

# Outcast: The Alpha King's Beloved

## Chapter 188

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Emma's POV:

I had never thought that one day I would have the chance to testify against the murderer of my friend.

My hands trembled when I looked at that vicious man, who didn't deserve to be called a king at all.

A part of me was scared, but I also felt excited, and above all, happy.

After all, I finally had the chance to avenge my friend's death.

A few days ago, when Anthony's asked me if I was willing to testify against Austin and expose his crimes to the world, I thought I was dreaming.

"Emma, don't be afraid. Justice will prevail. Please face everyone and tell them the truth," Anthony said to encourage me.

"All right!"

I held back my tears and took a deep breath before I pointed my finger at Austin.

"This man is nothing but a depraved animal! He raped and killed my dear friend Lisa!"

Then I told them everything I had witnessed with my own eyes a few years ago.

"Lisa worked as a maid at the royal palace. The king took a fancy to her because she was more beautiful than the other maids. When he asked Lisa to be his mistress, she refused him, and in return, he tried to rape her. When Lisa fought back desperately, he got furious."

I couldn't help but close my eyes to stop the tears from falling as I spoke. I took deep breaths to control my emotions because I wanted to tell everyone the whole story.

"He raped Lisa before strangled her with his own hands. He didn't let go of her throat until she stopped moving. After that, Lisa's dead body was found in a well nearby. It had decayed that we could hardly recognize her. Everyone thought that she died from drowning. I was just outside the room where Lisa died. I heard her screaming and crying for help, but no one came. Although I was able to take photos through the crack between the door and the door frame, I didn't dare to speak up about it earlier because I knew that no one would believe a maid."

I kept picturing Lisa's face in my head when I spoke, smiling at me as if she was standing right before me.

She was a kind-hearted soul, who never failed to bake me a cake on my birthdays.

We were poor, but we were happy because we could always rely on each other.

The more I thought about it, the sadder I felt and eventually I couldn't help but break into tears.

I regretted not being able to do anything to help her at that time.

"Don't cry, sweet girl! Your courage will be deeply appreciated by your late friend,"

Anthony's mate said as she walked up to me with a smile and held my hands.

Her presence gave my heart warmth and comfort.

"Thank you, Jennifer." That's very kind of you to say.

"I hurried to express my gratitude."

Anthony was a kind man, and his mate was just as considerate as he was. They were a perfect match.

"No, that was just a misunderstanding. I just wanted to be close to Lisa because I had feelings for her."

Austin refused to admit his crime.

But I knew his words were useless.

Soon enough, Anthony showed everyone the photos Visit to read the newest content, everyone! the photos were blurry, it still showed Austin choking Lisa's throat until she lost consciousness.

Suddenly, the voices of the people whispering became Visit to read the newest content, everyone! picked up a fruit from the table and hurled it at Austin.

When I saw this, I wiped my tears away with my hand and drew a cross on my chest, feeling relieved.

"Lisa, I hope you can see this from where you are! The murderer who killed you is finally going to be punished."

Anthony's POV:

I glared coldly at Austin without uttering a word as he stood in his place fidgeting nervously.

The evidence presented against him was enough to incriminate him for his actions.

I Visit to read the newest content, everyone! get away, Austin would make sure that Jennifer and I would never oppose him again.

“Kill that traitor!”

“That’s right! We must avenge the former king!”

“Austin is a traitor!”

“Tyrant! He killed the innocent!”

As soon as I posted the photos, the crowd in the banquet hall became mad with rage.

Many people shouted at Austin.

I didn’t show any sign of joy in my expression, even though everything was going according to my plan, because I knew that Austin wouldn’t surrender so easily.

“I am not going to admit to anything I haven’t done! These are all lies they’ve made up to overthrow me! ”

Austin’s eyes became red and his voice cracked.

“They are all fake” Anthony forged them to turn you against me.

He’s doing this because he wants to usurp the throne.

Who would have thought that my dear brother would do such a thing to me?  
Arrest them all!

Austin waved at the royal guards, who started to march towards me and my private guards.

After all, loyalty to the king was the duty of the royal guards.

I was not surprised that they followed Austin’s order.

I raised an eyebrow as I cast them a sideways glance.

If Austin wanted a fight to the death, then I was prepared to give him what he wanted!

"Jerome, keep Skylar safe! She is pregnant!" I told Jerome without hesitation.

"No problem, Mr. Jones. I will protect her with my life," Jerome replied firmly.

Then, Jennifer and I exchanged firm glances with each other as we were prepared to fight.

Out of the blue, Austin took out a pistol and shot at me three times in a row.

Unfortunately for him, I was able to dodge as I saw him coming from a mile away.

"Let's go!"

With a roar, I transformed into a wolf and sprang at Austin.

Austin's face started to contort as he threw away the pistol and transformed into a wolf, too.

My private guards followed suit and transformed into wolves as well.

Within seconds, chaos ensued throughout the banquet hall.

"Anthony, I will take the witnesses away from here and keep them safe. I'll let you deal with Austin on your own,"

Jennifer shouted at me from behind.

I didn't respond, but I praised her in my head.

Then, I focused my attention on Austin.

I unfurled my sharp claws and sunk them into his neck.

"Anthony, do you really think you can defeat me?" Austin shouted at me, gritting his teeth in pain.

"You must pay for what you have done!"

I didn't let him provoke me into breaking concentration.

I studied his every move, looking for a flaw.

Austin was smart enough to know that he wouldn't win in a fair fight against me, so he kept dodging and using his own men to block the bullets.

I grabbed a royal guard's arm and ripped it out of his body as his blood splashed all over my face.

As the fight went on, the hall looked bloody.

The elders attempted to flee from there as they ran with their hands over their heads.

“Stop! Stop! What are you doing? This is the royal palace. You can’t fight here!” a white-bearded elder shouted.

“Don’t get in my way, old man!”

Austin kicked him aside before he could even finish his words.

The other elders looked at him in shock as they ran towards the exit.

I could tell that Austin was desperate.

I winked at my private guards, signaling to them to preserve their strength.

After all, the royal guards led by Austin were formidable fighters, and we couldn’t risk defeat at their hands.

Neither side managed to gain the upper hand even after several bouts of fighting.

I could hardly raise my arm and I noticed that Austin was limping.

We stood far from each other as if to assess the situation before making the next move.

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Jennifer’s POV:

Anthony and I fought side by side and killed off Austin’s lackeys.

They were no match for me because my claws tore them easily apart.

However, there were so many of them.

As soon as I managed to get rid of my opponent, another would attack.

It felt as if the battle was never going to end.

My eyes turned red as I became more and more ruthless.

While focusing on my opponents, I gradually became unaware of my surroundings.

“Watch out, Jennifer!” Skylar shouted hysterically.

I turned around and saw that all the dancers had picked up weapons and were rushing towards me.

They had not taken part in the fight earlier so I had not paid much attention to them.

They must have been waiting for me to drop my guard.

The dancers were coming at me so quickly that I did not have enough time to dodge their attack.

“Jennifer!”

Anthony also noticed that the dancers were ambushing me.

He wanted to come to my aid, but he could not get rid of Austin.

The dancers lunged, their swords less than a meter away from slashing me.

My eyes narrowed as I roared and stretched out my claws.

I was determined to fight them to death.

But before we could clash, a strong gust of wind blew from behind me, forcing the dancers back and scattering them across the floor.

I was stunned, unsure of who had saved me.

When I turned around, I saw Skylar.

She had her hands stretched out in front of her, and she looked a little dazed.

“She can control wind! She must be a vampire!”

one of the guests yelled while pointing at Skylar.

“No, no. I’m not...”

Skylar staggered back in horror.

I realized that the gale that saved me just now was caused by Skylar and her special power.

Damn it! Skylar's identity was about to get exposed.

"Don't be afraid, Skylar. Everything's going to be okay. Let's go."

Jerome, who was next to Skylar, reacted quickly.

He gathered Skylar in his arms and put his coat over her, covering her face.

"Jerome, take her out of here right away! Run as far as you can!"

I shouted at my brother while fighting with the dancers.

We were all being so loud that it did not escape Austin's ears.

His eyes narrowed as Visit to read the newest content, everyone! with a vampire?"

Austin pointed at Jerome, who was running toward the door.

"Stop that man! Catch the vampire and kill her!"

The royal guards Visit to read the newest content, everyone! fast, I dashed to the door and stopped the royal guards from attacking my brother.

"Gary, Dana, cover for Jennifer."

Anthony also realized that things were not going well so he left Austin behind and came to help.

After hearing Anthony's order, Gary and Dana joined the battle to help us stop the royal guards from attacking.

The situation became even more chaotic that I had no time to care about anything else.

I could only fight and hope that Jerome managed to escape with Skylar.

"Anthony, you Visit to read the newest content, everyone! me! Guards, kill all these spies!"

Austin seized the opportunity to fight back.

He pointed out Anthony as the enemy and swore at him.

With our backs up against each other, Anthony and I fought off the guards.

The harsh training I had been through came in handy at this moment.

My fists and feet moved quickly, and I was able to defeat many enemies with my sharp claws.

Not far from me and Anthony, Dana and Gary fought bravely against several guards.

They were not at a disadvantage. Visit to read the newest content, everyone! like this, I believed that Austin's chances of winning would gradually decrease.

"Larry!"

Austin yelled while glaring at Anthony and me with intense hatred.

"Watch out! The grand wizard Larry is here to help them!"

When I heard the name that Austin called out, I quickly turned to warn my teammates.

As soon as I finished speaking, a man in a black robe suddenly appeared before us.

He waved his wand and muttered something.

The wand spewed out streams of black fire.

"Watch out! He's using black magic!" Anthony yelled.

We rolled on the floor, barely avoiding the attack.

"Are these the people you want me to deal with? They are very weak!" Larry snorted with disdain.

Seeing his complacent expression made me sneer.

Anthony and I had already expected that Austin would ask Larry for help.

"Roy!"

Anthony roared for reinforcements.

Roy, who had been hiding outside, appeared at the entrance of the banquet hall along with several other wizards.

"Protect the prince!"

Roy held up his wand and cast a water spell to extinguish the black flames.

The other wizards followed suit and chanted all sorts of spells to attack Larry.



"Humph! None of you are worthy enough to be considered my opponent." Larry flew into a rage.

"Let me teach you all a lesson!"

He fired a round of lightning in our direction, but Roy and the other wizards were prepared for this.

They worked together and used a defensive incantation to defend us against Larry's attack.

Although Larry was very strong, our wizards outnumbered him so they were able to hold him back.

Caroline's POV:

I was waiting in the bedroom for Austin to appear with good news.

However, while I was lying in bed, a maid rushed over to tell me that something had gone wrong in the banquet hall.

"What happened?"

I sat up on the bed and frowned at the maid.

"The king and the prince are fighting," the maid answered.

"What?!"

In a fit of anger, I grabbed the maid and shook her.

"Why didn't you tell me about such an important thing earlier? You're so useless!"

I shoved the maid aside and rushed to the banquet hall, forgetting the fact that I was supposed to be pretending to be injured.

I couldn't let anything bad happen to Austin.

He was the only one I could depend on now.

If Austin fell, I would end up in Anthony's clutches, and he was going to make me pay for my crimes.

When I arrived at the banquet hall, the situation was worse than I had expected.

I heard the deafening sounds of fighting.

I entered the hall and saw blood all over the floor.

I was shocked to see how many guards had died.

What was going on? I took a few steps back and felt something under my feet.

I looked down and realized that I had stepped on an arm.

I was so startled that I screamed, nearly falling backwards in the process.

Where was Austin? I looked around anxiously and eventually caught sight of him.

At that moment, I noticed that Jennifer was coming up behind him with her claws raised.

She looked like she was aiming for his neck.

"Watch out, Austin!" I screamed.

Austin must have heard me because he rolled on the floor, dodging Jennifer's attack.

But before I could sigh in relief, that bitch turned around and ran towards me.

I tried to dodge, but she was too fast.

I even stretched out my claws in self-defense, but she managed to grab my neck first.

How was she so strong?! I struggled in her grip, but my efforts were useless.

"What are you planning to do with me?"

I tried to claw the hand gripping my neck.

"Look over here, Austin. I have Caroline!"

Jennifer lifted me up by my neck.

"If you don't surrender now, I'll break her neck."

Jennifer was squeezing my neck hard enough for me to have difficulty breathing.

She looked like she was seriously going to kill me.

The possibility of that happening scared me out of my wits.

My eyes instantly welled up with tears.

"Austin...Help me..."

My gaze locked with Austin's, and he looked torn. My survival instinct made me cry for help with all of my strength.

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Austin's POV:

Seeing Caroline at the mercy of that bitch, Jennifer, made my heart clench. With Jennifer's claw wrapped firmly around Caroline's neck, I was at a loss what to do.

"Austin, help me, please! I don't want to die!"

Caroline screamed, tears streaming down her face.

She struggled to free herself from Jennifer's grip, but to no avail.

"Caroline!" I shouted anxiously.

In the beginning, it was true that I held no feelings for Caroline.

I only used her for her body and beautiful face.

After tasting her once, I found myself coming back for more and more.

But after getting along with her for a period of time, I started to see her differently.

She was a delicate and sexy woman, and I had to admit that her dependence on me made me very happy.

Before I knew it, I had fallen in love with her.

I would never had made her my queen otherwise.

Our relationship had started with me just using her, but now, I liked her deeply.

"I'll give you three minutes, Austin," Jennifer said firmly.

"If you don't surrender, I'll kill her."

"Anthony, Caroline is your sister. How could you have the heart to let Jennifer kill her?"

I turned to Anthony stubbornly.

"She deserves it,"

Anthony replied expressionlessly.

Damn it! If I didn't surrender, Caroline would die, and so would my child in her belly.

But if I surrendered, I would lose everything.

Anthony would take the throne and I would no longer be king.

I had done everything to get the throne, so naturally, I couldn't just give it up.

As the seconds ticked on, I felt my forehead break into a cold sweat.

My eyes darted from Jennifer to Caroline as hesitation paralyzed me.

"Austin, don't surrender!" Caroline shouted all of a sudden.

She looked at me with tears in her eyes, but she looked brave, Visit to read the newest content, everyone! face unflinchingly.

"You can't surrender. If you do, none of us will survive. Let me die, and then kill them to avenge me!"

I stared at Visit to read the newest content, everyone! about to die, yet she was still thinking about me.

"Austin, as long as you are willing to surrender, I promise that Caroline and her baby will live," Jennifer said in a loud voice.

"And I can talk to Anthony on your behalf. Maybe he will spare your life."

As Jennifer spoke, I stared sadly at Caroline's pale face.

Maybe there was no turning back.

If we continued to fight, I knew I was still in trouble.

Anthony's strength exceeded far beyond my imagination.

Plus, many elders had changed their Visit to read the newest content, everyone! showed them.

Now, few elders were on my side.

But on the other hand, if I surrendered and even if Anthony spared my life, I doubted things would turn out well forme.

“Three minutes is almost up.Austin, have you made up your mind yet?”

Jennifer’s cold voice pulled me back to reality.

She stretched out one claw and scratched at Caroline’s neck.

Caroline shrieked in pain as blood trickled out from the wound.

“No, no, don’t kill her.Calm down, Jennifer!”

I was so scared that I shouted.

“Then order your men to stop fighting.I don’t want to see any more soldiers sacrifice their lives meaninglessly,” Jennifer said sternly.

“Stop!”

Gritting my teeth, I obeyed her.

However, Larry ignored my command and continued attacking other wizards.

“I said, stop!” I shouted at Larry.

He shot me a sullen glance and snorted coldly before finally putting away his wand.

Caroline’s POV:

I was shocked.I didn’t think that Austin would worry about me at such a critical moment.

Was my life as important as power? Truth be told, I was ready to die at Jennifer’s hand.

I just hoped Austin could avenge me.I always thought that Austin didn’t love me.

He and Anthony were completely different.

Anthony was kind and upright.

Once he fell in love with someone, he would never change which was why I always wanted to be the one he fell for.

On the other hand, Austin was a tyrant. To him, love was far less exciting than sex.

He only ever wanted to use me and my body.

I was keenly aware of this, but in order to protect myself, I had no choice but to rely on him.

But just now, he gave in to Jennifer for me.

It looked like he was actually in love with me.

I stared at him with an aching heart.

Despite the wound on my neck, I wasn't scared.

I felt nothing but longing for him.

"Austin, the truth is, I stopped loving Anthony a long time ago. If we survive this, I will love you and you alone."

I cried, speaking from the heart.

"Don't be afraid, babe! I'll save you. I'm the king, and you are my queen. No one is going to change that." Austin and I looked at each other.

Although he spoke confidently, his body was covered with wounds. He didn't stand a chance against Anthony.

"Quit it, Austin," Jennifer sneered, her claw inching closer to the veins on my neck.

I was so scared that I trembled all over. Enduring the pain, I looked back at Austin pleadingly.

"Please, don't! Anthony, we can talk!" Austin pleaded through gritted teeth.

Anthony looked calm and composed, as though he was sure he was going to win.

"My request is very simple, Austin. You surrender, abdicate, admit your crimes to the whole country, and confess and apologize in front of our father's tombstone."

"Never!"

Austin grew agitated all of a sudden. Seeing him like this made me anxious. If things escalated, Jennifer just might kill me in a fit of rage.

"Austin, you should show some sincerity. Or "

Jennifer began, but I took her attention on Austin as an opportunity to escape. I bit down on her hand hard.

As expected, she was caught off guard and subconsciously withdrew her hand.

“Austin!”

I broke free from Jennifer’s grip and rushed towards Austin, and he too rushed towards me.

In that moment, I felt a surge of hope.

I could see myself living with Austin happily, and our child would grow up to be the next king.

Like a flash of lightning, Anthony dashed all my hope.

Before I could even touch Austin, Anthony caught him and pinned him on the floor.

“No!”

I screamed and rushed over, grabbing Austin’s hand.

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Anthony’s POV:

At the same time that Caroline broke free from Jennifer’s grip, I took out my gun and rushed to Austin.

He was already a spent bullet, so it didn’t take me much effort to pin him on the floor with my knee on his back.

“Stop struggling, Austin,” I said coldly, pressing the barrel of my gun against Austin’s temple.

“A lot of your men are dead or wounded. You’ve as good as lost. Your days are done. Surrender quietly while you can, and don’t bring destruction on yourself. My patience is limited.”

“Yes, it’s not too late for you to surrender now,”

Jennifer added, pulling Caroline up again and pinching her neck.

Despite her bleeding hand, she looked calm and steady.

Somehow, seeing her maintain her composure in this situation made me feel sorry for her. Caroline had to pay for everything she did!

"You son of a bitch!"

Struggling to get up, Austin glared at me.

"I curse you to die a miserable death. You just want to steal the throne from me! How dare you covet it?"

Right now, in my eyes, Austin was nothing but a contemptible scoundrel.

Ignoring his curses, I asked my private guards to bring the elders who had fled in all directions back here.

These elders had all huddled in the corners during the battle.

A few of them who didn't know that the fight was over were still squatting awkwardly under the dining table.

When they were led to me, their faces turned red.

"Everyone, you have witnessed the evidence to Austin's crimes with your own eyes. The evidence is irrefutable,"

I announced, staring pointedly at the elders who dodged my eyes.

"Now, are you still in support of this tyrant as our king?"

My question was met with tense silence.

I knew that for these powerful elders, the utmost priority was to guarantee their own safety.

They wouldn't take sides unless I put pressure on them.

"Elders, you are all important officials. It would be a dereliction of duty for you to flinch at such a critical moment. Let's all take a vote. Those who support Austin to continue to be the king, please raise your hands," I snapped.

The elders exchanged glances. A few seconds passed, but none of them raised their hands.

"Bastards! You traitors!"



Austin scolded, glaring daggers at Visit to read the newest content, everyone! the elders hesitantly raised their hands.

They were both Austin's loyal followers.

But that was all; a whole minute passed, but no one else Visit to read the newest content, everyone! officially been dethroned. From this moment on, you are no longer our king."

I made Austin get back up on his knees and twisted his head around, forcing him to look around the hall.

The floor was littered with corpses and stained with blood.

"Look, Austin, this is your crime. These people were supposed to be responsible for protecting our kingdom. But because of your selfish desire, they've sacrificed their lives for nothing. You have caused too many deaths. You don't deserve to be our king."

"Ask Austin to abdicate!"

"Yeah, Austin's Visit to read the newest content, everyone! seemed to arouse the anger of the others in the hall, who soon echoed after me.

Even the elders joined in the shouting to scold Austin.

"Humph! Even if I abdicate, Anthony can't be the next king. Just now, all of you saw his mate's good friend control the wind, right? She's a spy sent by the vampires. Anthony is colluding with the vampires!"

Austin roared, attracting the attention of the people around us.

I knew he was trying to distract them by bringing up how Skylar had Visit to read the newest content, everyone! let that happen.

"It's still to be investigated whether Skylar is a vampire or not, but it's an irrefutable fact that you killed the former king. On top of that, you're also guilty of murder, smuggling, and drug trafficking. Do you think we are fools, Austin?"

I abruptly let goof Austin, making him fall to the floor.

"Your greed and selfishness are disgusting."

The people around us nodded fervently in agreement, and their voices against Austin grew louder and louder.

"This bastard is finally getting the retribution he deserves!" Dana said sharply with tears of happiness welling up in his eyes.

He had been a loyal subordinate of the former king, so there was no one more satisfied than him to see Austin being humiliated and overthrown.

"Kill this bastard!" Gary cursed Austin.

"Put Austin and Caroline in a jail cell for the time being," I ordered my private guards.

"Why? I didn't commit any crime! I'm the queen of this kingdom!"

After Austin was escorted away, it was Caroline's turn, but she protested, struggling desperately against the guards.

"Caroline, let me tell you what crime you have committed."

I walked towards Caroline step by step and stared at her expressionlessly.

She shivered and didn't dare to meet my gaze.

"First of all, you colluded with the wizard to harm my mother. The reason she couldn't wake up was because you asked the wizard to use the sleeping curse on her. Second, you used the wizard's black magic to make me lose my memories and my sense of smell so that I wouldn't remember my mate, and you even lied to me that the baby in your belly was mine," I said slowly.

"And then you colluded with Austin."

"You don't have any evidence!"

Caroline retorted loudly, shaking her head.

"Larry, the grand wizard who appeared just now, is the evidence. He clearly used black magic on us."

But even as I spoke, I frowned, suddenly realizing that Larry was absent. I turned around and looked at my private guards.

"Where is Larry? Bring him here."

"I'm sorry, Mr. Jones! Larry got away!"

At this time, Roy ran over to me with several other wizards, panting for breath.

Regret was written all over his face.

"After the battle, we kept a close eye on him. When he made a move to escape, we tried our best to stop him, but we couldn't defeat him. He is too strong!"

"It's not your fault. Larry is a cunning wizard." I shook my head.

Hearing this, Caroline burst into wild laughter.

"Anthony, do you have any other evidence?" I stared at her, lost in thought.

We did have a witness, of course: my mother.

However, she was still recuperating in my private residence.

"I can testify!"

A high and familiar voice suddenly sounded outside the hall.

I looked over in confusion, only to find that my mother had entered the banquet hall with the help of a servant.

"Mom, what are you doing here?" I hurried forward to support her; Jennifer followed suit.

"I'm glad that you are all right. I hope I'm not too late."

My mother had obviously rushed here, because she was out of breath.

She held my hand and mustered up a smile at Jennifer.

"I was worried about the two of you, so I insisted on coming here.

"Don't worry, Mrs. Jones. We have succeeded,"

Jennifer assured my mother, patting her hand.

"Caroline, stop with your shameless lies. You almost made it impossible for me to wake up!" my mother snarled as she tried her best to walk towards Caroline.

Her eyes flashed with anger, and she raised a trembling finger to point at Caroline.

"I fainted after eating the bowl of porridge that you gave me. If Anthony hadn't found a wizard who could wake me up, I would still be lying in bed! Caroline, I always treated you as my own daughter, but you betrayed me like this!"

As soon as Caroline saw my mother, her face turned pale.

In the face of my mother's questions, she couldn't say anything to defend herself.

She had no choice but to let the guards escort her out of the banquet hall with resentment on her face.

"Anthony! There is no antidote to the Love Curse! Even though I've failed, you won't be able to live a good life. You will always bear the piercing pain until you die!"

Austin shouted, cursing me one last time before being dragged out of the banquet hall.

Jennifer and my mother both looked worried after hearing Austin's words. I didn't have words to comfort them, so I quietly held them in my arms.

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Jennifer's POV: Seeing Austin being taken away, I finally heaved a sigh of relief. We won. We finally won! Now that Austin no longer held any power, Anthony didn't need to worry that Austin would kill him. I held Elizabeth's hand tightly and looked at Anthony with mixed feelings. But just as soon as I started to relax, Austin struggled hard to turn around and burst into crazed laughter. "Anthony! There is no antidote to the Love Curse! Even though I've failed, you won't be able to live a good life. You will always bear the piercing pain until you die!" He spoke loudly, as though he wanted me to overhear him. Despite trying my best to look calm, I knew my expression must've given myself away. As much as I hated to admit it, Austin was right. Anthony was still bound by the Love Curse. My future with Anthony was still uncertain.

We exchanged glances, uncertain as to what to do. But I didn't dare to disturb him. Anthony was busy ordering his attendants to clean up the aftermath of the battle. Anthony was born to be a king. I just knew he would be an outstanding leader. Seeing him now made me so proud. "Mr. Jones, the country needs a king. Please take over the throne!" At this moment, an elder who had once supported Austin stood out and bowed respectfully to Anthony. This took me by surprise, but I couldn't help but feel happy. Anthony's actions to overthrow Austin obviously won the support of the public. "I also believe that you should take over the throne, Mr. Jones! You will definitely be a worthy king." Some elders echoed in agreement. For a moment, Anthony was surrounded by supportive followers. They cheered for him, as though Anthony had already ascended to the throne. "Please rest assured, everyone, that I will do everything in my power to protect the country and its people.

This is what my father would have wanted." Despite the crowd's overwhelming support, Anthony remained calm and didn't show a trace of complacency. "But before that—" "Mr. Jones, I have a question." An elder with grey hair suddenly stepped out of the crowd and interrupted Anthony. I remember that he was one of the two elders who had raised their hands to support Austin just now. "Please go ahead, Elder Eric," Anthony replied calmly. "Mr. Jones, please excuse my bluntness, but what exactly is this Love Curse?" Eric glared at Anthony with unfriendly eyes. As expected, Austin's followers were relentless. But even I

shared the same sentiments, as I was worried about the curse too. I looked at Anthony nervously, not knowing how he would respond. "I've heard of the Love Curse. It is ancient and was almost lost over time. Those who are cursed by it cannot have feelings for the ones they love, or they would experience a piercing pain in their chest. The worst case scenario is death from heartache." An elder with a walking stick approached Anthony, shaking his head. "

How do you know this curse, Primo?" another elder asked. "My grandfather was once cursed by it, and he died because of it in the end," Primo replied gloomily. The crowd sighed and then looked to Anthony for answers. "Mr. Jones, is this true? Have you really been cursed by Love Curse?" "Yes. Austin and Caroline, together with the grand wizard Larry, cursed me," Anthony admitted frankly under the crowd's expectant gaze. "But I'm looking for a wizard to remove the curse. There must be a solution." "I'm afraid there isn't, Mr. Jones. No ordinary wizard can remove it. My grandfather used to be the most powerful warrior of his pack. The Alpha did everything in his power to look for a wizard who could lift the curse, but in the end, it was futile." Primo shook his head with a sigh. "There is no solution to the Love Curse. If the cursed want to survive, they can do nothing but cut ties with their love." All of a sudden, everyone's eyes turned to me. "Miss Smith, Mrs. Jones is about to shoulder the heavy responsibility of becoming king. If this curse puts his life in danger, then—on behalf of the people—I beg you to stay away from him!"

Primo suddenly bowed deeply to me and pleaded with me sharply. "Wait a moment..." I took a step back and looked at Primo in astonishment. "Miss Smith, please let Mrs. Jones go. Don't let your love get in the way of him ruling the country!" Another elder also bowed to me, but his words were like a knife to my heart. I understood what they were asking of me. Anthony couldn't just give up his duty as future king for my sake. Plus, Larry had escaped without a trace. Any chance of removing the Love Curse was very slim. But I couldn't let go of Anthony. I loved him too much. Anthony's POV:

"I have said that I will be with Jennifer forever. I will marry her. She is more important to me than my own life." Seeing the elders pressure Jennifer made my heart tighten. She shouldn't have to endure such a burden for me. I was the one who was naive enough to fall into Caroline's trap, which was how I got cursed in the first place. I walked up to Jennifer and held her hand tightly, trying my best to give her warmth and support. "If you insist on marrying Miss Smith, what will you do when the Love Curse attacks you? How can you become king like this? If you can't protect yourself, how are you going to protect your kingdom and people?" Eric glared at Jennifer aggressively. "Mr. Jones, I implore you to reconsider." "Yes, Mr. Jones, please think twice about the position you're in!" Primo echoed. "Please don't dismiss the needs of the country for the sake of love. Please let go of Miss Smith!"

"Mr. Jones, you must choose between the throne and Miss Smith. Do you really want to give up the throne for love?" Just moments earlier, these elders were cheering me on and supporting me. Now, they were all ganging up on me. I looked around at the crowd coldly. "Even if it means giving up everything else, I won't give up on Jennifer. She is my mate designated by Moon Goddess. We will be together for the rest of our lives," I said firmly. "What?!" Obviously, Eric didn't expect me to say that. His expression fell. He pointed at Jennifer and scolded, "Why, you! You've bewitched Mr. Jones, making him refuse to take the throne!" "What's so good about this she-wolf, Mr. Jones? How can she even compete with the throne?"

Primo demanded unhappily. "Anthony, I know you're just trying to be there for me, but please stop!" Tears welled up in Jennifer's eyes as she threw herself into my arms. "Honey, I know you love me, and I love you too. But this Love Curse is too dangerous. You can't afford to be so impulsive!" Seeing Jennifer cry like this made me feel terrible. "No, Jennifer, I love you more than my life," I said softly, hugging her tightly. "The throne is not as important as you. I have to follow my heart. I will definitely marry you. If the elders don't agree, then I will give up the throne."

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Elizabeth's POV: Seeing that Austin was finally getting what he deserved, I couldn't help but burst into tears of joy. "My dear husband, did you see that? Our son has finally avenged you! Thank God that justice was served. Now, Anthony will ascend to the throne and lead our people to a bright future. I wiped my tears with a handkerchief, thinking wistfully about the time my husband was still alive. Then, I recalled what Anthony had gone through. All sorts of emotions surged within me. However, I overheard the elders scolding Anthony because he refused to give up his mate in spite of the Love Curse.

Oh, that terrible curse! Austin had gone through lengths to get rid of Anthony, even going so far as to collude with the wizard Larry. How vicious they were! Worse still, Larry had disappeared without a trace. With him gone, any hope of lifting the curse was dashed. In order for Anthony to survive, he had no choice but to give up his love. But thinking about how good a girl Jennifer was and how much Anthony loved her, I truly felt sorry for them. I wiped my tears away and watched as Anthony stepped in front of Jennifer to protect her. For a moment, I didn't know what to do. "Mr. Jones, Are you really going to give up the throne for the sake of your mate?" Eric pressed on relentlessly. Obviously, he still wanted to restore Austin's power. Seeing this, I took a deep breath and asked the maid to help me to Anthony's side. "Everyone." I raised my voice and looked at Eric meaningfully. "Austin has already confessed to his crimes. No matter what, he is not qualified to be the king.

Now, the only one fit for the throne is Anthony, who has proven himself time and time again." "Mrs. Jones, we fully recognize his capabilities, but we have to

consider the welfare of the kingdom. He has been cursed. If he doesn't draw a clear line between him and Miss Smith, we can't just let him take over the throne. We can't support a king who may die at any time." Primo bowed respectfully to me, but his tone was very firm. "If that's the case, then I don't see the need for Anthony to ascend to the throne so soon. He can temporarily oversee the state affairs, while I can do my best to assist and supervise him. Although I'm old, I can still work," I said firmly. After thinking it over, I knew that giving Anthony a chance to take over the throne was the right thing to do. Like his father, he was also a man who valued those closest to him. His love for Jennifer was similar to his father's love for me. A love as precious as that should not be taken lightly. "But this is just a Band-Aid solution!"

Eric snorted. "Are you saying you still support Austin as the king, Eric?" I asked fiercely. "Mrs. Jones, I... I didn't mean that..." Eric stuttered, lowering his head shamefacedly. "Then please consider my suggestion carefully. How about we both compromise?" I softened my tone and glanced at the nervous Jennifer behind me. "Otherwise, do you have a better solution?" The elders and I looked at each other in silence. After what seemed like an eternity, Primo finally sighed and broke the silence. "Okay, I agree." Then, the other elders started to exchange glances and nod. 'Finally!' I smiled with relief. At least we could all rest assured that the throne wouldn't be taken over by anyone else in the near future. Jennifer's POV: I was so moved to see Elizabeth take a stand. I knew she was doing this not just for Anthony, but for me, too. Under Elizabeth's influence, the elders finally reached a compromise. They no longer pressured Anthony to choose between me and the throne. I heaved a sigh of relief. "But there is one more thing I hope you can explain to everyone, Mr. Jones," Eric suddenly said. His words made my heart skip a beat. I couldn't help but stare nervously at the elder who always made things difficult for Anthony. "Please go ahead." Even in the face of unmasked rudeness, Anthony was still calm. "Mr. Jones, why are you in contact with wizards?"

Eric glanced at Roy and the other wizards with disdain. "Because I found out that Austin was secretly colluding with the grand wizard Larry. Only wizards can deal with wizards," Anthony answered flatly. "Besides, my mother and I were both cursed by Larry with black magic. As a result, we had to find a wizard to lift the curses." With such a straightforward explanation, Eric was rendered speechless. "Do you have any other questions?" Anthony looked around. He was met with silence. "Such being the case, that's all for today. I will hold a meeting tomorrow to discuss all the matters that have arisen from today. If you find you have any questions or concerns, you can raise them then. Now, I know that everyone is exhausted, so let's all get some rest." And with that, the elders bowed respectfully and slowly dispersed. When they were gone, Anthony asked Elizabeth's maid to help her back to her room. I knew he was worried about his mother's health. After that was settled, I slipped my hand into his and breathed a long sigh of relief.

Today's chaos had finally come to an end. While the attendants were cleaning up the mess, Anthony and I went over to our friends. "Thank you, Roy. If it weren't for you, we wouldn't have reached victory so soon." Anthony shook Roy's hand gratefully. "You're welcome. I just did what I could." Roy smiled modestly. "Gary, Dana, thank you as well. Without your testimonies, we wouldn't have been able to

overthrow Austin in one go." Anthony turned to the two soldiers and bowed slightly. "It was the right thing to do, Mr. Jones." Dana patted his chest. "We couldn't let the former king die without justice."

Gary nodded in agreement. "Thank you, everyone. I really appreciate your help. But I have one more request. Could you help us find Larry? Only when we find him can we have the chance to remove the Love Curse. If Anthony can be saved, I'm willing to pay any price," I said sincerely. My face turned red and flustered. I was painfully aware that the wizards had already done so much for us. But I had to ask them for their help again for Anthony. "Oh, you're welcome, Jennifer." Cynthia smiled at me. "It's nothing. Don't worry, we'll try our best to help. Won't we, Roy?" "Of course. If you need anything else, feel free to reach us." All the other wizards nodded in agreement. Anthony thanked the wizards again, and then arranged for his attendants to escort Gary, Dana, and the wizards out of the banquet hall. I watched them leave and smiled softly.

With the help of these wizards, maybe we had a chance to find Larry. "Honey, let's head back." Anthony held my hand. He looked at the wound Caroline's bite had left and frowned. "You're injured. Let's have a doctor treat your wound." "No, Anthony. I'm fine." I shook my head. "Right now, I need to find my brother and Skylar. I don't know how they're doing. What if they weren't able to escape?" Thinking of Skylar's condition, I became worried again. I firmly believed that Jerome would do everything in his power to protect her. Yet, I still couldn't help but fret that something might have happened to them.

Anthony didn't protest. He just held my hand and silently expressed his support. Together, we headed to the periphery of the royal palace to search for them, but we saw no sign of Skylar and Jerome. I tried calling and texting them both, but received no response. "Has Jerome..." I stopped and looked at the forest, feeling more and more uneasy. "Don't worry, Jennifer. Jerome is a strong and capable werewolf. Skylar will be fine." Anthony wrapped his arms around me to comfort me. I gnawed my lower lip anxiously. I sure hoped he was right. "Skylar, Jerome, please be safe," I closed my eyes and prayed in my head.

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Jerome's POV: I didn't stop running until I reached one corner of the garden. There were bushes here where Skylar and I could hide. I crouched down behind some bushes and cautiously peeked over the leaves. I wanted to check if our pursuers were still following us. I didn't see any of our pursuers, but the path beyond the bushes was full of guests from the banquet. "Have you heard? Apparently, Austin killed the previous king. For that, Anthony overthrew his brother and imprisoned him. So will Anthony be the new king?" "But he's afflicted with the Love Curse, which is an unbreakable curse.

That is unless he's not in love." "How horrible! I heard that there was a vampire in the banquet hall!" The guests gossiped as they walked past the bushes. Their voices were really loud so I heard them clearly. According to them, the battle had come to an end. Anthony had successfully overthrown Austin. I couldn't help but



feel relieved for him. But I was also worried about Skylar. "I wonder how a vampire managed to sneak in here. That damned vampire!" As the guests continued to talk, I looked down at Skylar. She seemed to shrink in my arms, and her face was pale. She obviously overheard their conversation as well. "Don't worry, honey. Austin is no longer a threat, and Anthony is next in line to the throne."

He won't believe the rumors. Besides, Jennifer will do her best to prove that you are innocent," I told Skylar in an effort to comfort her. Her frightened look made my heart ache. "But I do have special powers, Jerome. What if I really am a vampire?" Skylar whispered. "What do I do?" I hugged Skylar, feeling sorry for her. To me, Skylar was Skylar. I didn't care who or what she was because I love her, but others would not see it that way. While I was racking my brains to comfort her, a cat suddenly popped out from the bushes. The cat yowled and pounced on Skylar. I quickly threw out an arm to block it, but she still got startled so she screamed. "Who's there?" The guests immediately stopped chatting and turned towards the bushes where we were hiding. A few of them even walked towards us. If they came even closer, we were going to be found. After taking a deep breath, I dashed out of the bushes with Skylar in my arms and made my way to the palace gates. "That's her! She's the vampire!" someone shouted from behind us. "Catch her!" As I ran, I looked back and saw the guests chasing after us. They shouted a lot, attracting the attention of the guards. "You traitor! How dare you defend that vampire? Stop right now and hand her over! Otherwise, you'll be punished for helping her!" one of the werewolves running at the front of the pack yelled at me. "I'm not a vampire!"

Skylar covered her ears. "No, I'm not..." "Calm down, everyone. Nothing has been confirmed yet!" I tried to persuade the werewolves chasing us, but they obviously didn't want to listen to me. In their eyes, there was a vampire. Vampires were our sworn enemies. Our pursuers increased. I became concerned that we would be surrounded. "Hold on tight to me, honey. We're going to go over the palace wall!" I looked up at the wall as I whispered to Skylar. She nodded obediently. I ran a few steps towards the palace wall and then jumped. Even with Skylar in my arms, I managed to make it over the border, leaving our pursuers behind us. "Catch them!" However, there were also guards on the other side of the wall. When they saw me climb over, they surrounded us at once. I really didn't want to hurt the guards because they were my colleagues. But I had to take Skylar away. I had no choice but to knock the guards down to the ground, avoiding their vital parts. After that, I rushed to the forest in the suburb. Skylar's POV: My heart raced as Jerome protected me and then carried me off into the forest. I had never been as confused and helpless as I was now. "Skylar, are you uncomfortable? Are you tired of running around while carrying our baby?"

Jerome came to a stop before a big tree and set me down on a large rock. He looked very concerned. I took Jerome's hand and sat down. He really had nothing to worry about. He had been carrying me this whole time so I was not tired at all. "I'm fine, Jerome. You protected me all the way here. What about you? You didn't get hurt, did you? I'm sorry, Jerome, for getting you into trouble..." I shook my head, feeling very guilty, and hugged Jerome. "It's all my fault, but I really don't know why I have special powers!" "Don't be sad, Skylar. I know you're not a spy." Jerome cupped my face in his hands and looked at me with a serious expression. "Even if you really have vampire blood, I'll still love you. I love everything about you." I had not expected Jerome to say that, and tears welled up in my eyes. "But Jerome, I will only be a burden to you."

I shook my head while tears streamed down my face. "Everyone thinks I'm a vampire now so I can't show my face anywhere. You're about to become Alpha. You can't get involved with me. I can't be your Luna anymore, Jerome." I felt heartbroken while saying all that. "No. The position of Alpha is important, but for me, there is only one Skylar in this world. I love you, Skylar. You're the only want that I want. For you, I can give up everything," Jerome declared.

I was deeply touched by his sincere words. Jerome! He was my love and my mate! I was so lucky to have him. I hugged Jerome, and then we kissed passionately. After a while, we finally let go of each other and took a minute to catch our breaths. "What do you want to do next, Skylar?" Jerome and I looked at each other, our eyes full of affection. I held his hand and burrowed myself in his arms. "I want to contact Jennifer first." As I spoke, I fumbled for my phone, but I failed to find it. It must have fallen while we were escaping. Seeing that I did not have my phone, Jerome took out his, but it was already out of power.

"Don't be afraid, Skylar. We can find a cave to hide and spend the night in," Jerome said. He then helped me stand. I nodded and followed him into the depths of the forest. We eventually found a cave and prepared ourselves to stay there overnight. The cave was damp and cold so we snuggled up against each other. Jerome's mere presence warmed me from my heart down to my toes. Was Jennifer looking for us? We had no means to contact her, and we did not know if our pursuers would find us first. What should we do next?

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Anthony's POV: After I sent my trusted subordinates to look for Jerome and Skylar, Jennifer and I once again walked around the royal palace to look for them, but we still couldn't find any trace of them. The worried look on Jennifer's face made me feel sorry for her, but I knew that no matter how hard I tried to comfort her, it wouldn't be of any help. After all, Jerome was her brother, while Skylar was her best friend. Two of the closest people to her were missing. There was no doubt that she must be feeling very anxious right now. I could only accompany her silently."

Mr. Jones, two suspected spies from the vampires side have escaped from the royal palace." Once we reached the royal palace, a guard rushed over, bowed to me, and reported the news. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Jennifer's face darken. "Okay, I see. You can leave now," I said to the guard while squeezing Jennifer's hand to calm her down. "Yes, Mr. Jones." The guard promptly left. "Anthony, I can't stay here and do nothing. I want to look for them outside the royal palace," Jennifer said, decisively turning around to leave. "Jennifer, don't worry. Skylar is with Jerome right now. With his protection, she'll be fine. Jerome is the future Alpha, and he's very strong. You should trust him," I said, trying to comfort Jennifer."

Let's go back and have a good rest. I've already sent my men to look for them. They'll let us know as soon as they find something." "But Anthony, I'm really worried about Skylar." Jennifer sighed, with reluctance written all over her face. "Honey, this is not the right time. Many people know that I have been bewitched with the Love Curse and that you are my mate," I explained in a gentle voice, pulling Jennifer into my arms. "Whether we know it or not, there are many eyes on us. It's not safe for us to go out and look for them. The remaining people in Austin's faction may take the opportunity to get revenge on us." "You're right, Anthony. Let's go and get some sleep. You must be tired after the long day." Jennifer's eyes softened, and she took my hand. Her words of concern for me filled my heart with happiness. I accompanied Jennifer back to our bedroom, but not before ordering my men to strengthen the search for Jerome and Skylar to the periphery of the royal palace.

I only sent out the men that I absolutely trusted. If and when they found Jerome and Skylar, they would immediately bring them to me without letting any harm come to them. Once we were in the bedroom, Jennifer pulled me to sit down. "Anthony, how do you feel? Is the Love Curse having an effect on you?" Jennifer asked with concern. "I'm fine, honey. Go to sleep. You must be tired after fighting with all those guards." I pulled Jennifer onto the bed, caressed her hair, and coaxed her to lie down. "I keep having this fear that I'll hurt you, Anthony," Jennifer said in a tortured voice. "I don't want to see you suffer at all." "That will never happen, honey. Go to sleep. No matter what happens, I won't give up on you." I bent closer and kissed Jennifer's forehead. Then, I tucked her in. Under my constant care, Jennifer finally closed her eyes and let sleep envelop her. It was obvious that she was exhausted from today's battle, but she had tried her best not to show it. I quietly slipped out of the bedroom and headed straight to the bathroom, quickening my pace with every step. When I entered the bathroom, I couldn't suppress the pain in my chest any longer and spat out a large mouthful of blood in the sink. The sight of the red liquid staining the porcelain sink gripped my heart, making it hard for me to breathe. If things went on like this, would I really die? I was not afraid of dying, but I couldn't bear to leave Jennifer alone. I turned on the tap and watched as the running water washed the blood away. Then, I wiped the remaining dots of red for fear of being discovered. When I was listening to the guard report just now, my chest began to ache.

After I took Jennifer to the bedroom, the pain only worsened. Despite taking the magic medicine, I still felt unbearable pain. It seemed that the power of the Love Curse was so terrible that even magic medicine couldn't suppress it. It seemed that I needed to find Larry as soon as possible to remove the curse. I didn't have much time left. After calming down somewhat, I went back to the bedroom and found Jennifer sleeping soundly, which gave me a sense of relief. Then, I went to the monitoring room alone to get the surveillance footage of the banquet hall today. I wanted to find out Larry's whereabouts. Unfortunately, what I found only left me feeling even more frustrated. Frowning, I replayed the particular scene of Larry escaping a few times, but every single time, I saw the same thing: Larry disappeared into thin air after walking out of the banquet hall. No wonder he was a grand wizard. He had brilliant tricks up his sleeve. But for me, this was a matter of life and death;

I would definitely find him. Jennifer's POV: I couldn't fall asleep at all. I didn't know where Skylar and Jerome were, or if they were even okay. And to make matters worse, I knew that the Love Curse could attack Anthony at any time. These two things constantly bore down on me, making me feel anxious and uneasy. But I didn't want Anthony to worry about me, so I lay down on the bed and pretended to be asleep. There was something wrong with his expression. I knew him too well. Although he pretended as if he was completely fine, I could see the trace of a lingering pain on his face. With my eyes closed, I heard Anthony's footsteps fade away. After a few seconds, I scrambled up to my feet and followed him secretly. I tailed Anthony all the way to the bathroom and saw him spit out a mouthful of blood into the sink. When I saw that scene, I had to cover my mouth to suppress the scream that threatened to escape my lips. I didn't want to let Anthony know that I was here.

If he knew that his white lie was exposed, he might blame himself more. Suppressing the sadness in my heart, I sneaked away and slipped back into bed, once again pretending to be asleep. Just as I thought, after a while, Anthony came back to the bedroom to see me. He didn't leave until he made sure that I was asleep. As soon as he left, I sat up again. The image of Anthony spitting out blood because of the Love Curse drove a knife through my heart. How many more times would he have to suffer like this? I couldn't sit still and wait for him to die. But what could I do? I sat on the bed in a daze for a moment. Suddenly, Austin, who had been sent to jail, came to mind. Since I couldn't find Larry now, maybe I could start with Austin. After all, he was the one who had asked Larry to curse Anthony. He must know where to find Larry. Thinking of this, I couldn't bear to waste time any longer. I immediately walked out of the room and towards the dungeon.

When I arrived there, the guards didn't stop me. It was only after passing through multiple heavy doors and entering the innermost part of the dungeons that I saw Austin and Caroline, cooped up in the same jail cell. "Bitch, how dare you show your face here?" As soon as Caroline saw me, she shot up from the floor, screamed, and rushed forward. Her hands tightly gripped the iron bars and shook them, as if she wanted nothing more than to tear me apart right now. "Oh, wow. Aren't you the bitch that Anthony is playing with? How could you have the time to come to such a place? Shouldn't you be trying your best to please him? Otherwise, he will ride off with another woman!" Austin taunted me, coming over as well. He glared at me with his eyes narrow, as if he was shooting daggers at me. "Austin, do you know where Larry is?" I asked expressionlessly. Launching into a verbal dispute with the two of them would only be a waste of my time. I didn't care about their insults. "You want to remove the curse? Bah! No way!" Austin spit hard on the floor. "Don't break your pretty little head thinking about it.

There is no solution to the Love Curse. You've no choice but to watch Anthony slowly die of heartache. Ha-ha!" "That's right. Stop dreaming, Jennifer. Why should we help you?" Caroline burst into laughter, too. "Please tell me where Larry is. I beg you, Austin," I said through gritted teeth, trying to remain as humble as possible. I came here to save Anthony's life, so I had to endure whatever insults they hurled at me. "Ha, how touching! If I tell you where Larry is, what will I get in return?" Austin asked with his lips widening into a sinister smile. "I'll plead with Anthony to spare your lives."

"Ha! You think I care about living? I have lost the throne. There is no point in living without it!" Austin refused without hesitation. "Austin, please. Please tell me where Larry is," I begged, clenching my jaw. I had no other choice but to pin all my hopes on Austin. "I'm willing to do anything!" "All right. I can tell you, but you have to show me your sincerity. Is this the attitude you have when you ask someone for help? Kneel down and beg me. Maybe I will be merciful enough to think about it." Austin raised his chin arrogantly and looked down at me.

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Austin's POV: "I can give up my dignity for Anthony's sake, because he is the most important to me," Jennifer said slowly, looking straight into my taunting eyes. "Then what are you waiting for? Kneel" I began, feeling complacent. But before I could finish my words, Jennifer interrupted me. "But I will never kneel down to a villain like you!" Jennifer said coldly. The damned bitch! I was so furious that I punched the iron bars with my fist, which sent a stinging pain through my knuckles. "I will never tell you where Larry is! Get out of here!" I snarled, pointing at Jennifer. "Just wait to bury Anthony's dead body."

Despite my firm response, Jennifer continued to stare at me expressionlessly, as if I was a clown in her eyes. What a bitch! "How can I get you to tell me where Larry is? Just put forward your condition, Austin," Jennifer said, crossing her arms over her chest. Her tone was plain, and less humble than before. "Don't even think about it unless you can help me succeed to the throne again!" I sneered. "In your dreams. Austin, you've already lost the support of the public. It's impossible for you to be the king again. It looks like trying to negotiate with you is a waste of time. Good luck!" After saying that, Jennifer turned around and stormed out of the dungeon. I bristled with anger as I watched her receding back, but there was nothing I could do. "Austin..." I was still trying to calm down when Caroline, who had been silent all this time, suddenly sighed, walked up to me, and grabbed my arm.

"Why didn't you negotiate with Jennifer seriously just now? Right now, our priority is to get out of here so that we can survive somehow. As long as Anthony is here, it's impossible for you to become the king again." "What's the point of leaving this cell if I can't be the king? Without the throne, I can only live in hiding and seclusion. I would rather die than live a life like that. Besides, I have no idea where Larry is. That cunning man is probably far away from here by now. How could I know where he is?" I explained, waving my hand impatiently. "Anyway, even if I know where Larry is, I'll never tell them. I've already made up my mind. I want to wait and watch Anthony die with my own eyes. I would rather die with him than watch him ascend the throne!"

"But I don't want to die, Austin. I'm carrying our baby in my belly. Don't you want to hear it call you Dad?" Caroline protested in an aggrieved voice, holding my hand. When I looked at the sorrow on her pretty face, my heart softened. "I know Anthony well. He's not inhuman. For the sake of the baby, he won't kill you," I comforted Caroline in a soft voice, caressing her face. Caroline's POV: I was shocked that Austin could be so stubborn even in the face of impending doom. "Austin, please give up. I don't care about being the queen anymore. I just want to give birth to our baby and live a peaceful life with you," I pleaded as I embraced Austin, desperately hoping I could change his mind. "

Do you really think we'll be able to live a peaceful life after this? Wake up, Caroline. We are prisoners now. You have to face the truth." Austin hugged me back, but his tone was firm. It seemed that he was resigned to his fate. However, I still wanted to survive, and I wanted Austin to be with me. "Austin, no. Stop fighting with Anthony. Otherwise, you will be killed!" I couldn't help but burst into tears as I spoke, clutching onto Austin's clothes. "Don't you get it, Caroline? I don't care about dying. Every time I think of how Anthony will be tortured to death by the Love Curse, I feel extremely happy. As long as he dies with me, I will die without regret!" Austin remained unmoved. I gritted my teeth. I couldn't understand why Austin was being so stubborn, even to the very end. "Austin, come on. I truly believe that if you admit that you were wrong to Anthony, he will let you go. As you said, he's not in human." Holding Austin's hand, I looked into his eyes and tried to persuade him. "Admit that I was wrong to Anthony? When hell freezes over. I'll never give into him. Stop saying such words, Caroline," Austin replied, avoiding my eyes. I was rendered speechless by Austin's stern refusal. For a long time, the prison cell was quiet. It was not until footsteps were heard outside the cell again that the suffocating silence was broken. I thought it was Jennifer coming back to talk to us again, but to my surprise, it was Elizabeth. With the help of a servant, she staggered towards the cell.

The moment I saw her, I instinctively took a step back. After all, I had asked the wizard to put a curse on her. I was afraid that she had come here to get even with me. "Caroline, I've come here to ask you a question. Why did you ask the wizard to put a sleeping curse on me?" Elizabeth asked coldly, looking straight at me as if Austin didn't exist. "Why? All this time, I'd treated you like my own flesh and blood, but you stabbed me in the back." I took a long look at Elizabeth. The kind and tender look that she used to have on her face when she looked at me was gone, replaced by righteous anger and disgust. Guilt flooded me, making a lump rise in my throat. All of a sudden, my legs became weak, and I dropped to my knees in front of her.

"I'm sorry, Mrs. Jones. I must have been out of my mind back then. I was so desperate to marry Anthony that I thought I could deceive him as long as I put you in a long slumber," I explained in a shaky voice. Tears streamed down my eyes as I stretched my arm through the gap in the iron bars of the cell and tried to hold the hem of Elizabeth's dress. "I'm sorry, Mrs. Jones. I know I was wrong. I'm sorry for what I did. Please forgive me!" "I really misjudged you, Caroline. From now on, I'll never look at you as my daughter." Elizabeth's eyes turned red, but her voice was cold and steady.

She turned her head away, refusing to look at me. "Please, Mrs. Jones, help me and Austin. I don't want to die. I still have a baby in my belly! I'm sorry. I really know I was wrong. Mrs. Jones... No, Mom..." I cried and begged. Sobs racked my

body, which was gripped with an insurmountable regret that I'd never felt before. I clearly remembered how much Elizabeth used to dote on me. How could I do such a thing to her? If I could turn back time, I would never make such a stupid choice. Thinking of all the memories I shared with Elizabeth, I felt so ashamed. "You...Alas..." It seemed that Elizabeth was touched after hearing me call her "Mom," because she closed her eyes and sighed.

Well, for the sake of the good days we shared, I will plead with Anthony to spare you and your child." Elizabeth's face quickly returned to its stony state, and her lips pressed into a thin line. "But even if you can avoid death, you can't escape punishment. You'll have to spend the rest of your life reflecting on what you have done." After saying that, Elizabeth left with her servant, not sparing me another glance. Looking at her receding back, I was filled with so much gratitude and relief that I collapsed on the floor and cried silently. I really hadn't expected that Elizabeth would agree to plead on my behalf. It was proof of how much she had loved me in the past. But I had failed her. I really didn't deserve to be her daughter. I felt so guilty. Now that things had come to this, would I still have a chance at redemption?

## Outcast: The Alpha King's Beloved

### Chapter 197

[/ Outcast: The Alpha King's Beloved](#)

Elizabeth's POV: The moment I saw Caroline in that jail cell, I felt as though someone had reached into my chest and squeezed my heart out. After all, despite our differences, she was someone I once loved dearly. Although I no longer considered Caroline to be my loving daughter anymore, I simply couldn't bring myself to let her rot in there after all the fond memories we had of each other as mother and daughter. "Tell them to get Caroline out of there.

I must have a word with her," I ordered the maid standing by my side after I walked out of the prison. Before long, the maid brought Caroline to my room. "Mrs. Jones, what can I do for you?" Caroline asked softly as she lowered her head, seemingly to avoid making eye contact. The maid helped me sit on the sofa, and I couldn't hide the look of concern in my eyes as I sighed. "Have a seat. Don't just stand there. It's not good for the baby." I pointed at the sofa across me since I didn't have the heart to see Caroline in such a pitiful state. Caroline hesitated at first, but eventually, she sat down, albeit with some awkwardness. "I wanted to speak with you about the Love Curse. Tell me everything you know about it," I said slowly, clenching my fist to suppress my anger. Every time the thought of Anthony's painful face appeared in my mind, I could feel the anger boiling inside me like poisonous venom.

"Okay, Mrs. Jones. I'll tell you. It all started when I tried to make Anthony forget Jennifer and take me as his mate. I asked Larry to use a spell to erase his memories of her, but I didn't expect that Larry would take that opportunity to

bewitch him with the Love Curse. Later, when I failed to win Anthony's heart, in my anger and frustration, I went to Larry again. When he told me about the Love Curse, I thought it was my only chance to be with Anthony, and so I gave him permission to activate the curse. After all, if I couldn't have Anthony, I couldn't let anyone else have him either,"

Caroline said gingerly after a moment of silence. I looked at Caroline in shock and disappointment. I never thought that she would do something like that to Anthony. All because of her one-sided love. "You've really disappointed me, Caroline." I took a deep breath to calm myself down, and the maid quickly patted my back. "I'm sorry, Mrs. Jones. I didn't expect things to turn out like this either. My love for Anthony drove me mad. I had lost my mind completely, but now I've come to realize my fault." Caroline lowered her head in shame. "Such being the case, it would be useless to say anything else now. You'd better think about how to make amends by removing the curse from Anthony as soon as possible," I said to Caroline, as I shot her a stern gaze. "Yes, Mrs. Jones. I can help you contact Larry. But would you please talk to Anthony for me? I don't want Austin to die! Please let us go and I promise that I will see to it that he never fight back. I'll go away with him, somewhere far away from here!"

Caroline suddenly kneeled down in front of me, with both hands on her big belly. My eyes widened as my mind tried to take in what she had just said. After all, if she hadn't been infatuated with Anthony, none of this would have happened and Anthony wouldn't have been separated from his mate because of the Love Curse. But on second thought, I thought that it might not be a bad thing if she had really given up on Anthony. Perhaps, Caroline had learned her lesson this time and she would never make such mistakes again in her life. "All right. I'll speak to Anthony. You're lucky that he isn't a heartless man, but I can't promise that he will spare Austin's life even if he spares yours. After all, Austin has committed heinous crimes, and the elders will not let him go easily either." As soon as I said that, Caroline's eyes were brimming with tears. The remorseful look in her eyes melted my heart again and I added, "But if you can help us find Larry, I promise that I will try my best to make Anthony change his mind." "All right! I will get to it then! Thank you for your kindness, Mrs. Jones!" Caroline stood up and bowed to me. After we reached an agreement, I stood up and asked the maid to take Caroline back. "I will arrange a more comfortable cell for you," I said to Caroline before she left. After all, I couldn't let a pregnant woman live under such inhospitable conditions

. "No, thanks, Mrs. Jones. I appreciate your kindness, but I'm willing to stay locked up with Austin. I'd rather suffer with him than leave him alone," Caroline refused without hesitation, which surprised me. I agreed to her request and ordered my maid to bring her back to her jail cell. However, I couldn't stop feeling sorry for her as I thought about the cold and dark prison cell, so I walked there with them personally. "Take good care of her and her baby. I want you to come to me at any time if anything happens to her" I ordered the guards who were guarding the prison, and they nodded in acknowledgment. "Thank you, Mrs. Jones. I should go back to my cell now," Caroline said as she walked past me, and her eyes were brimming with tears. I said nothing in response, but I nodded silently. I sincerely hoped that she regretted her actions. Anthony's POV: After watching most of the surveillance videos, I still couldn't find anything on how to find Larry. I glanced at the clock to check the time before I left the monitoring room. I was exhausted and the only thing I could think of was spending some time with Jennifer.



However, when I went back to our bedroom, she wasn't there. Almost immediately, I started to panic as I feared for Jennifer's safety. I found the maid who was cleaning Jennifer's room. But before I could say anything, Jennifer appeared at the door with a stunned expression on her face. "Oh! I'm so glad to see that you're fine!" I breathed a sigh of relief and asked the maid to continue cleaning the room. "Jennifer, where have you been?" "I couldn't fall asleep, so I went out for a walk." Jennifer smiled at me. "What's wrong, Anthony?" "Nothing. I was just worried about you. Everything is all right again." I gently wrapped my arms around Jennifer's waist and pulled her closer to me. "I went to the monitoring room to check the videos just now. We have footage of Larry disappearing into thin air just outside the banquet hall, but other than that, I have no idea where to look for him. He must have used some spell so that the surveillance cameras wouldn't catch where he was going." Having noticed my worries, Jennifer leaned her head on my shoulder and said, "Don't worry, Anthony. We'll find him soon. After all, the others are helping us as well." Jennifer's words comforted me. I felt hopeful again, but just as I was about to say something, I heard footsteps behind me. Jennifer and I turned around at the same time and saw my mother. "Anthony! I have good news! Caroline has agreed to help us find Larry," my mother said excitedly as soon as she came in. I quickly sat her down on the nearest chair. "Really? That's great!" Jennifer exclaimed in excitement as well. "It's true, but I promised her that I would persuade you to spare both of their lives. If they help to remove the Love Curse from you, then I am willing to forgive their sins. I think your father would agree with me if he were alive. Can you speak for them at the elders' meeting tomorrow?" My mother held my hand and looked at me sincerely. "All right, Mom. I will do as you say." I hesitated for a while and finally nodded. "Great! Now, all we have to do is find Larry!"

Jennifer hugged me. It felt good to see her get so excited. I knew that my mother must have personally brokered peace and convinced Caroline to help us find Larry. I could tell that she was deeply invested in this. Thinking of this, I quickly asked one of the maids to escort my mother back to have a rest. "Mr. Jones, we found a phone and I think it belonged to Skylar." One of my trusted subordinates, who had been sent out to search for Skylar and Jerome, suddenly came to me. "You're right. It is indeed Skylar's phone! Why would Skylar leave her phone behind? Is she in trouble? We have to look for her!" Jennifer recognized Skylar's phone as soon as she saw it. She panicked and was about to run out of the royal palace to look for her. "Jennifer, don't worry about it right now!" I stopped her in a hurry. "It's getting late. You can search for her when you wake up." "No! I can't sleep unless I'm sure that she's safe!" Jennifer wasn't going to change her mind. As such, I had no choice but to follow her and look for both Skylar and Jerome. "Skylar! Jerome! I hope that you two are safe."