

Her Unwanted Mate On The Throne by Caroline Chapter 106

[/ Her Unwanted Mate On The Throne by Caroline](#)
Chapter 106 A flirting game.

“You must like it up there.” Joseph said with a bit of amusement in his tone. Doris carefully stepped off the dresser and smoothed out her clothes with as much dignity as she could muster under his gaze. “It’s quite a view.” Doris cleared her throat. “Did you forget something?”

“oh—” Joseph held out a stack of clothes. “Sorry this took so long for them to be brought to you. I thought you’d like to change out of the ruined ones you came in with.”

Doris accepted the stack and brushed her fingers over the soft fabric. “Thank you, that’s very kind.”

“Did I hear you talking to someone or have I gone a bit mad?” Joseph asked as he peered around the room. His light eyes caught on the window for a moment before they moved on to the rest of the small area to see nothing but old furniture.

“Oh—I was trying to reach my wolf. I still haven’t heard anything from her.” Doris said without missing a beat. How had she gotten so good at lying? William’s frown caught in her mind before she pushed it away.

Joseph nodded in understanding. “I heard she might be gone for quite a few days.”

“Do you know what they gave me? Will she be okay?” Doris asked as her hands tightened on the clothes in her grasp.

“I don’t know the name of it but it’s one of their experimental drugs. They’ve tested it on a lot of the rogues here so I have no doubt it worked on you. She should be perfectly fine when it all wears off.”

“Do you exactly know how long—” “It lasts? No, unfortunately not exactly. A few days or more, it depends on how much they gave you.” Joseph said and stepped a little closer to her. Enzo’s taunt circled the back of her mind and now her eyes watched each of his movements he made around her.

“Is there anything else I can get you?” He asked. “A set of keys and a horse?” Doris said with a smile that might have blinded him. He laughed and stepped away.

“I’ll get right on it.” He winked. Doris watched as he headed for the door again and a small idea sparked inside her like a fire waiting to burn down everything around her.

"Wait!" Doris called. He froze with his hand stretched out for the door. "I—It's been quite lonely in here. I was wondering if you would join me later when one of the

meals come? If you're able to do something like that, of course."

His lips tugged at the corners and she knew she had him right where she wanted him. She smiled and brushed her hair behind her ears as if she was shy.

"Yeah. I think I can do that. I'll be by later."

The smile stayed on her face until he closed the door and locked it behind him—then it fell as if it was never there. It was time for Doris to save herself.

Doris swore she was losing her mind with how much she paced her room while alone with her thoughts. William's words haunted her more than anything else could ever dare. Usually people said things in anger that they either meant or thought would hurt you the most. People were cruel when they didn't know how to handle their own feelings so they threw it back in the faces of the ones they loved.

But she didn't know what William truly felt. He came back for her after swearing she was nothing to him. It was like he wanted to make sure his words hit their intended mark and then tried to make up for them with his actions. Her heart was going through a deep dive of emotions that kept pulling her back up for another push. Why hadn't she listened to herself when she swore she would never like a man like him? Even Beth tried to set her up with a kinder prince but her heart stupidly wrapped itself around William as if he wasn't the cruelest person she had ever met.

Now he paced Enzo's camp like she paced this room but she imagined he had a bit of fire in his steps. She could see him in her mind's eye-snapping at anyone that neared him or tried to come up with a solution to his problems. No, he wanted to stir in his rage and wait for the right moment to let it pour out of him in his wrath. Why did her heart ache for him when her head knew better?

She at least was glad she wasn't there for when Enzo told William he couldn't join him in his claim of the crown—if he even planned on telling William, that is. William hadn't mentioned it again to her since she told him she wasn't interested in his politics but now she knew he was still determined to wrap his hands around what he believed to be his. All the time they had been at the camp, he was still pursuing his plans behind her back. Did he sneak his way to Sir Antony too just to convince him that he was meant to be king rather than his own brother?

"You'll wear the rug down if you continue." Said a voice from the door. Startled, Doris turned to see Joseph with a tray of food that was obviously meant for two people. Better yet, it actually looked more appetizing than the last few plates he'd brought her. "Sorry for the delay, the kitchens were running late tonight." He said as he kicked the door closed behind him. Doris straightened her shoulders and smiled widely.

"That's quite alright, I'm glad you came."

Doris was curious to know if there were any other guards outside the door. Did they know he was in here alone with her? Did they just not care what any of the guards

did as long as she didn't escape?

Not that she was intimidated by Joseph, not in the slightest. He was much too kind for her to think he was capable of anything except a few dry jokes and open flirts. Though, every monster had their masks and she only hoped there wasn't a beast hidden underneath his crooked smile.

"It smells lovely." Doris said as she seated herself on the edge of the bed. There were no tables or extra chairs besides the one he claimed for himself as he sat the tray on his lap.

"I bet it's a hell of a lot better than that grub they've been sending you since you came." Joseph said with a crooked grin as he handed her a steaming plate. "Do you always treat prisoners so kindly?" Doris asked with raised brows and a light smile. His cheeks reddened a little when his eyes flickered to her mouth.

"To be honest, you're the first prisoner I've seen since I started working here. We weren't really trained on what to do with—" "Hostages?" Doris tilted her head and blew on her spoonful of soup. "Eh-yeah. Right." Joseph cleared his throat and tore off a thick piece of bread with his teeth. His curls almost covered his eyes, she bet he was overdue for a trim.

"How long have you been a guard?" Doris asked casually and crossed her legs like a

lady.

"I've been training for about four years, since I was seventeen. I wasn't put out until about a year ago but you're the most exciting thing that has happened here."

"Well, I'm glad you were assigned as my guard." Doris smiled a little and brushed her hair behind her shoulder. His eyes followed even her slightest movements. "I think I might have gone mad if I didn't have kind company."

"You won't have to worry about that, they set me as your main guard." Joseph said as he puffed out his chest a little. She would have laughed under different circumstances. There was something about him that was so... pure that it made her hate all of her wicked thoughts. He reminded her of herself when she was a maid and nothing else. How she wished she could have protected that part of herself.

"Truly? They have you watching me all by yourself?"

“Not entirely by myself, there’s a few guards down the hall but I wouldn’t worry about them.” Joseph set down his plate and ran his fingers through his hair. He was quite handsome, she bet it wasn’t hard for him to turn a girl’s head. For some reason, he was here instead.

“I appreciate it either way.” Doris said as she reached across to squeeze his hand. A small blush bloomed on his tan cheeks. The poor boy’s eyes filled with a flicker of hope she was dying to crush under her foot.

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Chapter 107 No trusting.

“I never expected to love the snow as much as I do.” Doris said aloud to herself as she glanced up the snow dusted window. She knew Enzo was long gone, but she couldn’t help but hope he would come back around to reassure her everything would be alright. He didn’t look entirely convinced that the rogues would fall through on their promises and she hadn’t slept for more than a few minutes at a time since she’d came.

There was still two days before they’d take her to the church to exchange her life for a recipe. She hated the idea that her life was once again out of her hands. She had to sit here and wait for her fate to be told and there was nothing she could do about it. How had her life gone so wrong in such a short amount of time?

Joseph hadn’t come by again since the night before. She had no concept of time or hour many hours had passed since then but it felt like an eternity on its own. Her plan that had started as a small seed had grown to life inside her mind.

All she had to do was let it out to bloom before it was too late. She didn’t want to end up as a pawn for Life Pharmacy just to be killed out of spite to the prince for all that he had done since his short visit to the north. They hated him enough that she knew it would be no easy trade. It was only a matter of how far they would go to get back at him. They knew they finally had something over his head and that something was her.

Joseph’s eyes lingered on her more than a gentlemen would allow. He checked on her more than any prisoner probably ever had been. She remembered how the only time she was checked on at the kingdom was when she was about to be tortured for more information. Never for polite conversation or kind concerns.

The door had a small lock on the inside that she assumed meant it locked from the outside, her fingers grazed the tiny hole. Nothing in her room was small enough to pick at it but it was too bright in the day to even try. Doris took a deep breath and knocked on the door as loud as she could in case he was close by. “Hello?” Doris called. “Is anyone out there?”

It took seconds before the door unlocked and pushed open. Joseph popped his head in and flashed a grin at Doris. It made her wonder if he had been waiting for her to need him. "Hungry?"

"Oh, yes. I was feeling so... faint in here." Doris fanned herself. "I didn't realize it could get so stuffy like this."

Joseph opened the door a little wider. "Ah. I imagine it gets a bit stuffy in here, it's a rather small area. Let me see if I can open the window for you."

For a second, she thought he would leave the door open, but he closed and locked it

right behind him before he crossed the room to climb on the desk. He pushed with all of his might and the window went up without an issue. He might have cracked it if he pressed any harder. "Oh damn, I thought it was stuck," he chuckled at himself.

"It was! I tried so many times to open it on my own, I suppose you're just strong." Doris twirled a strand of her hair as she watched him climb down. He didn't need to know that Enzo had been the one to open it first. Especially when he looked so proud at himself at her praise.

"I hope that makes you feel a bit more comfortable." "Oh, yes. I just..." Doris sighed and glanced out the small window. She could feel the air brush across her face and it felt like it was teasing her.

"What is it?" Joseph tilted his head and stepped closer. A bit of concern crossed his features.

"I just miss the fresh air, I guess." Doris plopped down on the bed.

Joseph kneeled in front of her. "Don't worry, Doris. This will all be over soon and you won't be trapped in here for much longer. I know it seems bad now."

"I'd like to believe you." Doris sighed again. Joseph grasped her small hands in his own. They were so warm compared to hers that felt like ice. It wasn't proper for him to be touching her, but she supposed manners didn't matter as much in the north.

"It would be a crime to keep a beautiful girl like you in here for much longer." Doris allowed a blush to coat her cheeks. "Beautiful? Don't tease me like that, please."

His brows furrowed. "Tease you? I wouldn't dare. Hasn't the prince told you how beautiful you are?"

"He has no reason to, even if he wasn't a man of little words."

Joseph shook his head, frustrated with the idea. "He absolutely has a reason to. I always believe a girl should be reminded daily. Especially if she looks like you."

Doris laughed. "Oh, do you? You're quite the charmer, aren't you?"

Joseph gave her a lopsided grin before he stood. "I've been told so once or twice."

"Well, you should have been told much more than that."

A loud knock made Joseph step away from her quickly before he remembered himself and went to answer the door. His face was flushed beyond repair even though he hadn't truly done anything wrong. "Mr. Hugh—"

"What are you doing in here alone with our guest?" Mr. Hugh asked as he eyed Doris still seated on the bed. She wanted to roll her eyes at the use of the word guest when they all knew she was here against her will. Joseph didn't dare look at her as he moved out of Mr. Hugh's way

"Doris wished for the window to be opened so she could have a bit of air—"

"Get out and wait by the door like you're meant to." Mr. Hugh interrupted. Joseph bowed before he quickly left and closed the door.

Mr. Hugh turned towards Doris again with a small smirk that curved his old lips. "How would your prince act if he knew you had a handsome young guard in your room?"

"Perhaps you should tell him and find out." Doris said with a lift of her chin. Mr. Hugh laughed as if they were old friends.

"I thought I would stop by to see how you were doing but clearly you've been enjoying the views we have to offer. Even the ones inside." Mr. Hugh dragged the chair away from the bed and elegantly seated himself. "You know, I find you very interesting. I couldn't stop thinking about you all day. The maid that a prince is willing to bring war for, who would have thought?"

"I can't guess why you're so interested. I've been a maid for years and nothing more

—there's nothing else to it." Doris brushed a few specks of dust off her pants.

"Did you know that the king had met William's mother in the north?" He asked suddenly. Doris refused to let any emotions cross her face. "They were destined mates, isn't that something?"

"I did know that, yes."

"I bet William hasn't tried to find any other family while he's been here, isn't that right?" 1

"I'm confused on the point you're trying to make. Prince William hasn't shared any of those personal thoughts with me nor has he ever."

"Of course not. He doesn't strike me as the kind of man to admit he has feelings. I would have thought that he would at least want to know more about his mother's history." Mr. Hugh laughed. "Every rogue here that matters knows where he came from. It's a shame he doesn't care to."

"I think you should ask him yourself if you're so concerned."

"Perhaps I will when he comes to save his poor lady." Mr Hugh smiled. "I'd like you to join me tomorrow for dinner before we leave for the church. I'd like to have a little more time with you before you go." "Are you planning on releasing me?"

Mr. Hugh laughed again and stood. "You really are a delight. I'll have the guards fetch you tomorrow."

Doris watched him leave with doubt crawling up her throat. It made no sense why he wanted her to join him before they left. Shouldn't he just pass her off and be done with her?

Doris was left alone for hours. A servant dropped off a tray of food but she saw no sign of Joseph again after Mr. Hugh left. Did he get in trouble for opening her window? Or being alone with her?

It wasn't until Doris had finally dozed off to sleep, that Joseph finally came by again. He closed the door behind him and crept up to the side of her bed.

"Doris"

"Joseph?" Doris gasped and sat up. He held out his hands innocently. "Sorry for startling you. I wanted to ask if you'd like to take a midnight stroll."

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Chapter 108 Midnight schemes.

Doris was dreaming, she had to be. Joseph stood with his brows raised and hand stretched out as if he was waiting for her to take it. Slowly, Doris took off her blankets and grasped his warm hand. He pulled her out of bed and she had her boots on in seconds. Half of her was still positive it was all just a dream. "Out for a midnight stroll?" Doris whispered in disbelief. Was he insane? Surely someone would see them!

“Shh, the other guards have dozed off and won’t be up for quite a while if we’re quiet.”

“How do you know this?” Doris asked. Joseph held out his arm and she grasped onto him. Her eyes flickered to his belt where his knife and keys were still firmly attached.

“Trust me, I’ve had many late nights with those men and they stay out until the morning while I keep watch by myself.” Joseph said quietly. He gestured for her to stay quiet as they snuck down the hall. She followed him out a back way and she tried to memorize her steps until they were out the back door and into the snow.

As it turned out, her room wasn’t very far from an exit—he didn’t realize how much he was helping her. Joseph gently closed the door behind them the second they stepped out. It looked as if there was nothing for miles except snow and trees. The sight took her breath away if she was honest. There was nothing quite like the moonlight shining against frosty snow.

“Why did you take me out here? Couldn’t you lose your job?” Doris asked quietly as they walked down a path close to the walls of the building just in case someone had peered out one of the windows.

“Yes, I could.” He shrugged and offered a crooked smile. “I felt bad that you’ve been stuck in that room. I know how much you craved some fresh air so I thought I’d help. It’s the least I could do.”

Doris tried not to feel as touched as she did. Her mind was so far away from her, she almost forgot to enjoy the fresh air. Slowly, she inhaled the air around her and closed her eyes. It smelled like snow and pine which was one of her new favorite scents. When she exhaled, she glanced up to see him watching her. “Thank you. It’s truly kind of you, I didn’t expect it.”

“I told you the rogues aren’t as bad as you think.” He knocked his shoulder against hers lightly. “Moonlight deserves to be enjoyed by the beauty in life.”

Dorris blamed the chill in the air for her blush. She glanced down at his belt again when he turned his face away from her. It would be so easy to run off into the woods—but she had no wolf and she knew it wouldn’t get her very far. His legs were much

longer than her own.

“I used to walk out here every night when I was on watch. There’s a certain calmness that comes only at this time.” Joseph said. He slowed his steps and peered around the corner to check for any other guards. When there were none, he guided her forward as if she was a dainty princess.

“It’s so beautiful, it truly looks fake.” Doris laughed a little. The snow looked like a perfect blanket of ice. It was almost hard to break the softness with their steps but it was unavoidable. If it wasn’t so cold, she would have laid in it.

"Isn't there some girl out there you should be taking on these strolls?" Doris teased.

"Ah..." Joseph scratched the back of his head. "Honestly, I haven't had the honor of being around women my age. A lot of them are already married or haven't given me the time of day."

"What?" Doris said, lips parted. There was no way that was true! Many of the men at Life Pharmacy weren't half as handsome as him. "You're cute as a button, I was sure hundreds of girls had you in their day dreams!"

Joseph snorted and turned away his red cheeks. "It's no matter, I haven't met anyone as fine as you."

"Is that wise for you to say knowing I'll be taken home in a few days?" Doris asked.

"I have nothing to lose." He grinned, flashing her his bright teeth. He would be a heartbreaker if he was around more women his age. Not to mention all the maids at the palace. But Doris only saw a flash of blue eyes in her mind like a dream that haunted her more than any other. William's rapid temper and possessive nature made her want to strangle him but a bigger half of her wished he was here to grab her and kiss her senseless. 3

"I suppose not." Doris rolled her eyes and tried to banish the prince from her mind. He led her to an open clearing and took her hand. "What are you doing?" Doris asked suspiciously.

"I have a prince to compete against and my time is running out. I'm trying to charm your pants off. Well—not literally." He said quickly. Doris laughed and had to bite her lip to keep her voice lower. 1

"How do you expect to do that?"

Joseph pulled her against his chest suddenly and gripped her waist. For a moment, she'd forgotten how to speak. "Have you ever danced in the snow?"

"I—what? No, I don't dance very well—"

"Nonsense, there's nothing to it." Joseph grinned before he lifted her up until she was standing on his boots. Doris didn't have time to object before he started moving them

around the clearing like they were in some ridiculous fairytale. A bubble of laughter tried to escape but she didn't want to encourage him.

"Joseph!" Doris gasped. She gripped onto him tightly and he only seemed pleased with himself. He twirled them around to a melody of music she couldn't hear. Each move was graceful and made her embarrassed that she knew there was no way for her to keep up if he hadn't put her on his toes.

He watched her with a grin and a bit of concentration as he moved. Her hand gripped his shoulder while the other was at his waist. She slowly moved it down the more distracted he looked. Her fingers closed over the cold metal of his keys and she slid them up her sleeve before she held onto him again—not once taking her eyes off of him.

He gripped her waist and spun her around the clearing like she was some sort of free dancer. She allowed herself to enjoy it, if only for a moment. By the time her feet wear back on the floor, she remembered why she was here.

“I didn’t take you for the dancing type.” Doris breathed. As romantic as it was to dance in the moonlight, he was barking at the wrong heart.

“My mother taught me when I was a young boy.” He said with a smile as he led her back towards the building. It was truly the size of a castle, it was almost odd to call it anything but.

“She must have been lovely. I’ve never learned how to dance. It’s not really expected as a maid.”

“I would assume it -would be if you were a prince’s lady.” Joseph said, he watched her carefully and the weight of the keys felt heavy in her sleeve.

“I wouldn’t have to worry about that. He has a lady at the palace.” Doris said. She tried to ignore the bloom of guilt she felt every time she remembered that. Did everyone else see her as a side piece to the prince? Shame was almost worse than the guilt she felt even though she knew she despised Melody.

“Interesting.” Joseph said quietly. He snuck her back into the palace and down the halls towards her room. They slipped past a snoozing guard and hurried to the door that was left open just a crack. Doris turned back to him and threw her arms around his shoulders.

“Thank you for a wonderful night.” She whispered and kissed his cheek. When she pulled away, he was redder than a tomato, it almost made her laugh.

“O—of course, my lady. Goodnight.” He bowed. Doris smiled and closed the door after her. She heard the lock set behind her. ‘1

Doris waited about what she guessed was half an hour before she slid the keys out from her sleeve and went to unlock her door.

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Chapter 109 Run, baby.

She almost didn't believe it when she heard the lock click. It took several tries at different keys before it finally worked. Doris threw on another sweater before she carefully creaked open the door and peeked into the hallways. She wasn't sure how it had gotten so dark in such a short time, perhaps Joseph took all of the light with him.

She quickly pushed his kind face away from her mind. Kindness counted for nothing when she wanted to survive-she learned that the hard way. Lessons are always learned the hard way and she had gone through more than a few of her own.

Slowly, Doris creaked the door open and slipped out through the small crack. She clicked the door shut and locked it behind her as if she hadn't left the room at all. It would only fool them til morning, then they would be after her. Hopefully she would find the camp long before that happened.

It could have been hours or mere minutes until the sun came out, she didn't know but she was certain of one thing. She had to hurry before anyone else came knocking. Joseph had been the only one to check on her since she'd been here besides Mr. Hugh. But, she already had an appointment with him so she didn't expect him to wonder about her until evening. That gave her enough of a chance to try and get as far as possible from here as she could.

Doris kept her steps light as she followed the same path Joseph had led her down less than an hour before. She skimmed the walls and peered around each corner to make sure the guards were still fast asleep before she hurried by. She had no idea if Joseph was off for the night after he left her or if he was doing a round of the grounds since no one else was up to do she. She just knew she had to be extra careful.

Her feet felt as if they were gliding on air as she rushed to the door that led outside. Not one sound thumped against the ground as if she weighed nothing. Though, her heart was the loudest thing inside her. It could have even woke the dead.

When she reached out to open the door, she banged against it. The sound was so loud, she had to hold her breath and listen for any trace of steps hurrying her way to throw her back where she came from. She counted silently in her head and stayed still as ice. When she reached thirty, she moved to open the door but it was locked.

Doris pulled out the keys and tried every single one of them until one finally fit in the hole and allowed her to turn it. The cold breeze that chilled her face was almost a relief. She glanced back once before she hurried out into the snow that still held their footsteps.

It was dead silent. Like there was no life for miles and miles no matter where she headed. Doris didn't know what direction to head in, she didn't know which one would lead her to where William was but she had to try. All she knew was that she had to make it through the trees but she was dead if she didn't get a horse first.

Doris scaled the walls and peered over the edge of the corner. Two guards were in deep conversation with their backs to her near the stables where William had stolen the horses. Doris quickly pulled back and hid herself from their view again. Her breath grew louder to her ears. She tried to calm the sound but it only made her feel as if she'd gotten louder the more she tried.

This was ridiculous—how was she going to get out of this one without a horse? She'd be walking all night now and would arrive to them with missing toes from the frozen air.

Doris glanced at the trees and saw an opening between the darkness. She kept her steps light as she hurried towards it. It was much colder than she thought it was. When she came out with Joseph, she felt hot as if she couldn't feel any trace of the cold air but now it was like she was coated in her own layer of ice. It was what she deserved for using his kindness for her own benefit.

A distant howl sounded in the distance, it made her skin ripple with goosebumps. What if they hunted her like an animal when they found out she was gone? She knew she had to keep going and at least try to get away. She'd never forgive herself if she sat around and did nothing while her future was decided for her. Especially if they ended up wanting to kill her just to spite William.

She moved between the trees carefully. There were no traces of another guard for miles and she hoped that meant she'd left them all behind her. Each crunch in the snow made her cringe and heart race as if it was trying to exit her chest. How far was the camp from here? She remembered it being long by carriage but fast by horses. Perhaps if she ran she would get there quicker—as ridiculous as that was.

Doris glanced around and saw nothing but more trees. She took a long deep breath before she took off into the darkness away from Life Pharmacy. The forest didn't look familiar but she knew that William headed this way when they were on their horses.

Doris cursed those guards for surrounding the area and making her run back to the camp rather than ride. They must have realized that William stole a few of their horses the night they escaped before they were found out and now made sure it was always monitored.

It didn't take long for her breath to run out with barely any ground covered thanks to the thick snow. She wasn't used to running like this, she collapsed to the ground and rested her head against her knees. She had to keep going.

She allowed herself a few breaths before she got up again and continued on. Life Pharmacy was now a distant shadow behind her but she knew it was still too close for comfort. The sun started to poke up above the horizon and she wondered how long it had been since she left her prison. Did Joseph notice she was gone yet? Or would he wait a few more hours before he checked if she was awake?

She didn't want to imagine the betrayal on his face when he realized what happened

and where his keys went. She deserved his anger and hurt, but she didn't want to see it. He had to realize that she didn't deserve to be a pawn, he had to know that. Why else would he be so kind to her?

Any time a small branch broke or something shifted behind her, she paused to make sure nothing was trailing her. She kept to the trees and didn't dare to stay out in the open for long. It was only a death wish and she had no reason to be caught so soon. Even if she was heading in the wrong direction, it was better than sitting around. Anything was better than being a prisoner, they were foolish to underestimate her.

Louder howls echoed through the trees, she wasn't sure how close they were but it made the hair on the back of her neck stand up. Doris quickly ducked behind a large boulder and searched for any sort of weapon to grasp onto.

She closed her fingers around a sharp rock and listened to the change in the wind. Paws beat against the ground and she knew in her heart that they had found out she was gone. It took them a lot quicker than she wanted and now the only thing she could do was

"Run, baby!" A loud voice broke through the silence. A man laughed so loud it made her flinch. "We've already got you!"

Doris stood and took off through the trees. She ran as fast as she could and couldn't hear if anything was behind her or if she was about to be mauled to death. Keep going, keep going. Her breath was loud in her ears as she panted harder. Don't look back, keep going

A rope wrapped around her chest and yanked her back into the darkness. Some man she didn't recognize in the slightest lassoed her back and dragged her through the cold snow until she was at his feet. He took a long drag on a cigar in his mouth before he blew out the smoke and smirked down at her. "That was pretty fun. You almost got away with it, little one."