

## 5 princes and I By Kiraran Chapter 2

### Chapter 2 The Not-so-Lucky-Charm

“Honey, I’m home!!” I screamed and burst into the front door. It’s kind of a habit that I usually do when my parents aren’t around.

“Amy!!” A little voice squeaked and ran to me. I bent over and messed up her hair. She giggled.

“Hey, squirt. What have you been up to?” Stella, my baby sister, pouted and crossed her arms over her chest. She was a little like a mom with rich white blonde hair and cerulean blue eyes, which I am sure is yet to change when she grows old. I, on the other hand, have ash-blond hair that I got from both my mom and my dad and my silver-blue eyes. We don’t exactly look alike.

Am\*\*\* the both of us, you could say that she’s more girly than I am. Just looking at her skirts and pretty blouses versus my baggy shirts, shorts, and jeans. Mom probably regretted having me wear jeans since I was a kid because now I wouldn’t even wear skirts or dresses. Now, I think she’s trying to make up for it through my sister. Her little Barbie girl, Stella Antoinette Stan.

But just between you and me, I’m having some hidden conversation with Stella regarding the comfort of wearing jeans. I think I’m winning seeing as Stella is now wearing jean shorts underneath her skirts. Which is probably uncomfortable.

“Stop calling me to squirt!” She glared at me. “When I grow older, I’ll be taller than you.”

I chuckled. “Yeah, sure you are. But for the meantime, you’re a squirt to me.” I walked past her to hop down on the couch. A moment later and Stella sat and joined me. “What are you going to watch?” She looked up at me with her pretty blue eyes.

“I don’t know. I think I’m going to watch a zombie movie. Care to join me?” I gave her a teasing grin knowing fully well how she hates scary movies and claiming to have nightmares about it. Sure enough, she glared at me and threatened me with her eyes.

“I’m going to tell mommy if you do.”

I couldn't help but laugh at how predictable she could be. Of course, what do you expect of 7 years old?

"Fine. But can we at least watch zombies that aren't that scary?" I said. Stella pouted a little but then nodded.

"Okay, but can I pick a movie after we watch it? Please?" She begged and made her eyes grow bigger. Her own version of the puppy dog eyes is hard to resist.

I groaned. Not believing that she's actually using it on me when I taught her how to do it. "Fine," I grumbled and she let out a whoop in return. "But only if you'll stay quiet and stop asking me questions during the movie, deal?"

"Deal." She grinned.

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Sure enough, after we watched a zombie movie, I handed her the remote as she chose one of her favorite Disney movies. Starting from Peter Pan to Beauty and the Beast, and finally, The Little Mermaid. I should probably be bothered since she had picked three consecutive movies while I only have one, but for some strange reason, I seem to be fine with it. It was actually nice that I was able to reminisce about my childhood movies. I kind of forgot how great Disney movies are.

But SciFi movies are still the best!

After watching her Disney movies, we had a little break and ate dinner – which we just ordered since I was too lazy to cook for us. We then resumed watching. This time, I had picked a sci-fi movie.

"Are vampires and werewolves real?" Stella asked as soon as I turned the tv off. It was already 10 PM. Mother would freak if she learned that Stella was way past her bedtime.

"Nope," I answered. "They're just a work of fiction."

"But if they are a work of fiction, then the writer must have picked it up somewhere, right? All stories come from a certain origin. The writer must have either seen a real vampire or werewolf or must have read something about them."

I stood there frozen. Despite how little Stella was, she's actually wise.

I saw Stella rubbing her eyes and yawning. “Well it really doesn’t matter if they’re real or not, right? What matters now is that it’s time for you to go to bed. It’s way past your bedtime.” Stella let me lead her to her room. I made sure to have her brush her teeth and make her change her clothes before tucking her in for bed.

“Now go to sleep, you little squirt.”

“Stop calling me to squirt.” She yawned yet again. “As I said, I’ll outgrow you one day, Amy. And then you’ll be the squirt.” She grinned sleepily.

I rolled my eyes. “Like that’s gonna happen.” I snickered. “If you really want to outgrow me then you should sleep.”

She nodded her head once before closing her eyes. “You know what, Amy? I really wish that I was in a different world. Somewhere where I could find adventure. Our world is too polluted.” I looked at her sleeping form as I took in her words. She let out a yawn. “Good night, Amy.” With that, Stella had finally drifted off to sleep.

“Me too, Stella. Me too.” I whispered. “Good night, squirt.”

In a daze, I went back to my room and changed out of my clothes, and got ready for bed. Once I lay down on my bed, I felt my bag behind my back. I grunted as I picked it up. The charm that the old woman had given me protruded from my small bag. I got it out and took a good look at it.

just imagine that it has some sort of magic that can make your wish come true, dearie.

I smirked. “A wish huh?” I sat up on my bed and twirled the cd in my hand. I don’t really believe in wishes and luck. I only believe in hard work and perseverance. Dramatic much? I know but it’s the truth. Wishes don’t exist. It’s just something that keeps our hopes up. Whoever invented that wish must have been desperate.

But still.

“If you can really grant me a wish then I would really like it if I could be given a chance to do something different. Somewhere where I could do something that I really haven’t done.” I whispered. A moment later and the silence was really thickening.

I mentally slapped myself and groaned in frustration. “Argh! Who am I kidding? Why did I even say that? Forget everything!! I’m losing my mind.” I threw my pillow at the wall. How embarra\*\*ing. Lucky for me that no one was here to hear it. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be able to live with myself. In my frustration – and my embarra\*\*ment – I threw the charm across the room. “Screw it!! What was I even expecting? Some fairy godmother like Cinderella to appear in front of me? I knew I had too many Disney movies today. I knew it!”

“You mean those lame cartoon movies that children watch? Ha! That was funny. They only fill your heads with false information. They should be banned!”

“I know!!”

“But you have to admit, wouldn’t it be nice to live in a magical castle?”

“Yeah.” I nodded. “That would be great. Living in luxury sounds so……dreamy.”

“Exactly! Now, what would you do if you would actually live in a real version of those castles? Just imagine the freedom you’ll have if you live in a castle. Servants at your disposal, breakfast in bed, a closet full of dresses.”

“Hmm…that does sound cool. Except for the dresses. No homework, no chores, no school, every day is a holiday!!” I grinned at the thought.

“See? So why not come with me and I’ll take you there?”

Come with who?

I laughed out loud. I’m definitely going crazy. I’m actually talking to myself as if there was a person beside me who’s talking to me. “I think I’m going crazy. I need some sleep.”

“Oh, do you now? For all, I know you’re actually crazy, to begin with, dearie.”

This time, I pause. The hairs on the back of my neck stood. For the very first time, I was able to think and a\*\*ess the situation and figured out that I was indeed talking to someone and not just myself. I gulped.

Slowly, I look behind me. There, I saw a woman with pretty blonde hair and blue eyes staring back at me. She was lying on my bed, flat on her stomach with her

head perched on her open palms. She was probably in her thirties for all I know. She grinned at me. “So what shall it be, little one?”

I looked at her in disbelief. “There’s a woman in my room..”

The woman only rolled her eyes. “Yes yes, I know. So what will it be?” She asked again, which I have no clue what she was asking.

“There’s a woman in my room,” I repeated.

“You already sa-”

“THERE’S A WOMAN IN MY ROOM!” I screamed. She covered her ears in annoyance.

“Sheesh! Girls in this world do love to scream,” she said and changed into a sitting position. I immediately got up and ran to the far end of my room. She hid a smirk at my shaking form. Who wouldn’t after you realized that there’s a stranger in your room, right?

“Since you wouldn’t answer my question, I guess I’ll have to decide for you.” She finally got up and made her way to me.

“Stay back! Don’t get closer to me.” That didn’t stop her because she was still reaching out to me. That did it. I started to run away from her and jump on my bed, but my foot got caught on the sheets and I suddenly fell. I need a weapon. Anything.

“Wh-what- ah!!” I yelled as she carried me onto her shoulder. Worse of all? I let out a girly scream that was too much for my liking. Help!

I watched in horror as she held out her hand to my wall and made a twirling motion. Nothing happened at first, which made me confirm that the lady is a psychopath. When she stopped, it now made me wonder if I was the one who was crazy since there was a sort of swirling bluish mist on the wall.

“Holy sh\*t!!” I bit my tongue when I realized that I had just said a foul word and Stella might hear it. “What the heck is that!?”

“A portal. Duh!” She chuckled. “It’ll take us to a world where your dreams could be a reality.”

“Don’t duh me! And dreams? What dreams!? I don’t have any!! – Well except for marrying Alex Pettyfer!” I struggled out of her grip. What is she anyway? The female version of Superman? “What do you know about my dreams? You’re not my mother! Unhand me at once!!”

She laughed at my outburst. “Now you just sounded like a princess. That’s good.”

“What do you mean good? I’ll punch you in the face when I get the chance!!”

“Sure. But for now, hold your breath. We’re going in.”

Going in where? I thought.

Just as I was about to voice out my question. She jumped to the portal with me still on her shoulder. Once we hit the portal, my head started to spin and make me lose consciousness.

The only thing I heard was the woman muttering, “Sh\*t. I should have warned her about the side effects of a first-timer. Oh well.”

### Chapter 3 Charms to Charming

My head is throbbing for some unknown reason. Why does it hurt?

Suddenly I felt the wind brushing past my skin. It was cool and relaxing. I took a deep breath and was welcomed by the scent of lavenders and roses. I moved my fingers and was surprised when I touched something spiky.....feels like gra\*\*.

“Who is this girl?” I can hear a voice somewhere above me. From its tone, I can tell that it’s a male. Am I dreaming?

“I have no idea. Maybe she’s the girl that the queen was talking about?” Another voice said.

“Awe, how cute. But the way she dresses is pretty weird.” And another. I wanted to open my eyes to see what was happening, but I didn’t. I’m guessing that they still think I’m unconscious. Would they leave me if they think that I’m dead?

As if voicing it out, another male said “Is she dead?”

Great. There are more of them.

Whatever, as long as they think that I'm dead maybe they'll leave me alone. I held my breath to make it look like my heart stopped beating. I've never been good at acting, but I guess that'll have to do.

"Oi. She stopped breathing!"

"What do we do?!"

"Leave her. She is not of our concern." A new voice said. This one has a hard edge on it. Oh, joy! More of them.

"Cut it out, Prince Ace. If you continue that kind of attitude, you're not gonna find a wife." Argued the other.

"Stop it. Both of you. This isn't the time to argue! This girl is in trouble and you would rather kill each other than help her?" Yeah! I'm gonna die here and you two would rather argue? Shame on you!

"Sorry, Fred," said the other. I felt something soft brush my nose. I fought the urge to scratch where it once had been.

"Prince Ren, what are you doing to the poor girl? Or are you Dan?"

"It's Dan, you idiot. Get your facts straight. I'm just tickling her nose with this feather, trying to get a reaction from her."

"You really are stupid."

My nose is itching...

"Hey, did you just call my brother stupid?" A new voice said. And he didn't seem happy about the way that the other boy had called his brother stupid.

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I wrinkled my nose since it began to tingle. I was frustrated that I couldn't even reach up and grab it – not when I'm still surrounded by strangers.

Let's just hope that the worse thing that they'll do is tickle my nose with a feather.

"Whatever, Prince Ren." the same man who called the boy named Dan said.

“Actually, I’m Prince Dan.”

I actually want to sneeze now.....

“What?! But I thought that he said he was Dan!”

“Fooled ya!” The man beside me said.

“So you’re Prince Dan and you’re Prince Ren?”

“Why don’t you take a guess?” both the boys said at the same time. I heard the other men laughing.

I really want to sneeze now...

“I hate twins!”

My nose began to tingle more and I fought the urge to sneeze. Just keep it in, Rose. Come on.

“Don’t worry, Nate. We hate you too.” said the twins at the same time.

“ACHO!” I couldn’t stop the sneeze that was coming. It was too much for me.

Whipping my nose after I sneezed, I opened my eyes and was met by 5 gorgeous strangers that made me hold my breath. Two of them had the same faces – I a\*\*ume that they’re twins. Both have chocolate brown hair which is combed sideward, their eyes are also a pretty shade of brown, only slightly lighter, like chestnut. Their skin was tanned in a somewhat golden color. They smiled and tilted their head to the side.

One prince gave me a warm smile that comforted me from all the stares. He has blonde hair which was combined backward. A few strands were covering his icy blue eyes. He was pretty tall.

Then my eyes darted to one with a cold stare, but despite that, he was good-looking. His hair was black and messy, his eyes are the color of midnight blue, which is currently giving me goosebumps.

The last one I couldn’t describe. He was looking at me without any emotion at all. Just a blank stare. But I can tell that he was curious. His hair was a nice crimson red that I was pretty sure wasn’t dyed like the other boys at my school. It was



neatly combed and some of his hair is covering his eyes, which are the colors of the forest, a rare shade of green. A moment later, he gave me a wink.

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‘Kay.

They all look good, but what really caught my attention was their attire. All of them then were wearing... let’s just say some fancy and expensive coats. Did they come from a costume party?

This must be a dream. For sure. I brought a hand up and slapped myself.

I heard a few gasps.

It hurts. It is not a dream.

“Must have gone crazy.” My eyes landed on the black-haired guy. His mouth pulled into a thin line.

“Crazy? Looked in the mirror lately? Yeah sure, you look good in a costume, but white doesn’t suit you at all.” I rubbed my chin as if thinking “Maybe black will do. Yeah, that’s right. Do you watch Sleeping Beauty? You could be the male version of Maleficent. You know, the evil witch.”

The boy was caught off guard. Probably not expecting me to talk back at him.

“I have no idea what half of the things she said were, but it was damn funny and insulting. Did she just call you an evil witch?” One of the twins teased and they started laughing, followed by red, and blondie, who covered his mouth with his fist.

“Shut up.” was all Ace said before giving me a cold glare that made me shiver. “I’m not a witch you ignorant plebeian.”

“Prince Ace. That is not what a proper gentleman would do. Here.” the blonde one offered me his hand. I took it and let him pull me up.

“Thanks,” I muttered. In response, he made a small curtsy that surprised me. This guy is either a gentleman or just a dedicated cosplayer.

The blonde boy smiled. "I'm Prince Frederick Star from the kingdom of Hazel. What about you?"

Well, a dedicated cosplayer indeed.

"M-my name is Rosalie Amber Stan. Somewhere in Georgia." Did I just stutter? I'm probably nervous since this is the first time that I'm talking to a guy. A hot one at that. Or maybe, because I am still confused as to how I got myself into this situation.

"Lovely name." With that, he brought my hand to his lips. The gesture made me whimper and feel a little embarra\*\*ed – for them that is. But did he just say kingdom? Wow, these guys are taking their cosplaying seriously.

"Allow me to introduce you to my companions, Lady Rose--"

"Please just call me Rose," I said. I'm not comfortable with the 'lady' part since I hardly resemble a lady at all.

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"As you wish, Rose." He said, then he gestured at the redhead, who took a step forward. "He is Prince Nathaniel Denver, from the kingdom of Vertex." Prince Nathaniel bowed. "Please call me Nate if you wish."

"Nice to meet you."

"And the--" he gestured to the twins but was stopped by them.

"Fred," said one of the twins. "We want to be introduced last." continued the other.

These guys are embarra\*\*ing.

"Very well," Fred nodded and gestured to the prince, who I already started to dislike. "This here is Prince Ace Feradin from the Kingdom of Tordis. Please forgive him for his rudeness earlier." Instead of bowing, prince Ace nodded his head once. "By the way, that's PRINCE Ace for YOU"

"Of course, your highness." I forced a smile and couldn't help but add. "Royal pain."

"Pardon?"

“Nothing”

“And finally,” Prince Frederick continued and gestured to the twins. “The twins. Um...gentlemen, will you please introduce yourselves since I couldn’t distinguish you from one another.” Prince Frederick gave an apologetic smile to them.

The twins faced me and offered me a smile. “My name is Renevier Rutledge, this here-” he gestured to his twin “-is my brother Daniel Rutledge.” His brother, Daniel, continued for him “We are from the Kingdom of Sanver.”

I clapped my hands after. Wow, these guys are good. Solid performances. I should ask them for their skincare routine since they all have flawless skin. “Nice to meet you.”

“By the way, Rose. Are you acquainted with Queen Elizabeth?”

“Queen who?” After I said that, we heard a galloping sound from a horse. A back stallion appeared and its rider was surprisingly a female. Her eyes had immediately found mine and she grinned brightly. She got off of the horse and hugged me. I was slightly taken aback. When she stopped hugging me, that’s when I saw it. Blonde hair, blue eyes.

My jaw dropped and I pointed an accusing finger at her. She’s the weird lady I saw before pa\*\*ing out! “HEY!-”

She covered my mouth with her palm. “No need for that dear. Okay?”

“Your highness.” From behind her, the five princes were on one of their knees.

What is happening?

#### Chapter 4 Queen Elizabeth from Another World

“Rise,” she commanded. As she had ordered, the princes had risen to their feet. “I see you’ve met my niece. Princess Rose.”

“Who are you calling your-” Before I could finish my sentence, her foot collided with mine. Since she was wearing heels, it made the pain twice as painful.

I gritted my teeth together to prevent myself from screaming as I jumped on one foot while clutching my injured one. “What the fu-!” She stomped on my other foot, which made me switch to the other one. What is her problem?!

“Oh, what was that, my DEAR niece??” The girl faced me again, but this time with an annoyed face that meant ‘just-play-along’.

I swallowed. “Nothing, aunt-”

“Elizabeth,” she whispered to me

“-Elizabeth” I mumbled.

“Good.” She once again faced the princes, who were standing there patiently. “Gentlemen, my niece here will be staying with us and I want you boys to be kind to her. Teach her how to act like a proper lady-”

“Hey!”

“-and teach her some manners. If you impress her, she might pick you to be the next king of my kingdom.”

“What do you mean?” I asked. I was really confused. They were in a conversation where I wasn’t in. Pick a king? What’s this all about? “Sorry but I am not into cosplay/roleplay so please count me out.”

“You see, my dear niece. Since it had been 20 years and my husband and I still haven’t conceived a child-”

“Wait, 20 years!? Your role is an old hag? But you don’t look like one.”

The corner of her mouth twitched “I’m going to pretend that I didn’t hear that comment about an old hag, but thank you. You see, I’m a Fae. As in a fairy. Two human years mean 1 year for us. I’m 60 yrs old in human years. In other words, I’m only 30.” She whispered in my ear.

A fairy? Is she crazy or something?

“Y-you’re a.....”

“Fairy? Yep”

I backed away. “Get out of here.”

“Nothing is impossible in this world, my dear.”

In this world? I looked around me. We were on a vacant landscape. Tall trees stood behind us. Judging from its height, I can tell that I’m not in my city anymore. But how could this happen? I mean, novels about people being transported into another world are common these days, but that’s not what happened to me, right?

I mean, I haven’t been hit by a truck. And I am sure that I haven’t been reincarnated either.

She let out a sigh. “Look. I can tell that you are...a bit confused so I will explain everything later, okay?” She turned to the boys who were laughing but stopped when they saw her highness glaring at them. “She doesn’t go out much. She’s ignorant so please take care of her.” The queen said to them.

“Yes, your highness,” they said in unison.

“Good,” she turned her attention back to me “As I was saying. Since we don’t have an heir to our Kingdom, my husband and I decided to pick one of the princes from other kingdoms. As for the candidates, we have chosen the youngest sons of each kingdom and would give them a test to see who is fit to be king.”

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“And where do I fit in?” I crossed my arm over my chest. My mind is a mess right now. As of the moment, I believe that I am either kidnapped or in a weird dream.

“You, my dear, will be going to help us to decide that. You will pick a king.”

“Say what now?”

“I’m not going to repeat it since I know that you have heard me.”

“Fine! You want me to decide?! Nate!” I pointed to prince Nathaniel if I remember correctly. He was slightly taken aback and a confused expression was replaced.

“Do you want to be a king?”

“I...uh....Yes?” He said. Unsure of his answer. It made me wonder if the expression on my face had forced him to say yes.

“Good. Then you’ll be the king.”

“What!?! But that’s not how you decide it!” PRINCE Ace said.

“Fine! Then you’re the king too.” I said.

“What!?! You can’t have more than one king!”

“Gentlemen, please. Let us all just talk about it.” Prince Frederick tried to calm us down.

“Oh, prince Fred, you can be a king too,” I stated.

“Uhm…”

“Hey, no fair. We wanna be king too!” The twins said.

“Fine! You’re all kings! In fact, we ALL can be kings!!”

“Yay!”

“No!”

“This is ridiculous!”

“Is that even possible?”

“Hold it!!!” The queen shouted. She probably didn’t agree with my decision. Her head snapped in my direction and I winced under her gaze.

“You must take this seriously!”

“But why me?” I whined. She could have chosen other girls right? I don’t even do my homework properly and they expect me to pick a king in their play?

“Well, you’re the only girl who wasn’t drooling at their photos during the release of the game.” She lowered her voice so that only I could hear. I’m guessing that the princes don’t know this yet. But no wonder they look familiar. They were the models for that dating simulation game.

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My eyes widened at the mention of that stupid game at the store. That crap'? "How did you-"

"I was the old woman who gave you the charm." She explained. I stared at her long and hard. Trying to find any resemblance of her to the old lady that I help back at the mall. That is so not possible!! She looks young!

Or did she.....?

"Listen," I held my hand up to her. "I know that you needed my help, but I'm very busy and my parents are probably worried about me. Besides, I have no interest or whatsoever in choosing a prince. I want to spend this summer sleeping and eating."

"You can do that here. You'll have tons of fun." Insisted the queen.

"No. My parents might be worried about me right now. I must be going." Then I took a step back and looked around again. "And how can you expect me to have fun when there is no WiFi!?" I whimpered.

"No."

"What do you mean no?"

"It means that you are staying."

"Did you just hear what I said?"

"Yes. Don't worry! Just trust me. And your sister will be fine. I swear on my name." With that, she turned on her heels and turned to the boys to talk to them about my 'behavior issues'.

Trust her? When she's the one who probably brought me to this place?

I'll make sure to find a way to get back. For some reason, I know that I am not Georgia now and only the queen knows where we are. Maybe if I annoy her, she'll send me back? I don't have a problem with that.

That or she could murder me instead.

Wait, what about that charm that I made a wish from? Maybe it's the key? Maybe if I can find it, then I will be free from here. Yes, maybe that's it! All I have to do

is to look for it. But where? If my hunch is right, maybe it's with the queen? After all, she was the one who gave me the charm.

Feeling something hard in my short pocket, I pulled it out only to find that it was my phone.

I turned my back to them and checked to see if I could get a signal. Nope. No signal. No internet.

"Damn this other world bullcrap. Why can't I be transported to a world with wifi!?" I cried.

"What happened?" Asked prince Frederick.

I grumbled "Nothing."

"Gentlemen!" We finally turned towards the queen who seemed to be yelling at us. When she saw us turning our attention to her she let out a sigh of relief. "I want you boys to take the carriage here and prepare the horses. It's time to go back."

Without any hesitation, they went down the gra\*\*y path to prepare the carriage that I hadn't noticed.

The queen approached me.

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"So I guess that I have no choice but to come?" I asked.

"Yep."

"I still do not understand this situation," I said honestly. The back of my head is starting to hurt.

"You did wish for this, right?" She let out a grin.

"That was a joke! I didn't even know what I was thinking." Because of my frustration, I yelled.

"Even if you knew it was magical you're still coming here"



“But I thought that you said that the charm will grant me any wish that I desire, right? How can you be sure that I would wish this? Have you read my mind?” I protectively covered my head in case she’ll read them.

“No.” she placed a hand on her hip.

“Then how?”

“Well, the item I gave you is magical for the Faes, humans can’t go to this world unless they use that item and wish for it. But even if you didn’t exactly wish to be here, you’ll still be coming here.”

“You lost me there. And can we please speak in human terms? Like you kidnap me and throw me in a van. We sailed across the sea to an uninhabited island?”

“It seems that your mind still doesn’t welcome the ideas of supernatural beings.” She chuckled. “Wishes can be altered, morphed. If you wish to have lots of money, then I will bring you here and you’ll have tons of gold money. If you wish for more clothes, then I’ll still bring you here and give you plenty of dresses. If you wish for a certain person to love you, then I’ll give you something better from here, a prince.”

“Why you.....” It finally started to make sense. I had no choice in the first place!

“But turns out you wished for something better! Wishing that you’ll end up here! It made my task easier.” She then let out a Santa-like laugh.

Just like what people would say, ‘be careful what you wish for’.

“Say that I am playing along and believing what you just said. What was the purpose of that dating game that was just released?”

“It was an illusion that I made.”

“What do you mean?”

“It will be my basis in looking for the perfect girl who would be helping me choose for the future king. You see, if I will pick one of those girls who’s crazy with those games, then the princes can just use their looks to their advantage. It will be disastrous”

“I don’t even think that I’m the only one who isn’t interested in that stupid game.”

“True, but you were the only one who pa\*\*ed the second test.”

I raised an eyebrow at her “What do you mean a second test?”

“Helping an old woman in need has proven your qualification. We all need a kind lady.” Then she winked.

## Chapter 5 Other World Travel

“Your highness, The carriage is ready!” One of the twins approached us. I wanted to argue more but for now, I have to learn more about this world. I need to a\*\*ess my situation first, how I got here and how I can go back.

“Thank you.” she nodded her head at the twin and hurried off. The twin-faced me and offered me his arm. I took it and let him guide me. “I don’t want to be rude but which twin are you?” Instead of becoming irritated like I thought he would be, he smiled but it didn’t reach his eyes. “I’m Renevier. But you can call me Ren. If you can recognize me that is.”

“Sorry. It must be hard for you two to be mistaken for each other.” I turned my gaze to the ground.

“Oh, no need to be worried. My brother and I have gotten used to that. It’s just that it would have been nice if someone can tell us apart.” When he said that, his gaze was turned to the clouds above. It must really be lonely if only the both of them can tell each other who is who. Maybe even their parents can’t tell them apart. What would have happened if they had gotten married? Would their wife mistake them for the other person?

That’s complicated. Even though they could be potential accomplices of Elizabeth, I couldn’t help but feel sorry for him. “Don’t worry. I’m sure that one way or another, someone might be able to distinguish you.” It might be hard since they act and look like one another though.

He was a bit surprised at what I said. A second later he laughed and shook his head. “Thanks, but I don’t think anyone could do that.”

“And why not? You’re both individuals even though your twins.” I said. “But not that I’m saying that we’re close for me to know that. I’m just probably a\*\*uming

things....” He didn’t answer but he did offer me a smile and not since were now with the others.

He led me to the carriage and helped me up before closing it. The carriage was huge. The outside was white with some gold details on it. Two white horses are leading. Inside, I was met by the smell of daisies. The chairs were a rich velvet color. It was soft. Red curtains were also hung in case you want some privacy or to protect yourselves from the rays of the sun.

From the window. I can see that the twins were driving the carriage while the rest of the princes were riding their own horses. Even the queen is riding her own. Looking at them actually made me feel like I really am in a different world.

These damn other world travels may not be all bad after all...

I opened the window near the twins. “Um... The queen isn’t riding with me?” I ask.

They just laughed. “The queen is a free-willed woman. She loves adventures and wouldn’t sit around and be pampered.” From the way that the other twin was behaving, I’m guessing that the one who I’m talking to right now is Dan.

“Thank you, Dan,” I said. I smiled to myself when I saw the surprised look on their faces. I’m guessing that I got the name right. Dan faced his brother with a confused look. I smiled before closing the window.

Even though I said the carriage was huge, I still have to squeeze my way to the seat since there are some baskets piled in here. What are these? Props?

The carriage started to move. It was rocky at first but after a while, it began to steady. I peeked out of the curtain to see that we had just arrived in a village. People were milling every store. When they saw us, they bowed their heads in respect. Some would wave at us. They seemed to be loved by the people, I thought.

Wait. Hold on. This can’t be right. If there’s a village over here then this isn’t a simple roleplay. This might actually be real. Was I taken to an old country where princes and princesses exist? How long was I actually pa\*\*ed out?

The carriage came to a stop and I almost bumped my head onto the wall. Aren’t there any seatbelts in here?!

The door swung open and the twins appeared. “The queen wishes for you to come out,” Ren said. I don’t know how I know that it is him. Maybe because of the tone of his voice.

“Why?” I asked.

Dan grinned “Well, we have new luggage here. Well, all of them are the dresses that the queen has bought for you.”

Then I realized what he meant. If we add more stuff in here then I might as well be squished. “How many are they?” If it’s only 2 then I can handle it. Besides, where will I ride?

“About 20”

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“20?!” I gasped.

“Yes, the queen seemed pretty excited.”

“Stupid Queen and her stupid plan and her stupid dresses,” I grumbled. She could have bought me their version of a smartphone here. “Where will I sit?” I asked.

“Well...that’s for the queen to decide.”

Reluctantly, I got out while groaning. I can’t believe this. This is the only carriage, meaning I have to ride a horse. Don’t get me wrong, I love horses. The problem is that we don’t have a spare one, meaning I might ride at the top of the carriage. What a bummer! But at least I’ll have a nice view from there, right?

“Rose.” The queen called me. I lifted my head to hers and raised one of my eyebrows. “What?” I snapped.

“To whom would you like to ride?” She gestured her hands to the princes. What does she mean by that? Does it mean that I have to ride with some total strangers?..... Well, it’s too late since all of them are strangers. I’m surprised that I haven’t panicked yet.

I said yet.

I shook my head “Is that even a question? Can’t I ride with you?”

She smirked. “Sorry, dear. It’s too dangerous if you ride with me. And besides, I like to ride alone. So, go on. Pick!”

I have to stop myself from flipping her off. My eyes darted to the 3 princes who are on their horses. It seems cliché. She’s doing this on purpose!

Prince Fred noticed my distress and got off his horse. “Princess Rose, you can take my horse. I can walk on my own.” He offered me the horse. “I’ll just lead it for you.” He nodded his head and brought out that smile of his. The girls from this village squealed. I couldn’t blame them, this Fred guy is charming.

The queen huffed. “I guess that could work. Oh well. I’m going on ahead. Please watch over her. I’m going to arrange for dinner and tell the servants to prepare her room. Tomoda loo” with that, she was off. Riding her horse so fast that I was the one who shivered.

I really want to flip her off and scream bloody murder.

I let Prince Fred help me on the horse. He grabbed my waist and hauled me up and gave me the reins. “Are you comfortable enough?” He asked.

“Yes, I guess. Thanks.” I nodded my head once to let him know my appreciation. I looked at the pretty boy and gave him an unsure smile.

Seeing that I am all secured on the horse, we started to ride again. Prince Fred guiding my horse.

People started to stare at me. Well, in my clothes that is. I forgot that I was still wearing shorts and a tank top, while the girls in this village are wearing dresses. In return, I glared at them. I wanted to scream that their queen brought me here. If they have a problem with me, they better bark at their queen.

And now with the gossiping. It seems that wherever I go, the gossip never stops. Some guys were even staring at my exposed legs that I showed them my middle finger. I heard a horse snorting beside me. It was Prince Nate riding his horse. He started to untie his cape and offered it to me.

“Here,” he said. “It would give you some cover.”

“Thanks.” Not looking away from his face, I took it and wrapped it around me.

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He scratched his head as if he was embarrassed. “We figured that it was rude to say something about what other people would wear. Sorry, next time we’ll give you a warning.”

“It’s Fine,” I said and focused on my surroundings. Not like it really bothered me anyway. I saw the girls giving me a jealous look as they eyed the cape that I wore around me. Being the petty little brat that I am, I gave them all a teasing grin and waved the cape at them victoriously. I smirked wider as I saw the bitterness in their eyes.

“And besides,” he added, which made me turn my attention to him once again. “It looks good on you. It should be a crime to cover it up.” he finished with a wink.

When I scowled at his comment he laughed.

“I’m sorry.” Prince Nate while laughing. I didn’t respond.

“That’s what you get for disrespecting a lady, Prince Nate,” Prince Fred said. His face told me that he had witnessed the exchange a while ago and was amused by it.

“I was just trying to lighten the mood.” He pouted.

“A simple conversation would have been okay.”

“Okay, okay. I’m really sorry. Forgive me?” He made his eyes grow bigger, he pouted and showed his lower lip.

I groaned “I guess.” I hope they stop talking.

“Hey, you guys seem to have fun over there, let us join too!” One of the twins called from the carriage.

“Keep your voice down. Remember, we’re still in the village so we must be in proper behavior.” PRINCE Ace cut in. He sat on his horse with his back straight. He rode beside Nate.

“Sheesh! Live your youth once in a while, Ace. You’re too stiff!” Ren shouted back.

“Join us in our conversation, Prince Ace.” inserted Prince Fred.

“I’m just saying that a good image is important. It will help you to gain respect from the people.” PRINCE Ace’s attention turned to me. “You seemed like the person who doesn’t care about it. Look at the way you dress, it’s humiliating to the people around you. And to think that she’s a princess. Teaching her to act like a lady will be a pain. It’s not worth our time.”

I frowned at him. It’s not like I know their dress code here. And I’m not even a princess! I’m not even gonna cry about it, but he’s now on my naughty list. Is he picking a fight with me?

“Hey, Ace. Now that has gone too far” Prince Nate warned.

“Princess Rose, don’t mind him. He’s had a rough day.” Prince Fred tried to comfort me.

“He’s right, princess. Don’t mind him. He’s the one that’s not worth your time.” Said Dan.

“What’s your problem anyway, Ace? She didn’t do anything to deserve that kind of attitude!” Ren couldn’t help but yell. The dark-haired prince and I met gazes. I smirked and stuck my tongue out at him.

Five of us against him. Sad boy.

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“Talk to her all you want, but don’t drag me in it.” PRINCE Ace said. “Disgusting woman. I bet you’re having a good time with all the attention that they are giving you.”

Disgusting? If he thinks that he can just step on me then he is so wrong. Nobody can call me disgusting just because of what I wear. We are beyond that time already!!

Or are we? What year is it in this world?

“Stop the car! I mean horse!” I said and unconsciously pulled the reins up. Prince Fred barely managed to stop as well. Then I pointed at him. “Who are you to even judge me? You don’t even know me. Did you think that just because you met me a while ago that you already know who I am? You think so highly of respect.” I said

“Respect is earned not bought. I don’t care if you are a prince or not, but if you don’t respect me then you don’t deserve my respect either.”

He didn’t say anything anymore. Thankfully.

Prince Fred once again guided my horse to the same path we took earlier while Prince Nate shook his head at PRINCE Ace.

“Congrats, Princess. It was probably the first scolding he has received in public.” Dan gave me a thumbs up.

“It was?! Oh no.” I said sarcastically. I even waved my hands as I dismissed the thought.

“Don’t worry. We’re on your side in this. He did deserve a slap or two.” Ren assured me.

“And we’ll protect you if he attempts to kill you. I’ll be your knight in shining armor, Princess” Prince Nate appeared beside me.

“What are you blabbering about being her knight in shining armor?”

“I’m just trying to ease her worry. And as for the knight in shining armor role, it fits me well since I did offer her my cape and saved her from those corrupted eyes of our people.” Nate stated.

“Well if you’re the knight, then I’m her Prince Charming.” Prince Fred winked. I couldn’t agree more with pretty boy. He’s pretty much the most decent one among them.

“Hey! Now, what does that leave the two of us?” The twins yelled.

“Her servants, of course.” Nate was still grinning. I didn’t notice it but I started to laugh. Somehow, my worries had faded into thin air.

“Hey look. She’s laughing!” Dan said, relieved.

“No, I’m crying,” I said sarcastically.

“Glad to see her smiling now,” Nate said.



We just talked and joked throughout the ride. Prince Ace was riding behind us. Not talking which I was grateful for.

“Oh look. We’re here.” Ren announced and I suddenly realized that we had stopped.

I focused my attention on the castle in front of us. It was a huge castle. Stones lead the way to the castle. In front of it was a fountain. Two stairs lead to one door. All around us is a garden. To the left is a large pavilion. To the right is another pathway to the stables. The castle stood high and mighty.

## Chapter 6 Thalia

At the entrance of the castle stood the queen and the servants, probably waiting for our arrival. I saw a man, maybe in his 40’s, standing beside the queen. I’m guessing it’s the king. Is that her king?

“Like it?” Prince Nate asked beside me as I marveled at the place.

“Uh hu.” I just nodded my head. “Are we gonna stay here?” I asked.

Dan got off the carriage. “Yep. Welcome to the Kingdom of Thalia.” Just as he said that Ren added. “The kingdom of magic.”

Yea right. It does look magical.

I’m in love. For a brief moment, I even thought about wanting to live here. I raised a hand and slapped myself.

No. I shouldn’t be blinded by the fanciness of the place.

“Here, let me help you down.” Prince Fred said and helped me down on my feet. They guided me through the stone floor and up to the door.

“So, how do you find your NEW home?” The queen asked. A smile tugging on her lips when I didn’t answer and instead, surveyed the surrounding with my eyes.

“I-” I started but the queen cut me off.

“Never mind. Dinner’s almost ready. We have to dress you up. Ladies,” the queen snapped her finger to the servants. “Bring her to her room and dress her up for dinner.”

“Yes, my queen.” The servants said at the same time.

When she said dress, that’s when the spell of the castle broke. “Wait,” I took a step back and almost fell off the stairs if Ren hadn’t caught me. He helped me set my footing again. “What do you mean by getting DRESS?!?!?”

The Queen and the servants had evil looks on their faces. I gulped. I don’t mind wearing shorts, but dresses are a different story.

“When you said dress, you didn’t mean....” I trailed off, knowing that the queen fully understood what I was about to say.

“Oh yes.” With a single motion of the queen’s hand, the servants tried to grab me, but I was fast.

I hid behind Ren since he was near me and used him as a wall between the servants. Since there were at least 5 of them, they got past Ren easily. A servant grabbed my cape and pulled it. I almost choked, but I untie it and the servant fell.

“No!”

I ran to Nate next and hid behind him. “Sir Nate, you said that you were my knight in shining armor, right? Then do something and save me!!”

Nate had an amused look on his face. “As you wish, princess.” He caught me off guard when he carried me bridal style. “I’ll save you from the eyes of these men by giving you to these ladies to be dressed PROPERLY.”

“What?!”

Instead of answering, he just winked and approached the servants.

“Oh Prince Nathaniel, thank you!” The girls sighed dreamily.

I flail wildly “Traitor!” I accused.

He pretended to be hurt by putting a hand to his heart. “My love, how you broke my heart.”

“Look! A pretty lady.” I pointed behind him.

“Where?!— Umf!” When he looked behind him, I took the chance to get away but not before stomping on his foot. Serves him right.

I ran to Prince Fred next. “Prince Fred! You said that you’re my Prince Charming, right? Help me!”

Prince Fred smiled. “Yes, Princess. I am your Prince Charming”

I sighed in relief.

“And Prince Charming would like to see his Princess in a dress.” With that, he grabbed my arm.

I squeaked and elbowed him. “Umf!” He released his hold.

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I grabbed Dan and Ren next. “As my servants, I order you to protect me!”

“What do you think Ren?” Dan asked his brother.

“I don’t know. But I do want to see her in a dress.” Ren said.

“You know? You’re right. It might be interesting.” With that said. The two took hold of my arm and pushed me to the servants. “Traitors!” I yelled as the servants took me away. When I looked behind me, I saw them waving at me with a smile on their faces.

b\*\*\*\*\*s, I’ll get you guys for this. And here I thought we all formed a mutual sense of respect for one another!

The servants lead me to a room on the second floor. They brought me to a rather large room with a twin-size bed with curtains falling from it. The floor was made of the red carpet. There was also a door that leads to a terrace. There was a large closet on the far side of the wall facing my bed.

A vanity table was beside it.

The servants locked the door and pushed me into the bathroom and cleaned me until the dirt and the smell of horses were gone.

Once I was done, I was wrapped in a bathrobe and was asked to sit on the bed while they shuffled the bag full of dresses, probably the one that the queen bought earlier. While they were busy shuffling for dresses, I grabbed my fallen shorts and tank and folded them neatly, and hid them under my pillow. In case of emergency.

They finally brought out a floor-length gown.

It was sky blue with ruffles on the neck. It was long-sleeved which made me hate it even more since I know that it'll be hot.

“No,” I said.

“Princess you have to wear this.” said the servant who was holding the dress.

I ignored the Princess t\*\*le. “Make me!” I challenge myself.

She sighed. “Girls, you know what to do.” The servants approached me and suddenly I was cornered on my bed.

“Mommy?” I whimpered

\*\*\*

They won this time. They had managed to make me wear the dress. But I swear if they didn't gang up on me, I could have taken them. They also made me wear heels, but I don't mind though. The heels were only an inch or two tall.

“Time for your hair and makeup!”

“What?! Look, I agreed-” I started but was cut off.

“-forced” corrected the servant.

“-to wear this dress and these shoes, but don't make me wear those make-up!”

“Princess, you have to. Every princess should be presentable every time!”

“I said no!”

The door swung open and the queen came in and closed the door behind her.

“What's going on here?”

“My Lady, she-”

“I’m not wearing it!” I pointed to the table where the makeup was set.

The queen sighed. “It’s just make-up, dear.” She approached the table and grabbed the face powder and brush. “Come here.”

“Get. Away. From. Me” I warned. Either she didn’t hear it or she was stubborn.

“It’ll be quick” she promised and took another step closer. I grabbed one of my shoes and raised it in the air like a sword. “You have to get through me first.”

“Fine.” She pointed her finger at a chair and a ribbon. They began to float in the air and tied me to the chair. “What the hell was that!? What is happening!?”

Things floated in the air!

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“You didn’t say that I couldn’t use magic, right?”

“Girl, who cares!? Do it again?” I was being silly right now for being attracted to her magic show. If I could clap then I would have already.

“No. We need to get ready.”

5 minutes later, there was make-up on my face. They were kind enough to make it light. Now, there was a rosy blush on my cheek, brown eyeshadow was applied, and n\*\*\* pink lipstick. My hair was in a neat bun with loose curls to the side.

“There, now don’t you look CIVILIZE?” The queen teased.

I glared at her and forgot the fact that I just saw things floating. I did not have the energy to do anything else. My mind is becoming a mess. I bit my lips unconsciously.

“Don’t do that. You’ll eat your lipstick.” She grabbed my arm and hauled me up. “Enough, we have wasted a good 5 minutes. We should go. Now”

“It was your fault for wasting those five minutes. If only you didn’t busy yourself with applying to make up on me then we could have gotten there earlier.” I

grumbled. “Stupid another world, stupid makeups, stupid castle, and stupid dresses.”

“Well, if only you’d cooperate then we could have gotten there earlier, no?”

“Whatever.” I let it slide since I was hungry. Seriously, do princesses need to look like this every day? What a pain.

As we were going down the stairs. I saw that the princes were also dressed nicely. The twins were wearing blue long-sleeved shirts and pants. There are some kinds of gold patches on their shoulders. Nate was well suited with his maroon-colored tuxedo with a white shirt underneath. At the back, his red tux formed a ‘W’. Ace was dressed in black, which made me wonder if he took my advice. It was b\*\*\*oned down with gold lines going down vertically. Fred was dressed opposite Ace. He looked good with white. It made his hair even lighter. There were also gold lines that designed his long-sleeved b\*\*\*on-down attire. He looks good. Their eyes were focused on us once we were halfway down the stairs. The four of them smiled while Ace just stared at me with a blank expression.

Once we reached the end of the stairs, Nate approached and nodded at the queen. “Wow!” He exclaimed while looking at me. “This is not good for my heart.”

“Why?” I wondered. A little worried that he may have heart problems.

“You’re too cute.” he winked at me.

“I feel like my hand might slip and I’ll punch someone,” I said sweetly.

The twins got in between us and glared at Nate. “You’ve been taking advantage of our princess now, Nate.”

I gapped at them. Our princess!?

Ren on the other hand faces me. A soft smile on his lips. “You look beautiful today, Princess. I was glad that we handed you over to the servants.” He winked just like Nate. Are they all flirt?

I snapped my fingers. “Which reminds me,” I said and pulled Ren’s ear. “This is your punishment for handing me to the enemy earlier!”

“Ow! Why am I the only one punished?!” Ren whined.

“Cause you’re the one who reminded me,” I said with a deadpan expression.

“Sorry. Remind me to never remind you again. Okay?”

“If I do that then I am basically reminding myself.”

Prince Fred approached me next. “You look more beautiful than this morning. The dress suits you well.” He complimented me.

Am I seeing things? Or is he beginning to sparkle? Very lightly, I waved at the air around us to shoo the pesky sparkles away. Nope. Still there.

“Aw, come on, Fred. Stop using your charms on her.” Dan pouted.

“Enough with the chit-chat. Let’s eat.” The queen walked to the table and sat on the seat beside the King. Prince Ren pulled my seat for me, which was really sweet.

I sat between Ren and Dan while the beast(Ace) sat in front of me. So it was a glaring contest between us. Nate sat beside Ren while Fred sat beside Ace. The food was served. It seemed that our menu for today is mash potato and chicken with tons of gravy and ribs.

After saying a silent prayer I was about to dig in when I had a little problem. A pile of sp\*\*\*s of all sizes was lined up beside me. Great, which utensil should I use now?

I peeked at Prince Fred and saw him using the fork in the middle of the set of eating utensils.

Just as I was about to reach it. Ren stopped me and took a table napkin that I didn’t notice right beside my plate and placed it on my lap.

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“You should always place it there in case you’ll drop something and ruin your dress.” He said politely.

“Thank you,” I said and started to cut the meat but it was too hard. When I tried to force it to tear, a piece of meat went flying and onto Ace’s plate. He was surprised by the magical meat and searched for the culprit.

Oops

I gently placed the knife and fork down and pretended to be interested in my surroundings. Beside me, I heard Prince Dan chuckle softly. Glad to see him amused.

“Here, let me help.” He grabbed my knife and fork and he cut the meat into smaller pieces.

After finishing cutting the meat, he proceeded to eat his dinner. “Thanks” I whispered to him. It was embarra\*\*ing how I seem to be the only one with poor table manners.

Ren though decided to tease me by getting my sp\*\*\* and feeding me a sp\*\*\* full of mashed potato. “Here baby, say ahhh.”

“Knock it off.” Even though I was offended by that gesture, I chuckled. “I’m not a child.”

“She’s right, Ren,” Nate added. “She’s not a baby, she’s a BABE” he added with a wink.

Hang on my dear sweet fist. Please do not punch him.

“Rose dear,” the queen called. I snap my attention to her. She was beaming when she gestured to the King. “This here is your ‘uncle’ Luke.” The king smiled at me. “Well, it’s so nice to finally meet you, my dear.” He said and dab the napkin through his stubble.

“Sup, ‘uncle’.” That was all I said. So the King is also a part of this...

“My, you need a lot of work Rose.” The queen clicked her tongue and eyed my messy plate. I frowned and formed a protective circle around my plate.

“Dan could help you with the proper table etiquette, but I prefer Nate to help you with that.” She looked at Nate for his approval.

Nate nodded his head. “I’d be happy to.”

“As for your dance lessons, I would like to ask this favor of you, Prince Fred.”

“Of course, your Grace.”



“Say what?!” I exclaimed. “Why do I need dance lessons for?!” I asked and shoved another slice of meat into my mouth. This is delicious!

“Every princess must know how to dance,” she said.

“Nu-uh!” I said stubbornly.

She tsked again “Oh we better do something about that language of yours. Ren, Dan, I would like you to teach her how to behave like one, okay?”

“Yes, your highness,” the twins said at the same time. I was uncertain by the queen’s choice. I mean, the twins? Teaching me about behavior??

Even though my mouth was full of meat, I still laughed. Really? The twins? If I know better, we’re like the three stooges.

The queen must have noticed my uneasiness. “Don’t worry, Rose. Even though they don’t behave well in front of us, they are well mannered when it comes to guessing.” She assured me.

“As for the history and the background of this kingdom, I would like to ask this of you, Ace.”

No...

“Yes, your grace.” From the way he said it, he wasn’t as happy about it as me.

“Well, now that it’s settled,” the queen grabbed her fork and knife. “Let’s eat!!”

After dinner, we all went in our separate ways. The servants guided me to my room. The princes could have e\*\*\*\*\*ed me, but the queen told(ORDERED) them to rest.

I was too happy for the day to be over that I didn’t even think about changing. I yawned loudly before I lay down on the bed. As I fell asleep, I dreamed of another castle.

A castle that was smaller and different from this one. One where the people were walking alongside with animals.

## Chapter 7 It's Not A Dream

I woke up feeling heavy and hot. My face felt sloppy so I wiped the back of my hand across my face. When I brought it back I saw a hint of makeup. I cursed when I remembered that I had slept with both the dress and the makeup on. I also noticed that I was in a foreign room. I panicked and threw the covers away.

Great, so it wasn't a dream after all.

What are my parents doing right now? Are they worried? Did they call the police or even a search party? What about my friend Jen? Is she worried? Did they think that I ran away?

I really wished that this was a dream. The time when I helped that old woman outside of the store, I didn't expect that this would be my reward for being a Good Samaritan. I just have the worst luck in the world.

I hauled myself up using my elbows and groaned in pain as I felt a sting on my neck. I guess I slept on the wrong side of the bed.

I did a little stretch. It felt good to the muscles. I walked to my balcony glass door and separated the curtains that covered it. Quickly, the early morning light brushed my skin giving me a welcoming heat, and quickly brightened up the room. I opened the door and went to the balcony. It gave an overview of a grassy land filled with different kinds of flowers with rich colors. I enjoyed the soothing fragrance that is provided. It helped me to gather my thoughts.

I wonder if there's some sort of key out of this world. Perhaps I could ask the Queen about that later.

Once I was thought, I decided to go and take a shower first since I probably look horrible with the makeup still on. With each step, I took it felt so weird. Maybe this is how it feels when you're not used to the place you are in.

"Good morning, Princess." I jumped as soon as I noticed a maid standing by my bed.

My jaw dropped and I pointed a finger at her. "H-How long have you been there? Why didn't I notice you?"

She said nothing and clapped her hand. Immediately, more maids entered the room and a\*\*isted me to the bathroom just like yesterday. The bathroom was huge. It was white and the floors were tiled. I took a dip, actually, they tossed me for being uncooperative, in the lavender-filled tub and quickly relaxed at the wariness of the water.

Surely someone had filled this before I could have awoken since everything here was already prepared. From the tub to the shampoos and towels. I wish I had a rubber ducky, not that I ever had one.

I spent the rest of my 30 minutes there, playing with the bubbles since I was bored. None of the maids were willing to talk to me and were busy scrubbing my back. Once we were done, they wrapped me in a bathrobe.

On my bed, I saw a yellow dress laid out. Its sleeve was a little puffy on the shoulder and the rest of it was elegantly straight up to the wrist. It was made of smooth material. It was long but I don't think it's that long that it'll reach the bottom. I glared at it murderously.

On top of it was a note. The handwriting was in a neat cursive form.

Hello there my little niece!

I have prepared a dress for you! Isn't it cute?! You should be thankful.

~Elizabeth

I stared at the note in disbelief. This Queen is crazy if she thinks that I'll thank her for a dress!!

Well, I don't have to worry about the dress since I do have my clothes from yesterday. Good thing that I hid it so I would have a backup. I don't even care if it stinks or not. I'll just pour some perfume on it.

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Throwing the note aside. I reached for the pillow where I had hidden my clothes from yesterday. When I lifted the pillow I didn't see my clothes but instead, I saw another note.

Frowning, I read it.

If you honestly think that I would allow you to wear these then think again. You're wearing that dress and that's final.

I crumpled the note in my hand. I can't believe this! It was the only backup clothing I have! And she added an insult at the end!

Out of anger I kicked the side of the bed and winced in pain as my foot collided with the hardwood. "Urgh!" I growled in frustration. Not only was my clothes stolen but my feet hurt.

She plays this game well.

Now I have no choice but to put the dress on. It wasn't horrible or anything. In fact, it fits me well and was comfortable to move with, but I'm still against wearing these kinds of clothing. I found my ballet flats under the bed. I was thankful that the Queen didn't take them.

The maids helped me put the dress on and guided me out of my room for breakfast.

As I was making my way to the door, I found yet another note. What is with her and notes?!

I plucked it out and read it. Already guessing that it was bad news since the two notes before gave me nothing but depression. And I was right.

Your training with the Princes starts today. They will plan your schedule by the way. Good luck and have fun.

"I hate the Queen." I hissed under my breath as I crumpled the paper in my fist and threw it across the room. What is she blabbering about training? What is this? The military?

She didn't say anything about this. Unless it was the training to become a princess?

We went out of my room and made our way to the kitchen. The castle was huge both from the outside and inside. The ceilings were high and lit by various and expensive-looking chandeliers. Thousands of rooms could fit hundreds of people.

You can easily get lost in this castle, but lucky for me that the maid was e\*\*\*\*\*ing me. I went inside the kitchen and was greeted by the more maids, who all don't plan on telling me their names.

“Good morning, Princess.” One maid greeted me. I gave her a nod and greeted her back. Being called Princess was a little weird for me since I always act unlady-like. She led me to a table and served me my meal. My mouth watered at the sight of eggs, bacon, and bread.

“Princess, if you need anything. Just ask me.” She said.

“Why won’t any of the maids talk to me?” I asked. No response. “Okay never mind. Thank you.” I said.

She smiled and before she left she said, “Enjoy your breakfast, Princess.”

## ADVERTISEMENT

I don’t really want to be called a Princess, but I guess I have no choice since the Queen insisted on it. It makes me wonder though. Why does she need someone like me to choose a Prince when she can just choose them by herself?

Somehow I have a feeling that there’s another reason why she brought me here. Well, according to the novels and some webtoons that I read, these ‘other world’ scenarios only happen when you’re dead or reincarnated. Either way, the reason why the protagonists were taken were never revealed.

I dismissed the thought as I began to dig in my food. Literally. I don’t want to waste good food by thinking of things that’ll make my headache. I am not much of a thinker after all. The food was delicious even though it was so plain. Maybe I was hungry.

As I fed the last bite of my breakfast to my mouth, that’s when I heard them. I tensed.

“Where do you think Princess Rose is?” I heard Fred asked.

“I don’t know, maybe she’s in her room?” This time, it was one of the twins.

“No, she’s not in there. I checked.” Prince Nate inserted.

“You went to her room?! Nate, we really have to keep a close eye on you in case you’ll do something to our Princess.” it was the other twin.

“Hey! Just because I love women doesn’t mean that I’ll take advantage of her! What do you take me for??” Nate defended. Obviously hurt.

“Get it over with. Let’s just eat our breakfast and worry about it later.” Ace said.

I stiffened. I suddenly remembered the queen saying something about my training and how the princes will decide a schedule for me. I don’t know why but my gut tells me to hide.

I am not ready for this.

As their footsteps had gotten closer, I got up and hid behind the curtains, which was a stupid idea, but it is easier to make my way to the exit if I keep following it.

I heard chairs being pulled out and greetings from the maids were exchanged. I was about to leave when I heard them talking. Out of curiosity, I listened and peaked.

“You know, we were supposed to make a schedule for her training today.” One of the twins said as he sliced his food. Even with his slightly wet hair he still looks stunning. Now I’m being a creep.

“True, we have to decide who will go first.” The other twin agreed and looked expectantly to his fellow Princes.

“I think I should go first since table manners are important,” Nate said while putting food inside his mouth.

“No way.” The twins said bluntly. Which made Nate choke on his food. He covered his mouth with his fist as he coughed and reached for a gla\*\* of water. He took several sips from it before wiping his wet lips with a table napkin. Wow, fancy.

“Why not?” Nate whined while Fred chuckled. Nate looked at Fred with a disbelief expression on his face. “Fred, not you too.”

## ADVERTISEMENT

Fred shrugged his shoulders. “Sorry, Nate. The twins do have a point. I’d say that I should go first since dancing is not a simple task.”

“I think it’s a good idea after we go first.” One of the twins said. When both Nate and Fred started to protest, Dan cut them off by adding, “Making her a Princess is a lot of work to do and dancing needs proper posture, which we will be teaching her. Right, Ace?”

“Yeah, okay.” Ace said as he placed a slice into his mouth. Not joining the conversation or much less cared. He was also reading a book.

“What? You’re not even gonna fight for a place, Ace? Hey! That rhymed!” one of the twins yelled earning an annoyed face from Ace before he swallowed his food.

“I don’t care if I go last. Fighting for it seems worthless and besides, we will still get our time teaching that pain in a b\*\*\* of a Princess.”

Why does this guy hate me so much?

“Better watch your words with her, Ace. The tongue is sharper than a weapon. Even though you didn’t hurt her physically, you can still hurt her emotionally.” Nate warned while the twins glared at him.

“Besides, Ace.” Fred added “She’s a girl. Very delicate with their feelings. I don’t even know what she had done to you to deserve your hate.”

I don’t even know if I should feel insulted in this conversation or not. And most importantly, I don’t even know why I am eavesdropping!

“So says the Princes.” Ace mocked. “Fine, you don’t have to repeat it. I got the point.” I think Ace needs another slap with my foot

“Ignore him. Let’s just do something progressive like making the schedule for the training. Any suggestions on how to make the sequence?”

“Oh, I know! Let’s play a game.” Nate suddenly suggested. All the attention was on him now. I was curious too so I leaned in a bit.

My dumb self even thought of joining.

“What game?” Fred asked slightly worried since it’s Nate after all. The twins though, seemed pretty excited while Ace seemed busy eating and would occasionally raise his head to give them an annoyed look.

“Whoever catches the Princess first shall be the first one and can have the whole day with her tomorrow. The second can have the next day, so on and so forth.”

“Fine by me.” Fred leaned on his chair contentedly.

“Alright!” The twins shouted in glee.

I was leaning too much and I slipped. “Hick!” I suddenly blurted out. I quickly covered my mouth with my hand when I had realized what I had done. I just revealed my presence. All heads turned to me. I waved awkwardly. “H-hey. Good morning.” I squeaked and got up. Slowly, I felt my way to the exit while keeping my gaze on them. “Lovely day! Sorry for disturbing you. Please continue with your fancy way of eating.” I laughed nervously and grabbed a random vase to cover my face.

## Chapter 8 Cat and Mice inside the Castle

“Good morning, Princess Rose.” They said in unison. Now, why on Earth are they being creepy?

And...UGH! I really hate being called a princess!

“By any chance. Have you heard what we were talking about just now?” One twin asked curiously while batting his lashes at me innocently.

“Of course not. Because that is rude. And...not nice.” I avoided their gaze. I was not that good at lying.

“Something tells me that she did hear us.” Ren sang, having an evil glint in his eyes as he communicated with his brother with his eyes. Nate and Fred were quick to notice this and suddenly, all heads turned to me again.

Only one thought screamed in my mind: Run.

Picking up my dress, I ran. I could hear the boys shuffling and the sounds of footsteps echoing inside. I made swift turns, not knowing where to go but as long as I can get away from them.

A thought suddenly occurred to me. Why was I running when I was already aware that the queen intends for me to have my training since yesterday? I know that I



wasn't ready for the training but that isn't enough of a reason to run away. Maybe it's the thought of being chased that triggered a sort of reaction from me to run.

I stopped running when I put a good distance between us and put both my hands on my knees as I tried to catch my breath. With the size of this castle, it's easy to lose them. And it's easy for me to say that I too am lost.

"Great," I muttered.

I continued to walk. Each time admiring the beautiful views from the floor to ceiling windows. Each window has a red curtain at the sides. It feels like you're walking in a Disney movie castle. The floor was made of white marble. Many stands held a flower vase with different flowers from it giving the castle a wonderful aroma. I'm guessing that they change the flowers every day and use the flowers from the garden outside my room. It's like there's magic involved in growing the flowers since the other flowers were not meant to bloom in this season.

From the ache on both of my feet, I'm guessing that I have walked for a long time. I even think that I have toured only a half of this castle. I also remembered some places, which would be helpful shortly in case I need to hide for emergencies.

I went straight and saw that up ahead, there are two ways which I needed to choose from, three if you consider going straight. I was deciding on whether I should go to the right, left or the straight one, when not one, but two Princes emerge from both sides.

Ren and Dan both stopped to look at each other, panting, before shaking their heads. I'm guessing that they haven't seen me yet, which I am currently standing at least 20 feet away from them.

No place to hide so I covered my face with my hands as if it would help. Why doesn't my brain work at the best of the time!?

## ADVERTISEMENT

They were about to turn when their heads snapped in my direction. A bright grin plastered on their faces as they composed their posture.

"Hello there, Princess!" One greeted me while the other gave me a boyish smirk. "Going somewhere?"

“Princess? I am the castle ghost. I am not a p-princess.” I stuttered. They began to advance at me slowly as a predator would to a prey. And I don’t want to be the prey. “Actually,” I said as I slowly took a step backward. “I’m kinda busy today and I guess you guys are too so let’s just call this a day, Okay? You do your thing, I’ll do my thing. It’s a win-win. What do you say?” I offered.

One of them shook his head while the other was the one who talked. “Actually, you are our thing so we can’t call it a day as you say.” He paused. “Hey, it rhymed!”

I hate running...I should just give up.

I took long strides backward to keep a lot of distance between me and the Princes. One of them shook his head. “I think she’s going to run away any minute now, brother. That means that we will have to chase her again.” Ren nodded his head in agreement. “I know. The only problem is that there is a rule that says ‘no running in the castle’.” Then he had a mischievous grin on his face before he added. “But I don’t consider this running, I call this chasing.” He smiled that evil smile of his.

That was all I needed as I ran to the way that I came from and away from the brothers. Both were now hot on my heels.

“Better run fast Princess cause we’re catching up pretty fast!” Dan called and his voice was dangerously closed. He’s taunting me.

“Jerks!” I called back and ran faster and almost tripped on my foot but quickly regained balance.

One of them blew in my ear. I screamed and ran faster if that was even possible. I heard both of them crackling with laughter behind me and I stopped in my tracks. Both of them clutching their stomachs from laughing. What I saw in front of me made my blood boil.

They were toying with me.

Out of anger, I took both of my shoes off and aimed each one to their heads. Unfortunately, they caught each one with their hand. Now each twin was holding one pair of my shoes.

Dan smiled again. “You know, Ren. I think we should return this to her.” He said, indicating my shoe which they now have in their hands.

“I think you’re right. It’s only proper for a gentleman like us to give this to her personally.” Ren winked.

“You can have it! As a token of my hatred.” I hissed and ran again. This time, not looking back. “Damn it!”

## ADVERTISEMENT

“Language!!” They both shouted, amuse\*\*\*\*t clear in their voice.

“Shut up!” I yelled. I always wanted a prince to chase me while holding one of my shoes in his hands as he carefully put it on my foot and lived happily ever after in a castle. You know, all those cliché love story things. But never did I dream to have two of those Princes chasing me and me running away from them in a castle. Plus running around barefooted.

Why can’t I be transported to a place with decent princes!?

I was busy fussing with my dreams that I didn’t notice that both Fred and Nate were walking far ahead of me. I prayed that they wouldn’t look here, but I guess that this isn’t my lucky day since they just turned in my direction. They both grinned and made their way in the direction.

“Princess!” Nate and Fred called.

oh @\$%^&\*()!!!

I stopped as I realized that I was completely trapped. Behind me were the twins and in front of me were Nate and Fred.

Since I don’t really have a choice right now, the only thing I did was stop and pray. The next thing I knew was Dan and Ren crashing into Fred and Nate when they tried to dodge me. Both sides crashing to the ground with a thud.

I take it back. Luck was still on my side. “Hallelujah!!” I screamed and clapped my hands in delight. Not wasting any more time I ran in the opposite direction. The boys were just getting on their feet when they saw me running and went after me. Since I was barefooted, I can now run faster without slipping.

When I turned to the right, I went inside the room that I saw first and locked it behind me. I leaned against it while covering my mouth with both of my hands as I

listened for them outside. My heart pounded in my chest. I could hear their voices and footsteps, then they were gone.

I sighed in relief. I thank God for my awesome luck. I guess I survived this day without the training. I hope the Queen will know of this. I would surely rub it on her face.

Someone cleared their throat which startled me. I gave out a loud squeak and dropped to the ground.

“Spare me, please! I just don’t want to go to the training. I just wanna go home! Please kill the Queen and not me.” I begged. I don’t know what came up to me when I said this.

“Easy child. It’s just me. And why would I kill my beloved wife?” I raised my eyes and was met with yellow orbs that stared back at me. I let out the breath that I didn’t notice that I was holding.

“Oh. It’s just you ‘uncle’.” I said as I rolled my eyes. King or not, he’s still a part of this plan that I really have no idea. He was sitting on a chair with a wooden table in front of him. To his right were large bookshelves and to his left was a table with a bottle of wine on top of it and a painting on the wall.

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The King chuckled, wrinkles showing on his forehead. “You amuse me, child. No one has ever rolled their eyes at me or told me to kill my wife for fear that they may lose their head.”

“So am I gonna lose my head now?” I raise an eyebrow at him. He didn’t seem like the king who would do that.

He shook his head, amuse\*\*\*\*t still lingered on his face. “No.” he paused and looked at my form which is still by the door. “By the way, child. Who are you hiding from?”

“If I tell you, will you promise not to give me away?” I looked at his eyes so I would know that he wouldn’t be lying. I can always tell if a person is lying by just looking through their eyes. I don’t know but their eyes would twitch if they do.

The King shrugged. “Depends on the reason.” When he saw my expression he took it back. “Okay, I promise I won’t.”

I saw that truth in his eyes and decided to tell him. “I was hiding from the Princes.”

The King had a confused look on his face, probably wondering why I would do such a thing. “Well, why are you hiding then? They didn’t do anything inappropriate, did they?”

I shook my head. “No, that’s not it. I don’t know if you know of this but did you remember what the Queen said yesterday about my training to be a Princess?” I asked.

The King nodded. “Yeah, good luck with that.” He muttered to himself but it was loud enough that I could hear it.

I pointed a finger at him. “I’m going to pretend that I didn’t hear that.” He raised both hands as if in surrender. “Anyway, the princes are playing a game of catch to see who goes first. Guess who’s the prey?” I exclaimed.

“You?” The King gasped dramatically. “And is that the reason why you’re running? Wouldn’t it be better if you just let them catch you and get it over with?” He looked at me with pity but I could still see the hint of a grin.

“Oh shut up! The least you can do is help your lovely niece.” I joked. His smile lowered a little and he looked to the side as if thinking of something. Guilt was present in his eyes. “Actually, I didn’t know. I just expected this. It seems that she has made her move pretty fast.” He said so low that I couldn’t almost hear it.

“What do you mean?” I asked.

The King jumped in his seat. He probably didn’t mean for me to hear it.

“Nothing.” His eyes twitched. He’s lying.

## Chapter 9 PRINCE or a Therapist

I narrowed my gaze at the king. “I don’t know what to say, my King, but you’re hiding something, aren’t you?”

He looks like he's debating on whether he would tell me or not. Then he sighed. "I guess that you have the right to know. But you must not interrupt me when I explain. And please keep your voice low, she might hear us."

"Okay? Know what?"

"Do you ever wonder why the Queen would need someone to choose the future King instead of picking one by herself?" He asked.

"Since the beginning of all this," I admitted.

He nodded and placed both his elbows on top of the table and intertwined them and placed his head on top of it. "Well, that was just an excuse for the real reason."

"I knew it!" I grinned in excitement. "Do I get a special task? Like do I have to defeat someone with my otherworldly powers?"

"I-" He paused. "I do not know what you are saying, but I do believe that even though Thalia is not as peaceful as we would like it to be, we sure aren't at war to 'defeat' our enemy." He explained.

I slumped on the ground. So I don't get any powers then. "So for what special reason was, I called here for?"

"In this world, my wife has the power to open a portal to your world. Since the Queen can go back and forth between the two worlds, she has become fond of your world-.....what do you call that? Oh! Yes! Romance stories. After each story's endings, she would always complain that the people's lives don't end in books, it should always carry on, so she thought of something. She would make a real-life love story in this castle. One that she would be able to see how it will grow, from the beginning to the end. And guess who are the characters? You and the Princes that you are hiding from." He ended. His eyes are now on me. Waiting for my reaction.

It took me a second to process his words. When they finally made sense, something just snapped in me. My blood boiled at this information as I just realized something.

"What?!" I shouted, not caring if the Princes would hear my screams.

The King raised both hands in front of him, trying to calm me down. “Shhh! Calm down. She might hear us!” He whispered.

“Calm down?! So I was dragged to this place to become a character for her romance fantasy and not to be a hero with superpowers!?” My reason for being angry was petty.

“I’m serious, she might hear you!”

“Then let her hear me! I am not a pawn.” I didn’t know what I did, but I remember grabbing one of the books from the shelf to steady myself. I pulled it off, attempting to throw it against the room.

“Not that!” The King yelled.

Too late I had already pulled it, but it didn’t come off, instead, I heard a soft click and the shelf started to part. Both sides moved sideways revealing another room. On the couch sat the Queen. Her head turned in my direction as she paused what she was reading. “Rose, if you’ll do a rampage, then you could at least have done it outside. I could hear your screams but your words were jumbled.”

My fist clenched at my sides while the King’s facepalmed and said “See? I told you she could hear us!” So this is what he meant when he said that she could hear us.

## ADVERTISEMENT

My eyes were still glued on the person sitting on the couch so casually as if she had got no care in the world. She sighed. “If you have nothing to say then-”

“You!” I shouted. My temper rises at an extremely dangerous level. She took my life away, my family, and my friends and brought me to a place so foreign to me so that I could be someone that I don’t want to be. To be a part of her stupid ideas.

Her face scrunched up in confusion. Looking at me as if I had gone crazy. “Me?”

“This!” I gestured at my dress and the place. “Everything! Did you take me to this place just to be what? A part of your silly role-playing fantasy!?” My fist was clenched so tight that my knuckles had gone white.

The Queen's eyes had bulged out. "You know? How?" Her eyes landed on her husband, who shrugged. She nodded her head, understanding. "Ahh, I see..."

"That's it? That's all you have to say?!" I was trying to keep my cool so I wouldn't choke her. "You took me here for a petty reason! If it were something dire I might have considered it but playing for a romance role!? Go find another girl!"

"I wouldn't just pick any girl. Your heart truly desired to escape your world."

"Listen to me. Bringing me here to grant me a wish and expecting a romance to bloom in front of you are two different things!" I yelled. "Ah damn it! Of all the genres you picked romance. I hope you'll get abducted by aliens so they will experiment on your brain for having a poor taste!"

I heard the Queen whisper to her husband. "What's an alien?" Before I burst out of the room. Blindly running away. I don't care if the Princes will catch me. I just want to be alone.

I ran. My feet are now cold against the marbled floor. My vision is getting blurry from anger. I wish a hole would just swallow me. Anything to leave this heck of a place. I want to go home.

"Romance my b\*\*\*!" I grumbled.

Did I really want to escape my original world? Maybe, but not to become a pawn for someone else's fantasy of romance. Well, at least I now know that reason why I am here. Unlike the other heroines in the novels that I read.

I stopped in front of one of the doors. Library, I read. I want to go to the library. It had always been my sacred place of comfort. The smell of old pages always comforted me. Even better since I wanted to be alone. I figured no one would be in here. I opened the door and went inside. The smell of old leather did comfort me. It reminded me of home. I closed the door behind me and I slumped onto the ground. Bringing my knees to my chest as I started to sulk and grumble some curses.

I would do anything to make their lives miserable. I would make them hate me until they will be forced to kick me out of here. The queen will not get what she wants. I am just not the right girl for this. I never liked the romance.

But I do admire pretty faces.



“If you’re done, can you please get up? It’s an unsightly sight for a Princess.”

Startled, I quickly lifted my head and saw that on one of the couches in the center of the library, sat Ace holding an open book. Probably in the middle of reading. He didn’t look at me when he spoke. He continued to read. His back pressed against the sofa. His face was so calm as he read.

“What are you doing here?” I asked.

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“Correction, what are you doing here?” He didn’t even bother to look up from the book that he is reading. I guess that he would rather read than talk to me.

I didn’t answer his question at first. Not knowing if I should tell him or not. I finally settled on the safest route. “I just wanted to be alone,” I muttered honestly.

“Why?” He asked. Eyes still glued to the book.

I glared daggers at him. How simple was it to look at a person while she’s talking? “What’s it to you?” I said bitterly as I rocked back and forth on the floor.

“If you want to mope then at least sit on that couch over there.” he pointed to a couch across from him while holding the book in the other hand. “It’s better than sitting on the floor. It’s cold.”

I ignored him and continued to rock back and forth. Not even bothering to give him a glance or an answer. This is silly.

The silence was growing thick, which I welcomed until he let out a sigh and closed the book that he was reading. He finally looked up and glanced at me. “You’re not gonna listen to me are you?”

I continued to rock while I avoided his gaze. I can tell that he was pissed at me for ignoring him. Serves his royal b\*\*\*.

With a swift move, he put his book down on the couch and walked in my direction, and stopped just in front of me. He kneeled until his eyes were leveled with mine. “You are a stubborn girl. Come on, get up.” He ordered while tugging at my arm.

I narrowed my eyes at him and pulled my arm away. “And you’re a heartless self-centered royal jerk!” I stayed where I was still glaring at him.

“Well, you left me no choice then.” With a quick movement, he threw me on his shoulder. I yelped in surprise.

“Let me go!!” I screamed and kicked while I pounded on his back.

“Ow! Stop screaming. It hurts to the ears.” He rubbed his ear and winced as I continued to scream. “Quite! This is a library so shut up!” He hissed, shouting himself.

“Ace-”

“That’s PRINCE Ace for you!” He cut me off.

I just rolled my eyes even though he can’t see me. Why should I? I can call him whatever I want. “Whatever. I know you’re a jerk but will you please put me down?! You’re like a creep! Put me down! Now.” I continued to pound on his back.

“As you wish, Princess.” With just a flick of his arms, I was thrown on a leather couch with a thud. I bounced once and almost fell if I hadn’t grabbed on the back. I glared at him as he made his way to the couch that he was sitting on a while ago, which was across from me. He grabbed the book that he was reading and placed them on his lap as he stared at me with a raised eyebrow. Probably wondering why I was glaring at him.

“So, want to talk about it?” He finally asked.

## Chapter 10 Touch Move

I stopped laughing. My eyes went wide in surprise. I saw him smirk at me at my gaping face. “H-How did you.....know?”

He shrugged his shoulders as if it were obvious. “Well, it was pretty obvious from the way you dressed and the way you act. Plus the nonsense that the Queen is blabbering about training you like a Princess. Everyone knows that a princess is already trained in their childhood days.”

My mouth formed an ‘O’. “So who else knows?” I asked.

He thought for a moment. “All the Princes know.”

“Crap.”

“By the way,” He shifted on his seat. “Since I had caught you first that means that you and I will have our training tomorrow.”

“Double crap!”

“Oh, shut up. You’re not the only one who’s in agony you know. It’s all your fault.”

I raised my head and glared daggers at him. “My fault?!”

“Yes, if you had just sat on the couch as I asked you to, then I wouldn’t have to carry you and make contact!” Our voices were already rising.

What the hell is this? Touch move!?

“Excuse me but if you just minded your own business, then none of this would have happened!”

“What am I supposed to do?! Leave you there on the floor? Fine! Next time I’ll let you freeze to death on the spot!”

“Get off your high horse. Freezing to death just by sitting on the floor isn’t possible!”

“Not yet. But I hope you’re the first one!”

“Fine!” I spat

“Fine!” He spat back. He raised his hands in surrender as he got up. “You know what? Just meet me here in the morning. I’m leaving for today.”

Not wanting to be left alone I followed. He stopped and his head turned to me.

“Why are you following?”

“I’m leaving too.”

“No! I’m leaving first. You stay here.” He ordered, not wanting me to tag along.

“No way! I’m leaving too.” I started to make my way around him but he stopped me.

“Stay!” He ordered.

“What am I? A dog? Move!” I pushed.

“I said I was leaving first! Don’t cut in!”

“Who are you? My mom? Move!” I pushed harder but he was too strong. We wrestled like that until both of us finally gave up. “Alright alright! Well, go out together!” He growled. He walked to the double doors and opened with. He turned to me and jerked his head. A gesture that meant to get my b\*\*\* out of here before he changes his mind. I quickly got out with a victorious smirk.

He closed the door behind him and gave me a murderous glare. Wow, if looks could kill I would be dead.

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“Now get out of my sight before I might do something that I might regret.”

“What? You’re going to be nice? Eww!”

“Don’t get ahead of yourself.” He started to leave when his eyes lowered to my bare feet. He raised his eyebrow. “Where’re your shoes?”

“Err....” I hesitated. Where are they? I remember throwing them at the twins...

“Princess!!” To my far left, I heard the twins calling me. Each of them holding a shoe. Yep, my shoes are with them alright.

Ace turned his attention to the two, his eyes focusing on my shoes in their hands. Understanding flashed in his face as the answer to his question appeared in front of him. A smile found its way to his lips. “I’ll be on my way now. Good luck and don’t forget about tomorrow.” With that, he exited as the twins approached, panting.

“W-where...have you...been?” One panted while the other continued for his brother. “We...have been...looking everywhere!”

“I was hiding,” I said.

“Where?” Twin one asked, finally recovered.

“Someplace where you two aren’t.”

Twin one suddenly became interested in the floor and pouted. Twin two saved his brother from his embarrassment when he decided to ask, “Was that Ace?” He looked in the direction that Ace just went.

I nodded my head. “Yep, he was just leaving”. Twin two pouted. “Does that mean that he’s first?”

I sighed. “Unfortunately, yes”

Twin one decided to step up. “Well, at least we’re the second. Are we?”

“Yes.” I nodded. Acting as I’ll cooperate with the training.

“Good.” Both Princes went on their knees as they offered me my shoe. “My lady, can we?” Ren asked.

“No. Leave it there on the floor,” I said with a deadpan face.

But it would seem as if the twins are deaf. Deaf twin two took my foot and placed the shoe on my foot. Deaf twin one did the same after.

Both stood up in perfect synchronization, perks of being a twin I guess. They both have big smiles on their faces as they bowed. “We will be expecting your time the day after tomorrow princess.” Said twin two. “Until then take care and have a pleasant day.” They winked and left.

I made my way around the castle, wanting to return to my room. I was passing one of the floor-to-ceiling windows when, suddenly, the curtains opened and Nate startled me by blocking my way. “Found you!”

“The \$-?\$&@€[€\+[^]€81!1!!!!!!!” I yelled when I was startled.

Nate gave me a funny look. “What was that?”

I coughed and cleared my throat. “You scared me!”

“Oops, sorry.” He gave me an apologetic smile. “By the way, has anyone caught you yet?” He asked.

What am I? “Yes. Two actually. Ace was first, then followed by the twins.” I said.

Disappointment flashed in his eyes. It was quick when he pouted. “Cheeky that Ace is and I thought I was the first. Well, at least I was not last.” He shrugged. “So, see you after two days?”

## ADVERTISEMENT

“Can do anything about it?”

“Of course you can! No one can resist this charm!” He pointed to his face as he flashed me a smile that would make boys run of their money.

“Please! I’ve seen better.” At least in movies.

“Really?” He fake gasped. “Oh well, but none of them is as lucky as me to be in front of a beautiful lady such as yourself.” He winked before leaving me with a flushed face. “See you around Princess!” He called, then he was gone.

“Stupid Princes and their flirty att\*\*ude. And this stupid castle with their stupid queen.” I muttered as I turned right in the direction of my room. It took me a while to get there because of the size of this castle.

When I finally reached the floor to my room, I saw Prince Fred leaning against the door. His blond hair slightly covers his closed eyes. His head was lowered and his arms were crossed over his chest. He looked so charming. Was he waiting for me?

I made my way towards him, careful not to make a sound. His breathing was even. I think he’s asleep. I leaned in to see if he was really asleep and couldn’t help but notice the way his hair would fall to his eyes when he is leaning down, his long lashes, his high cheekbones, strong jaw, sharp nose, and the way that his mouth would move as he slept.

I feel like such a creep.

Oh and he smells so good! Kinda like pine cones. His eyes fluttered open and stared into my gray ones.

I gasped in surprise as I backed away.

Fred covered his mouth as he yawned and rubbed his eyes before he looked at me. From the look on his face, he probably just noticed me. “Hmm? Princess, how long were you standing there?” He asked.

“I-I-I.....I just got here!” I stuttered. feeling relieved that he didn’t ask what I was doing.

Fred noticed where he was leaning and abruptly straightened himself up. “I-I’m sorry. Was I blocking your way?” He asked. “I was just waiting for your arrival.”

Oh right. The princes and their stupid games with a castle and a stupid queen.

I laughed nervously as I tucked a strand of hair behind my ear as gulped. “Sorry, but the boys beat you to it. You were the last....” I said.

He surprised me by laughing. “Well, I guess that waiting for you here instead of looking for you was a bad idea. Oh well, you know what they say ‘save the best for last.’” He bowed, then gave me a grin. “Until then, Princess. Have a good day.” with that he left. Leaving me staring at his retreating back.

He’s handsome.

I opened my door and walked in while banging the door closed. I walked like a zombie towards my bed and slumped against it. I bounced once before the bed settled. I grabbed a pillow and buried my face in it.

“Getting comfy?”

“Shi-” I quickly sat up on my bed.

“None of that language dear.”

I glared at her. Grabbed my shoe and aimed at her threateningly. “What do you want?” The Queen sat on a chair at the far left of my room. A book in her hand. She shut it when she turned to me. Sadness in her eyes. She seemed to have aged a day. “Look, Rose. I didn’t know....and I’m sorry.”

Did I hear her right? She’s apologizing? Grab a wall, the world is about to end. I scoffed at her. “If you’re truly sorry, then the least you can do is send me back.”

She shook her head. “That I cannot do.”

“Why?” I asked. Suddenly feeling tired.

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“The magic that brought you here...weeeeelllll it isn't ready yet.” She smiled innocently.

“What do you mean by that? What isn't ready?”

As an answer, she brought out a clear fist-size crystal orb. Something was thick and swirling inside of it like black smoke or mist. I stared at it dumbfoundedly. “What is that?”

“This is the thing that brought you here.”

I gapped “Really? I remember it being a flat paper and not an orb.”

She rolled her eyes. “Honey, you remember that I'm a fairy with magic, right? I used some of my magic to morph this thing to look like a charm.”

My mouth formed into an 'o'. For some reason I guess I now truly believe that I really am from a different world and that the queen is a fairy. And that I have no magic and I am not a heroine to save this world from a demon lord.

I waved my hand at her. “I don't care about the details. I only want to know when that thing will be ready to take me back home.” So I can sulk and cry that I was taken to a different world as a romance protagonist.

The Queen scratched her head and avoided looking at me. A sure sign that it was bad. “I don't want to disappoint you, but I...don't know.....”

“What?!”

“Now watch your blood pressure, my dear. I heard that it's not good-”

“What do you mean that you don't know? Explain. Now!” I demanded. I was pretty close to throwing my shoe at her.

“This magic is unpredictable. The amount of magic required to bring a human to our side depends on the amount of baggage they have. By baggage I mean emotional but sometimes it could be because of blood. In your case, you completely drained it. We have to wait until the mist will be gone. You will know



if it will be fully charged when the ball turns into a solid ocean blue and would radiate a brilliant light. When that happens you can decide if you would stay or leave. Until then you're stuck." She explained.

"Can you at least-

"I can't give you powers either. Zero magic means zero."

"When that thing will be ready, I would surely leave this heck of a place," I said.

A ghost of a smile appeared on her lips. "You wouldn't know that."

"Oh I know and my decision is final."

She shrugged. "Hmm....we'll see about that in the future, won't we? After all, with all the handsome Princes in this castle, you might change your mind." She winked, got up, and left the room closing the door behind her.

I sighed.

I yelped when the door opened once again and the Queen's head peaked out. "Oh, By the way, I searched the word alien in Merriam – Webster Dictionary." With a flick of her wrist, an iPad appeared. "It says-

"Get out!!" I threw a pillow at the door and she was gone. Sheesh!!! Give the person some rest!!

Dinner was served to me that night as I was reading the book that Ace had lent me. I just sat there on the bed. What does she mean by me changing my mind? She's still up with her plan?! The nerve. No worries. For now, I will 'cooperate' with her.

I'll take the lesson. I'll try to know more about this world as much as I can. For now, all I know is that I am in a different realm and only the queen can bring me back. It's a realm where princes and princesses exist. Okay, I think this much I can handle.

Until I can return home that is.

Chapter 11 A lesson with Ace –

"Will you stop doing that?" Ace asked me, pretty annoyed if I do say so myself.

We're currently at the library for my first lesson: History and the important people of each kingdom.

He kept on talking and explaining things. Continuously, if I might add. I was sleepy and uninterested. Who can blame me? And why do I even have to learn their history? Whenever I tried to sleep this off, he would snap his fingers in front of my face. So I ended up doodling on a piece of paper to entertain myself. Oftentimes I would blankly stare at the ceiling and unconsciously make faces that cause him to get distracted. Steams would have appeared from his ears because of how pissed off he was. I think he prevented himself from punching me so much that his knuckles had gone white.

I am trying to listen to what he's saying but all the terms that he is using make it hard for me to understand!

"It's obvious that you hate me and it is no secret that I also dislike you, so why can't we just agree to drop this lesson?" I said as I batted my eyes at him innocently.

"Not gonna happen." He said as he opened a book. "This is a part of your lesson. So you'll have to learn it."

"Nothing you even say makes any sense to me." I slumped on my seat. He didn't bother to look up this time as he read something from a leather-bound book. His jaw clenched in annoyance, his black hair falling as he bent his head slightly forward to read in silence.

"Then I guess you need to try harder."

I pouted. "Easy for you to say. You were born here. I was born waaaay over there." Feeling disappointed, I started whistling.

"You are an annoying Princess!"

"Why thank you."

His head perked up and gave me an annoyed look. "That wasn't a compliment."

"For me, it is," I said and began to get comfy on the couch. I haven't gotten much sleep since yesterday that my eyes started to close on their own. Not even a minute later and he was shaking me awake.

“No sleeping during cla\*\* hours.” He said and continued to shake me. I tried to ignore him but I was getting dizzy from his shaking. My head bobbing back and forth.

Can’t this guy leave me alone?

I reached out and slapped his hand away. “Go away,” I said as I buried my face on the couch. A minute later and I heard a sound. I took a peek and I saw Ace holding a bag of cookies. He smirked when he saw that I was staring at it. “Now you’re awake?”

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“No, I’m not.” I blushed and looked away.

He started shaking the bag of cookies drawing my eyes at them again. “These are cookies baked by a well-known baker in Thalia. His bakery is so famous that countless dukes and even royals come to Thalia just to buy these.”

I stared at him. “You’re bluffing, aren’t you? The ‘baker’ is actually the chef of this castle.”

There was a long pause.

Ace suddenly cleared his throat. “Of course not. Why would you even think of that?”

I raised an eyebrow at him. “Are you taking me for a fool? You said that he is famous. Naturally, he would be hired by a nearby royal, which would be the king and queen.”

He stared at me. “What?” I asked.

“You actually got the name of this kingdom right. That’s a first.”

“I did!?” I gasped. “Wow, I am actually smarter than I thought. I could become a scholar.”

“Now what is the name of the kingdom that was destroyed in the year 455? Specifically 10 years ago.”

“You guys are in the year 465!?”

Ace frowned. "I asked you a question."

"In case you haven't noticed, I was already surprised by the current year and now you are asking me for the name of a ruined kingdom? I don't know! Hogwarts!?"

"You're hopeless! You didn't even get that right."

"I'm trying here!"

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"I said try harder!" He was yelling now.

"Well maybe if you can speak in a language I can understand then it might not be difficult! Back in my world, we have presidents and vice presidents. Only a few countries have royalty these days."

"Then what are you? A plebian?"

"I'm a student who doesn't even bother to do my homework and you expect me to learn this world's history? Sir, I bid you good luck."

He sighed and turned back. He didn't even bother to look at me as he said that. He just went back to the couch opposite of mine and sat down. He sighed and ran a hand through his hair. A sign of his frustration. He then grabbed a book and started to read. "Self-study from now on."

I frowned. "Hey, Ace." He didn't look at me as I called for his name. I wanted to ask him something.

Maybe he didn't hear me?

"Excuse me, Ace? Yoohoo!!" I waved my hands for him to notice me.

He continued to flip through a book. Pretending not to hear when it was pretty obvious that I was calling him. I know he heard me. My voice was already loud enough. Why is he not answering?

Oh I see

"PRINCE Ace?" This time he looked up and gave me a questionable glance.

"Yes?" He asked.

)/@ @33&&/-&

Stupid-Arrogant-Royal-Pain-in-the-b\*\*\*!!!

I clenched my fist at my sides because of my annoyance towards the prince in front of me. I forced myself to smile despite his att\*\*ude. "Can I ask you a question?"

"No." He went back to reading.

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I'm gonna kill this Prince.

"Why are you so grumpy?" I asked. Patience slowly faded. He didn't even answer my question and proceeded to read. I might go wolf on him now and tear him limb from limb! Hopefully.

"There are things that you must learn in this kingdom. You must first learn the ranks and positions in each kingdom so you can know your place. As you might know, the king ranks the highest. Followed by the Queen, then the Prince and Princess." His lips moved as he talked. His eyes were glued to what he was reading.

This guy is really serious about this.

My gaze darted to the bag of cookies on the table. I silently made my way towards it.

"Are you listening, Princess?" He looked up from the book that he was reading. He raised a questioning eyebrow at me. Face a mask of seriousness as he looked at me. I don't need to be a mind reader to know that he didn't appreciate my lack of interest.

"I...uh....yes," I said and hid the cookies behind me.

"Oh really?" He asked. Not buying my answer to his question. He folded his fingers in front of him and placed his chin on top. "What did I just say just now?" He raised an eyebrow at me.

"Easy.....'What did I just say just now?'" I said. I know that wasn't what he meant, but that was the only thing I could think of.

“Your sarcasm always shows up in times like these. Let’s be serious now and answer my question properly.” His tone was dead serious. If I answer with another sarcasm, it might be my last. A small smile found its way to his lips when he saw my speechless form. He straightened up.

“You were really not listening.”

“You know what? I should go upstairs and look for more books to read. Probably a dictionary so I can understand some of the words that you are saying and not purely historical. Be right back!” I lied. I only ran upstairs to eat the cookies I stole.

It took me a while to get back as I made sure to finish all the cookies and leave no traces of crumbs on my face. I took a random book with me that if Ace ever asks, I’ll have proof. And if the book is now the right one then I’ll just pretend to be ignorant.

At least that was the plan, but when I came down, he was nowhere to be found. I looked around the library to find him. He must have left somewhere. I sat on the couch once again and closed my eyes to take a little break.

## Chapter 12 – I mean PRINCE Ace

I woke up feeling rejuvenated. The dreams that I just had were awesome! I was floating in a cloud of cotton candy, Prince Ace was my servant and I finally told him how I feel. That he is emo wanna be punk.

I felt great after saying it. Speaking of Ace. I wonder where he is. Is he back?

My eyes scanned my surroundings until I found him at the door, talking to someone outside. Maybe it was a servant? He was only wearing a white long-sleeved undershirt that was tucked in his pants. It framed his muscular body well.

He said a quick thank you and closed the door. When he saw me, he gave me a tight smile that would make me cringe in fear.

What did I do now?

“Had a nice dream, Princess?” He asked. His lip was twitching as he forced a smile at me. Maybe he was angry that I had fallen asleep during his absence.

“Actually, I had a wonderful dream.” In my dream, I saw my family and my friends there. I felt at home and content.

His jaw clenched even tighter as he jerked his head towards the door “Come on. The others are waiting. Lunch is ready.” He held the door open, waiting for me.

I sat up and felt a soft material fall from my shoulder. I picked it up, it was Ace’s dark blue coat. It made me wonder what it was doing here with me.

Did he not see me sleeping and simply threw his coat there? How rude.

I made my way to the door, the coat in one hand as I brushed my hair with the other. I gave him his coat back when I reached the door. “Thank you.” I was meant to say it sarcastically but stopped myself since I don’t want to add more fuel to his already annoying form. We walked towards the dining room side by side. Neither of us said a word. I was afraid to make a sound for fear of him. He was releasing some sort of dark aura that can really eat you alive.

“Tell me,” I jumped at the sound of his voice. “What were you dreaming?” He tried so hard to give me a friendly smile, which failed miserably since it looked more like a grimace. It could make anyone cry and pee themselves.

I put a little bit of space between us since I was getting scared of this Ace. It was as if he was pissed or something. “Why do you want to know?” I asked nervously.

“No reason. I just thought that you owe me that much since I let you sleep.” He said. I thank my lucky stars when we reached the dining hall. Everyone was already seated and waiting for us. I sat beside Nate and sighed relief when Ace sat across from me and beside Fred. We began to eat and I made sure that this time, I had placed a table napkin on my lap. I began to stuff food in my mouth as Fred asked Ace about how our training is going. Ace glared at me as he muttered a reply. “Terrific.”

I grinned at him with my mouth full of food. I heard Nate tsk beside me. “You should not stuff food in your mouth like that. And don’t slouch.” Nate said and chuckled when he saw me glaring at him.

“Not turn to teach yet so let me have this short freedom,” I said as I shoved another sp\*\*\* full in my mouth. Nate continued to chuckle and tucked a piece of strand behind my ear.

“Nate, keep your hands off already,” Dan complained while his brother, Ren, pouted. “Yeah, Nate. Don’t tint her purity with your impure hands.”

Nate moved up to my hair and dusted it. Torn pieces of paper fell from my hair. “Your hair has a lot of paper.” He said.

My eyes widened and looked at Ace, who only stared at me and went back to eating. That jerk! It was definitely him!

Nate’s attention went back to the twins for their previous comment. They stuck their tongue out at Nate. If this were an anime, Nate would have an angry mark on his head. Nate gripped his fork rather tightly. “I could stab you guys now and end this mess.” He said as he forced a smile.

“Your highness.” One of the twins said without any emotion like he was bored or something while the other continued in the same tone. “Nate is threatening our lives with a fork.”

“Oh come now you boys. Don’t start a fight now.” King Luke said and shook his head at the boys. “Honestly.”

The twins tsk at Nate three times. “Now look what you did Nate.” One twin said. “You made the king angry.” The other continued. It’s amazing how the two of them know what the other one wants to say. I wonder if I had a twin...could be fun.

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Nate stood up and chased the twins as they hid behind Fred. “Now you boys. Settle down.” Fred said to them as he tried to separate Nate and the twins. “The Princess is looking so please be on your best behavior.”

So they have to be on their best behavior when I’m here?

Well, I wanna see some action so I devoured my meal faster. After that I got my table napkin and wiped it to my mouth and got up, leaving the dining hall. “I’m done,” I said.

At the corner of my eyes, I saw Nate smirking at the twins and ran around the table to get them. The twins and Nate ended up running around the table while Fred tried



to stop them. So this is how the Princes behave when the rest are out. Interesting. Just like children.

I made my way to the library when I saw that Ace had also gotten up from his seat.

Oh no, I don't want to have a lesson with him yet! Especially when he's in a bad mood.

I briskly walked to the library since running around when your stomach is full is not good for you. Ace also noticed what I was doing and increased his speed. Too bad for him that I had gotten to the library first and locked the door behind me.

I heard him knock outside.

"Who's there?" I asked even though I know that it was him.

"Don't play dumb with me. I know you know that it's me." He growled.

I wonder if he's related to a wolf or something. Growling like that.

"Open the door!" He screamed.

"Sorry, but the library is closed for today so please come back later." I walked back to my couch and with my pleasure, I saw a book that I wanted to read since I finished reading the first book.

"Rose, you open this door right now." He shouted. Voice rising from every word.

"Quiet! We're in the library." I said and grabbed the book while sitting on the couch and reading it. He didn't say anything anymore. I just heard his groan in frustration and heard the door rattle. I guess he was leaning on it.

Three minutes later and I heard him try to talk to me again in a much gentler tone. "Princess, please open the door so we can begin the lesson."

I smirked as I flipped onto another page and shifted my position so my stomach was laying flat on the couch. "Nope."

I heard him mutter some profanities before he quieted again. After a few minutes he tried again, this time his voice was laced with warning and authority. "Princess, you open this door right now you hear?!" He said as he banged the door.

“The princess is currently not around. Please try again later.” I heard him kick the door and shout some curses.

I have no idea where I found the courage to act as I do now, but it is somewhat relaxing.

I was just one page away when the door was banged loudly making me jump. “Open this damn door or I’ll break it open!”

Wow. What a temper.

I ignored him and finished my reading. Just as I finished, I heard him bang the door repeatedly as if he was hitting it with his shoulder. He probably was.

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I set the book down and walked to the door. Now we wouldn’t want it to break, do we? The door was already rattling on its hinges. When I opened the door, Ace almost fell to the ground but immediately balanced himself. I slapped a hand to my mouth to keep myself from laughing. I watched as he composed himself and glared daggers at me.

If looks could kill I’d be dead a hundred times already.

“Stupid, Princess.” He muttered as he made his way to his seat. I followed.

“Thank you, kind sir. But please don’t call me a Princess anymore.” I said and sat down.

He raised an eyebrow at me. “Why?”

“I don’t like to be called a Princess. It gets on my nerves.” I shuddered. My mistake when I said that got on my nerves when I saw him smirk.

“If you hate it so much, then all the more reason to call you a Princess.”

I knew this was coming when I said that. I have to watch my words from now on cause he might use them against me again. “Now, let’s begin.” He declared. When he saw how unenthusiastic I was. He sighed. “What? Are you gonna sleep again?” He asked.

I shook my head. “No, I won’t. But I might since things like these aren’t my thing. If I can’t sleep, then my consciousness might fly to somewhere else.”

“Now that is a problem.” I watched him as he rubbed his chin and thought for a moment. “What if I will just make a story out of it? Will that work?”

I have to say that I was impressed with Ace for his way of thinking. “It might.”

“Alright so, once upon a time-” He started.

“Oh, not that crap again,” I muttered and noticed him staring at me. I quickly covered my mouth with my hands. “Crap! Sorry. Please continue.”

“So there was this Prince, who had two older sisters. One day, the eldest was asked by another prince from a different kingdom to marry him. Since she accepts she had no choice but to leave the throne to the second eldest sister.

The Prince had a friend, a duke. A duke is another royal, but not like the king and queen. Their sons and daughters are the ones who will take the throne if there aren’t any heirs to another kingdom. They are also good candidates when the king is looking for someone to be betrothed to his son/daughter too. Dukes for males and Duchess for females.”

“Like the queen and the king? They don’t have an heir so does that mean that you and the boys are Dukes? Wait for no. You guys said you’re princes. This is confusing.” I asked. Afraid of the consequences since I just interrupted him. Surprisingly, he didn’t go all Hulk on me and answered calmly. “No. The princes and I are born of royal blood from a different kingdom. We are real Princes....we just don’t know what has gotten into the queen picking us instead of a neighboring Duke.

“So.” Ace continued. “The prince’s friend fell in love with his sister and again asked her hand in marriage. The Duke now becomes the new king and the sister becomes the new Queen. You see, when your rank is higher, your husband/wife’s rank will also become the same level as yours.”

“What happens to the Prince?” I asked.

“He remains a prince. If his friend and his sister, who is currently the king and queen die with no heir, then he succeeds to the throne.” He said flatly. He

continued to explain to me something by making a storyline out of it. Even though he wasn't good at it, he still forced himself for the sake of my learning.

I was surprised that I had learned a lot in such a short time. Ace was a good teacher if I do say so myself. "I want to say that it's awesome, but the sword thing?" I said.

"Well, that's the rules so we have to deal with it." Ace looked out of the window to see that the light was still shining outside. "Seems like we finished early and had some more time." I noticed that his eyes weren't purely black, they were a dark shade of blue when hit by light. They are just so dark that you would mistake them as black.

I grinned. "Well, how about I'll tell you something of my world?" I said and started to tell him how much we had improved. I told him about cars, airplanes, and other transportation rides. I also explained to him that we don't use gold coins anymore and that our medium of exchange now is in the form of a dollar. He was leaning on his seat the whole time. He would often make comments like: "You guys use a piece of metal to take you to places?", "You exchange valuables for a piece of paper?", "How can a metal bird fly?"

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As I finished explaining things to him, he fell asleep.

And he goes all Hulk on me when I sleep.

I grabbed the book that he was holding and placed it on the table. His bangs were covering his eyes so I brushed them away with my hand. His skin is too smooth. I have to admit that he's cute despite the monster-like attitude that he possesses. His lips are a beautiful shade of pink and he smells so good. I placed a hand on his cheek as I leaned closer.....

.....then used my other hand to grab a pen and draw on his face.

I draw circles around his eyes and draw a mustache above and below his lips. I also drew stars on his left cheek. On his forehead, I wrote. "Kick me."

I smirked as I placed the pen back on the table.

This is payback for him bullying me the first time we met.

During dinner, as Ace and I stepped into the dining hall, everyone stopped talking and starred at Ace. I, on the other hand, avoided everyone's gaze as I made my way to my seat beside Fred. Better be safe than sorry.

Ace noticed that they were staring at him, but proceeded to sit beside Nate, who was biting his lips to prevent himself from laughing. The King and queen kept on smiling while the twins didn't hold back and laughed hysterically. Fred covered his laugh with a cough. "Did you do that?" Fred whispered to me.

As an answer, I smiled cheekily at him and he laughed. "Nice." The twins said from beside Fred and gave me a thumbs up.

When the servants arrived to bring us our food the one who served Ace gasped and almost dropped the plate. "What?" Ace asked. "Is there something on my face? You kept staring at it." you can hear the annoyance in them.

"Y-your highness. What an...interesting change of image you have there." said the servant.

I know that my life is ticking away like a clock every second that pa\*\*ed.

"What are you talking about?" Ace asked, confused.

The servants held out a plate and showed Ace's reflection to it. Ace abruptly stood up and grabbed the plate and examined my handy work.

"How?" Then he turned to me, fury in his eyes and he gritted his teeth. I smiled at him. "You!" He screamed at me.

I gasped. "Me!"

"Why you!" As Ace began to reach for me. All of us, except the king and queen who acted as if this was normal, stood up. Nate pulled Ace back to prevent him from killing me while Fred shoved me behind his back. "I think this is the right time for you to return to your room." He said as he tried to talk some sense back to Ace as the twins e\*\*\*\*\*ed me.

The scene with Nate, Fred, and Ace somehow reminded me of a meme with two ladies and a cat.

“Nice handy work.” One of the twins said and laughed as he walked beside me. The other was at my other side. “But don’t do that to us tomorrow or we’ll cry.” I laughed as I and the twins ran away from the dining hall, where Ace was shouting something about ways to kill me.

Well, he started it. I was just giving him a taste of his own medicine.

At least I don’t have to see him tomorrow, because I’ll have lessons with the twins on that day. Though I couldn’t imagine what kind of lesson it would be.

### Chapter 13 Double Trouble

Back pain. I feel like an old lady

Today was my training with the twin Princes about how to walk and act properly. They were a little strict, which really surprised me. I thought that this training today would end up becoming a game, but no, they are serious. Dead serious. We are currently in a huge dressing. Dan and Ren were both standing beside me as they watched. One of them, Dan, walked to the front and examined me. I countered his look with my glare. They actually put on name tags for me to easily tell them apart.

“Don’t slouch,” Ren said as he straightened my back once again. I gritted my teeth as I felt a sting on my back for straining it too much. We’ve been doing this for hours and I can’t even feel my back anymore. How can the royals do this all the time? That explains why the prince and princesses from storybooks would usually sneak out of the castle.

The twins seem like they were having fun every time I get frustrated and would often laugh at my bad posture. It makes me feel bad and angry at the same time. I was getting frustrated that I started calling them with the wrong names on purpose. “Oopsie!! Sorry, Dan.” I said. Ren’s face twitched when I called him Dan.

“My name is Ren and not Dan! I thought you already knew who is who.”

To be honest, I can slightly tell them apart. Both with the help of their name tags and the other for their mannerism.

I gasped. “Oh did I? I must have forgotten.” I looked at Dan for help with my puppy dog eyes. He seemed to back away a little. Probably wanting to avoid being involved with the two of us. “Ren, Dan is being mean again,” I complained to him.

Ren groaned in frustration. “This means war,” he said while Dan gave me an evil smile and said. “Hmm...I think we should put a book on her head.”

On reflexes, I screamed. “Oh heck no!”

The twins are evil.

“Relax, this will help you to keep your posture on and to keep you busy,” Dan reassured me and muttered the last part more to himself as he placed a book on top of my head. The book felt heavy on my head as the weight pressed. It was a thick leather-bound book. It seemed old because the pages were already yellow.

“Now try walking while balancing that book on your head,” Ren commanded. I did what they told me to and walked while balancing the book on my head. I was doing pretty good, but the only problem was that I looked like a drunken old geezer when I walked.

The boy’s facepalm at me. Well good for them.

“Princess...not to be rude or anything but you lack grace.” Dan commented, “Chest out, stomach in, and b\*\*\* out.” I did what he told me to.

Just for the sake of annoying them, I exaggerated by putting my chest out and my b\*\*\* out too much, making me look like a duck. To add a little more twist, I made a duck face at them.

Dan’s facepalmed at me as Ren went to a drawer at the far side of the room. I looked at him curiously as he brought something long and sparkly. Ren dusted them off first and walked in front of me, raising the things that he took.

I gasped and stared at it in horror.

High heels. Emphasis on the high. There’s a reason why it was one letter away from spelling Hell.

“I think this would help you to walk properly,” Ren said and bent down in front of him as if he would put it on.

“You’re kidding me!” I screamed and removed my foot from his reach. Sure, the shoes are shiny and pretty but it’s too high! I think it’s at least 4 inches tall. I can’t even walk with a good posture and they expect me to wear them?

Ren sighed and looked at me with tired eyes.

Am I really that difficult to teach?

“Rose, please. I promise you that it will help.”

“No. You guys are just making fun of me.” I said stubbornly and crossed my arms over my chest and smirked at him.

“Rose,” he said warningly and gripped the shoes. I hope he will break them.

“Ren.” I mocked in the same tone as his and smirked as he let out an exasperated sigh and ran a hand through his hair brown locks. He bit his lips and looked at Dan beside him and jerked his head towards me.

Before I could a\*\*ess the situation, Dan threw me over his shoulder and I yelped.

From my view over here, I can see Dan’s b\*\*\*. It was pretty.

## ADVERTISEMENT

I pounded on Dan’s back and screamed at him to let me go. My attacks were futile because he didn’t even flinch or say anything, in fact, he was laughing. It didn’t take long until he set me on the couch. He moved behind it and grabbed my shoulders to prevent me from escaping as Ren went in front of me again. He grabbed my foot and removed my flats and replaced them with heels. I tried to kick them away but Ren stopped my foot from doing so as he gripped them. I flinched at how tight he was holding them.

“Ren, let go! Let go of my foot!” I tried again but man was he strong. I gasped when I saw that he had moved his face in front of me. His face was too close for my liking as he looked at me with serious eyes, no hint of flirting like they used to. His breathing was hot against my skin making me shrink back. This was the difference between them. Although both of them are goofy in general, Ren’s mood can easily switch into a serious one. Dan tends to lay back a lot and let his older brother handle things.

“Rose, if you want this lesson to be over with then please cooperate.” His eyes told me that he doesn’t want any funny business.



“And,” I jumped in surprise when Dan, from behind me, lowered his head so he could whisper in my ear. His breath tickled my neck making shivers run down my spine. “If you don’t want us to get angry then you’ll do as we say. Get it?” he said.

I just nodded my head. Who knew that these two had a different side of them? I swallowed hard as they helped me up. I gripped at their hands as I tried to balance on my footing.

When I raised my head, the first thing that went into my mind was: Man! I like the view from up here.

I’m going on a trip. I’m going on a trip. I’m going on a trip.

“Rose, don’t spread your legs that far apart. You look like you’re ready to pee.” Dan commented, attempting to lighten the mood. I suspect that my face looked like I was an animal giving birth.

“Please don’t let me go,” I said nervously as I continued to grip their hands in fear that I might fall. I had always been a clutz, so heels were a big no for me. Wearing heels for me is like learning how to ride a bike. Sure I can handle an inch tall heels but not 4 inches.

They raised their eyebrows at me. “I’m guessing you don’t wear these types of shoes that often?”

I glared at Ren. “No. It’s more like I NEVER wear them.” I snapped. Okay, I may be a little overdramatic on this but still! “If I’m gonna break my neck on this I’ll make sure to visit you guys in the afterlife. I’ll curse you that the only pairs of shoes that you guys will be wearing are heels.” I threatened.

Ren flinched while Dan laughed. “Relax princess. Those are just shoes. Try straightening your back. It might help.” I did what he told me to. Dan nodded in approval. “Good, now try taking a small step forward.” I stepped my right foot in front of me while still holding their hands.

Whhhooooooooopppppp!!!!

I almost made a complete split when I took my first step. Luckily I was holding their hands. They pulled me up. “He said to take a small step forward!! That was a huge step!!” Ren said.

I gave him an annoyed look. “I was! Taking a small step I mean. I just wanted to practice my gymnastics. Apparently, I still need a lot of work to do.”

Ren raised his eyebrow in confusion. “What’s gymnastics?”

I mentally facepalmed when I remembered that they don’t know about those kinds of stuff. “Nothing. Forget I said anything.”

I continued with practicing walking while holding their hands. They would often give some really helpful tips. “Hey, you’re doing great!” Dan commented. Okay, I think I found another difference between them. Dan is nicer and gentler than Ren.

I grinned as I continued to walk with the twins still holding my hand. A minute later and they placed the book once again on top of my head. The book fell twice from my head before I learned to balance it without dancing. Oftentimes I would purposely drop it, earning glares from both the twins.

“Okay, I think you’ve gotten the hang of it.” Ren smiled contentedly as he looked at me. When I saw his smile I immediately smiled back. Well, I guess his goofy self is back.

“I think it’s alright to let go of your hand now.” I looked at Dan as he started to loosen his hold from mine. I gripped it back, catching Dan off guard.

“W-wait a minute! Do you want me to trip?!” Although I said it seriously the two just laughed.

Ren placed his other hand on my shoulder. “Don’t worry princess. If you fall, we’ll be here to surely catch you.” He said while trying to hide the smile that still lingered on his face. I’m guessing that he finds my situation funny.

Well, good for him.

“Okay Rose, we’ll let you go now. Okay?” Dan asked me and I nodded. I took a deep breath as they slowly removed their grip from my hands, leaving me. They moved back a little to give me some space.

Just one step at a time. They’re just shoes. But tripping is painful!

Taking a deep breath I put one foot in front of the other as I started to walk at a slow pace. Book still on my head. I feel like a baby taking her first step. Before I

knew it, I was already walking at a normal pace. I started to grin at myself. I can hear Dan and Ren's approval behind me in each step that I took. What can I say? I'm so awesome that I have two princes as my fans behind me.

## ADVERTISEMENT

If my best friend was here I would be shouting at her like: Look at me! I'm walking on heels! She would probably be clapping while wiping tears of joy from her face.

I felt a little giddy that I abruptly turned around to twins. Once I turned, my heel broke and I lost my balance.

“Rose!”

“Princess!”

I placed my hands together and prayed. If I fall it's all THEIR fault.

I closed my eyes as I waited for my fall. At that time I wished that if reincarnation was real, then I would become a boy so I wouldn't have to wear heels for the rest of my life.

But I didn't feel the ground. Instead, I felt strong muscular arms gripping me and preventing me from the fall. When I opened my eyes, I saw a pair of beautiful brown orbs staring back at me.

What is this?? A cliché Disney Princess story!?

Ren smiled warmly at me as he panted. “You okay?” I just nodded my head. His smile seemed to grow larger on his face as he said, “See? I told you that I'll catch you.” He boasted.

Arrogant prince.

His scent entered my nostrils and that's when I noticed the small space between us. “Ren, I'm glad that you kept your promise, but could you help me up now? I can't move properly in this situation.”

Ren seemed surprised and it seemed that he had just noticed a gap between us. His face turned a little red as he coughed and said, “Um yeah, of course.” He pulled me up with him and picked the fallen book from the ground.

“Sorry, Ren. Are you hurt?” I reached out to touch his shoulder. A sudden sting startled me. It felt like I was being electrocuted for a second. “What was that?” I asked.

“What was what?” He asked.

“You didn’t feel it?” I asked. He shook his head. He didn’t say anything after that as I felt another hand on me. It was Dan having a worried expression on his face while occasionally having a hidden smirk for Ren.

“Are you okay?” He asked.

I smiled at him and gave him a thumbs up. “Yep.”

He nodded. “Good. You can take a break for now. You can take off the shoes.”

I didn’t waste any time as I bent down and removed the shoes. Throwing them to the side as if I had no care for them, which I don’t. The ground seemed to comfort me as I fully felt the whole floor with my foot. I didn’t even bother to look for my flats as I raced to the sofa. “Flat ground! Flat ground!” I rejoiced and ran barefooted.

I wonder how some of these girls were able to bear wearing those heels. What a pain. I started to stretch my legs on the sofa not caring about manners any more.

I saw Dan watching me as I made myself comfortable to where I am sitting. I stuck my tongue out at him. He smiled and waved at me. He approached his twin. I watched as the two exchanged some words and noticed that Ren’s face looked confused, while Dan had a weird look on his face.

He kept wiggling his eyes at his brother, which annoyed Ren. “Cut that out, Dan. It’s really annoying.” Dan continued to dance his eyebrows at him. “Oh really? Why would this bother you?” He asked innocently. He returned his gaze to me, who was watching them curiously.

Ren furrowed his eyebrows and messed his hair up. “I think I’m gonna go out for a while to get some fresh air.”

Dan was still smirking as he looked at the door that Ren had just disappeared to. When Dan turned in my direction, I immediately feigned sleeping in case he would say that the break time is over. I felt the couch move so I could only guess that Dan was now sitting beside me.

“Come on Princess. I know you’re awake.”

I didn’t move. “Really Princess. I know you’re awake with the way your feet dance.” I sneaked a peek at my foot to see if it really was dancing. It wasn’t. “No, it’s not,” I said.

“So you really are awake!” Dan said with a huge grin on his face. It made me frown.

## ADVERTISEMENT

Damn it!

Dan decided to poke my cheek. “Aww. Come on. I didn’t mean to trick you. In fact, I didn’t even know that you’ll fall for it. It’s such a simple trick!” He snorted at that.

I slapped his hand back and pouted. “What do you want now, Dan? I want to rest. Go to the other chair.” I said as I lowered my foot to the ground and pushed him off MY couch.

This time it was Dan who pouted. “Aw, but it’ll be so lonely alone.” He said with complete puppy eyes and all “And besides,” he scooted over and wrapped an arm over my shoulders and pulled me towards him. “I wouldn’t be able to cuddle with a beautiful princess now can I?” He flashed me a seductive smile that would make any girl melt in a puddle on the ground.

These prices are insane!

I grabbed his arm and removed it from my shoulders. “Save your flirting for girls who care. And besides, you wouldn’t be sitting alone for that long when Ren gets back.” I said. “By the way, where did Ren go anyway?”

His lips seemed to quirk up at my words. “Somewhere. Maybe outside.” He rubbed his chin with the quirky smile on his face. “But I think that it’ll take some time for him to come back.”

I raised an eyebrow at him. “And why is that?”

He tilted his head so he was facing the ceiling, smirking. “My brother is smart but can be an idiot in some categories in life.” He said. “Please be patient with us, sister.” He said and winked.

Sister?

This guy is seriously confusing me. “Dan please try and talk with some sense to it cause you really are difficult to understand.”

He chuckled at my words and turned his head so he was facing me. “Oh, you are such a little cutie! You two are perfect.” He pinched my cheek as he cooed.

“Ow!” I slapped his hand away and I ma\*\*age my cheek. “That hurts you know!?”

He started to laugh. “Sorry about that Princess. I just don’t have any self-control. You’re just too cute.” He said dramatically.

“Well stay away from me if you can’t control yourself,” I said bitterly as I continued to ma\*\*age my aching cheek. “That really hurts.”

“I’m sorry.” He said apologetically. “So, do you know anything about wolves?”

“Why the sudden question?”

“Nothing. Just asking questions for fun and relaxation. Also a time for us to bond.” He batted his eyes at me innocently.

I moved farther back to the opposite side of the couch and grabbed one of the heels on the floor. I pointed the pointy heel at him. “What’s relaxing for me is not talking. And I’m having this weird feeling that you are up to something.”

He smirked. “You know, wolves are pretty loyal.”

“And I should care why? Is this part of our lesson?”

“Maybe?”

I stared at him. “You know, you twins are weird, but you alone can be really weird.”

“You are too.” He said and smirked in delight when he saw me frown. “You know. I think I’ll just go outside to get my brother.” He started to get up.

“Oh yippie. That’s great. Please take all the time you need.” I said jokingly.

Dan laughed. “By the way Princess, wolves mate forever. When a wolf finds its mate, it will know. Sort of.” I stared at his retreating back. He paused just at the door and gave me a side glance. “Just remember that. For future reference.” He winked and then he was gone.

Why are we talking about wolves again?

## Chapter 14 Sibling Fight

Dan is a very weird individual. That I can conclude. It wasn’t that long until they left that I decided to do a little stretching. I jumped off of the couch and did a few hops in place. I wore my flats again and decided to take a little stroll.

The twins were allowed to leave so why can’t I? I’ll return soon anyway.

I went out of the room and was deciding on which way I was supposed to go when I heard voices. It was coming from my right. Curiously, I followed the sound. Then, just as I was about to turn to a corner, I stopped. The twins were in the middle of the hallway talking. On reflex, I quickly moved back so I wouldn’t be spotted.

By now, it would be the best and wise decision to return, but they seem to be in a serious conversation. Maybe I should stay and listen?

“So, how do you feel right now?” Dan was asking his brother with a very wide and teasing grin.

“I’m fine. Just finished getting some fresh air and some thinking.”

“Rose is beautiful, isn’t she?” He asked as he leaned on the wall beside the window.

They are talking about me, right? The same Rose that they are calling beautiful? Well, maybe I am. I blushed in embarra\*\*ment but continued to listen.

“Yes, she is.” Ren agreed. “She is beautiful despite her jungle girl att\*\*ude.”

Gee. Thanks. A compliment and an insult. Wow.

When I looked at Dan he was smiling. His eyes seemed to sparkle and he nodded his head in excitement. “Really?! And do you feel something when you see her?” He continued to press on.

“Uhh....yes.” Ren seemed uncomfortable.

“Really?!” His smile seemed to grow bigger.

I nodded my head. “Yes. Why else would I consider her as our sister if I don’t feel anything? Right?”

“...”

I was crying tears of joy. The twins like me so much, that they consider me as their sister!?

Dan, though, seemed disappointed at his brother. Ren stared at him with a confused expression then I watched the expression on his face turn into anger. “What? What did I do?!” Ren asked. He just pouted at him and started to turn his back and said, “Idiot.”

“Wait! What do you mean?!” Ren even his pace to his brother, who was now headed in my direction. Dan just ignored him as he continued to walk. “Come on brother. Talk to me!”

“No. Find out yourself, stupid.”

“What? Why wouldn’t you just tell me why you’re upset? Brother tell me! Why are you ignoring me?”

“Cause you’re stupid!” He said and left him there, confused.

“Brother! Come on. What did I do?”

“Shut up”

“But-”

“No. Shut your mouth.”



## ADVERTISEMENT

“Brother!”

It’s time for me to go back. I gathered my skirt up and heard a few gasps from the maids when I exposed my legs. Geez, I forgot about their manners here.

I bolted for the room. Once I came in, a maid was just serving my lunch on the table. She had a confused look on her face, but I simply placed a finger to my lips. “Shh,” I said. She simply nodded, bowed, and made her exit.

I sat at the table with my lunch on a tray and started to fill my stomach with yummy delight. It was good. I started eating a bit fast to make it seem like I was in the room the whole time eating when Ren and Dan arrived. I could only guess that the twins haven’t settled their disputes because they didn’t say anything to each other. It wasn’t until the lessons started again that I wish I did something to help them make up.

“Rose! Straighten your back!” Ren ordered.

“No Rose! Chin up and face me! Don’t listen to him.” Dan argued.

I was really confused about who to follow. And I have to be the unlucky person to be in the middle of this...Why are they even fighting?

“Rose! You’ll wear these pairs of heels again.” Ren brought out the shoes that I was wearing earlier.

I started to reach towards them when Dan shouted. “No, Rose! Wear these!” Dan brought out another pair of heels which I think is higher. It made me stare at it in horror.

“Brother are you crazy?! She almost fell back then with just these heels and you’re making her wear an even higher one?” Ren asked his brother in disbelief.

“She was able to walk on those heels. It’s time for her to go to the next level idiot!” Dan told his brother.

“Now who are you calling an idiot, idiot?”

“You are, idiot!”

By then they were arguing. Their voices rose in every insult.

Oh boy...

“What’s your problem with me anyway? Why are you so mad at me all of a sudden?!” Ren shouted at his brother.

“That is for ME to know and for YOU to find out!” Dan answered back.

“ALRIGHT! Stop this right now.” I screamed. I can’t take this anymore!

They seemed surprised at my outburst as they looked at me. “You guys want me to wear heels?! Fine!” As soon as those words left my mouth, both the twins started to shove the heels that they were holding towards me.

“Take this one, Rose!”

“No! This one!”

I waved both shoes off with my hand. “Hey back off!” I said. “I’m gonna get another pair of heels,” I muttered and marched towards the closet in my frustration. I heard the boys shouting at me, “Don’t spread your legs apart when you walk!!”

“Shut up!!” I growled at them.

As soon as I got my pair of heels, shorter this time, the training continued.

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“Rose, walk with me.”

“No me!”

“Rose! Wear this!”

“Don’t listen to him! Wear these instead!”

“Why are you always disagreeing with me?! Huh?!” Ren asked through gritted teeth as he closed the gap between them.

“Cause you’re stupid and an idiot. That’s why.” Dan said with no emotion at all. Completely unaffected by Ren’s rage.

I better stop them before it worsens. “Uhh...guys. Break it up.” I got in between them as I gently pushed them apart. They were still bickering and I was about to punch them in the face when Dan held my curl fist in his hands.

“A Princess does not punch, but a slap.” He said. “Allow me to show you the proper way of slapping someone.” He pulled a white glove from his pocket and slapped Ren’s face. It hit with a smack.

“Hey!” Ren complained as he clutched his slapped cheek. I slapped my hand to my mouth as I laughed.

“Cool!” I said. “Can I try it?” Dan grinned down at me and winked.

“Why of course. Anything for the lovely Princess.” He said as he offered me the glove. I took it.

“Hey wait a minute. That’s the men’s way of-”

**SMACK!**

I giggled at the impact. Cool.

“Rose!” Ren growled at me and glared at his brother, who started to chuckle. Ren took the glove from me and slapped his brother next.

“Hey!” Dan glared at his brother.

“You started it! And don’t you dare teach Rose how to slap!”

Oh boy. I was pretty sure that I was supposed to stop them...

“Alright let’s be serious now and stop this,” I said as I broke them apart once again.

Dan huffed at his brother and held my hand which was resting on his chest. He kissed it which surprised me and made Ren twitch. I saw Dan smirking at his brother before he faced me. “My deepest apology my Princess. Does it really bother you when we fight?”

If Dan won’t stop being this ridiculous, then I might fight him myself.

“Yes because whenever you guys fight you bring it on to ME!” I said in a ‘duh’ tone.

“Forgive me, Princess. Come. We shall practice somewhere else and leave this man be.” He jerked his head towards Ren as he started to pull me away.

I knew it. This guy was really up to something.

## ADVERTISEMENT

We were about to leave the room when I felt a tug on my other arm. “And where do you intend to take her?” Ren asked his brother, not letting go of my arm. I looked at both of them in alarm.

Oh please don’t play tug-of-war. Oh please oh please oh please. I chanted in my mind.

Dan scoffed at his brother. “Somewhere away from you,” he said as he tugged at my other hand.

Dan, please don’t start tugging!!

Ren tugged at my arm next. “You are not taking her anywhere but in this room.” His tone of voice was laced with finality.

“Just because you’re the eldest doesn’t mean I have to follow your orders,” Dan said as he pulled me towards him again.

Ren’s face turned into a scowl at his brother’s words. “I’m not gonna repeat myself, Dan. You are not going anywhere with her without me and that is final.” He said with authority and once again pulled me towards him.

“Oh my my my. Why do you care so much, Ren? Does it really bother you where I take Rose with me? ALL ALONE?” With that said, Dan was able to pull me off of Ren’s hold. I was about to thank him for relieving me of their mini tug-of-war thing, but then he crushed me to his chest so hard that my air was cut off.

I’m gonna lie if I tell you that Dan stinks because he doesn’t. In fact, he smells really nice. I’m gonna stop talking about this now.

“Of course it bothers me! Who knows what you’ll do to her.” Ren accused his brother. At those words, Dan gasped dramatically. “Are you telling me that I’ll do something to her when we’re alone? Oh brother you’re still stupid.”

I pounded on Dan’s chest not because I wanted him to stop arguing with Ren but because I needed to breathe or else I might see the afterlife very soon. I don’t care if you guys kill each other but don’t drag me!

“Then what are you gonna do? Huh?!”

“Tsk tsk tsk. We’ll proceed to train of course! What? Do you think that I’ll do SOMETHING to her?”

“N-No! W-what are you talking about?”

“Oh my. What a dirty little mind you have there brother.”

I was finally able to gather enough strength as I punched Dan on the gut. He doubled over as he clutched his stomach and groaned in pain. I was able to get away from him as I gasped for air. Actually, both of us gasped for air.

I greedily breathed the air and filled my lungs.

“Rose are you okay?” Ren asked in concern as he reached out for me.

“Hey, what about me?” Dan asked when he was finally able to recover from my punch. Man does punching him hurt. I kind of felt his abs when I punched him. Man those things are hard. Luckily I punch like a man but it didn’t prevent my hand from throbbing.

Stupid abs.

“You deserve it, brother,” Ren said to his brother in anger.

“Huh. Now, why are you so angry? It’s not like I did something to you.” Dan said c\*\*\*ily.

“Shut up! Rose is training with me. Right, Rose?”

“No, she will not be training with someone as stupid as you. Isn’t that right, Rose?” Dan asked. By now they were coming closer to me, offering their hand. I stepped back a little in fear of them.

## Chapter 15 N@rnia

“Rose!”

Which one?

“Rose?”

Which one?!

“ROSE!!!”

A surge of anger washed over me. “SHUT UP!” I screamed at them. I assume that my scream had startled them because they had backed away and gave me a fearful look. I glared at both of them.

“If you guys wanted to fight, then could you please count me out?! If you wanna kill each other, then be my guest!! Just...just don’t drag me!!” They were about to say something but I held a finger up, silencing them. “Until you guys sort things out...I’ll be on that couch. Waiting.” I said as I turned my back on them and sat on the couch.

The twins didn’t move from their spot. They were just standing there and having a glaring contest.

“This is all your fault!” Ren accused his brother after a minute.

“Me? Now, why is it my fault?! If you just let us go then none of this would have happened!” Dan said to his brother. Disbelief in his voice that his brother had accused him.

I facepalmed at them. These guys are a lot of work. For once, I thank my lucky stars that my younger sister is only seven years old, whose name is Stella. At least I wouldn’t have to experience that sibling war that the twins are currently having.

What am I gonna do with them?! They are still bickering and throwing insults at each other.

Alright, Rose time to use your brain. You have to think of a way to forcibly make them up. But how?

If only I could lock them in a small room together they might make up. I looked around the room, scanning. My eyes then settle to the large closet in front of me.

While the boys were still arguing about who's a fault it is, I got up and examined the closet. It was made of wood, painted white, with a lock on it. It was huge if it weren't for the shoes which were piled on the floor of it.

I started to clear all of the shoes and threw them aside. I guess you could consider this as my revenge on the shoes. Once I cleared the closet from all the shoes, I examined the space and looked back at the twins as I estimated it. Perfect fit.

Now I just have to trick them in. How?

I pulled the closet doors wide open as I let out a gasp. "OH MY GOSH! THE PORTAL TO N@RNIA IS OPEN!" I screamed.

The boys stopped what they were doing as they gave me a confused look. "What's N@rnia?" They asked at the same time.

"...." I mentally facepalmed at my epic fail moment.

Duh! How can they know N@rnia? It's not like they're reading them, much less watched it.

Oh well, I started it now so why not continue?

"Uhh... never mind! Just look at it! There's a magical portal. Look!" I pointed at the inside of the closet.

They didn't move and just stared at me as if I had lost my mind.

"Just get over here!" Something snapped at me back then so I didn't notice that I was already shouting. That seemed to startle the boys as well since they immediately ran to my side to check the inside of the closet.

"Where's the portal that you're talking about?" Ren asked as he crouched down to look.

"I don't see anything," Dan said and moved some of the clothes out of the way to look.

“It’s there. Just keep searching.” I said. “Oh look! There it is!” I pointed to the inside of the closet.

“Where?!” They both asked.

“At the end! See? Go and look for it!” I told them. If their stupidity has reached a whole new level, then this is it.

When they started to crawl inside the closet, I immediately pushed them farther inside as I closed the door and turned the lock.

s\*\*\*ers!

“Welcome to N@RNIA!” I cheered.

“Ahh....so this is N@rnia. It’s a little dark in here...” Dan said in amazement. Idiot.

## ADVERTISEMENT

“Rose? Rose! Let us out!” I could hear Ren shouting from the other side. “You open this door right now or you’ll be in a heap of trouble once I get out.” Ren threatened.

“Sorry. Until you guys sort things out you ain’t leaving this closet.”

“ROSE!!”

I smirked and happily walked towards the couch that I was sitting on a while ago.

“Move your b\*\*\*, Dan!”

“Ow! Hey this is my side of the line! You move.”

I could hear both of them pushing each other inside.

“Stupid!”

“Moron!”

“Your mom must have had a rotten brain cause apparently you inherited it!”



“Stupid!!! We have the same mother.”

“Will you two shut up?! If you guys don’t have anything good to say, then don’t say anything at all.” I shouted to them. At those words, the boys had silenced.

Wow, I guess they really don’t have anything good to say.

5 minutes have pa\*\*ed and still, they didn’t say a word.

“Anytime now guys,” I said boredly as I lay down on the couch.

“I don’t have anything good to say so I won’t say anything at all,” Ren said stubbornly.

“Neither do I.” Dan agreed.

Man do I need to do something or else I might break.

I scanned the room for something. ANYTHING to keep me sane. This silence is driving me crazy!

I marched to the closet as I knocked on it. Alright. Enough games. Time to help them make up

“Who’s there?” Ren asked boredly from the other side.

“Stupid. Who else could it be?” I said.

Dan snorted at that. “See? Even Rose thinks you’re an idiot–OW! Hey!”

“Daniel and Renevier Rutledge!!” I called them warningly. They fell silent and I could have heard them gulp loudly.

Huh. I think full names here also means you’re in trouble.

“If you guys won’t make up right now I’m gonna call the Queen and tell her to bust your b\*\*\*s off!” I threatened.

No reply

I sighed tiredly. “You guys really aren’t going to make up right now are you?”

“Yes.” Both said stubbornly.

Are they always like this when they fight?

“Alright, fine. Stay there until dinners are over. I’m gonna go outside for a while and leave you two be.” I got up from where I was crouching. “When I get back I expect you two to have sorted things out already. Ciao!”

I’m not really gonna leave them alone. I’m just gonna pretend that I’m going out for a while since I figured that they might be a little shy with me around. I marched towards the door and opened it then closed it to make it look like I left.

After that, I tiptoed heading to the closet, and leaned in. I didn’t really hear them talking. It took them a moment before Ren broke the silence thickening between them.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

“Hey.”

I have to bite my tongue so I wouldn’t shout at him and say ‘ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! IT TOOK YOU A MINUTE JUST TO SAY A SINGLE WORD?!’

“Dan is not available right now. Please talk to him again after you settled your stupidity” Dan said. I facepalmed at Dan. Shame on him. And I thought he was a tad bit mature.

Ren sighed tiredly. “Dan please? You can’t just ignore me forever. We’re brothers after all.”

“...”

Oh, come on Dan!

“Dan. Please. I miss talking to my brother without the fighting part.” Ren pleaded. “I don’t know what I did to make you hate me and I hope that you’ll forgive me,” Ren said. Even though Ren said all of those things, Dan still didn’t answer.

“You know, fighting with you really hurts and bothers me. This is the longest that we fought. Usually, we would immediately make up even without words of apology.” Ren sighed as if remembering some memories. “We don’t fight that

much too so I guess we're not used to letting our pride go and be the first to forgive each other." Ren laughed without the humor in it. "As men and as siblings, we value that pride. I too value that." He said. "But if I have to let that pride go and say the most honest apology that I could muster. I would. Just so you could forgive me. Dan, I give you my deepest apology. Will you forgive me?"

I slap a hand to my mouth so I wouldn't weep at his words.

That was wonderful, Ren!

I heard someone sniffing from the other side.

"Dan? Dan are you okay? Hey, are you crying?" Ren asked worriedly.

Dan sniffed once more before saying, "No. These are sweats. It's too hot in here." Dan said, but you could tell that it was a lie. "And besides, brother. I forgive you. You don't have to give me that speech of yours."

Ren snorted. "Sorry. I just thought that you needed it. Knowing you, it needs to be done. Besides, I'm the eldest. I have to be the considerate one. So are we okay now?"

"Of course we are. Besides, I miss my brother too."

"Thank you, brother." I smiled at that because finally the two of them made up. Now isn't that nice? At least I won't be tortured anymore. "By the way, can I ask you a question?" Ren asked.

"Sure. Shoot it."

"Why were you so upset with me?" I leaned in. They don't judge. I wanna know the reason for their argument too.

I could hear Dan smirking. "Like I said before. That's for me to know and for you to find out. Don't worry, you'll figure it out sooner or later." Ren whined at that but was silenced by Dan. "Besides, Princess Rose is currently listening to this. We wouldn't want her to know, right?"

Crap. How did they know?

Oh well since they did makeup why not release them already?

I whipped the silly little tears from my eyes, Curse Ren and his words, and unlocked the closet. I threw it wide open and saw Dan smirking at me and Ren gapping at me. Ren pointed a shaky finger in my direction. “Y-you were listening?”

I nodded my head. “Yep.”

“H-how long?”

I thought about it for a moment. “Hmmm...from the very start.” I grinned down at Ren.

“You heard everything?” He asked.

I nodded again. “Uh huh. Everything. Word per word.”

Ren’s cheeks flamed in embarra\*\*ment while Dan had to slap a hand to his mouth to keep himself from laughing. I stared at Dan confusedly. “How did you know that I was listening?”

Dan stopped from laughing but the humor was still in his eyes. “I just figured it out from the start when you leaned in, the door rattled a little.” He said. “Oh and I could see your shadow by the way.”

I pouted at him. “Aw, man.”

Both the twins got up from the closet as dusted themselves off. “Locking us into a closet. That was pretty mean, Princess.” Ren commented as he grabbed his coat from the rack and placed it on and stretched his muscles. It was the coat that I was playing with earlier.

“Yes. For that, I think she deserves a punishment no?” Dan said to his brother and they both grinned at each other before turning to me.

“Err...but I did it to help you guys! At least be thankful!” I was slowly backing away towards the door by now. Each one took a menacing step towards me.

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“Yes we are thankful,” Ren said as Dan continued. “But a punishment for that crime is needed.”

“Um...I don't think that what I did was a crime.” I said more of a question than a statement.

They both shook their heads. “No, it's not. But for us it is.” As soon as they said that I quickly grabbed the heels that were on the floor and threw it at them.

“Hey!”

“Ow! That's dangerous, Rose!”

“Ha! If you knew that those are dangerous, then why would you let me wear those deadly weapons.” I ran towards the door.

The boys were hot on my heels. I threw it open and ran outside as fast as my feet could carry me.

Luckily I was wearing my flats again.

I wasn't watching where I was going so I ended up bumping into someone, and that someone was Fred who had caught me before I could fall. He was with Nate and Ace.

Fred gave me a confused look as if wondering what I was doing. “Are you all right?” He asked.

I have to keep myself from stuttering in front of him. “Y-yes,” I said. “Um...what are you guys doing here?” Okay, that was rude to ask. If anything, Fred didn't mind it.

“Well, since you guys are a tad bit late for dinner, we figured to pick you guys up.” He said. Ace snorted at him. “Sorry, we have to force Ace to come too.” He corrected me.

“Why are you out of breath?” Nate asked me as he examined my face.

“I-I...”

“ROSE!” At the sound of the twins' voice, I acted fast and was behind Fred and Nate as I pointed towards the twins. “They are after me!”

Fred, Nate, and Ace followed the direction that my finger was pointing and looked at Ren and Dan, who were slightly shocked to see the others as well. Ren and Dan

were gaping at them while Fred and Nate gave them a disapproving look. The twins laughed nervously. “Um...we were just playing. Right, Rose?” Ren looked at me for help which I replied by sticking my tongue out at them. They frowned at that.

Fred and Nate chuckled at my behavior. “You boys are gonna be in a heap of trouble,” Fred said more of a joke, but the twins thought he was serious, and fear flashed in their eyes. “I’m kidding,” Fred said after seeing the nervousness in their eyes. The twins sighed in relief knowing that Fred was joking.

“Are we done here? If yes, then let’s go. The king and Queen are waiting.” Said Ace in annoyance.

Nate only chuckled at him. “I hate to say it but Ace is right. Let’s go guys.”

We nodded as we walked together to the dining hall. I was walking between Nate and Fred since I figured that Ace still has a grudge against me and the twins wanted to have some revenge too. Ace still has a bit of doodle on his face. I guess the ink was pretty strong.

I peeked from Fred’s side to look at Ace. “Hey, Ace.”

He didn’t answer.

“Oh, I’m sorry, PRINCE Ace?”

This time he did look at me but with annoyance. “What?”

I smirked at him. “Nice look. I think that mustache really suits you, but I prefer it if you have shaved it for dinner.” If Fred wasn’t between us I might have been killed by Ace already. He had to stop Ace from charging at me as we all laughed, except for Ace.

“I’m gonna kill her.” Ace mumbled to himself.

I snorted at that.

Oh boy. I think I needed an e\*\*\*\*\* all the time whenever I walked into this castle.

“Hey by the way boys. Why do you smell of wood?” Nate asked the twins who were beside them.

“Oh. We just had a trip to Marnia.” Dan answered.

“Marnia?” Nate asked in confusion. The twins and I looked at each other and we laughed.

“Yes.”

## Chapter 16 Red Haired Flirt

I was jumping on the clouds and enjoying my freedom. The clouds then suddenly turn into those soft mushy cotton candies. I squealed in delight as I flopped down and hugged the sweet candy goodness.

This is heaven, I thought.

I was enjoying my life when suddenly, it started to rain making the cotton candy dissolve. And since I’m floating on one right now...

I started to sprint away from the rain cloud. Wait...a cloud raining on another cloud? That’s weird. The thunder started to roar, but instead of the normal BOOM, it decided to call my name.

“ROSE!!”

Lightning suddenly strikes in front of me, making me fall off the grounder cloud. The rain cloud was approaching me, but I couldn’t move. I was frozen to the spot from fear and shock. When I looked up, there was a shadow of a man in front of me. I couldn’t decipher the face of the man. Heck, I couldn’t even see from the darkness of the rain cloud.

I muffled a scream when the man suddenly reached out to me. To make it creepier, he was calling my name. “Rose”. I started to scream and tried to slap his hands away from me as he shook me back and forth.

“Rose”

“ROSE!”

My eyes jerked open, only to be met by two green orbs staring at me. I recognize those eyes. Those eyes would only belong to Nate, whose face is currently above mine making me see the red specks in his eyes.

“Well good morning Princess,” He said, complete with a smile and all. On reflexes, I screamed and slapped him across the cheek. My palm connected his cheek with a loud smack. My hands throbbed from the impact, which made me sit up and clutch my hand.

“OW!! WHAT THE HECK?!” Both of us screamed.

“Why’d you slap me?” Nate asked while clutching his cheek.

“Cause you startled me!” I snapped at him. One thing to know about me is that I am not a morning person. I grunted as I rubbed my aching palm. “And why do you have such a hard cheek!? What is that made of? Rock?”

At that, Nate’s lips twitch in the tiniest smile that he could. “It hurts huh?” he said with pride as if he was amused that slapping him hurts.

I glared at him. How dare he smile knowing that he injured my palm. Well technically it’s my fault, but hello? He’s the one with a hard face!

“Of course it does. Try slapping yourself to see if it hurts or not.” I said, not easing my glare at him. He rubbed his chin as if he was thinking about it.

“Nope. Sorry. I’m not gonna damage my face by doing that cause I’m pretty sure that my slap is stronger than you, babe. And besides, your slap hurts too you know.” He made a pouty face at me and pointed towards his said cheek. “Now go and kiss it to make it better.”

I ignored him as I pulled the sheets over me, ready to take my sleep once again. “What are you doing here, Nate? Can’t you see that I was in the middle of my sleep?” I yawned to prove my point, but Nate didn’t move away from my bed. He was still sitting on the edge of it. Even though my bed is a queen-sized one, I still prefer to have full space for myself. Call me selfish but that’s just me.

“Oh. I’m sorry to disturb your beautiful rest. I’m guessing the twins must have exhausted you yesterday?” He asked.

“Tell me about it,” I said as I fixed my pillow. “Now if you’ll excuse me, I’m going back to dreamland since I was RUDELY interrupted earlier.” I emphasize the word ‘rudely’ just so he could get my point before I gave him one of my sweet-fake smiles. “Bye, Nate.” I then covered myself with the covers.



“Woah Woah Woah. Not so fast, little love.” Nate tried to pull the covers away from me but I held on to it. Not wanting to lose my comfort zone, which is currently this bed. If you thought that Nate had stopped bugging me about waking up, then you are definitely wrong. He’s really pushy as he started to shake me back and forth. “It’s time for your training with me. Now, don’t you want to have quality time with me?”

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“No.”

“Aw come on.” He whined in such a very cute tone that would make you want to pinch his cheeks as you would with a child, but I am so not touching his cheek again. I threw the covers off of my head and looked at Nate. His eyes sparkled with hope as I did so, but was immediately crushed when I stuck my tongue out at him and covered my head with the sheets again.

“I knew hanging out with the twins was bad for you,” he muttered under his breath, which made me snicker. I can see why the twins like to make fun of Nate now. “Come on, Rose. Get up or I’m gonna cry.” He threatened.

“That’s nice.”

I felt the bed dipped a little at his weight and heard him whisper in my ear. “If you won’t get up now within 5 seconds, I’m going to tell Prince Fred that since you didn’t have your lesson with me that you’re canceling your cla\*\* with him tomorrow too.” He said in his most seductive yet threatening tone. I flinched

Wait. Did he just say what I think he said?

Nate must have felt me flinch when he said. “Fred is a nice guy. I think he’ll understand.” I could tell that he was enjoying this and I could picture him smiling through the covers. “What do you say? Either way. I’m fine with it. But Prince Charming on the other hand...”

Don’t move, Rose. Don’t let him fool you. It’s probably a trick, I thought but I quickly perished it when Nate started to count.

“5”

“...”

“I’m being serious here, Rose. 4.”

“...”

“Still nothing? 3-”

I threw the covers away and made sure to toss them at Nate as I scrambled to my feet. “I’m up! I’m up!” I screamed as I arranged my nightgown and made a beeline to the bathroom. It didn’t help my mood when I heard Nate chuckled outside of the bathroom. The maids were there as usual to help me.

“DON’T TAKE TOO LONG, SWEETHEART!!!” He yelled, which made me hate him now.

30 minutes later, I made sure to take that long, I got out of the tub and put a bathrobe around me. After making sure that the robe is now secured around me, I got out of the room and headed to my closet.

“Ohhhh nice. Very nice. I should come here more often.”

My heart nearly jumped out of my chest when I saw Nate lying on bed and looking at me with approval. I pulled the bathrobe tightly around me and I screamed.

“Nate, what are you still doing here?!”

“I was waiting for you and-”

“Please e\*\*\*\*\* this stranger out,” I asked one of the maids as I pointed towards the door.

“Prince, right this way.” The maid said, showing him the way out of the room. He gave me a sad look as if he was pleading for me to let him stay. He tried that for at least 5 seconds before accepting the fact that I would NEVER let him stay and watch me get dressed.

“Fine. But just so you know. You can wear that robe on our training.” He winked then wiggled his eyes at me.

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“NATE!”

“Alright alright. I’m going.” He got up from the bed and stuffed his hands in his pocket grumpily. I made sure not to leave my eyes off of him as I watched him leave, but when he pa\*\*ed me he muttered, “Killjoy.” I almost laughed at his childish behavior but no. I mustn’t cause he’s a pervert. He left the door with a dramatic ‘humph’ before closing it behind him.

I shook my head as I scanned the closet for something to wear. I decided to go for a mint colored-long sleeved dress that ends just below the knees. I wore my flats since we’re just practicing the proper etiquette. I checked myself in the mirror.

“Thank you!” I told the maids when I left the room.

I saw Nate leaning on the wall probably waiting for me. When he saw me, he pouted in that cute way that would make girls swoon. “I prefer you wearing a little bit more revealing.” He glared at my dress as if it would melt under his gaze.

“Sorry, Nate. I’m not taking any chances with you around.” I smirked at him.

He huffed. “Fine. Let’s go.” He offered me his arm, which I took. We started to walk down the halls. I let Nate guide me through since I know that he’s more familiar with this place more than I do.

While we were walking, we suddenly stopped and scratched his head.

“What’s wrong?” I asked worriedly.

He then began to scratch his cheek in embarra\*\*ment. “Umm....I think we went the wrong way.” He laughed nervously after that.

My jaw dropped at his confession. I take it back. He doesn’t know his way around this castle. The b\*\*\*\*\*. And I even let this guy with no sense of direction lead me!

“Nate!”

“Umm....oh! I think it’s this way.” He started to pull me to another room.

“Hmmm.....yep. This is it, love.” He said and pulled me forward as he opened the door to a room. It had nothing in it except for a single round table and some long tables at the side with white cloths over it. Roses were placed on vases on top of the tables, making them look elegant and presentable.

I stared at the setting in awe. “Wow, Nate. You really took some time preparing this place.”

“Of course. Anything for my beautiful Princess.” He winked at me. “So, do I kiss?” He bit his lips and made a seductive face at me.

“No”

“My heart can’t take any more rejection.” He put his hands to his heart to prove his point.

I smirked at Nate and shrugged my shoulders. “Oh poor you.” I let go of his arm and started to walk to the table to examine the roses and daffodils on the vase. When I looked up to Nate, he was starrng at me for quite a long time, not saying anything.

Finally, he spoke. “Am I not good-looking?” He asked.

I raised an eyebrow in confusion at him. What is this freak talking about? “All girls can’t be interested in you, Nate. Just accept the fact that someone might be better than you.”

Nate gasped dramatically. “Is it because of this Fred guy?” He asked in a fake angry tone which made me laugh. “It’s him isn’t it?!” He said in a tone that boyfriends would use when they are jealous. But his acting was very sloppy.

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I decided to join in humohumor. I placed a hand to my chest as I said with all the fake sincerity that I had. “Oh, Nate. I’m so sorry. It’s not me, it’s you.” Wait. wasn’t that the other way around?

“It’s the cape isn’t it?” He looked back towards his cape which was hanging onto his back.

“That and the ridiculous look on your face.”

“What face? This s\*\*y little thing?” He raised an eyebrow and puckered his face in a s\*\*y pose. I laughed harder if that was even possible. “Alright. Time to get serious and start this training.” He clapped his hands and rubbed them together in excitement.

“Nate, you’re the only one who’s fooling around you know,” I said after I caught my breath. I whipped the exes tears away from my eyes.

“True, but I know that you loved it.” He said as he went towards me. He moved the chair in front of the table back and motioned for me to sit in a gentleman-like gesture. I sat while I watched Nate delicately arranging the utensils in front of me. He picked up the smallest sp\*\*\* of the group and showed it to me. “This here is a teasp\*\*\*. It’s used to stir tea or coffee.” He said and placed it back on the table. His finger glided to another one just beside the teasp\*\*\*. This time, he took a sp\*\*\* that is in between the size of a normal sp\*\*\* and a teasp\*\*\*. “This is the dessert sp\*\*\*. This is used for eating desserts. Its size is larger than the teasp\*\*\* so don’t mistake it as one. Okay?”

“Noted,” I confirmed.

He picked up another one which is of normal size this time. “Now this is our regular sp\*\*\*.” He said. “I don’t think I need to explain what this is used for since you probably know it, right?” He looked at me for confirmation which I gave a nod to.

Something that I noticed while Nate was explaining is that he always makes sure that you understand what he’s talking about. And the way that he talks to you gives you that vibe that you could easily ask him for anything without him snapping at you.

Unlike a certain PRINCE that I know of.

Nate continued to explain the dos and don’ts in eating. Like – don’t lean your elbows on the table, don’t chew loudly, don’t stuff yourself, don’t slouch, don’t burp in front of the table, say ‘excuse me’ when you’re leaving the table, and even your eating pace with the others so you’ll finish the same time as them. Nate also showed me the proper ways on how to use the knife and how to properly hold the sp\*\*\*s.

“Now you see? This is the proper way to cut. You use your knife to cut through so we could avoid the flying meats.” He teased. I pouted at him as I remembered the time when I attempted to cut the meat and a piece of it went flying towards Ace’s plate.

“Forget about it!” I was too flustered to make up an excuse about that time.

He chuckled at my childlike behavior and patted my head. “Oh sure, love. Whatever you say. But just remember that if you needed an assistant to cut your food for you, you know who to ask.” He winked.

Just as I was about to say a smart comment, we heard a knock at the door. Nate stood up and walked towards it and opened one of the large double doors of the room. He smiled at the person behind it before nodding his head and opening the door wide. As soon as he opened it, a bunch of servants came rushing in holding a tray of what I assume is something edible. Smells of freshly cooked meat wafted in the room making me drool and my stomach screaming in protest, reminded me that I forgot to eat my breakfast thanks to a certain someone.

The servants piled the trays on the long tables at the side and arranged them. They moved in perfect sync as if they had done this a bunch of times already, which I’m probably thinking that they did. A minute later and they were done. As soon as they disappeared behind the doors, I was left with Nate and the delicious smell of the food a few feet in front of me.

I saw Nate smile from the corner of my eyes as he looked at me with amusement as I drooled. He strode towards me and offered me his hand and pulled me up to my feet. He handed me a plate and led me to the table. “Let’s start our lesson. Now come on and fill your plate. Remember what I said.” He said and nodded for me to start. I didn’t waste any time as I filled my plate, ready to feed my growling stomach.

By the time that I was done, you couldn’t see a vacant space on my plate anymore. All was covered with mashed potatoes, beef, a slice of pork, and many more. I looked at my plate in approval and satisfaction.

I’m pretty sure that this would do the trick, I thought.

As I was about to head to my table, Nate stood in front of me, stopping me from moving further. He looked at my plate and shook his head in disapproval. I gave him a look. “Um, Nate? I’m about to eat lunch now so can you please move?”

“This won’t do.” He said, still looking at my plate.

## Chapter 17 Proper Table But No Manners

“What do you mean?” I asked with a confused look on my face and a tint of an annoyance since he’s blocking my way to heaven right now. Before I could protest at him, he took my plate out of my hand.

“Hey!”

“This plate is too full. I told you to only take what you can eat and not to fill your plate.” He said and eyed the plate with distaste.

“Give it back!” I yelled as I reached for it, but he held it over his head making it harder for me to reach it. “Nate! What’s the deal?!”

He didn’t respond to me and pointed to the table once again. “Go get another plate and fill it up. This time don’t stuff it all up.” He ordered. My jaw dropped at him.

He can’t be serious right?

“But what about-”

“Start filling your plate up or else you won’t get anything to eat.” He said with finality.

“Ugh!” I glared at him as I stomped my way to the table and grabbed a new plate. I started to fill it in, but this time I only put some small portions in it. Nate came to my side and examined my plate.

“Mmhm. That’ll do.” He said in approval. “Now you can go and eat your lunch now.” He ushered me to the table. I didn’t move and looked at my poorly filled plate.

This won’t do.

I looked at the tray beside me. Nate saw me and gave me a warning look. “No. Don’t even think about it.” He warned. I gave him my best pleading look and even went as far as biting my lip.

“Please? I’m so hungry. I didn’t eat my breakfast this morning.” I pleaded.

“Aw. Really?” I nodded. My mind was cheering in the thought that Nate might feel sorry for me and let me add more to my plate. “I’m sorry darling but I can’t do that.” At those words, my hope was completely crushed.

I started to feign crying. Nate looked surprised at me and I could tell that he was confused about what to do with me. “I-I just....want something to...e-eat.”

“Err....umm.....W-why don’t you go to your table and eat what you have? It might help.” He said and looked away from me as he said it.

I started to hiccup for more effect. “I-I’m gonna tell everyone what a big bully you are for starving a girl like me. I’ll make sure to tell the twins to tell Fred to tell the Queen to tell the King to tell the-”

“N-No! Don’t do that!”

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“To tell your mom to tell your dad-”

“Fine! Just a little so shut up!!” He said in an annoyed voice, but you could tell that he was about to lose it. Heck, he might want to kill me right now.

I lifted my eyes at him. “Really?” I asked. His response was a weak nod, telling me that he was either forced to say that or was unsure of his answer. I took that as my signal and grinned widely at him. All my acting completely vanished as I cheered.

“Thanks, Natie poo!” I squealed and added the food to my plate before I hopped towards the table. I sat on the chair happily and licked my lips in anticipation.

Nate joined me at the table with his own plate. I grabbed her sp\*\*\* and fork and was about to dig in when he cleared his throat loudly. “Ehem!”

I stared back at myself in confusion. “What?” I asked. “You’re not gonna take my food now, are you?” I made a protective circle around my plate.

He chuckled. “No, sweetheart but I think you are forgetting something.” When I tilted my head in confusion yet again, he turned his gaze at the napkin at the side of my plate to give me a hint. My mouth formed an ‘O’ in understanding.



I gave him a sheepish smile as I dr\*\*\*d the napkin on my lap before I started to devour the food, but when I saw him giving her a disapproving look I eased my pace in eating.

“I can’t see the reason why the boys were a tad bit stressed when they trained you. You’re very cooperative.” He commented.

“Yeah...” I looked away guiltily. “I wonder why.”

A few minutes later and he got bored so I started to flirt with him again. “You know Rose? I’m kinda hungry. Aren’t you gonna share?” he said and gave me a pouty look.

“No,” I said flatly. Suddenly, he became very quiet. I looked at him to see that he was staring at his plate blankly. “Nate?” I called out. No response.

I tried again. Louder this time. “NATE!!”

He snapped my attention back at me. A moment later and he smirked.

“Are you okay?” I asked.

“Huh? Yes, I’m fine. Why’d you ask?”

“You kept on staring at space for quite a while now. I was worried that you might not be feeling ill.” His smile widened. “Aww. You do care!” He exclaimed. “Don’t worry about me, love. Knowing that you care, makes me feel better in an instant.”

“Okay,” I shrugged.

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“What? That’s it! That’s your reaction!?” This girl amazes me all the time.

“Oh and, Nate?” His head perked up. “Please stop calling me with strange nicknames. You sound like a creep.”

“Aw...but that’ll be boring if I don’t call you something, love.” He said. “Oh, and by the way, you got a little something on your upper lip.” He reached out and tried to wipe it away with his thumb. I flinched at the gesture before moving out of his reach. Then I used my napkin to wipe the dirt off my face.

“Are you really not attracted to my face?”

I snapped my eyes at him. “What?” That was such a random question.

“Sorry, let me rephrase it. Is something wrong with the way I look?” I asked again. This time, she understood it.

“Oh.” I set the napkin back on the table. “Hmm. I think I already told you that your attitude bothers me.”

“Yes, you said that but why?” I pressed on and leaned on the table.

I thought about it for quite a while before saying. “I hate flirts.” Nate started laughing.

“What’s so funny?” I asked him. He’s going crazy. Should I leave?

When he was finally able to catch his breath, he rearranged his posture and wiped some tears from his eyes. “You said that you hated flirts. That’s not enough of a reason you know. There must be something more, right?” He said and rested his chin on his knuckles.

“Hmm...” I put a finger to my chin as I thought about it. “I think what I’m really looking for is his personality.”

“Oh really? Then why are you talking to me right now? I thought you hated flirts.”

“Actually. You’re not that bad. Sure, you annoy me to my core with your stupid nicknames, but I don’t think that flirting really is your game.” I noticed that Nate isn’t like any other flirts out there. It’s because he always has this look of doubt in his eyes like he is unsure of what he’s doing. “While you were explaining some stuff to me a while ago you didn’t flirt with me or call me with strange nicknames. I think that side of you is the real you...I think.”

He scoffed. “Really huh.”

“Yes. Really, Nate.” I insisted. “Any woman would be lucky to have you.”

“Ha! Woman. I don’t even think that I’ll be able to settle down with one. They would either ditch me or find a new lover.”

Wow. So bitter

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“How can you say that, you idiot! You can settle down if you want to.” I stopped.  
“Why are we even talking about settling down?”

He grinned. “Because I am 20 and I do not have a fiancé yet.”

“Nate,” I warned him since I know where this conversation was headed.

“Why don’t you marry me instead? That way I can really settle down.” He smirked.

“You know what? I think I’m gonna go and get some dessert.” I began to stand up.

“Oh great. Get me some choco-”

“You have two hands and two legs so why don’t you get them yourself.” I retorted.

“You also have them too so why not get me some.” He answered back and smirked when I marched towards the dessert table and mumbled some profanities along the way. I heard him chuckled as I continued to mumble about what a big jerk he is. I faintly saw him dr\*\*\* something at the back of his chair.

“Nate! What kind of dessert do you want!? Hurry up or I might change my mind!”

“I’ll get one of each!” He said. I clicked my tongue together before getting another plate and filling it up. A few seconds later and I was back with two plates. I dropped his plate in front of him and grumpily sat in my chair. He laughed a little.

And just like what he had taught me, I took the dessert sp\*\*\* and started to eat. I heard him tsk. “Smaller bites.” He said and reached out and started to wipe the chocolate off of my face again, this time I didn’t move away since I was busy eating. The desserts are so good. The chocolate simply melts in your mouth.

“There.” He said after wiping it all off. I grinned at him and muttered thanks before shoving another bite into my mouth.

“Hey, Nate. If you’re just gonna sit there and stare at me, then I might as well eat your plate of desserts.” I said. He chuckled at my comment.

“No way. I haven’t eaten anything yet and you’re gonna take this away from me? Not fair!” He whined.

He kept staring at me as we ate. “Am I doing something wrong?” I asked. He looked at me and smirked. “Stop looking at me like that, Nate. You look like an old pervert.”

“What? This face? An old pervert? Love, I think something is wrong with your vision there. And I prefer you to call me a YOUNG pervert.” He said. They rolled her eyes at me and continued to eat.

“Seriously, Nate! Eat your food you creep!” I threw my napkin at him, which I easily dodged. He laughed.

## Chapter 18 Cape of Doom

I leaned on the table in front of me as I poked the remains of my unfinished food. Don't get me wrong, I like the food but I think my stomach doesn't have enough space for them which is a shame.

“Rose, I'm gonna leave you for a bit, okay? I just have some things to handle first.” Nate stood up from his seat in front of me and wiped his mouth with his napkin before setting it on the table. “You be good now while I'm gone, okay?” He looked at me as if begging me to stay put. He probably thinks that I'll wander off somewhere while he's not around.

I can't blame him. Somehow I see a pattern wherein they leave me for a second and trouble seems to appear.

In response to his request, I mocked a salute. “Yes sir! Take all the time you need.” I said. Nate gave me one of those uncertain looks of his before he left the room but not before giving me a warning look before he left the room.

As soon as the door closed behind him, I fist-pumped the air and shouted a “YES!”. Immediately, the door opened once again and Nate's head appeared behind the door. “Excuse me?” He's asked with his eyebrow raised.

I gave him a sheepish smile and an innocent look. Not wanting to make it obvious. “Nothing. Have fun!”

He pointed a finger at me and gave me a warning look. “I'm warning you. Behave.” with that, he once again disappeared behind the doors.

What am I? A dog?

I grinned evilly as I thought of ditching this place and going for a hike. Oh yeah!

I stood up rather quickly and, in the process, bumped the table and caused my own plate of dessert to fall on the floor, staining it with chocolate.

Oh \*\$%^&\*!!

“Nate is gonna kill me!!” I whispered to myself, now in panic mode. See what I mean when I say trouble follows me?

What to do? What to do?

Look for something to wipe it off! Yes! That’s it!

I scanned my surroundings for something big to wipe it clean. My eyes landed on the fabric at the back of Nate’s chair. It was green and silky.

And it was the perfect rag for this mess!!

I reached out and grabbed the fabric and started to wipe the floor clean as fast as I could. Who knows how many minutes/hours I have when Nate comes back?

I wiped the fabric back and forth, making sure the floor is all clean and sparkly once again. When I was already satisfied the floor was once again clean, I threw the fabric on the sofa at the side. Just in time though, because Nate just came back. I quickly stood up from the floor and hid my hands behind my back.

Yes, probably not the best move for the innocent look.

“What were you doing?” Nate asked sus\*\*\*iously.

“Nothing sus\*\*\*ious. I promise.” I said and added a sweet smile to it. LIAR!

“Okay,” Nate said uncertainly. “Did you have enough rest? Are you ready for the next lesson?” He asked. Instead of answering, I gave him a nod.

Throughout the whole afternoon, Nate just taught me how to respond and act when there’s a guest and how to talk to them properly. He told me that when someone asks me a question and when my mouth is still full, I would either nod, if the question is a yes or no, or swallow my food first before answering.

“Aren’t you tired of this practice?” I asked.

“What?” Nate asked in confusion.

I gestured towards the table. “This. Isn’t it very tiring to always have to do this? Be polite and act like a lady/gentleman?”

Nate stared at me for a moment before he chuckled in amus\*\*\*\*t. “When you put it that way, I guess. But when you have lived through all your life doing this then I guess it’s pretty normal.”

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“Well, that s\*\*\*s for me then,” I muttered under my breath pretty low for a human ear, but I guess it wasn’t as low as I suspected since Nate started to chuckle.

“I guess you’ll just have to get used to it then, right?” Nate smiled, but not his usual flirty smile but one of pure amus\*\*\*\*t. He got up from his chair and went to the dinner table and picked up a plate as he started to fill it in. When he came back, he set down a huge slice of steak in front of me. “Get your knife and fork and start practicing on how to cut.” He ordered.

“What? But didn’t you already see me cutting my steak when I was eating my lunch?”

“You could have fooled me. I saw you using your fingers while you were cutting it. You even stabbed it multiple times while I wasn’t looking. That’s called cheating, you know?”

“Darn! And I thought that you really weren’t looking.” I muttered. I knew I should have brought some scissors!

“It’s not that I wasn’t looking. I just did it on purpose since you were having a hard time eating so I just made an exemption.” He smirked as he said it. “Now go and start cutting.”

I let out an exasperated sigh as I grabbed my fork and knife on the table and started to cut through the meat. Not a moment later and I was already stabbing it in frustration. Nate, on the other hand, was busy laughing his b\*\*\* off at my frustration.

Nate whipped some tears from his eyes before he spoke. “I could watch you all day and won’t get enough of it.”

“Aha ha. Very funny. Glad to know that you’re enjoying seeing me struggle.”

“Indeed I am.” Nate chuckled once more. “But that’s because you’re doing it all wrong. That meat is already dead. No need to kill it a second time. And besides, I already showed you how to do it, but apparently, you were not listening, am I right?”

I didn’t say anything and instead faced my now murdered steak. I did pay attention, but it’s easier said than done.

“Hold the steak with your fork then use the knife to cut through it at an angle. Move your knife back and forth to slice through it neatly. Don’t stab it. No stabbing on the tables. You’ll scare your table mates.” He instructed.

I rolled my eyes at him and started to follow his instruction and moved my knife back and forth.

“Good. And gently push your knife to the steak,” he said.

“Good. Now gently push your knife to the steak.” I mocked and earned a playful glare from Nate as I did what he said. Not a second later and I successfully sliced the meat. “I did it!” I cheered and raised the fork with a slice of meat on it and wiggled it in front of Nate, showing it to him. “Ha! I did it! Lowisimos! I did it!”

“Yeah yeah.” Nate waved his hand at me. “So you had cut it. That’s good but you mustn’t wave it to a person as if it’s a weapon.” He smirked and watched me with amus\*\*\*\*t.

“Who cares?! Now I’m gonna have a taste of this victory!” I was about to put the slice of meat towards my mouth when Nate stopped my hand from doing so. He gave me one of those adorable smiles.

“Aren’t you gonna share your victory? I was the one who told you the technique.”

No one is stealing my food.

“No. This is MINE. I cut it. Go and cut your own. Now shoo!” Using both of my hands, I pulled the fork towards me, fighting against Nate’s strong grip.

“Oh no, you won’t! Not if you’re not gonna share!” Now Nate was using both of his hands as well as he fought for that piece of meat on the fork.

All these for that piece of meat...

“It’s mine!” I screamed and started to pull it towards me. If ever, I think Nate was going easy on me since he was pretty much enjoying himself. In fact, he was laughing.

Going to my last resort, I bit his fist.

“Ow!” Nate flinched but didn’t loosen his grip. Instead, he also bit my fist hand but a little gently.

“Eww! Nate.” I glared at him.

“What? You bit me first!” He whined.

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“But that doesn’t mean that you also have to bite me!”

“Then what am I supposed to do then?”

“Nothing! Just let go of my food damn it!” I pulled at the sp\*\*\* with all my might, but the b\*\*\*\*\* was too strong.

“Let me share your victory too!”

“Are we really fighting for just this piece of meat?”

“Hey. I’m just going with the flow over here,” he said as if he just realized what we were doing just now.

\*\*\*

A few minutes later Nate and I decided to just share the meat. He said that since neither one of us likes to give in, they might as well part it in half. After all the silly drama of ours, we decided to continue our lesson. But after a while, Nate got carried away and started to tell me some funny stories during his experiences at parties.

“So there was this guy who was drinking his wine at the table while I was telling a story, I think he was Duke from another family.” He started. “As you might know,



I really hate it when someone does that to me, you know? Doing other things instead of paying attention to me.”

I scoffed at him. “In love with yourself much?”

“Hey, if you’re as good-looking as me then you won’t be surprised.” He defended. “Anyways, while he was drinking, I decided to take that opportunity as I said, ‘The more you talk, the thicker your double chin becomes’.”

I gasped. “You didn’t! That is rude.”

He grinned at my reaction. “Oh yes, I did. And let me tell you that he choked on his wine that time. It was really funny. Everyone from our table was laughing, except for the man of course.”

I laughed at that. “Obviously. So what did he do? Did he punch you or something?”

“Do I look like the person who’ll let someone ruin his face? NO.” He said in a duh tone. “And besides, before he could do anything to me, I told him that I was just kidding.”

“And? What did he say?” I asked, suddenly interested.

“Well, he didn’t say anything but I could tell that he was pissed off at me.” He shrugged as if it really doesn’t matter to him.

“And he still is pissed off at me whenever we meet.”

I burst out laughing. Well duh. Who wouldn’t be pissed at what he just said? As I was laughing my b\*\*\* off, one of the two double doors suddenly opened, and in came both Dan and Ren. They had their arms crossed and were raising their eyebrows at us, a perfect mirror of each other. “What’s going on?” They asked.

Nate got up and wiped his hands on his lap as he faced the twins. “Nothing. We were just talking. Is all.” He said, then he eyes the two sus\*\*\*iously. “What are you guys doing here?”

“The Queen asked us to fetch you two. It’s almost time for dinner.” Ren said, still eyeing Nate. While Dan was grinning at me and waving. “Hello, Princess!”

“Hey.” I waved back.

“Come on, Rose. Let’s go. You two can go ahead. We’ll be right there.” Nate said to the twins. While Dan was happily whistling while walking towards the door, Ren had an annoyed look on his face as they left. As soon as they left, Nate had a confused look on his face and eyed the back of the chair. He scratched his head and started to look for something. “Have you seen a green cloth here somewhere?” He asked.

I started to think back and then remembered something. “Oh, It’s on that sofa over there,” I said and pointed towards it. Nate followed my finger and a sigh of relief appeared on his lips. He walked towards it, picked the cloth up, and started to tie it around him with the golden chains on it.

My jaw dropped as I watched Nate tying the cloth around the collar of his suit.

That was Nate’s cape!?! I used a Prince’s cape as a rag! I murdered it. No wonder it was too pretty in the first place!!

“What’s wrong, Rose? You look pale.” Nate asked as he looked at my face, which was probably pale as he said.

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“Huh? I’m fine! Nothings wrong! What? Do you see something wrong? Nothing right? So why are you asking me!?! I did nothing wrong!!!” Okay, I may have sounded a little defensive there but I wasn’t thinking clearly.

Nate gave me a weird look. “Okay?”

After that, Nate and I walked to the dining hall. The whole time Nate kept trying to open up a conversation with me but I would just keep my mouth shut. Not allowing the conversation to flow in case I’ll mention the cape thing.

And to my defense. It is their fault for wearing capes! I mean, why would they wear those? They’re not Superman or Batman anyways. Got my point there?

It’s not my fault!

“Are you really okay?”

“Yeah.”

“Why aren’t you talking?”

“Sure.”

“Are you even listening?”

“That’s cool.”

“I’m a virgin.”

“Great.”

Nate threw his hands up in the air in frustration. “I give up!!”

“Yeah...sure.”

Nate didn’t say anything after that and instead, focused on finding our way to the dining hall. As we entered the room, I immediately made my way and sat beside Dan and Ren. I know for sure that these two would protect me. Nate sat beside Fred, which I was thankful for because I know that he would be able to stop Nate from jumping at me WHEN he finds out.

Dan and Ren gave me curious glances as I sat quietly on my chair with my back straight and cutting my meat on the plate. I took a sneak peek at Nate who was doing the same. The cape on his shoulders had chocolate stains on it, which was really obvious. Fred seemed to notice it too and tried his best not to stare. The twins only noticed it when they saw me looking at Nate with a nervous look. They followed my gaze and almost burst out laughing until I stepped on their foot. A sign to tell them to keep their mouths shut.

I was on my best behavior to distract them from Nate’s cape.

Look at me. I am an angel. A very well-mannered angelic princess!

“Why Rose. It seems that you’re doing well on your lesson with Nate.” The queen commented as she watched me applying the proper etiquette on eating. “Good job, Nate.” The Queen praised him before her eyes darted on Nate’s cape. Her mouth opened to comment on it but I pa\*\*ed her a plate of salad. “Eat.” I told her with a

tight smile that says ‘don’t even mention it. The queen shut her mouth and went back to eating.

I almost sighed in relief, but then Ace went to the room. “Your highness, I’m sorry I’m late. I had a lot of-” he stopped and looked at Nate’s back. “Nate, what happened to your cape?”

As soon as Ace said that, the twins burst out laughing while I screamed.

“What do you mean what’s wrong with my cape? It’s perfectly-” Nate stopped in mid-sentence when he saw the chocolate stain on his cape by his shoulders. His jaw dropped as he detached it from his back and examined the damage I had inflicted on it. “This was my favorite cape...”

I took that time as I slowly got up from my chair and made my exit like a ninja. I even crawled on the floor!

“ROSE!!”

“I’m sorry!” I yelled back as I covered my face in embarra\*\*ment and fear.

