

The Selection: Bride Of The Dark Dragon Chapter 126 - Tips

MIRA

The days in Agnegard fly fast. Especially now that we know that dragons are going to help us in the upcoming war. So much had to be done but in the end, we found a way that made everyone happy.

Well, if I am completely honest, it was Agnes who solved the puzzle. Agnegard would remain closed. And mated dragons, the ones who already found their happiness in life, would stay here together with the king. But younger dragons, the ones who want to test life, to see the world... they would be able to leave if they want to. No one would be forced. And only volunteers would join our war. Which worried me at first... I was afraid that they would just fly away and forget about us... Yet after the announcement, they started to shout two words. Agnemir and Agnelind.

Later, I found out that Agnemir is another god of theirs. He is actually the husband of Agnelind, and also the ruler of the Underworld and the supreme warrior. This creeped me out at first but Derrien said that it seems fitting since he is the first Dark Dragon. And if he is not worried then neither am I.

So many dragons volunteered that now we have a second army at our disposal. And considering their abilities, it would be more than enough to have the upper hand and put an end to the war we are facing. So, we raised the stakes and decided that we would try to make it a war with us little losses as is only possible! The plan was born on the spot and the aim now is to have minimal casualties.

“What are you thinking about, Agnelind?” a maid who does my hair asks me and I am back to reality.

“Do you have to ask, silly,” another giggles, “On a day like this she is definitely thinking of her husband-to-be! I’ve heard Agnemir was flying high in the skies since early morning breathing out fire! Someone’s impatient!”

They’ve been braiding my hair for the past two hours, creating an intricate hairdo. Some of my hair is up and some of it is cascading in waves down my shoulders. Golden pins with flameflowers (they are popular here in Agnegard) hold the whole thing together.

“Of course he would be impatient!” the third maid chimes, “He hasn’t seen his Agnelind for three days according to the traditions! He must be dying!”

They giggle some more and my cheeks flush red. No one knows that, of course, Rien didn’t stay away from me for three days! They locked him in one of the royal chambers, forgetting about his gerdian blood. And every night dark flames appeared right before my bed, my dark dragon hungry... hungry for me.

It’s funny that since our love has become forbidden again, we both started to long for each other even more! I missed him during the days. I so got used to spending all my time with him that this seemed...new. And I didn’t like it.

So when he arrived to take me, I embraced him with all that I had... And tonight...he hardly left before the maids arrived.

Dragon weddings have to be done according to their traditions. So I spend the morning in the huge marble bath, where the dragonesses were throwing different herbs and flowers, as well as adding nicely smelling oils. I sat there for a while, soaking in the warm water while they were singing songs...about the love between Agnelind and Agnemir... And some love that was! They both sacrificed everything just to be together. And, luckily, their union brought many children and many happy years together.

When I was out of the bath, they rubbed me with something else that brought a sweet aroma and silkiness to my skin. And then they finally took me to my room and also took care of my nails. When a girl was finishing her job, I had to touch her forehead with my hand. They say that this would bring the girl luck for the foreseeable future. And there were many girls eager to help me today.

And now finally I am with the last three standing. One busy with my hair, another does my make-up while the third prepares my dress.

We didn’t have time to prepare anything special so my wedding dress is rather simple. The fabric is traditional Agnegard lace and it is beautiful on its own. Back at home, I would probably add some details to it... But right now I am just happy that I can finally marry the man I love. And this is more important than any dress.

When I am ready and blessing the three maids before they leave, Agnes enters the room. She is wearing a golden gown today. No one else except for me can wear white today.

“You look beautiful,” she smiles, “Like first sunrays in spring!”

“Thank you,” I smile at her.

“Ready?” she asks and I nod.

We walk together to the spacious balcony and she shifts into her dragon. The most important thing of today – the wedding has to take place on top of the highest peak. And it’s so high that the clouds are below it. You cannot reach it on foot. Dragons fly there. And since I am not a dragon, Agnes agreed to take me there.

Her dragon is similar to that of the king’s. Although she is smaller than him, she is the same shiny golden colour, her scales shimmering in the sunlight. She lowers her wing and I use it as a step to get on top of her. It’s really uncomfortable in my wedding dress but luckily she has spikes just like Rien and I can hold for them when I need them. She flies carefully, remembering that she is carrying me at all times. We rise higher and higher and I have to use my fire element once again not to get cold. But when I see where we are heading, I gasp with joy.

The top of the mountain consists of many sharp spike-like rocks. And on top of the highest one, I see Rien, waiting for me with the king beside him and a few people at the back. Wearing all black again, his cape flutters in the wind and the hair is messy as it’s pretty windy here. Other spikes are occupied by dragons. Yes, most of our witnesses are in the form of their beasts, clinging tenaciously to the rocks at the sides or sitting on top of them.

I try to hold myself with pride – back straight, chin high. Even in spite of the wind playing with my hair and dress. And as soon as the dragons see me they start giving out loud roars. Some even breathe fire as they acknowledge my arrival.

But I am not paying too much attention to that. I have my eyes on my groom. I am so happy to see him and only one thing starts bothering me slowly. There is definitely no place for Agnes to land safely. How are we going to do that?

But in just a moment dark flames appear around me. Not mine, I haven't mastered that yet. Rien's. The dark fire surrounds me and the next moment I am in his arms, looking into the brown eyes with a reddish tint that I love so much.

As always, he holds me for longer than it is required. And let's go of me with a heavy sigh.

I take just one step back, seeing the steep cliff behind my back. But it doesn't bother me. Even if I fall... he would catch me.

But what happens next surprises me... My dress starts to change... Out of simple lace real flowers start to bloom. Pale, but so beautiful... Flameflowers... I look at Rien and he smiles with so much sincerity! His little gift touches my heart. I remember how a few days ago I just mentioned that I am not entirely happy with my wedding gown. And here we are...

"Today we gathered here to witness the union of this son of Agnemir, Derrien Derwood Darmerion, and this daughter of Agnelind, Miradora Freyn", king Orion starts the ceremony, "Their souls have already been connected by the dragon gods! And today the Flames of Agnegard would confirm this union! Say your oaths now or refuse! This is your time!"

"Mira," Rien starts, "From the moment I saw you both me and my dragon knew that you are ours. And today I promise to you that this would never change. I will be with you forever, I will protect you until my last breath, I will cherish you every day, I will love you even after I die and I will do everything to make you happy! Under the eyes of all the gods, I swear this to you today."

My eyes get teary, so when I start speaking my voice is slightly broken, "Rien, during the light days and the dark, I accept you as my husband. I promise to give you my love and respect, I promise that I will become the best wife for you but I also promise to be your partner, to follow you wherever you go, and to help you whatever you do. You and I are two parts of the same whole. And I swear to you that this would never change!"

We hold our hands, silently looking into each other's eyes, no more words needed. The king next to us smiles and gives us a dry twig each into our hands. We both light them up with our magic. Still holding hands we come to a huge golden wedding chalice, which is mounted in the rock. It is empty from what I can see... Rien and I throw our burning twigs inside and first, nothing happens... But just in a few moments flames appear out of nowhere, purple

flames of dark fire... They are taller than us and soon the dragons around start to give out loud roars that shake the mountains themselves. The fire appears here and there as the dragons celebrate.

I feel how my bracelet gets hot and look at it getting darker on my hand, its patterns changing since this is not an engagement bracelet anymore. It's the marriage band.

"The gods and the witnesses bless your union. From this day forward you, Miradora, and you, Derrien, are husband and wife!" the king says and without waiting for any kind of permission, Rien pulls me into his embrace and covers my lips with his. I don't even notice how my hands curl around his neck and another wave of roars surrounds us!

"I haven't thought that dragon weddings are so...loud," I giggle, brushing his face with my palm and he catches my hand into his. We both look at our beautiful matching bracelets and can't hold back a smile.

Finally! I am his forever! And he is mine!

Usually, the dragons celebrate their weddings for weeks. Yet we got only two days. However, they were good days, filled with happiness and love. Rien and I were surrounded by friends and family. And although I felt a bit sad not to share this moment with my parents and brother, I knew that everything is for the best.

And on the third day...It was time to put armour on!

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TRISTAN

Finally, the day has come. The whole night my generals and I were discussing formations and tactics. One can't be too prepared for a battle with gerdians...

Gerdians! The word itself leaves a bitter taste on my tongue! All my problems are because of them. If they never existed I would have already had everything I ever wanted!

They crowned me just one week ago. After king Bendar's unfortunate passing.

Somehow he started to become resistant to Sideria and it was harder and harder for me to control him. And I couldn't allow it. What did he bring us? He called that peace, but I call that s****y. Giving away our own women just so that we are not attacked anymore! Who can consider himself a man after something like this? Humiliation! Every year I had to bring the girls to that castle I felt humiliated. I never stayed before this time. But every year it was me bringing the new sheep to their sacrificial place!

King Bendar believed that the gerdians would be noble but he has never seen their true faces! He believed that the girls would be happy in the Empire. Little did he know that during the Selection they were treated as mere things! No one was asking their opinion, no one cared who they fell in love with... The strongest gerdians were taking the girls that they liked and that was it. Nothing more... And after they were living for the Empire, we never heard of them ever again... I am afraid to think what destiny awaited those poor souls in the Empire!

I was working on my plan for a while. But it wasn't supposed to happen so fast. I needed more time to do everything properly. But once they chose Mira...my Mira! Even the thought of this still makes me grit my teeth in anger. My blood boils when I remember how he brought her there and just threw her to the ground! If I could kill him at that moment – I would have!

But I had to stay quiet, I had to pretend, I had to watch them claiming my Mira for themselves. But the worst thing... the worst thing was definitely to see Mira start to get used to it... To see her looking with affection at him! To see her fall in love with my enemy!

The pain it made me go through! All my plans have changed because of that!

First I thought just to extract Mira out of there and give them another girl. A dozen even if that would suit them! But after I noticed that I am losing her, I had to act fast. The explosion wasn't thought through... But even in this way, I was too late! She didn't want to go! She didn't want to stay with me... They charmed her, poisoned her with their dark magic, and influenced her mind. I couldn't let this happen! I had to save her! I had to have her...for myself. However selfish that is...

Sideria was my only option. After all, I knew far too well by then how good it could work. The king, the girls...it worked perfectly so many times before...

And yet even on Sideria Mira didn't accept me fully. I needed more time to persuade her, more time to steal her heart... But that bastard came again! He infiltrated in my palace and then even worse...

A dragon! Who could have thought! I have heard rumours but never thought that it could actually be true. And yet here he was – breaking a perfectly strong barrier as if it was a toy... And then k*****g Mira from her home again!

Every time I close my eyes I see her... What is he doing to her now, how he touches her, how he takes her... my bride! Mine!

Everyone insisted for me to choose a queen right after my coronation. But no. No other woman would take her place. I don't need any marriage alliances with any families. My power in the Akyrian Kingdom is supreme and beyond doubt. No one can argue with me, no one can go against me. I used to be the Sapphire Knight, the hero of my country. And now I am the Sapphire King! People love me, people are ready to sacrifice themselves for me! They believe in me and will never go against me. Not when I gave them hope. And especially not after I would bring them victory against our worst enemies!

And they love Mira as well! They love our story! They believe that she would be a great queen for me and for them. And I will bring her to them whatever it takes!

And they love Mira as well! They love our story! They believe that she would be a great queen for me and for them. And I will bring her to them whatever it takes!

I will destroy the Empire, I will k!!! everyone I have to just find her! She is somewhere there, I just need to look... And then I will take her back! I will make her forget and everything will be the way it was supposed to be. She will be by my side and I will become the new Emperor of the new country! Akyrian Empire!

Blood boils in my veins when I think of all this... The things I had to do... The things I still have to do...

Just to remember with how many girls I had to sleep to get the power of dark magic... It makes me shrug. One after another, just to make sure it is working

on time... They screamed my name and I was imagining that it was her. It was supposed to be her! But he stole her from me! And ruined everything! And today – I will find him first! And personally execute him.

I am stronger than a regular gerdian now. Old Aspen was working hard to create my personal sapphire amplifier. He didn't want to help at first. But I have my ways of persuading people. And now, right in the very center of my armour, looking just like other sapphires that I wear, is my main source of power. They would never get it. But that's what would help me to destroy any enemy that I meet today. Even a dragon!

I look at the field that we chose for the battle. It is surrounded by small hills and since I am on top of one of them I can see everything that is going on. Gerdians have already arrived too. They are preparing and so are we. Minutes are separating us from slashing each other's throats.

But I am looking for one face. Only one person I need to find within their forces. So that I know where to look for him in battle! I see the Crown Prince of Gerdian Empire Ryden Dargen ordering his soldiers around. I would kill him too of course. All their royal family would perish today. But I need to find the one who has stolen Mira from me! The one who is the most dangerous out of them all!

And yet he is not here! Something is wrong and a bad feeling creeps into my heart. He is their best general, he should be leading their army instead of the puppet prince. But he is not here... Why? Did he get scared and ran away with Mira? Or is he planning a surprise attack? I am ready even if he appears in the shape of a dragon. But I would very much prefer to find him in battle and to cross our swords. I want Mira to know that I won fair and square! Yet the coward is not here!

"My king," one of the generals approaches me, "What are your orders?"

"Move the formations! We are launching our attack before they are ready!" I say, "Be prepared for the parts of their army that Brandon Seville is commanding today. They took their positions at two different hills and would probably attack when we are down there and fighting their first division!"

"Yes, my king," the man bows and puts on his helmet. And I put on mine and get onto my horse.

Soon it will all be over with!

Our regiment moved out first, gerdians not wasting their time, preparing for the battle as well. The light of the fireballs illuminated the field, yet soon it will be covered by blood. I lead my army and Ryden Dargen is leading his, the fool has no idea who he's dealing with. He is the one to send the first fireball to attack us but when it is met with a dark barrier he looks startled. Surprise, you scum! The look on his face was worth everything I had to do for this moment. He really did not expect that all our mages possess dark magic as well. And when my army starts attacking him with dark fireballs of our own I see true horror on his face. This is going to be the first battle that gerdians would have to fight with someone equal to them in power. And since they are the ones who did not expect this, luck is on our side. This victory is going to be easier than I initially thought. But what helps me the most is that their tactics are lacking. The army which is led by Brandon Seville still hasn't moved. If they expect to attack us by surprise then it wouldn't bring them any advantage. On the contrary, the best chance to win is now. But apparently, they are too stupid to understand that. I'm starting to think that I was overestimating them.

Meanwhile, Dargen is in trouble. Judging by his face I think he starts to realize that he's going to lose soon. All my sacrifices we're worth it.

A dark shadow appears right above my head. I've been waiting for you, Dark Dragon. I send a signal to one of my generals to prepare the weapons. Harpoon cannons with ropes suppressing dark magic. I made Aspen work hard on that. And now finally the time has come to test them. I have 10 cannons and hopefully, it would be enough for one unprepared dragon. He moves fast so when cannons start shooting the harpoons he tries to avoid them at all costs. He's good, I have to give him that. But mages return the harpoons back quickly and reloading time is next to nothing. Sooner or later I will get him and pull him back to the ground, powerless. It's just a question of time.

However the harpoons have their limits and he soon figures it out. It doesn't matter soon he will have to come closer to me if he wants to win this damn war. But it doesn't look like he wants that, he's flying high in the air and not doing anything to help his own army. The division led by Seville does the same thing. It seems like they're just watching... what is wrong with them?

Doesn't matter! I'm not losing time! The victory is so close – now or never!

Another huge shadow appears above my head. At first, I think that it's the Dark Dragon but this is something bigger and when I look up I see that the colour is different. I can't believe my eyes! Another dragon!

No, it can't be! He couldn't have possibly found another dragon! He is the only one! How the chaos did he find another?

I look high in the sky and feel that something is immensely wrong... the clouds somehow get darker, with many black dots in them. The dots are getting bigger and bigger, and they look like a flock of birds. But they keep enlarging before my eyes and soon I realise that I'm looking at a herd of full sized real dragons!

"Chaos!" someone says next to me, "This is absolutely impossible! What is going on? "

"The chaos opened up and returned the beasts into our world!" an older soldier says. I look around me and realize that no one is fighting anymore. Not us, not gerdians, no one.

The dragons get closer and closer. I can now see how different they are. Different colours, different shapes, so many different kinds of them! Unbelievable!

And then I see her ... Mira! My Mira! I would recognize her anywhere! Her fiery red hair blowing in the wind in braids, something resembling a Golden helmet is on her head. She is sitting on top of a golden dragon, holding by the spikes on its back.

It's definitely her. I even see this familiar fire in her eyes. She came here to fight too. And unfortunately, I know that she's not going to fight on my side. But it also doesn't look like the dragons are going to help the gerdians.

Hectic, everything is so hectic! One of my soldiers, probably by mistake, fired one of the cannons. It got straight into one of the Dragons wings. The roar almost blocking my ears. Yet in just one second another dragon breaks the rope. And next, several of them fly over the cannons and burn them all to the ground. People hardly have time to escape!

The Dark Dragon and there was only one of those in the herd, prepared to land in the middle of the battlefield. The Warriors from both sides step away to clear the space for him. He shifts while he is still in the air and lands on the ground as man, looking around us with a usual smirk on his face. Derrien Derwood! The man I hate the most!

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DARGEN

Everything is wrong today! I don't even get what is going on anymore!

First, it turns out that those akyrians already mastered the dark magic! And according to our predictions, it wasn't supposed to happen so fast! We were supposed to have another few weeks at least! Only now I realize that we should have attacked sooner. All this waiting was a big mistake!

And the only one to blame here is Derwood! If he hasn't hidden the seal with which one can control his army, I would have invaded the Akyrian Kingdom weeks ago! That traitor! For the first time in our lives, I was the winner and he just couldn't get over it! I've been waiting for it for years! In his shadow!

For as long as I can remember everyone was comparing me to him! Derrien! Rien! Rien, Rien, Rien! My father, my uncle, all the lords and ladies... even servants! They all have been comparing me to him! And I was not the winner in that situation! Not as fast, not as strong, not as clever... But one thing was definitely my virtue! Patience! Yes, I knew how to wait! And I waited! For my time! For the opportunity! I waited and I got rewarded!

Derrien became too unpredictable. And our uncle hates unpredictable! He wants loyalty. 100%! And since my cousin fell in love, he couldn't give him that! What ironic about it that even here he had to choose the only girl who I was interested in! And yet it was my win all the way! He chose love over loyalty and lost all his favour with the Emperor! And my time has come! My!

And yet he couldn't just accept and get over it! He couldn't serve me, he couldn't surrender Mira to me even though now I had the upper hand in claiming her! In claiming whatever I wanted!

Dark gods! Why doesn't this bastard Brandon Sevill attack when we need him the most?! What the chaos is he waiting for?

I should have never trusted him. But I was pretty sure that he betrayed Derwood. I should have kidnapped that fiancée of his to make sure that things go smoothly today. It was very unlucky that my cousin's army was ready to

follow only his lead without the seal. But I thought that it could still work... Did he just betray me?!

If so then I am going to destroy him, his house, his girl! He is going to pay for his stupid loyalty to the wrong person!

The dark dragon appears out of nowhere! And I would recognize him everywhere!

This time, however, the akyrians surprised me! They attacked him again and again and for the first time ever I found myself cheering for the enemy! I just hate Derrien more! I would have helped them but he was far out of my reach!

And that's when I notice something else!

Dragons! So many of them! When did this happen? How?! No, this cannot be happening for real!

Derrien Derwood In the flesh is standing before me with, shifting in seconds, an ugly smirk on his ugly face! Dragons are circling above our heads. No one would be stupid enough to attack him now. I know far too well what one dragon can do. I've seen him in action with my own eyes too many times to think that we could stand a chance against a bunch of them. And judging by his smug face, he knows that too. But it cannot end like this! I work too hard! I waited for too long!

"Long time no see!" Derrien says, "Missed me?"

"Not really," I spit, "What is all this?! Explain yourself!"

"Are you blind, cousin?" he chuckles, "What does it look like?"

"Are you interfering with our war?" I hear the new King of the Akyrian Kingdom say, he is suddenly close to both of us. So bold! He never spoke with so much challenge in his voice when we were back at the Selection. And now when he has his dark magic, he thinks that he is our equal. The nerve of him!

"You bet I am interfering with this damn war! I am not letting you two destroy both, the Empire and the Kingdom!" Derwood says arrogantly, "I am putting an end to this."

“By enslaving both nations with the help of your Dragons? Akyrians would rather die than surrender!” the King snorts and I have to admit that I am starting to grow on the guy.

“The same for gerdians!” I cross my hands on my chest.

He didn’t think that we would give up easily, did he? I’d rather destroy everyone and everything than pass it to him!

“Are you sure you don’t want to ask your armies if they are ready to fight against dragons?” the asshole smirks, “They don’t seem so sure!”

I throw a quick look around and have to admit that soldiers look like they are about to run for the hills. For chaos’s sake! Luckily, at least my people are sworn by blood to me! They will have to fight if I tell them to!

A dark shadow quickly moves over the ground and I look up into the sky to see two huge golden dragons flying over their heads. One of them lands close to us – people running away from it quickly. And only now I see that there is someone on the dragon’s back. Everything inside me rises up when I realize who this person is! Mira!

Her slender figure in golden armour jumps down with ease. She looks better than ever and the picture of me stripping her in my bed appears before my eyes again. I have to admit, the victory wouldn’t be full without her by my side!

She is a symbol! Of everything! The three most powerful men here want her for themselves. And only the winner would have it all – both countries, the crown and... her! It was clear from the very beginning that she is the kind of woman fit to be a queen! And I can only imagine what kind of fire creature she would be in bed... Yes, we all know that whoever wins today, would take her home with him and make her his. And I so wish that it would be me. But the problem here is the dragons! No one would be able to stand against them!

“I want to be fair,” Derwood says, and I am suddenly all ears. Gods, please, tell me that he is going to be stupidly noble again! Please!

“What are you proposing then?” I raise my brow and notice how the face of the King of Akyria changed as well at our words. The bastard probably sees hope too.

“I offer you a combat of three kings!” Rien smirks, “The winner takes it all.”

“And can we just trust that your dragons will fly away if you lose?” I hear Tristan, I think that’s his name, say with doubt.

“No,” Mira comes forward and says, “The dragons want to stay. And they will be ready to negotiate the conditions for that with the new king. Whoever it would be! But if you refuse, we would have no choice but fight!”

“And you?” the Akyrian Kings tries to come close to her, but Derrien blocks him, “What will you do? Will you marry the winner?”

“I am already married! And there will be no other man in my life!” she raises her hand and demonstrates to us the marriage bracelet that has gotten darker now that the ceremony has been held! Damn it! Now killing Derrien is the only way to get her!

“You... You married him?” the Sapphire boy just cannot believe in her words. And what did he think? That a gerdian would lose his time with the woman he wants?! Speak about naïve...

“Yes,” she says, “And we are also expecting our first child!”

Chaos! That also wasn’t supposed to happen so fast! I thought I still have time to find her before they... Doesn’t matter! One potion and the baby inside her womb will be gone! She would suffer a bit but in the end, it was always going to be a breaking game with her. Mira is a tough nut, I haven’t met a woman with inner strength matching hers but I am sure that in the end, even she is going to break.

I thought so many times of ways I could punish her... for not wanting me, for defying me, for her last little trick on me with this damn Sideria! And now I think I have a perfect punishment in my hands! Yes, that would help me to break her faster!

“And you are going to risk everything just like that?” I hear Tristan speaking. He doesn’t get it, does he?

“I am not risking anything,” Derwood smirks and comes to Mira, to give her a kiss on the temple. He just parades to us that he has already won. And then he turns back to us and asks firmly, “So are you ready to agree to my conditions? The last one standing will become the new ruler of both nations!”

The Akyrian and I look quickly at each other... And I know a scheme when I see one. His eyes are full of hatred. And he hates the same person that I hate. A plan is born without the two of us saying a word to each other. We two against him. This is our best chance!

And after we k!!! Derwood together, I'll destroy that Sapphire boy as well... Good. Everything still can turn out good for me.

A few dragons shift next to Mira and I see a pretty woman and a very tall guy standing by her side. They both wear golden armour like hers. Too shiny to my taste. But who cares...

Meanwhile, everybody around us moves, creating a big circle for our battle. Derrien raises his hand and creates a barrier dome around us. From now on we are trapped! I know his barriers far too well! Now I will be able to get out only if he is dead or kind enough to let me go willingly. And I wouldn't count for the latter too much!

The three of us get our swords out, we walk in a circle watching each other's every move. That smirk on his face... I want to wipe it out! And I will!

He steps into the middle of the battlefield first, I think he knows our plan, he knows that he is our main target. He has never been stupid, I have to give him that. Although, this combat now seems like such a silly idea ... If I had the Dragons under my rule, I would have already k!!! my competition and crowned myself King. Luckily, Derrien likes his victories clean. Hence giving me and the Sapphire boy a chance of survival.

We circle around him, blades ready for attack, shields of dark magic created on our left hands. And Derwood is c0cky! He doesn't even make himself a shield! He probably doesn't take this too seriously. And that makes me even angrier! I want to k!!! him so much! I need to k!!! him!

The Akyrian King Attacks first, Derrien dodges easily. I don't waste my time too and our swords clink meeting each other for the first time in a while. I tried to hold him in place, giving Tristan time and opportunity to attack him properly. He charges at him, but a wave of dark magic throws him back. Chaos! I disappear in the cloud of dark smoke and reappear behind his back, trying to stab him hard. The Sapphire boy is back in no time as well, yet Derrien blocks both of us making it look effortless. He is mocking us! He is just playing here!

The hatred in my heart boils and burns! Kill him! Kill!

Another attack on him and one more, again, and again! Tristan and I are almost cornering him to the wall of the barrier! Get that you selfish arrogant prick!

Slash! I feel blood dripping down my leg! It makes me kneel as I think was his plan all along. The pain is piercing but I transport and this time jump on him from the air, aiming at his skull. And yet he dodges again with ease, slashing my arm this time!

I catch my breath and watch the king of Akyria fighting him off. He is not that bad! And he sends waves of dark magic every other second, making it hard for Derrien to get close to him. Where does he get all that power from? Women that get married to gerdians need at least a year to get this powerful! Does this boy know something that we don't? Even Derwood seems startled at his power!

Now or never! I attack him as well, finally able to make a small cut. It may be small but it will be the first of many!

Meanwhile, Tristan advances on him inevitably, crazy fire in his eyes, finally able to slash his side.

A scream echoes across the battlefield, "Rien!"

It's her...

The king looks at her as if she has betrayed him. And luckily for me, it only fuels his rage!

"You are never going to get her!" he roars, wielding his weapon, "She is mine!"

A wave of dark magic big enough to destroy a castle knocks us both off our feet! He shouldn't have said that!

A sound of something breaking emerges and looking at Tristan, he is holding a broken stone in his hand... One of the many sapphires mounted into his armour... He doesn't look too happy about that either. Was it his favourite stone or something?

"Chaos with it!" he shouts, charging again, "I don't need an amplifier to deal with you!"

Ah! Amplifier... didn't think it was possible to use those this way!

Derwood's sword cuts through his flesh like a knife through butter! I see the blade that got into his stomach poking out of his back... The Sapphire King of Akyria falls to his knees, blood gushing from his wounds. Rien Steps aside and the whole battlefield is quiet. We all know that the guy is dead... Not surprisingly, he looks in the direction of Mira. There is so much in his eyes... I think he really loved her. She looks at him ... with pity... I don't want her to look at me like that! Ever!

I don't waste my chance and attack while all the attention is on the dying King. I feel how his sword goes through me in less than a second. Weird feeling. The pain comes much later than it actually happened.

I fall to my knees right next to the dead Sapphire Knight, the wound is going to end me. Even with gerdian healing abilities, my chances are slim. Derrien takes the barrier down. He knows he has won.

Won! Again! No, it can't be! Not again! I cannot lose to him!

He makes a circle around me, walking slowly ...

"I am sorry, cousin," he says sadly, "I never wanted for it to come to this!"

Is he playing a noble person again?! The audacity of him!

Not thinking twice, I disappear in the cloud of dark magic. Reappearing next to Mira, I grab her roughly and then transport with her in my arms...

The Selection: Bride Of The Dark Dragon Chapter 129 - Tips

MIRA

The battle was going exactly as planned. Rien didn't look like it was hard for him, he even got a bit too cocky to my taste. I would prefer for him to play it safe. But one thing I always knew for sure about my husband was that he is one arrogant piece of a dragon. He always was, he always will be. But I love him still.

It was sad for me to see so much hatred in Tristan's eyes. I never loved him the way he apparently wanted me to, but I also never really hated him. In

some sense, I can even understand a lot of what he was doing for the country. It's just that somewhere in the middle of trying to do the right thing, he turned to the very wrong way... And lost himself there... Forgot about boundaries, honour... And became a different man. Lives of his people became nothing, consent of his beloved woman became unimportant... Everything about him was wrong now. And I saw that.

The hatred with which he looks at Derrien now, the madness in his eyes... They all tell me that Tristan that I knew years ago was long gone. He was attacking like an animal. Too strong for what he should be. Amplifiers come to my mind and I know that I am right when one of his sapphires gets broken and he seems more upset about it than he should be in the middle of a fight.

when Ryan pierces his sword through his heart, I know it is over. He falls to his knees and looks for something in the crowd around him. His eyes find mine. and I can't help but feel pity for him. The great Sapphire Knight, the King of Akyrian Kingdom for just over a month... A traitor who killed his own king, who killed innocent people and sacrificed innocent girls, the one who drugged me with Sideria and tried to erase my memories... But I still found some pity in my heart for him...

"Good-bye, Tristan," I whisper and a small smile appears on his face as he falls down...

Suddenly, a cloud of dark smoke appears right next to me and I realize that Rien has taken the barrier down. Ryden Dargen's eyes are full of crazy glory even though he is deadly wounded as well. He grabs me roughly and pulls me into a tight embrace, transporting immediately.

The transportation doesn't feel right. He is almost out of strength and I am gathering with mine. I came here to fight if needed too! And now it is needed more than ever! Luckily, I am full of strength now and dark magic is long by my side!

The transportation practically throws us out somewhere in a stone dark building. I land on top of Dargen and he gives out a painful shout, blood gushing from his wounds.

"Where are we?!" I ask him angry, my only wish is to poke my fingers inside of his cut to make it hurt more!

"The palace!" he grunted standing up and catching me by my hair, but I hit him hard with my elbow and he lets go of me. I run to the door in front of us but it opens before I reach it and the Emperor Ghardin of the Gerdian Kingdom appears before me, looking surprised.

"What's all this?" he asks in an angry voice, noticing Dargen kneeling behind me, breathing heavily from pain. I take a few steps back. I am no fool, I know that the Emperor is not my friend! I remember what he did to Rien's parents! To his own sister! And it makes me shrug! Rien told me that as an Emperor he gets the most powerful dark magic in the Empire. Not as strong as a dragon, but stronger than anyone else.

I am now behind Ryden, thinking of ways to escape. It's a shame that I have been to the palace just twice and didn't get the opportunity to learn the surroundings well. I really don't know if I can take the Emperor down on my own. And then there is Dargen...

"You lost!" Ghardin nods his head as if he expected this.

Ryden raises his head up and tries to stand up, but fails, "He wounded me badly! But uncle... I escaped.. And I... I got her!"

He points at me with a bloody finger and I want to break it!

"And?" the Emperor raises his brow.

"He will do everything for her!" Dargen spits blood, "He loves her! She is his wife! She is with his child! He turned on you for her, we can use her to lure him out and kill him!"

"How noble!" I grit through my teeth, "Spoken like a true Emperor, Ryden! Hiding behind a woman's back!"

Ghardin watches me with interest. His lips curl in a smirk as he walks closer to his nephew and gives him a hand. I don't like the way he looks at me.

"Good job, Ryden," he says, giving the bleeding man a tap on his back which makes him spit blood to the floor, "Are you sure that she is pregnant?"

“She said it herself, uncle...”, Dargen nods vigorously, “In front of everyone! And they also brought...”

“She said it herself, uncle...”, Dargen nods vigorously, “In front of everyone! And they also brought...”

He doesn't get to finish his sentence as Gharding takes his head into his hands and swings it with force, breaking his neck and throwing him away as if he was nothing.

I gasp with horror looking at the scene and realizing that Dargen is dead!

Just like that... I remember the times when I thought that he was the main evil of this Empire, of this family... But now I know for sure... Ryden was just another victim! Grown by this monster, he broke under his suppressing sinister aura. Maybe he could have been a better man if he had a better example in his life... It's surprising that Rien didn't turn up like him. But then again, maybe it is because of the dragon inside him... Maybe he was his anchor...

“You are a monster!” I snap at the man in front of me, “How could you? He was your own blood!”

“He was a loser who was never destined for greatness, Miradora!” Ghardin chuckles darkly, “I gave him everything, every chance... and yet he failed me every time! I am extremely happy that now I finally will have someone worthy to replace him with!”

I gulp. I know who he is talking about...

“You are not going to get away with this!” I take another step back.

“Of course, I will,” he smirks, “I already did it before... With Rien. But I will learn from the mistakes of my past. And fix them.”

He comes closer but still keeps a distance between us. He is like a predator who drives his prey into a trap, and I am trying to hetically think what to do now. That's a room without windows, just a door behind him... I need to at least get there and try to escape and hide. There is no way I am as strong as him! And also... also I can't risk my precious baby boy by trying full combat against the most powerful gerdian man!

“What do you mean?” I try to stall for time and luckily, he relaxes a bit.

“I had a soft spot for my sister,” he starts telling me, “A thing of beauty she was! I’ve never met another woman like her... If she wasn’t my sister than...”

He stops talking and I cringe from the inside. This is disgusting!

“I was so angry when I found out that she was in love with another man! The man who I once had a fight with and lost! The only one I couldn’t win over! I wanted to kill him! That was all I wanted... But then I found out something significant about him. Something that changed everything! He was a dragon! Can you believe it? The opportunities it opened before me?! I wasn’t even angry when I found out that my sister got pregnant by this man. She was already betrothed to another anyway. And I knew how good it would be to have this child! For me! For the Empire! But before the child was born I needed to get as much information as possible... What strengths dragons have, what are their weaknesses... I wanted to know everything! I needed to know it so I... I started to read. Everything and anything I could find on dragons! And there wasn’t a lot. But luckily, there was enough. So, I prepared a perfect trap, using my sister and her unborn baby to lure the dragon out. I made him surrender!”

He laughs with a laugh of a crazy man! There is nothing normal inside of him.

“She was his soulmate, did you know that?” he snorts and then grits through his teeth, “Soulmate! He loved her more than anything! And he sacrificed himself for her! I tore him to pieces. Bit by bit! Slowly! Painfully! Even when I knew that there wasn’t any new information for me, I kept torturing him! I kept enjoying his sufferings! And hers... Yes, I made her watch sometimes... And she wept for him! I hated how sorry she was for him! I hated every moment of it! She would have helped him run, I knew it... So, with the knife at her belly with unborn Rien inside I made her swear, give a blood magic oath that she would never leave me and that she would never help him! My luck was that she was already too attached to her child to risk his life! Otherwise even that wouldn’t have stopped her!”

“You are a monster,” I say coldly, just stating the fact.

“I guess I am,” he grins, “And now I can do the same thing all over again!”

“What...”

“You are with child! This is amazing news! For me!” he chuckles, “Now thanks to you, I will be able to make Rien surrender! You are his soulmate, aren’t you?”

“I don’t know what you are talking about!” I look him in the eye without blinking.

“Liar!” he gives out a small laugh, “I am starting to see what both my boys have found in you! So feisty!”

He takes a small strand of hair that got out of my braid and pulls it harshly, tearing off most of it. I scream at first but quickly take myself under control.

I will not give this man the satisfaction of seeing me weep! Not now! Not ever!

He brings my ginger lock to his nose and breathes in my scent.

“Do not worry, Miradora!” he smirks, “I will make your son the Emperor! He will be the most powerful man in the world! I will help him and...”

“He doesn’t need the help of a beast!” I retort, “You will never even lay a hand on my son!”

I send a strong wave of dark magic into him and it knocks him off his feet. I don’t waste any more time and jump over him, running to the door and opening it shut. It looks like a private bedroom... Fit for an emperor! sh!t! Why would he have a room with no windows or furniture attached to it?

Wait, I don’t want to know why!

I charge for another door that I notice but Ghardin appears behind me out of the dark smoke and grabs me by my hair.

“Going somewhere?” he hisses, “You know, Mira if you don’t learn to behave then I just feel the need to inform you that to give birth you don’t need all your body parts! I just can make it so that you will not be able to run anymore, so sit and...”

A thud came from behind me and the grip on my hair is gone, I turn and see Ghardin falling down, holding his bleeding head. Lady Cecilia stands in front of me with a heavy candelabrum in her hand. My lips part in shock and she hits Ghardin once again. Strong.

“You will not hurt any of my girls anymore!” she shouts and throws away her weapon, leaning on her walking cane.

“Cecilia!” I jump to her, the old woman is shaking. With the corner of my eye I notice that Ghardin is standing up slowly, he is a bit disoriented but gerdians heal fast.

“I will kill you old b***h!” he growls and charges at us, but I block him, stabbing his side with a knife I get out of my boot. The knife gifted to me by Agnes. The knife made out of Flameglass! It cuts through the armour that he is wearing easily and he groans from pain, sparks of dark magic on the tips of his fingers. He is ready to attack us any moment and Cecilia in no state to run!

I see a balcony behind us... It's big...and I notice something else in the window. Or I better say, someone!

I turn to Cecilia and grab her hand, concentrating as hard as I can. Flames of dark magic appear around us and I transport us to the ballroom where I had my first and last ball at the Gerdian Empire. The powers of dark magic are limited, I can only transport to places I have been to or have precise coordinates for.

“Hide!” I say to Cecilia, “Hide as well as you can and as fast as you can! I need to go!”

The woman looks at me in shock, but flames of dark magic surround me again. I reappear on the balcony of the Emperor and he throws furniture in his room around in a fit of anger.

“Ghardin!” I shout and he turns to look at me, surprise on his face.

He walks to me quickly, saying, “This was a mistake, little w***e!”

“Yes,” I get onto the rail before he can reach me, “It was. But not mine!”

I jump off the balcony as the Emperor shouts a long and loud, “No!”

He doesn't want to lose his new toy and puppet!

But I know that my husband would be there to catch me. I land on his back, his spikes are pressed against his skin as I land, but as soon as I grab one,

they rise again. My dark dragon is changing direction and we are back in front of the balcony in no time.

Ghardin standing there, his hand on the wound that I gave him, blood dripping through his fingers. My knife is in his hand... And his eyes... His eyes are on the hundreds of dragons that now fly around the palace!

He mutters something but we don't hear him. It doesn't matter really.

The dragon under me opens his mouth and dark fire emerges. It consumes the Emperor of the Gerdian Empire... There isn't even enough time for him to scream. No power can be compared with dragon's fire! None!