying up my clothes and personal belongings.

Once everything was in order, I left my room, my thoughts still lingering on the events of the day. Earlier, Nell had come to inform me that Alpha Alaric had sent for me, so I made my way toward the palace.

When I arrived at the palace, Alpha Alaric and Luna Helena greeted me with bright, warm smiles that immediately eased some of my nerves.

“Greetings, Alpha,” I said respectfully, bowing slightly.

“Ivy,” Alpha Alaric began, his tone kind and approving, “Luna has told me everything that happened at the Merriment Festival, and how you bravely saved those children. Your quick thinking and courage did not go unnoticed. You have truly made us all proud today.”

It seemed that Luna Helena had already shared everything that had happened at the King’s palace with her husband, Alpha Alaric.

“It was teamwork,” I said modestly, trying to downplay my role.

“I know it was teamwork,” Luna Helena replied, “but you were the leader. You guided everyone, gave instructions, and kept them organized. Without your direction, it wouldn’t have been as smooth or successful.”

“That is very wonderful to hear, Ivy, and it fills me with pride that you saved those little children,” Alpha Alaric said.

“For that, I have a reward for you. A wife of my son saving children is truly a great honor... a big win for me as Alpha.” He said.

A reward? I hadn’t expected anything like this, and my curiosity spiked.

Two servants entered the room carrying a beautifully crafted Enchanted Pendant, shimmering with a soft, protective glow. “This will safeguard you and guide you in times of danger,” they explained.

When I saw the reward, I was completely speechless, it was an incredibly generous and valuable gift, far beyond anything I had expected.

Taking it carefully, I said sincerely, “Thank you so much. This is truly too much for me.”

“You don’t need to feel it is too much, Ivy, because you truly deserve it,” Luna Helena said warmly.

I bowed deeply, my gratitude sincere. “I really appreciate this so much. Thank you very much, Alpha,” I replied respectfully.

“You may go now. Let us not disturb you from whatever you were doing,” Luna Helena said kindly, waving me off.

I nodded in acknowledgment and left the palace. As I made my way back to my room, I noticed Nell approaching me.

“My lady, you asked Ash to call for me,” Nell said, bowing slightly as she approached.

“Yes, Nell,” I replied, opening my side purse and carefully taking out some money along with a folded piece of paper.

“Take this money and this list,” I instructed, handing them to her. “I want you to buy everything listed on this paper. Make sure to get the best quality, you know exactly what I mean,” I added, trusting her to handle it efficiently.

Nell took the money and paper from me, carefully unfolding it. Her eyes scanned the list, and she said thoughtfully, “These are medical materials and surgical supplies, my lady. Quite an extensive collection.” She added.

I was certain Nell was surprised, because her eyes widened slightly as she scanned the list. After all, she hadn’t been with Ash, Stone, Shadow, and me when we had discreetly snuck out to visit Rhia and her daughter, Emma. She couldn’t have expected such a list.

“Yes, Nell. When purchasing these, make sure you choose only the highest quality items,” I instructed.

I wanted everything to be perfect because I planned to use these materials to perform facial repairs on Emma, the daughter of Duchess Rhia, the King’s sister.

Exchanging Vows: The Swapped Wife Is a Top Shaman

Aithusa’s Point of View

The food before me barely registered as I picked at it absentmindedly. Everyone around me assumed I was lost in idle thoughts, but in truth, my mind was consumed with plans for my son.

I couldn't stop thinking about how I could shape him, guide him, and ensure he became exactly what I wanted him to be.

I had heard about a girl named Ivy, the daughter-in-law of my half-brother, Alpha Alaric. Rumors claimed that because of her, Alpha Alaric had begun gaining favor with the King... my husband.

That alone made Alpha Alaric worth my attention.

I was curious. How could this seemingly ordinary girl have such influence over my brother and alter the dynamics within our family and the court so quickly?

I am the second wife of the King, and also the half-sister of Alpha Alaric, since my mother is Margot.

I had recently learned that Ivy, my brother's daughter in law, had been personally rewarded by the King for saving lives at the banquet.

Hearing this stirred a sense of urgency and opportunity. If Ivy's actions were earning my brother favor with my husband, then perhaps it was time for me to step in and secure my brother's attention and loyalty.

I needed to find a way to win Alpha Alaric over.

I remember that long ago, I had repeatedly urged Alpha Alaric to cooperate with me, emphasizing the importance of ensuring my son, Samly, would eventually take over as heir to the throne.

I had tried to persuade him many times, explaining how our alliance could secure the future I envisioned, planning every step so that my son's path to power would be clear and unchallenged.

The original heir to the throne was Prince Riven, the King's eldest son, but he had become disabled, leaving him unable to ascend as expected.

Naturally, no one would ever consider a disabled person suitable to sit on the throne. With that in mind, all eyes were now fixed on who would take his place, including mine.

I am also eyeing the throne for my son, knowing that this change in succession could be an opportunity to secure power and ensure my son's future.

All of us were quietly eyeing the position of heir, but I was determined that my son, Samly, should be the one to inherit.

Now presented the perfect opportunity to act, as Alpha Alaric was growing increasingly important to my husband. I hoped to win him over, to gain his support and influence, ensuring that my son, the King's third son, would be positioned to claim the throne and secure the future I had envisioned for him.

"Mother," Samly called softly as he approached and sat beside me.

I set my spoon down, returning his gaze with a warm, reassuring smile. "Samly," I said gently, my heart lifting at his presence.

"I've been calling you, but it seems your mind is elsewhere," Samly said, frowning slightly with concern.

"Not really, my son," I replied calmly, redirecting the conversation. "Have you heard of a doctor called Physician Kane?" I asked.

"He is one of the best doctors. Everyone knows him, his name is everywhere," Samly said.

If I wanted my brother, Alpha Alaric, to align with me, I knew I had to reach Physician Kane. He was renowned, considered one of the finest in his field, and I was certain that with his skills, he could heal Dominic.

If I gained the doctor's help, I would secure my brother's favor... and prove my influence.

If Dominic is cured, Alpha Alaric will be pleased and feel deeply indebted to me, strengthening my influence.

"I want you to find this Physician, Samly," I instructed.

"Yes, Mother," he replied obediently, nodding.

"And I want you to take the physician to Silvermoon Pack. Tell my brother, Alpha Alaric, about him, and explain how this doctor will be able to cure Dominic. Make sure he understands the importance of this." I said.

"I'll ride out by dawn," Samly said, I nodded.

"I am confident that Physician Kane has the skill and knowledge to cure Dominic, and I won't return until I succeed."

*

*

*

Wolf's Point of View (Ivy Personal Guard at Silvermoon Pack)

Lady Ivy had left the pack and headed to her pharmacy to inspect how things were running, checking what needed to be fixed or improved.

Meanwhile, she left us behind in the pack, tasked with covering for her, and ensuring everything remained in order until her return.

Although I was on my way to the young master's room to stand guard, I accidentally bumped into someone. Judging by the way he was dressed, he seemed to be a person of high status.

"I apologize," I said quickly, bowing slightly to show my respect, hoping I hadn't offended him in any way.

He sized me up from head to toe, his gaze focused on me thoughtfully. "A guard," he said casually.

Then he turned to the man beside him. "Physician Kane, why not give this guard your bag to hold? It must be heavy for you," he suggested kindly.

Before the physician could hand it to me, I stepped forward and took the bag myself, bowing slightly in respect. Seeing that he was a physician like Lady Ivy, I felt compelled to show proper courtesy and ensure his belongings were treated with care.

We made our way to the pack palace, and as soon as we stepped inside, the man I had bumped into immediately bowed respectfully to Alpha Alaric.

“Uncle,” he said politely, then turned to Luna Helena. “Greetings to you, Luna Helena,” he added warmly.

“Samly,” Alpha Alaric replied with a nod.

It was then I realized that the man I had accidentally bumped into was named Samly... and he had just addressed Alpha Alaric as his uncle, revealing their close familial connection.

“What brings you to Silvermoon Pack?” Alpha Alaric asked.

“I’ll get straight to the point,” Samly replied confidently. “This is Physician Kane. His medical skills are exceptional, and I have countless testimonies of how he has treated many notable people, curing them of their ailments and earning great respect.” He stated.

No... no, this couldn't be happening. He had brought Physician Kane here specifically to treat Master Dominic, and I couldn't allow it. I have to stop it before it was too late.

"Greetings Alpha, and Luna. I am physician Kane. I'll be happy to be at the service of your son." The doctor said.

I glanced at Luna and Alpha, trying to read their expressions to see if they would accept Samly's proposal. Both looked inclined to agree, yet something held them back, and I saw hesitation in their eyes.

Perhaps it was what Lady Ivy had advised them... cautioning them not to treat Master Dominic excessively.

That warning seemed to linger in their minds, making them pause.

I needed to inform the others immediately so we could be prepared and prevent this from happening.

If Lady Ivy were here, she certainly wouldn't allow it, so we had to take matters into our own hands.

Whoever this Physician Kane was, we couldn't let him get anywhere near Master Dominic. Every precaution had to be taken to ensure his safety, and we had to act quickly before the physician could begin any treatment or before Samly could influence the Alpha's decisions.

Exchanging Vows: The Swapped Wife Is a Top Shaman

Wolf's Point of View (Ivy Personal Guard at Silvermoon Pack)

"It seems you both are lost in thought, Luna and Alpha," Samly said, as if he was deliberately pushing the issue.

Why was he pressing so hard? Did he have some hidden intention or bad motive?

"We were instructed by Ivy not to treat Dominic excessively," Luna Helena replied. "So we shouldn't do that now," she added, reinforcing Ivy's guidance and signaling that they would follow her advice despite Samly's insistence.

Yes, Lady Ivy had given them an advice, and I was certain they were beginning to see the results of following it.

Ever since they stopped treating Master Dominic excessively, his condition had started improving, and he was responding to treatment in ways they hadn't expected.

They couldn't deny the progress he was making now, and it was obvious to anyone observing.

"Oh, nonsense!" Mrs. Margot exclaimed loudly, her voice dismissive.

"I beg your pardon?" Luna Helena asked, not expecting the interruption.

"Whatever that little wench has put into your head, don't pay attention," Mrs. Margot continued, her voice dripping with disdain.

"She just acts like she knows everything," she added, clearly belittling Lady Ivy, calling her a mere wench and implying she was arrogant for thinking she knew it all.

"I still insist we let Physician Kane in to treat Dominic," Mrs. Margot said.

As long as she continued to press for the physician to have access to Master Dominic, I couldn't shake the feeling that something was off.

Her insistence seemed as if there was an ulterior motive behind it. I couldn't ignore the uneasy sense that letting Physician Kane near Master Dominic might not be as straightforward, or as safe as it appeared.

“Ivy is not home, so we need to wait for her return before taking any action. After all, she is Dominic’s wife, and it should be her decision to confirm whether her husband is to be treated by this physician or not.” Luna Helena said.

“I can’t believe you actually said that,” Mrs. Margot snapped angrily.

“Ivy is a despicable person, and there’s absolutely no reason to follow any of her so-called advice, because it’s completely foolish and unnecessary.” She continued.

At this point, I realized I had to leave immediately and warn the others. Mrs. Margot’s insistence made it clear she would stop at nothing to ensure this physician gained access to Master Dominic’s room, and I couldn’t allow that to happen without taking action.

I quietly slipped out of the palace, carefully setting the physician’s bag down on the ground to avoid drawing attention.

I moved swiftly toward Master Dominic’s room, my mind focused on the urgency of the situation.

When I arrived, Ash, Blade, and Shadow were already there, standing vigilant. Stone, however, had accompanied Lady Ivy to the pharmacy, leaving the rest of us to ensure Master Dominic’s safety and prevent anyone from interfering with the care he needed.

Quickly, I filled them in about Samly, and Physician Kane, explaining their arrival and purpose.

I also detailed how Mrs. Margot had reacted when Luna Helena insisted they wait for Lady Ivy before allowing him to treat Master Dominic, and how she had outright refused to follow that instruction.

Their expressions grew serious as they realized the danger behind Mrs. Margot's insistence, understanding why we needed to act carefully to protect Master Dominic.

"I need to warn Lady Ivy immediately," Blade said, his tone urgent and determined.

"Of course," I replied. "Go to her and tell her everything that's happening, leave no detail out so she can act quickly."

Blade left immediately, without wasting a second, to find Lady Ivy.

No sooner had he gone than the doctor, Samly, and Mrs. Margot approached the door, with a confident composure. But we were ready for them, having anticipated their arrival and prepared ourselves to prevent them from reaching Master Dominic.

"We have come for Dominic," Mrs. Margot demanded. "Allow the physician inside immediately so he can begin treatment without delay." She commanded.

We all positioned ourselves firmly in front of Dominic's room.

We remembered Lady Ivy's warning that someone within the pack might be trying to harm Master Dominic.

Her words rang in our minds: the doctors who had been treating him previously were all fake, their intentions suspicious. Determined not to let any harm come to him, we prepared ourselves to block anyone who might attempt to interfere with his care, ready to protect him at all costs.

In fact, the so-called treatments had only worsened Master Dominic's condition.

There was no way we would allow any of them near him. After all, we were elite guards, trained and vigilant, making it extremely difficult for anyone to sneak past us.

"Are you all insane? Leave this instant!" Mrs. Margot shouted, her face flushed with anger, seeing that we weren't budging and were inching closer to the door, ready to block her.

"Lady Ivy has clearly ordered that no one is to treat Master Dominic, her husband, without her explicit permission," I said firmly.

*

*

*

Blade's Point of View

Quickly, I slipped away from the pack and made my way to Azure Leaf, Lady Ivy's pharmacy.

Upon arrival, I met with her, I became relieved to see her safe.

We were all dressed in disguise... Lady Ivy, Stone, and I... we conceal our identities to avoid drawing attention.

"What brings you here?" Lady Ivy asked, she loooed concerned, because she wasn't expecting to see me here.

"A man named Samly has come to Silvermoon Pack, bringing a physician called Physician Kane," I explained quickly.

"Okay." She said, listening to me.

“He intends to treat Master Dominic, and that’s why I rushed here to report this to you. Mrs. Margot is trying to force the treatment on Master Dominic, disregarding any caution or permission. I thought it was urgent you knew immediately so we could prevent any harm from coming to him.” I finished.

I studied her closely and noticed her expression changed, her eyes filled with concern, as if she sensed something was terribly wrong.

“Quickly, we need to return to the pack immediately,” Lady Ivy commanded urgently.

Exchanging Vows: The Swapped Wife Is a Top Shaman

Ivy Point of View

I had come to a decision, one that placed Blade’s life in danger. Though we had already discussed it at length, but I still fear for his life. I needed to be certain this was truly something he could endure... something that wouldn’t cost him his life, even though it is going to hurt him.

“Are you sure you can do this, Blade?” I asked quietly.

He nodded. "I will do anything you ask of me, my lady. I will take the poison, because it is what you wants... and because I trust you."

He stretched out his hand toward me. For a brief moment, I hesitated. Then I placed the vial into his palm.

I had a plan, a perfect one. At least, that was what I told myself. I watched as he drank every drop, my chest tightening as the seconds passed.

I only hoped everything would unfold exactly as I had planned. When it was done, we left the pharmacy and set out for the pack.

Finally, we arrived at Silvermoon Pack, and I didn't waste a single second. Because of the fear that clawed at my chest, I hurriedly ran toward Dominic's room, my footsteps echoing loudly through the halls.

Without thinking, I burst the door open. My eyes widened in fear at the sight before me. Physician Kane... the physician was already leaning over Dominic, his hand moving, just about to insert his needles into Dominic's head, as if time itself had paused.

How many guards did they bring to surpass my elite guards and gain access to Dominic's room? It didn't make sense at first, but looking closer, it was clear my guards had put up a fight.

Still, they were outnumbered. This Prince Samly hadn't come alone... he arrived with more men, about twenty guards against my mere five. No matter how skilled my elites were, numbers like that would overwhelm anyone, which explained how they managed to break through.

"Stop!!!" I screamed, my voice was so loud, that it sounded in every corner through the room, halting Physician Kane just as his hand hovered over Dominic.

He paused, his hand freezing midair as he slowly turned to stare at me. He looked shocked, it was all across his face, clearly taken aback that I had stopped him.

His brows furrowed, as if questioning who I was to interfere, or where I found the audacity to challenge him at such a critical moment.

But then again, that was the only way I could stop him... I had to scream. The guards had blocked my path, refusing to let me get any closer, no matter how hard I tried to push through.

So I needed my voice to reach him instead. I had to make sure the physician knew I was here, that I had arrived, and as Dominic's wife, I would never agree to this.

"Continue!!!" Mrs. Margot shouted too.

I looked at her, and she stared right back at me with pure contempt burning in her eyes. Then, she turned her attention back to the physician, dismissing me entirely.

“Ignore her, Physician Kane. Carry on,” she said coldly to the physician, her tone leaving no room for more talks, or doubts.

“No... you can’t do this,” I warned.

“He can’t?” she scoffed, her lips curling with mocking expression, like she was in disbelief of what I just said.

“Watch him do it,” she added coldly, then gestured to the guards. “Control her... don’t let her get any further into the room,” she ordered.

But I knew exactly what was happening, and there was no way I could stay quiet or remain still. But the fear and anger that surged through me gave me the strength I needed right now.

I struggled fiercely, twisting against the guards’ grip until I broke free, shoving them away with all I had. Before they could react or catch me again, I rushed further into the room and forcefully pushed the physician away from Dominic, stopping him just before he could continue as Mrs. Margot had ordered.

“Why go through all this stress, Ivy?” Mrs. Margot asked, her tone dripping with condescension.

Oh, why indeed? All this struggle, all this chaos, just to watch the doctor hurt Dominic... she must be mistaken, I thought inwardly.

“See,” she said, as if growing weary of my presence.

“Physician Kane was personally recommended by King Nero and brought here by the prince, his son, Prince Samly. But now, it seems you are deliberately disobeying the king’s order.” She said.

I could hear her words sounding as if she was accusing me, making it clear that in her eyes, my interference wasn’t just audacious, but it was a direct challenge to royal authority.

The king personally requested that this physician be brought here, but I couldn’t help wondering... was King Nero genuinely concerned about Dominic’s health, or was Mrs. Margot twisting the truth to suit her own agenda?

Something about her words felt off, and deep down, I didn’t truly believe her, no matter how convincingly she spoke.

“I am not reassured that you are telling the truth,” I said boldly, meeting her gaze without flinching.

She shot me a piercing look, as if I were overstepping, daring to question her, and how dare I imply she might be lying.

“Did you just indirectly call me a liar? Can’t you see Prince Samly standing right here?” she demanded, her eyes flashing with anger. I hesitated for a moment, then slowly turned to face him.

“You should be assured that Physician Kane is one of the best,” Prince Samly said, trying to calm me.

I turned toward the physician, who nodded in agreement, his expression composed and confident.

But still... despite their reassurances, I couldn’t shake the fear gnawing at me. Dominic’s life wasn’t something I could gamble with, and no words, or titles, could make me trust that he would be safe under their hands.

“If your treatments are truly as good as you claim, then treat Blade,” I said.

Seeing the look on the doctor face, he was probably wondering what I was trying to do.

“Blade is one of my guards, and he’s been suffering from indigestion recently. Treat him properly, and if you do a good job, then perhaps I will be assured of your skill. Until that happens, however, I cannot place my trust in you or be reassured that Dominic’s life is safe.” I added.

I looked at Margot and saw her clench her fists in anger, it was clear that she was frustrated.

“And what if I treat your guard well?” the physician asked calmly. “Then I’ll expect an apology for you looking down on my skill,” he added, challenging me.

“I will do more than offer an apology,” I said, meeting his gaze. “If my guard’s health isn’t seriously affected by your treatment, then I will agree to let you treat my husband. Until then, my trust remains withheld.” I let my intentions known to him.

This was the moment I had been waiting for... the poison taking effect exactly as I intended. That was the entire reason I gave it to Blade.

I needed the physician to reveal himself for who he truly was.

Because I knew... if Blade’s condition were something as simple as indigestion, the doctor would have no trouble curing him. And if he could cure Blade so easily, then he would be more than capable of treating Dominic.

And Blade... was the price I was willing to pay to uncover the truth.

“Call the Alpha and Luna. It would be better if they watched,” I instructed. Two guards quickly left and, after a few minutes, returned with Alpha Alaric and Luna Helena, who entered the room.

Blade walked forward and seated in front of Physician Kane, his was obedient, obeying that I asked the physician to used him for his test. He trusted me.

Physician Kane began his treatment methodically, explaining each step as he worked. "This herb," he said, holding up a small vial, "is to ensure your food digests properly, preventing any form of indigestion."

At first, his technique seemed ordinary, and Blade appeared fine. This made everyone feel like I had be wrong about the physician, that I really have to apologize to him. But I am the only one that know the plan I have for this physician.

Suddenly, Blade convulsed violently in his chair and vomited blood... this is when I know that the poison is taking place already. His body shook uncontrollably, and fear rippled through all as he collapsed, leaving him unconscious, and leaving everyone of us frozen in horrified shock at the unexpected turn.

"Call the pack doctor immediately," I commanded with urgency.

Ash bolted out of the room without sparing no time to summon the doctor. I turned to Alpha Alaric and Luna Helena, who stood frozen, their faces pale with shock, both imagining the horrifying thought... what if this had happened to Dominic instead of Blade?

"Leave," I said loudly to Physician Kane, noticing his hands trembling uncontrollably.

I had make him look like nothing but a quack. If he truly counted as one of the best, then it meant he had been performing poorly all along, and others had been covering up his failures, falsely claiming he was skilled. His incompetence was now glaringly obvious.

“Leave the room, I said. I’m not going to repeat myself,” I demanded.

I couldn’t bear to see him here, especially with Alpha Alaric and Luna Helena watching. He had no place in this room. Their anger was palpable, I could see it in their eyes. What if he had dared to go further, to treat Dominic?

That unspoken question lingered heavily in their minds, and I knew they shared my fear and frustration for Dominic health, making his presence utterly intolerable.

“If it weren’t for Ivy’s foresight, my son would have suffered tonight,” Alpha Alaric said gravely. Luna Helena gasped, realizing the painful truth.

“You want to murder my son?” Luna Helena demanded angrily. Her question wasn’t directed solely at Physician Kane... it was also for Mrs. Margot and Prince Samly as well.

Both of them flinched, their faces pale, desperately trying to shirk responsibility, avoiding her piercing gaze, knowing they couldn’t defend the indefensible.

