

9 Diavolo's proposal

Right... You'll just forget about the party. Or so you wished. BUT OF COURSE, Lucifer knew what you would do (you wonder if he could read minds?). AND OF COURSE, he was prepared for it. You were very gracefully escorted (dragged) to the garden of the Demon Lord's castle for the tea party.

[Pathetic]

Seriously... How pathetic...

Artificial lights were hung all around you in order to illuminate the eternal night. A so mist lingered over the lake, creating a mystic glow. The birds chattered endlessly as if they would never stop but instantly silenced when the Demon Lord started to speak.

"How are you doing these days?" Diavolo asked as he brought a teacup to his lips. Even the steam of the freshly brewed tea couldn't cover the motive behind those words. He blinked lazily, his golden eyes filling with an unreadable emotion.

[What does he think? He knows the answer yet he still asks]

He knew yet he still...

You didn't know if you could keep your cool a er everything. He knew exactly how you were 'doing' these days. There was no way he wouldn't know when he has Lucifer reporting to him every single day. You so desperately wanted to scream at him, shout at him, but you knew it wouldn't do anything good. Instead, you answered with another question.

"I wonder... How am I doing these days?"

Truth be told, you really didn't know 'how' you were doing. You knew 'what' you were doing but 'how'? Diavolo probably knows, but as the one in midst of it all, you really have no idea. Were you doing better? Feeling a bit better? Maybe? Since you never need to cope with everything? But then why do you still feel so empty and unsatisfied? Why do you still feel so... broken?

[You don't deserve everything that happens to you]

Why does everything happen to somebody who doesn't deserve it?

[It's unfair that everything happens to you]

So unfair...

[Show them all the pain they inflicted on you, give them back what they gave you]

Show th-



"Ahem... anyways." You coughed lightly. What were you going to do just now? If you really lashed out at the precious Lord Diavolo, you were pretty sure you would be dead in a couple of minutes. "Let's just skip the unnecessary formality. What is it that you want from me?"

His smile never wavered as he placed down his teacup. "Right now, I just wanted to know how the exchange program is going for you, personally."

"Oh. Well, it's going terribly. I want to go home. Why can't you just send me back to the human world already? This exchange program is failing anyways. Or maybe just choose another exchange student. I'm sure there are a lot of people who would LOVE to attend a school for demons... But I, for one, am not part of that group."

"Haha. That's not possible."

"Hah... Then what's the point of this? I'm leaving." There was no disappointment, sadness, or pain. You had already emptied your heart of any hope before you came, so there was really nothing to disappoint in the first place. You stood up, dusting your clothes.

Diavolo's golden eyes grew piercing, contrasting his gentle smile. His voice still ever so cheerful. "Before you leave, maybe you would want to hear me out to the end?"

"What is there to hear?"

"I have a proposal that I am sure you would want to hear."

Should you just ignore him? But what if you come to regret this? ...It wouldn't hurt to listen to him until the end... If you choose, you could always not accept whatever he proposed.

You sighed. "What proposal?"

You didn't know if you were imagining things but you felt that you were entering something that you would never be able to back out of... Something that would either be the **beginning of your end** or the **beginning of your happily ever a er**.

"I need you to go to the human world."

Silence.

...

...

...

"I'm sorry but... WHAT?" It took you a few moments to process what he said but finally, the shock registered. "Uh... I thought you said it wasn't possible?"

"You're right. I can't send you back and end the exchange program or swap you for another."

"Then...?"

"But there is a task I need you to do that just happens to take place in the human world. You wanted to go back, right? I can send you back for a while on a school trip, that is."

Why was he doing this? There must be some kind of other motives... There was no way he actually organized this out of the good of his heart. He was a demon, a demon that probably hated you as much as the brothers hated you. A er all, Lucifer worked under this man. They all follow his orders. It was his fault that you came here and he did nothing to stop your su ering even though he was responsible.

"What task?" You asked him.

He didn't hesitate to answer as if he was waiting for you to ask all this time. "I need you to go to the human world with Belphegor and find a witch--"

"Seriously? Belphegor!?"

"Yes." He nodded. "I need you to go with Belphegor."

Belphegor? Of all demons, Belphegor??? He might have never compared you to the previous exchange student but he did outright scorn you. He never even bothered to hide it. You were pretty sure he would have killed you if he had the chance. Belphegor absolutely despised you to the point you could almost see his hate radiating from him every time he saw you. You heard that he had a burning hatred for humans until she came and resolved it... but his hate for humans probably arose again a er her death.

"Must it be him?"

"Yes. It must be Belphegor. Either you bring him with you or you stay here."

You really didn't have much choice when he put it like that. Just by going to the human world, you would finally have a chance to escape from this hell dreaded place forever. You just need to find the chance...

As if he could read your mind he started to speak again. "The moment you find the witch you must bring her back. Escaping from this task a er you take it is impossible. If you complete the task to a high standard, I might consider shortening the exchange program for you."

Welp, there goes all your escape plans out of the window.

"So? What about it?" He asked through his urkingly optimistic smile.

Sighing, you admitted defeat. "I'll go."

"Great! I'll inform Belphegor. You should start preparing. You guys should be able to leave in 3 days. All accommodation and daily needs will be prepared for you. Your task is to find a witch by the name of Gizem. She's undetectable by magic and is a rare witch with an innate talent in hiding. She is able to completely cover her tracks from magic so we were never able to find her..."

Why was Diavolo so set on finding this witch? Why did it have to be you and Belphegor who found her? What was he thinking...?

"Do you understand?" Diavolo finished o .

There was definitely something more that he wasn't saying, something important... But you were sure that even if you asked, he would never tell you... So instead you just nodded and le in unhurried steps.

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