340 THE BLACKMAIL

Early the next morning Jasmine was up cleaning and clearing up the place when Richard rushed up to her. 1

"Hey." He said. "How was it? I couldn't come and speak to you last night because Alpha Xaden was really pissed off. I had to be careful."

"It's alright." She waved off. "I really hope I didn't put you into any trouble last night."

He shrugged. "No not really. It's all good. I'll probably be forced to do some manual

Labor because they know I was involved but that's about it."

Jasmine sighed weakly. "I am so sorry. I'll take whatever punishment they gave you. It's all my fault."

"I'm not complaining am I?" He asked his hands on his waists. "Are you going to tell me what happened or not?"

Then Jasmine proceeded to tell him everything that happened.

"She lied against you?" Richard asked. "We all thought she was in her little cage and refused

to come out. We were so shocked to see her together with you."

"She followed me." Jasmine said as she put things in their places and packed up the bags. "And cooked up a story on how I almost got us kidnapped. Of course he believes her."

"I hate her." Richard said.

Jasmine said nothing. "It was all a waste because I am still useless. Like hell, I don't even know what happed to Urma that she died. So what was really the point of it all?"

"You're not useless. The magic didn't work on you that a plus." He said.

At that moment a sulky looking Anna came out of her princess carriage and stormed right past them.

"What's wrong with her?" Richard whispered.

Jasmine shrug her shoulders and went on with her chores packing up as they prepared to resume the journey.

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Anna marched straight into Xaden's tent.

Erik was with him and they were looking over maps.
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Erik's face fell when he looked up and saw her.

"My little sister." Xaden announced.

He opened his arms up for her to give him a hug. 1

She gave a stiff smile and went into his arms.

From behind the hug she stared at Erik.

"How are you?" He asked when he released her and cupped her face.

She nodded with a smile. "I'm fine."

"And your injuries?" Xaden asked as he looked around her arm.

"They have already healed. Erik was such a gentle man with him." She said lying on purpose.

"That's Erik for you." He said. "We would soon be home now. You would love it. You are beginning to scent like our bloodline now. That hideous spell that was used to diminish your scent is almost gone."

She smiled at him.

She was genuinely happy and curious to be going to where was now going to be her new home.

"I'm sorry about Jasmine." He said. "I would make sure you two don't have to relate with each other. I'm sure she reminds you of your past. I'll make sure she is punished and stays as faraway from you as possible. She would never harm you again. Okay?" 1

She nodded and then he kissed her cheek.

"Xaden I need to tell you something." She said

Erik stiffened so much she even noticed it.

"Of course anything." He said.

Just as she was about to speak one of the men came.

"My lord." He said. "My apologies for interrupting you. But your horse is having some issues. He isn't being stable. Perhaps when he sees you he would calm down."

Xaden sighed and turned to his sister.

"I would be with you soon." He kissed her again and followed the man out, leaving her with Erik.

She proceeded to go out when Erik caught her arm and drew her back.

"What do you think you were trying to do?" He asked her.

She pouted her lips and rolled her eyes at him and then continued to walk away.

He pulled her back.

"I am TALKING to you!" He snapped at her Jo's nostril flaring.

"Let me go!" She hissed at him as she tried go force her arm away from his grip.

But he was much too strong for her.

She started to writh in pain and then he realized he was hurting her and he let her go.

She sighed heavily and glared up at him.

"I'm sorry." He said quickly. "What were you trying to do just now."

"Does it concern you in anyways? He is my brother and I do not need your permission to speak to him mate or not." She answered rudely.

Erik tapped his feet on the floor.

She was trying his patience and he had no idea how much he could take it.

She cleared her throat and said. "Well if you must know, I was just about to tell my brother that his slave and his best friend were having a secret affair."

Erik's eyes opened in anger.

"You wouldn't dare." He said

"Why wouldn't I? It's the truth." She said. "And imagine what my brother would do to the both of you once he finds out."

"Xaden would not believe you." Erik assured her.

"Yes he wouldn't." She admitted which surprised him. "He would simply say I'm just seeing things. BUT it would plant a seed of suspicion in his mind. And you know what seeds can do. They grow and grow until they become a full tree and even when there is nothing, he would see something." 3

Erik was angry.

So angry you could tell from his demeanor.

He gritted his teeth at her.

"Why are you doing this?" He demanded.

"Pay back for what you did to me yesterday." Anna said cleverly.

Erik managed to suppress his anger and ask. "What do you want?"

She smiled deviously. "Now we're talking. You would accept me as your mate or I would tell

my brother."

"Are you blackmailing me?" He asked angrily.

She shrugged. "I don't know. What do you think? Make the right decision Erik. As much as I hate jasmine, it would be sad to see the two of you executed for treason." 1

And with that she stalked off leaving Erik gripping his fist.

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