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"Maria." Bale said in annoyance. "You are not to say things like that." 1

Maria fumed. "She is a servant and she knows her place. How dare she sit down with the rest of us? A bloody servant."

Bale seemed very annoyed and Maria knew she was testing dangerous waters but she didn't really care anymore.

"She sat down here because I was the one who asked her to." Bale said obviously with a irritated tone

Maria saw Red shift uncomfortably on her seat and was brimming in anger.

"And without me?" Maria blurted out.

"I apologize." Bale said. "She was famished and tired. I insisted that she come and have some meal. She protested but I insisted. I said you wouldn't mind."

Maria wanted to explode and lose her mind all at once.

She just stood there transfixed and uncertain of what exactly to say.

"Please stay and eat." Bale said to Maria.

Maria flared her nostrils at Red who was simply picking at her table.

Maria wanted to demand why he had told the head house keeper that a woman of noble birth would be living with them, but she swallowed it down.

She stood hoping that Red would move from her seat.

When she made no indications that she was going to, Maria spoke up. "And where shall I sit?"

Red looked around uncomfortable and started to rise up.

But Bale stopped her.

"No stay." And then he turned to Maria. "It is just for tonight. She has been through a lot, sit by my left." 1

Maria wanted to scream .

She swallowed down the steam boiling in her head and then did as he had asked.

Unfortunately for her, the first seat by his left was already taken by his second in command.

And then another.

It was the third seat that was available for her.

She sat down, but she was a bit far from him.

Her appetite was already gone as she watched her husband and mate laughing with a woman who made her so insecure.

She played with her food unable to say a word and then it seemed Bale and Red were having a conversation about her

And then Bale said. "She makes this pack the best."

And then Red turned to her. "My lady I am

Highly honored to be seated at this table. The meal Is quite delicious."

Maria had no idea when she blurted out. "I was not the one who invited you to this table. And the meal? Tell that to the chef."

Red's face fell and Bale's became a mask of thunder.

"Maria." He hissed.

But she ignored because she had already begun speaking.

"Quite frankly I do not even want you on this table or in this pack at all." Maria said.

Red's face became red and was unable to saw a word.

"I should leave." Red said.

"Maria." Bale hissed once again.

Maria ignored her husband and snorted at Red. "Yes you should leave. You are not wanted and you do not belong here."

"MARIA THAT IS ENOUGH!" This time Bale banged his fists on the table so hard that everyone jumped. 1

And it seemed everyone had been waiting for the moment for a scene to occur because they all went hush.

Even the music stopped.

Then Bale turned to look at Maria.

"I commanded that you stop why did you disobey me." Bale said as he rose up to his feet.

"Look at her. She is trying to steal my place." Maria hissed pointing at Red with malice. "How dare she just come from nowhere and try to take what belongs to me."

"What belongs to you?" An enraged Bale demanded. "I had told you that her entire family had been massacred and she had lost

everything in the most cruel way. She had been unhappy until we saved her and all I had asked was to keep her company. Have you no heart for compassion?" 1

It was with that statement that Maria realized where she had gone wrong.

The servants all had their eyes on her .

They were not saying words but she knew what they were thinking in their mind.

That kind and gentle persona of her they had, had vanished from their minds.

She had been able to win their hearts by pretending to be kind and gentle.

Now that they knew who she was, they saw her for who she truly was.

Maria turned and glared at the bitch Red in anger. 1

It was all her fault that all of this was happening.

It was her miserable fault that she had argued with her husband.

The ugly bitch was to blame.

"I have a heart. And there is a limit to what I can

take." Maria started. "I have been humiliated from the moment that she stepped her foot inside this-

Maria stopped short when she noticed something for the first time.

She took a closer look at the dress that Red was wearing.

Why?

Why did that look so familiar?

She looked closely at the tapestry and embroidery done on the dress and she gasped in absolute shock.

"Is that my DRESS you are wearing?" She demanded of Red.

Red looked down at the beautiful dress and her eyes went back to Maria.

Her eyes said it all.

Maria's eyes went red with anger and disappointment even in the dress that it looked better on her that it ever had on her.

"Where did you get that dress from?" Maria demanded through her tight gritted teeth.

"I gave her." Bale cut in. "It was amongst the

dresses that you had decided to give out. So I had the house keeper pack it up for her."

The betrayal was too much.

How could he have done this without telling her!

And that bloody house keeper again!

She snared at Red. "Take of that dress this instant before I beat the life out of you."

Perhaps they all believed that she was simple threatening her, or they were still shocked at her sudden change of

Behavior no one moved an inch.

It was until Maria marched to Red and gave her a dirty slap and began pulling at her dress.

JASMINE'S RETURN/ NEW B... ›