THORNS 45

Chapter 45: Kurt's Confession

SWHOOSH

Diana appeared at the front doors of the dorms. She stood still with her arms crossed and looked around for any signs of that one eyed fiend.

'Where are you, you devil. You think you can just... toy with me like that? After the way you looked at me so affectionately. After the way you begged for more? After the way... you stole my heart? No. I refuse to be a chess piece to your little game...'

"Principal Valentine!" The dorm mother who was watering the plants noticed and called out to her.

"This is quite the rare occurrence. What brings you out here?"

"Dorm mother, good afternoon." Diana managed to put on a smile. "I'm looking for Emelie Herst and the guest she's with. Are they inside perhaps?"

"Them? I've no idea where they've gone. One second, they were here and the next they weren't. Oh, but I must say the guest that was here for her is quite the gentleman. He even helped me a little when it was supposed to be Austin's job. Speaking of Austin–"

"I will give him another punishment whenever he returns." Diana interrupted her before she could go on a tangent.

"Is there anyone who saw where they went?"

"You could try asking the students inside. However,"

"What is it?"

"I don’t think that they’re in any state to be answering questions that pertain to Emelie."

"Why is that?" Diana raised an eyebrow.

"I think it’s best if you see for yourself..."

Diana was led into the common room by the dorm mother and witnessed a sight that could only be described as a horror scene.

"Emelie whyyyy *sob*..." One student laid flat and face first on the ground while crying.

"Don’t worry Emelie. I’ll save you from that horrible monster..." Another student rocked back and forth the couch while holding their knees and biting their nails.

She even saw one student standing in the corner of the room, knocking his head on the wall and mumbling something about "she dragged him away".

"What happened here?" She asked the dorm mother.

"I-I can answer that." A male student who was clattering his teeth answered her.

"H-Hello P-Principal Valentine, M-M-M-My name is S-Steward of c-class 1-C. A-As for what happened, it all s-started when t-that filthy mongrel entered the common r-room."

"I don’t need the whole story, just tell me where they are."

"Oh. S-Sorry. P-Personally I don’t know b-but the three nerds of class 4-C s-said something about going to the r-roofs to s-spy on them."

"The roofs got it. Dorm mother, I'll be leaving now."

SHWOOSH

"... G-Get him, principal. For all of us."

"Oh my..." The dorm mother held her cheek as she watched Diana disappear in an instant.

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Diana reappeared on the dorm roofs where she saw the three nerds crying at the edge of the building.

She didn't bother asking them what was wrong and instead took the pair of binoculars she saw lying on the ground.

She then looked at the binoculars and then at the nerds. She looked at the binoculars again and this time looked out on the field where she saw two figures.

'No...'

When she looked through the binoculars to get a closer inspection, she saw it.

Kurt and Emelie, holding each other's hands while jumping up and down.

Emelie had the look of pure joy on her face and Kurt, while to others would look absolutely lost and confused, to Diana he looked just as happy.

'So it's like that, is it Kurt?' She thought as she dropped the binoculars as she stared blankly at the two of them.

’Not only did you seduce me, now you’re also seducing my best student. You also seduced the dorm mother and who knows how many other countless women.’

Diana held the red gem that was on her chest and imbued it with magic.

"Heh heh it would seem that I wasn’t your one and only, huh? Fine. If I can’t have you for myself, no one can."

When enough mana was poured into the gem, she ripped it off her chain and it transformed into a crimson wielding nodachi. She then pointed the tip of the blade at Kurt and suddenly...

SHWOOSH

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Back on the field Emelie stopped celebrating when she saw the look on Kurt’s face.

"What’s wrong? You look like you’re going to throw up."

"I don’t know. My body feels weird. I feel... jumpy? Like it’s telling me to move."

"Hmm that does sound weird. It’s not like you’re in any danger. Especially with me around!" She thumped her chest in pride.

"Y-Yeah... ha ha." Kurt took out his dagger and looked around the field.

’This feels just like that time I fainted. It also reminds me of that time when Arlo froze us in that alley...’

"Seriously Kurt. You’re sweating buckets. Are you alright?"

"I– Oh Shit!"

At that moment, a prickling sense of danger overwhelmed him. He quickly covered his neck with the dagger as he felt that his head was going to be lobbed off.

CLANG!

The force of the impact sent Kurt flying back as he barely managed to block whatever hit him.

Dust covered the area as the mysterious figure just stood there.

"Kurt!" Emelie ran after him hoping that he's still alive.

When she got to him she breathed a sigh of relief as she saw that he was fine. His dagger however wasn't as lucky.

"What the hell was that?! Are your fans really that freakin' obsessed with you?! Don't they know what a joke is?! Look at my dagger!" He held up two pieces of black steel. "It's been cut clean!"

"N-No. They might be a little stupid, but they'd never go this far..."

They both looked in the direction of the attacker. Once the dust was settling, a giant, one-handed swing of a crimson sword sliced through the air as it cleared the surroundings.

'This nodachi is!!'

"Kurt~"

'That voice!!'

"Principal Valentine?! – Diana?!" They both said at the same time.

"Oh wow. It seems you haven’t forgotten about me even after moving to your next target. Should I be disgusted or flattered, I wonder..."

"Principal Valentine, what’s the meaning of this!? Why would you attack us all of a sudden?!"

" ’Us’? I’m pretty sure I aimed my blade properly at him. Why would I kill you Emelie? You’re my best student who unfortunately fell for this man’s wretched games."

’What is she talking about?’ Emelie thought confusingly to herself.

"Diana! I didn’t expect to see you again so soon!" Kurt excitedly called to her.

"I’m sure you didn’t. I bet you didn’t expect to ever see me again... Thinking you can just throw me away and move to the next..." She said quietly.

"Huh? What was that?" Kurt moved closer to her.

"*Tsk* Die."

SHWOOSH

"Kurt watch out!" Emelie flew forward and grabbed him just in time to dodge the blade.

SHING! Clack!

The blade missed its target as it sliced into the ground.

"Emelie... Emelie... Emelie! Why are you defending him!? Don’t tell me you’ve fallen for him too?!"

"You’re not making any sense Principal Valentine!"

"Diana, why are you trying to kill me?! Is it because of what happened at Sophie’s?!"

"Shut up!" She pulled the nodachi out the ground and pointed it at Kurt again. "I was ready to have a commitment with you! But I was just another fling on your list of women to toy with!"

"Toy with?! What are you talking about?! I’m not toying with anyone!"

"Then why did you look so happy when holding hands with her!? Why are you flirting with the dorm mother?! And why did you kiss me like that?! Like I was your everything if you were just going to toss me aside for another!" More tears fell down from her crimson, lifeless eyes.

"You kissed her?!" Emelie looked at him in shock.

"God, you’re so sexy when you’re angry..."

"Kurt?!"

"Die!"

SHWOOSH

Emelie jumped in front of him and managed to block the blade using a telekinetic force.

"Stop getting in my way! Can’t you see he’s using you too?!"

"I’m sure there must be some sort of misunderstanding, right Kurt?!" Emelie desperately looked at him hoping he would clear the air.

"Diana."

"What!!"

"I love you and only you. I was never planning on going after other women for some sort of sick game. I know we haven't known each other for very long but let me prove to you that what I feel for you is real."

Diana's hand faltered and cheeks blushed as she heard his heartfelt confession. But quickly snapped out of her dazy thoughts and applied more force on her blade.

"Y-You're lying! I heard everything from Dominik, about how you cancelled our date because you couldn't be bothered!"

'Wait, that person was you?' Kurt realised his mistake.

"Diana, that was–"

"Shut up! I hate you!"

SHWOOSH

The pressure from the blade was released as Diana teleported a few paces back and stood in a battle-ready stance.

"Kurt, did you seriously just confess your love for her despite all that's happening?" Emelie asked him with a confused smile.

"I sure did. And I meant every word."

"Too bad she doesn’t see it that way. Looks like we’re in for a rough time."

"How bad is this going to be?"

"Well, she is called the Crimson Flash for a reason. I’m guessing you can understand what that name implies."

"Dammit! Okay, here’s the plan. You find a way to subdue her then leave the rest to me."

"That doesn’t sound like much of a plan!"

"It’s gonna have to do for now because guess what?"

"What?"

"My spidey senses are tingling."

"You’re what–"

"Move!" Kurt grabbed Emelie by the head and ducked low as he narrowingly dodged the blade.

Chapter 46: Kurt & Emelie VS Diana

"That was way too close!"

Kurt looked up to see Diana getting ready to start slicing again.

"I’m surprised you saw that coming, Kurt." She spoke with zero emotion. "Not anyone is able to dodge the first cut."

"I’m not just anyone, Diana."

"Oh. And who exactly are you?"

Kurt stood up slowly and opened up his arms to her. "I’m yours." He declared.

"W-What?" She got caught slightly off guard.

"Emelie, now!"

Emelie shot out her hands and casted a powerful telekinetic spell barrier around Diana, keeping her in place.

"I got her!"

"No. You don’t." She easily teleported out of Emelie hold and appeared behind her.

She swung the back hilt of her blade towards her in hopes to knock her out, but it was easily stopped mid-swing by her magic. Emelie then jumped away in order to create some distance.

"Very good Emelie. It’s almost like you knew it was coming."

’If only you knew how many times I fought you throughout my life.’ Emelie thought while looking at her sadly.

She pushed herself off the ground and flew towards Diana for a frontal attack, but Diana just simply teleported behind her again and swung her sword hilt in anticipation for the telekinetic force.

What happened, however, was that Emelie ducked low and swept her leg around so as to trip Diana over.

Diana reacted just in time and slammed her blade in the ground effectively stopping the kick.

’Now!’

Emelie used the momentum of her kick to rise up and swing her other foot directly aiming for Diana’s chin.

Tsk! Shwoosh! Diana teleported away and Emelie backflipped her way to Kurt.

"That was pretty sick, Emelie." Kurt complimented her on her cool yet failed attempt to subdue Diana.

"Why the hell are you just standing back here?!"

"I’m an assassin." He shrugged. "I don’t do well in open places like this. Especially when my opponent can zip and zoom all over the field."

"Don’t you at least have support magic?"

"Nope. You know, I only got here like a few days ago. The piece of magic info I know is how to imbue my tag with it and that my skill is called Adaption. Which I’m guessing is the only thing keeping me alive right now."

"Fuck!"

"Here she comes!" Kurt warned.

Diana instantly appeared from above. She then elegantly manoeuvred herself upside down and swung her blade while aiming for Kurt’s neck. This was stopped by Emelie’s magic and Kurt used this chance to take Diana’s nodachi.

When he touched her hand, she immediately freaked out and teleported away.

"D-Don’t you dare touch me!" She huffed as she held the spot Kurt did.

"You’re breaking my heart here Diana!"

"Shut up! You have no right to talk about a broken heart! You who- *sniff*..."

"Just what did you do to her?" Emelie gave him the side eye.

"I swear I didn’t do anything! This is all just one big misunderstanding! Diana, can we please just talk!"

"No! You lost that chance the moment you sunk your fangs into other women! Why... why... why...why! Why couldn’t I be enough for you!"

SHWOOSH

CLANG!

Kurt managed to block the incoming attack with his two pieces of a broken dagger, although the force of the swing sent him flying back again.

’How is she so goddamn strong?!’ He wiped the blood from his cut open lip.

Emelie held Diana’s arms in place with her magic and went for another kick to her legs, but she easily avoided it.

"Emelie. I’m not here for you and judging from the way you’re fighting, you’re not trying to actually defeat me. So why don’t you stop this nonsense and go back to your room. Let the adults speak with each other."

"You’re clearly not trying to have a civil conversation!" Emelie countered.

’Also I’m way older than you!’

"Hm." Diana let out one sound and teleported to Kurt.

"I won’t let you!" She flew to Kurt and put a barrier around him.

She stopped her blade just before it hit the barrier and she’d be caught by Emelie’s magic again. Kurt used this chance to try and grab Diana, but she vanished once again.

"Argh! This back-and-forth dance is getting us nowhere! Emelie, don’t you have some sort of secret technique up your sleeve? Surely you do, right?"

Emelie looked at Kurt and then at Diana. Her lifeless eyes and dried up tears. The way her gaze was solely fixed on Kurt... or rather his neck.

’She’s clearly not going to listen to reason.’

"I do have a secret technique." She said softly.

"... Will it hurt her?"

"No, since it’s still incomplete. But it will completely exhaust her magic."

"That’s great. That way her teleportation should be stopped, right?"

"Yes but," She looked seriously at Kurt. "A lot of what comes after will depend on you. You have to find a way to fix this."

Kurt gave her one firm and resolute nod. "What do you need me to do?"

"Same thing you wanted me to do. Find a way to subdue her." She smirked.

"Haha... *sigh*" Kurt stepped forward to meet with Diana.

"Oh. Finally stopped hiding behind a student?"

"We can fix this Diana."

Her eyes twitched when she heard him say that.

"There is no we, Kurt."

Kurt stopped walking and stood completely still with his eye closed.

’I hope you know what you’re doing Kurt.’ Emelie stood back as she prepared her new spell.

"Offering yourself to me as a form of redemption, are you? At the very least, I’ll make it painless."

’I really hope this works.’

In terms of magic, Kurt did the only thing he knew how to do. Instead of imbuing his tags with mana he focused on channeling all that magic on himself.

"Whatever you’re doing won’t save yourself for what’s to come." Diana gripped the handle tightly and looked at him with a solemn expression. "Goodbye Kurt..."

SHWOOSH

Diana teleported and swung her blade for the final time at Kurt. However, instead of aiming for his neck she aimed for chest and more specifically his heart.

When Diana appeared in front of him, Kurt opened his eye and saw that everything slowed down.

He saw Diana’s pained face, and he saw the blade just inches away from his heart.

’Is this my final moments of life before death takes me? Or is this...’

Just as the tip of the blade was about to make contact with him, he saw something he’d never thought he’d see. Especially right now.

’What the hell are you doing here!?’

meow?

The little cat who always appeared when he least expected did exactly that.

Seeing the cat tilt his head and wag his tail snapped Kurt out of his thoughts. He twisted his body to the side and just barely managed to avoid certain death.

"How did you–"

He wasted little time and quickly manoeuvred his way behind her and held her arms up into a full nelson.

"Emelie! Hurry!"

"On it!" She flew forward before Diana had the chance to escape.

"L-Let go of me!" Squirmed in his arms. "Leave me be! Don’t touch me!"

"Diana please! Let me explain!"

"No! I don’t want to hear it! You’ll just hurt me again!"

"I’m not! I swear!"

Emelie stood in front of her and held her forehead.

"I leave the rest to you Kurt."

"Huh? What do you mean by that–"

Emelie’s eyes glowed brighter and her hair began to stand up as an electrical charge pumped out of her body and ran along her arm.

"This spell was meant to instantly disrupt and temporarily close a person’s mana paths, since it’s incomplete it will only disrupt her paths. Overstimulating them and sending them into a state of shock."

"Meaning..."

"Meaning that she’ll teleport at random places until she’s completely exhausted and out of mana. Hold on to her tight cause you’ll be in for a bumpy ride."

"... Understood. You can trust and leave the rest to me."

"Emelie, where did you learn this?" Diana was shocked to hear what was going to happen.

"Sorry. Can’t say. Good luck Kurt."

The electric current pulsed all the way to her hand and into Diana’s head.

"No!" She tried to teleport, but it was too late.

"Aahh!" She let out a cry as she felt all of her magic pathways being overstimulated.

"No no no! Make it stop! Make it–"

SWHOOSH

...

They appeared in front of her mansion where the workers suddenly got jump scared.

"Aaaahhh! I... can’t..."

SWHOOSH

They appeared next inside Sophie’s Diner.

"Kurt? Diana? What’s going on?!" Sophie, who was relaxing and eating lunch, got up from her seat when she saw the two of them.

"I-It’s nothing Sophie!" Kurt tried to reassure her. "Don’t worry–"

SHWOOSH

They appeared to time in front of a great castle which looked suspiciously like it belonged to royalty.

"Who’s there!? Wait, is that you Principal Diana!?" Three royal knights ran up to them.

"M-Make it... stop..."

SHWOOSH

This frequent teleporting sequence took place for another 5 minutes. With each jump being quicker from the last

SHWOOSH

SHWOOSH

SHWOOSH

SHWOOSH

Finally, when she was all out of magic, they both landed on the beach of a desolate island.