

Her Unwanted Mate On The Throne by Caroline Chapter 145

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Chapter 145 So much love to go around

Daniel lifted Doris into a bear hug and spun her around a few times. Doris surprisingly laughed and gripped onto him in fear she would fall out of his grip. When he set her down, she had to hold onto him a moment longer so she didn't fall over when the dizziness hit her.

"Daniel! I didn't expect to see you here." Doris smiled and crossed her arms over her chest. He wore a lovely dark suit with red trimming and a messy hairstyle to top all it off. "How are you doing?"

"Me? I'm the one that didn't expect to see you here! We didn't get any word that you were heading back." He grinned and scratched the back of his head. His smile was still so innocent and pure, it filled her with warmth. She missed him and she didn't even realize it until this moment. "I suppose I'm doing just fine, but you..."

Daniel looked Doris up and down slowly and she suddenly wished she was invisible. She stomped her foot so he would look back up at her. "Me what?"

"You look... a little different."

Her cheeks flamed in embarrassment. "Well, I haven't had a chance to bathe yet. It's been a long journey,"

"No, that's not what I meant! You're beautiful just the way you are. I meant that you seem different from the inside, if that makes sense."

Doris ignored his compliment and focused on what he meant. How did he notice that so quickly? She was definitely different on the inside... more than just a little. (This novel will be daily updated at)

"Well, either way. I'm glad to see you, sweet Doris. These halls have been dreadful to walk through since you left." He gave her a cheeky grin. She doubted any of that was true in the slightest. Daniel was a known charmer, that sweet boy.

Doris smacked his arm lightly, but she smiled anyway. "Don't try to flatter me! I know you don't mean it."

"I wouldn't dare!" He winced away from her, she only laughed louder. "All the other maids are so boring and scared of me. None of them are nearly as wonderful as you. Let me escort you to your room."

He held out his arm for her, and she wouldn't dare deny him. She held onto his arm as he walked her down the hall.

"What has the marvelous Doris been up to on her grand adventure?" Daniel asked a little louder than she wanted. It was embarrassing to have a finely dressed prince escort her to her room when she was in ripped, dirty clothing. But at the moment-she couldn't bring herself to care. "Well, tons of things that only come from fairytales. Ambushes, kidnapping, horse riding! So much." She left out all of the passionate nights she had with his brother. Just thinking of them made her blush and they were already fading into a memory she couldn't grasp.

He looked at her in surprise. "Wow, I knew it would be an interesting adventure, but not that interesting!" He whistled. "What a time. I heard the north was quite ruthless and dangerous. I'm glad to see you survived it all. Everyone was certain you guys wouldn't come back from the north but I knew better." He poked her nose.

Doris shooed his hand away. "Everyone thought that, huh? I suppose that's why no one is glad to see us. I feel like we just walked into a strangers home and everyone is too afraid to tell us to leave."

"Ah, that's because everyone here is stressed about my father, is all. William isn't the friendliest man to be around, so that could be it too." He shrugged. "I just got back from the military camp the other day, I was gone just as long as you were until I heard about my father." (This novel will be daily updaed at)

"It only happened a few days ago?" She frowned. "I wonder why they didn't try to tell William. He got a letter that the entire palace was sick, but it didn't mention his father."

Daniel furrowed his brows. "No one else has been sick here, how strange." Doris ignored the looks of fellow maids as they openly stared at them when they passed. She didn't care what anyone thought of her anymore. She was no longer afraid of how much weight someone's words held over her. It was almost freeing.

"Martin has been moping around though, not sure why. He was that way even before our father had gotten sick. I suppose it's only more intense now." Daniel said quietly.

"How strange... have you tried to talk to him about it?" Doris asked. "He didn't seem down in the library."

Daniel looked a little surprised. "You met him in the library? Didn't you just get back?"

"Well, yes. One of his guards caught me in the hall and told me that he was looking for me." Doris shrugged.

"Interesting." Daniel hummed. "Martin doesn't like talking to me about his feelings. If I had to guess, I would say it's been since his wedding. He hasn't been the same since they got married, not even at the wedding."

"What? That's crazy! I thought they were in love?"

"Hmm, perhaps he has another in his heart." Daniel said only loud enough for her to hear. No one else was in the hallway, but that was quite a risky thing to say. "Never mind him, he's boring. How was dear old William for your trip? Still as grumpy as ever?"

Doris laughed a little. "He was certainly grumpy a lot of the time, but I think he earned a greater respect. I didn't realize how great of a leader he could be."

"A leader? Madness, I would've never thought it!"

"He is! It's magnificent. He is so smart and I wish you would have seen it!" Doris said excitedly. When she saw the look on his face, she quickly calmed herself. She didn't need anyone thinking she was into William. She silently cursed herself.

"Well, I'm sure I'll get to see it some day. He's a great man, I can only imagine he would be just as good as a leader." Daniel said.

They stopped by the servants quarters. Now, Daniel was dragging more than a few glances their way, she almost wanted to push him away from her when she dropped her hand. (This novel will be daily updated at)

"Thank you for the escort." Doris bowed her head. Daniel grinned as he bowed his own in return.

"I'll see you later, my lady. Try to get some rest." He poked her dark circles and she swatted his hand away without thinking. Several maids gasped when she did so. Doris cringed instantly when she realized her mistake. A normal royal would have thrown her in a cell for something like that.

Daniel only laughed and hurried down the hall as if he had somewhere important to be.

Doris walked past all the stares and quiet whispers and finally reached her room. There was a chance that Beth was still on a shift and not yet back to their room, but she didn't care. She'd wait all day if she had to.

She flung open the door and found Beth reading by a small light. She almost flinched out of her skin at the abruptness, but immediately gasped and threw herself at Doris.

Doris laughed as she caught her friend. She was almost pulled to the ground and it felt like a million little stars had lit up inside her. With everyone else acting so awful towards her, she was glad to have a few people that cared.

"Doris! Oh my goodness, I thought you were never coming back!" She pulled away to get a good look at her. "Look at you! You look so.. mature!"

"Mature? Is that a compliment?" Doris grinned.

"Of course it is you fool! I can't believe you're here! No one told me, when did you get in!" She dragged her over to the bed and Doris already knew this was about to be a long talk. They had so much to catch up on but Doris wasn't sure yet how much she would want to share with her friend.

"We just got here not that long ago. I had to get guests set up and then Prince Martin wanted to see me. Oh! And I ran into Daniel."

Beth raised her brows and leaned closer. "You already have their hearts back in your hand, I see! That didn't take long." Beth laughed. "Wait-what guests are here?"

Doris rolled her eyes at her comments. "Some rogues have come to visit the kingdom."(This novel will be daily updaed at)

"What? Rogues are here as guests?" Beth widened her eyes. "There's no way the king would allow that! If he wasn't sick, I would imagine he would have them thrown out."

"They're not here for war or fighting, they're here peacefully."

"They are—" Beth shook her head and waved the topic away. "We'll go back to that in a minute. Tell me, did William make a move on you?"

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Chapter 146 Missed gossip

Beth's question shouldn't have surprised Doris as much as it did, but it left her speechless. Half of her wanted to lie about William and the other half wanted to spill out every detail that her mind had held in since the moment they first kissed. It was rotten to think bad of her friend-she knew she would keep all of her secrets. But she couldn't help but hesitate.

"We... got along fine on the trip. He was admittedly grumpy at times, but that was to be expected." Doris nervously laughed and picked at her nails. Beth narrowed her gaze suspiciously and caught on to every small movement she made. Doris wanted to melt back into the couch and pretend she hadn't said anything.(This novel will be daily updaed at)

"I didn't ask that, I asked if he made a move on you." Beth leaned closer as if she was trying to peer into Doris's brain for the answer. Doris was only glad she couldn't see all of the things Doris had been up to with the handsome prince. "He's notorious for seducing every pretty maid he comes in close contact with ... don't tell me he didn't try anything with you on the trip. You were the only girl!"

Doris felt her cheeks heat instantly. "I-I don't even—"

"Ah ha! I knew it." Beth clapped and made Doris flinch. "I knew he would try to get in your pants! I wouldn't blame you if you let him, he's incredibly handsome. I wouldn't have been able to control myself either"

"Beth!" Doris gasped. A small sense of jealousy built up in her chest at the thought of William seducing just any maid he wanted. It was true, he could take any maid or servant to bed while she wasn't around and he would never feel the need to tell her about it. Another reason it wasn't wise to give her heart away to the beast. "We shouldn't talk like this, it isn't proper."

Beth stared at Doris for a moment before she started laughing. "Doris! No one will hear us! I haven't seen you in forever, tell me something about the trip! No one here likes to gossip anymore, it's become so boring without you here with me."(This novel will be daily updated at)

Doris sighed and pushed her hair behind her ears. "Well, Melody lied about being William's mate." She whispered.

Beth's eyes grew wide. "No way! How did you find out?"

"I think I always knew she was lying because..." Doris glanced back at the door to make sure it was still closed before she lowered her neckline to show Beth her mate mark. Beth's eyes looked as if they were going to pop out of her head and Doris instantly regretted it.

"What?!" She shouted. Doris clamped her hand down over her mouth to silence her.

"You can't tell anyone! I don't want anyone to know!"

Beth wiggled out of her grip. "You have to tell people! You could be his lady!" "I don't even know if I want that yet, Beth! I haven't decided if I want to even be with him... I want to be free, not tied to this place even more."

"Doris, you could be pampered and treated with the most respect if you came forward as his mate. No one would dare mess with you-look how they treat Melody!" Beth gripped Doris's hands and made her look at her. "They wouldn't hurt you anymore, you would be the one to tell them what to do. Isn't that better than trying to find a new job out in the world? It's full of uncertainty out there, but here you would be treated like a royal."

Doris shook her head sadly. "I don't want to tell people what to do or have them clean up after me. I want to be free-I want to live on my own terms. If I were to accept being his lady, I don't know what my future would become. I don't want to tie myself to a man who might get bored of me and cast me aside when he finds someone new to play with, I don't want that life."

Beth frowned. "If you were his true mate, he wouldn't stray. I heard that once wolves find their true mate, they don't desire anyone else the same way again. Look at the king, he still hasn't found (This novel will be daily updated at) a woman he wants. He can't find one to be happy with for more than a week after

his mate passed-“ Beth paused and her eyes widened yet again. “Wait... does that mean you have a wolf inside you?”

“Yes... I do...” Doris hesitated again. “... it was quite a shock. I didn’t realize it until we were on the trip. William was about to be killed and... something inside me snapped. My wolf came out and saved him.”

“How romantic!” Beth jumped up and squealed. Doris had to force her to sit back down. 1

“Will you keep it down? I’m not ready for everyone to know about it yet!” Doris hissed. She glanced at the door yet again to make sure no one had cracked it open to listen.

“Oh, yes of course! Sorry, love.” Beth grinned and seated herself again. “It’s just... nothing exciting has happened like this since we came. I can’t believe you’re mated to the most handsome prince and you saved his life! He must be crazy about you.” Beth sighed dreamily.

“I don’t know about that.” Doris mumbled. “Enough about men tell me what’s been happening since I was gone?”

A bit of excitement deflated from Beth as she took in the new subject. “Oh, well... a lot has happened. The king has suddenly fallen sick and the Luna Queen didn’t want his own sons to know about it until recently. She’s been trying to act as if she’s the one in control and... honestly it’s been like a military base here with how she treats everyone. I’m afraid to even show my face, I try to blend into the walls but she still finds a way to somehow come after everyone.” 1

“Oh my... that sounds awful, Beth!” Doris had always been the type to try and hide into the walls, but Beth wasn’t. If Beth was wanting to hide, it must have been much worse than Doris first thought. “And what does Prince Martin have to say about it? He’s the crown prince!”

“He doesn’t stand up to her at all, he lets her act like she’s the ruler of this palace. He hasn’t even truly acted like he cares that his father is sick. Many of us think it’s because he’s ready to be the king if his father passes.”

Doris widened her eyes. “What? Surely that can’t be true, he must be keeping his emotions private. I don’t think he would want his own father to pass just so he can have the crown.”

Beth sighed and shrugged. “I’m not sure his reasoning, but everything has been darker since you guys left. I feel this strange energy, like something is about to happen but I don’t know when. I can feel everyone else on edge, but I don’t think they know what for either. It’s like... it’s like there’s a war coming and we don’t know what to do about it. I’ve never been so frightened just to be alive.”

“Oh my...” Doris swallowed her emotions and clenched her friend’s hands harder. “I can’t believe you’ve been going through this alone... I’m so sorry Beth.” Beth offered a small, weak smile back as if it was all she could offer at the moment.

"And the king is too sick to sign the amnesty for our freedom now. They don't expect him to be better for quite a while." Beth deflated even more. Doris couldn't recall a time when her friend looked so sad, it broke her heart and left her with a thick guilt.

"It will all work out, Beth. It has to. I know times have been uncertain, but now that William is back, perhaps he can put some order back in this palace."

"Are you sure about that? He brought rogues here and now I know it's only going –"(This novel will be daily updaed at)

A loud knock startled them apart. "Beth, you're due in the kitchens for a night shift. Hurry up!" The voice demanded. She couldn't tell who it was, but it made Beth stand instantly.

"I have to go, we can catch up more later." She said quickly and gathered her uniform. In the candle light, it appeared as if Beth hadn't slept in days. Doris stood.

"Is there anything I can do to help, Beth?"

"No, no love. We will just have to talk later." She squeezed Doris's hands once more before she left through the door in a hurry.

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Chapter 147 Go make yourself useful.

Doris laid in her old bed and felt a strange piece of her missing. She expected to feel as if she was right where she belonged, as if she was home-but she didn't feel that way at all. The bed was stiff under her back and she might as well have been laying in the dirt with how it made her feel. She rolled on her side and saw nothing but the bare walls and it hit her then

She missed William.

The thoughts weren't welcome and she wanted to banish them from her mind, but they just kept sneaking back in. She missed his warmth and the safeness she felt in his grasp-it was like no other. His arms wrapped around her body in her mind and she closed her eyes tightly to imagine it all. It was the only way she could lure her exhausted body into sleep, if only for a few hours of blissful nothingness.(This novel will be daily updaed at)

Morning came and Beth was still not back from her nightshift. Doris got up to bathe away her journey before she pulled on her old uniform. It felt so strange to step back inside it. She felt as if it was oddly fitting in every possibly way, as if it no longer belonged to her and she'd stolen it from someone else. How was she

supposed to return to the girl she was before they left for the trip? That girl was buried the second Doris found her wolf inside her and realized how to stand up for herself. 1

It made her sick thinking about becoming the girl she was before. The one that let herself almost be beaten to death and let everyone around her step on her as if she was nothing. Her inner wolf growled at the very thought. 2

When Doris came out of the bathing chamber, Beth was passed out in her bed with her shoes still on. Doris quietly took them off and wrapped her up in as many blankets she could find before she left out the door. They had so much more to talk about, but she had to let her friend rest. She needed it.

The hallways were pure chaos, even this early in the morning. Servants were rushing through the halls towards every direction. Many of them looked as if they hadn't slept a minute in days, she worried they might pass out if they didn't give themselves a moment to rest. Was it always this crazy at the palace? Only when they had events, not daily.

They paid no attention to Doris, as if she was just another piece of furniture. It felt different since the last time she was here-which wasn't that long ago, if she was honest. Why did it feel so different? Perhaps Beth was right, there was a darker shadow on the castle that wasn't there before. She felt it almost immediately, it was all wrong.

Doris managed not to get stopped by a single soul while she made her way towards the guest quarters. Although Beth was weighing heavily on her mind, she had to make sure the rogues were still being treated well enough by the palace that didn't want to welcome them.

Doris knocked once on Enzo's door before it was thrown open as if he was waiting on the other side.

"Ah, a sight for sore eyes. Have you rested well, my dear?" Enzo asked with a half grin that didn't even reach his eyes. His clothes were slanted and dark marks hinted at his own lack of sleep, but overall he seemed better than she expected. "Please, come in."

"I rested well enough, thank you." Doris stepped inside once he opened the door wider and glanced around the large room. It was just as lovely as the rest of the palace. "Have they brought you any food yet?"

"I assume they've forgotten, no need to worry." Enzo said lightly as he seated himself by the fire.

Doris spun around to face him. "No one has brought you anything since you arrived? I'll go get some food right now,"

"Please don't rush yourself, my dear. Sit. We can wait a little longer." Enzo insisted. Doris hesitated before she seated herself. Were those dark marks from his hunger, too?

"Something is off here, I can feel it." Doris said quietly. (This novel will be daily updated at)The crackling from the fire was much louder than her. "My friend told me that the Luna Queen has started to act like the one in charge ever since the king had fallen ill. I'm not sure what to think of it yet."

Enzo leaned closer and rested his elbows on his knees. "Do you think she's responsible for why he's sick?" He whispered.

Doris glanced back at the door. "It could be. I think it's very likely, she wanted to get rid of William because he's a threat to her control. While he's been gone, the king falls ill? It would align perfectly with her plans for taking over. I bet she didn't expect William to make it out of that sick village alive, she probably thought he would have fallen ill just like his father."

Enzo ran his fingers through his hair. "We have to get William the crown before it's too late. She clearly has plans to use her own son just to become the one that's in charge."

"I don't know if Prince Martin realizes what she's doing yet, or if he's blind to it all. I couldn't imagine he would allow his mother to mistreat the servants as she has been." Doris said quietly. Prince Martin was always kind to her and all of the servants-was he really blind to how his mother was? "How are we supposed to get William the crown with all that's happening? I feel like there's something else to worry about at every turn."

Enzo gave her a small smile and reached across to squeeze her hand. "Trust in William, he has his own plans and I believe he will end up with what he desires. He's one of the most determined men I've ever met, even when he's being insufferable."

Doris smiled a little. "I'll get you all food now. You must be starving, I'm sorry they didn't bring you anything."

This time, Enzo didn't try to stop her as she hurried to the door. How could she be so careless not to make sure they were all fed before she went to bed last night?

In the halls, the servants looked as if they were on some sort of set motion that no one would dare to break. They moved with an emptiness in their expressions that mirrored a bit of fear . as well. She didn't recognize them as the maids and servants she used to work with, they didn't recognize her either.(This novel will be daily updated at)

The kitchens were as hot as ever. Everyone worked in a fast motion around her as she quietly grabbed a cart to load plates of food upon.

"Ay you! What do you think you're doing in my kitchen?"

Doris turned to see a tall man towering over her. He had a wet spoon gripped in his hand that dripped all over his clothes as he glared down at her. Doris cleared her throat and straightened her shoulders.

"I came to collect meals for the rogues. No one has bothered to feed them since they arrived."

The kitchen fell silent at her words. They all turned to stare at her and it took everything inside her to stay still and tall when all she wanted to do was fade into the background.

"The rogues? We didn't get any orders to feed them."

"Well, I don't know how that had gone unchecked. They're Prince William's guests and should be treated as such. We don't want them to starve and cause any trouble, do we?" Doris said a little louder than intended. Her hands shook a bit at her sides.

"... uh. We usually wait for Luna Queen to give the orders." The man said. He clenched the spoon nervously in his hands.

"I could have Prince William come down to talk to you all, if you wish." Doris said evenly.

A look of fear flashed across his eyes. She imagined it would be even more scary to have the prince come down to scream at them-no matter how horrifying the Luna Queen was.

"No, no that's not necessary. We will make sure they get their food." The cook snapped his fingers and a group of servants started bringing more trays of food to fill the cart. In seconds it was whisked off towards Enzo's rooms and the second she stepped out of the kitchen, she deflated.

"You there!"

Doris almost flinched out of her skin and stood up straight again. Mr. Carson rounded the corner and headed straight towards her with a determined look in his eyes that she didn't want to see.

"What are you doing just standing there? Go make yourself useful!" He shouted.

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Chapter 148 Old habits come back

"I-I was um set to look after the rogues-"

"I just saw their food headed towards them, I don't see you being the one to deliver it!" Mr. Carson narrowed his eyes as he looked her up and down. "The library hasn't been cleaned since you left. I want you to scrub it from top to

bottom before the end of the day. I will be coming by to check to make sure you're doing it right incase you've forgotten."

"Mr. Carson--"

"I don't want to hear it! Go!" He shouted. The words came back in a harsh slap that woke Doris up. She turned and hurried down the hall feeling like the weak girl all over again. Her inner wolf tried to fight against the side of her that wanted to obey what everyone else demanded of her. She could feel Cordelia growl inside her. Low and certain, she wanted to take control but now wasn't the time to let her.

Bitterly, she imagined his horrified face when he realized he screamed orders at the prince's mate. It would be so satisfying to have those who stepped on her realize she mattered. What would they do when they thought of all the bad things they did to her when they didn't know she was his mate? Would they regret it all? Or would they hope she wouldn't remember any of

it?

But then again-she would rather just never see any of them ever again. They weren't worth her troubles.(This novel will be daily updaed at)

The path down to the library was possibly the most familiar part in the entire palace. She could get there with her eyes closed without missing a single step. It was no doubt her favorite place in the whole kingdom, but she also remembered how dirty it had become in her absence.

Slowly, she opened the large doors and let the familiar creak rest deep in her bones. Would this always be her life if the king didn't recover? She couldn't imagine William letting her go after all they had been through. His anger showed through every time she mentioned wanting to be free-the king was her only hope and now that hope seemed lost and forgotten. It was unlikely William would let his mate go without some sort of fight.

Like clockwork, Doris went straight to the storage cabinets and brought out all the supplies she needed to clean the mess. Her mind went numb as she fell into old habits and scrubbed the floor on her hands and knees. Why hadn't anyone been set to clean in her absence? She'd been removed from the library long before she even left to the north with William.

The sun started to go down and every inch of her could barely move by the time someone interrupted her. The large doors alerted their arrival loudly and made her duck behind one of the desks to scrub an area she'd forgotten. The scolding already rattled her brain and made her afraid to see the disappointment upon Mr. Carson's face.. "Doris?" A deep voice called. Doris froze. His steps echoed through the room and stopped right by the desk she was hunched behind, as if he knew exactly where she was the second he stepped into the room and his body had no choice but to go to her.

"What are you doing down there?" William asked her. He knelt down in front of her and looked at her used rag with a distaste in his gaze.

"I was asked to clean the library." Doris said and dropped the rag in the dirty bucket of water. William gripped her arm and forced her to stand.

"You don't have to be this anymore, Doris." William said. "I thought I made that clear."

"You can say that to me, but I can't tell that to others, William." Doris whispered. She glanced at the large doors that were still slightly opened, she wondered if anyone was lingering outside. "They can still order me to do things and I have no reason to tell them no."

"You already know what role is waiting for you if you want it." William walked around the desk and swiped his finger across the surface as if he was checking for dust. Doris let out a slow breath. He would find no trace of dust in here.

"I don't think it would be wise for me to accept that offer. You still have a lady technically."

"I can have her moved out in an hour-" 3

"Even so, I don't think I'm ready to accept that title." Doris said. He paused his pacing and eyed her but she pushed on. "I do care for you, William. You know I do. But I never wanted to become the lady of this palace-I just need some time to process it." 1(This novel will be daily updaed at)

William clenched his jaw. She prepared herself for some sort of outburst or vengeful comment that would hit her where it hurt the most-but none came.

"Then you'll be my personal maid. No one is allowed to ask you to do anything for them unless they ask me first." William glanced around the library that now sparkled clean. "Unless you would prefer to stay in the library." He said almost bitterly. She couldn't tell why. 1

"Your personal maid? Are you sure—"

"I wouldn't ask you to actually be my maid, just to accept the title so you can do as you wish in the palace without anyone to stop you." William interrupted. He lifted his chin a little and she couldn't help but admire how sharp his jawline was. She tried to shake the thoughts away before they distracted her. "Each prince is allowed to have their own personal servants."

"William—"

"If you won't accept the title as my lady, you can at least accept this. I don't see you as a maid and I hate seeing you in that uniform and scrubbing floors as if you're nothing." William

growled.

"Would I take the room near yours,"

"You can take my own damn bed for all I care." William turned and headed to the door.

"Where are you going?" Doris called after him. She quickly moved around the desk and went to follow him.

"I'm going to tell them of your new title and if they set you to clean floors again, I'll tear out their tongues and force them to clean the walls with it."

Doris had to turn her head to keep in her laugh. She was truly disturbed if she found that part of him funny when she used to find it terrifying.

"Go to my rooms, I'll meet you there." William grumbled. (This novel will be daily updated at)

Doris broke off from him and did as he said. She watched his back as he headed towards the servants quarters and she was only glad she didn't have to join him.

His room was an utter mess when she had last come through, but now it stood as normal as ever. The fire was low and kept the room warm while a tray of steaming tea was waiting by the end table. Had he been here before he went to find her?

"William?" A light, seductive voice sounded from William's closet. Doris froze before she slowly backed towards the door.

It was too late. *Melody* stepped out of his closet wearing nothing but a lace set of undergarments. "Oh, I missed you so much. I hope you don't mind-What the hell are you doing here?" *Melody* growled when her eyes landed on Doris.

"1—" Doris felt as if her mind went completely blank. A jealous rage built up inside her. *Melody* had hoped to seduce William-would it have worked if Doris wasn't here? Would he have found what she was wearing irresistible and laid with her in his bed like he had before they left to the north?

The thoughts tainted her mood like a lick of fire. She curled her hands into fists at her sides

"What are you doing in the Prince's room? He only allows those he invites into his private chamber."

Melody smirked across at Doris as if she believed she had the upper hand. She swayed her hips as she crossed the room towards Doris and it only made her want to shove the girl out of the nearest window.

"The prince did invite me here." *Melody* pulled a white invitation out from her lace bra and handed it over to *Doris*. *Doris* almost didn't want to accept it, but she had to see.

Inside, *William's* elegant writing invited her for tea so they could talk. Carefully, she folded the letter and handed it back.

"My mistake. I'll leave you to it then." (This novel will be daily updated at)

"Like hell you are! You little bitch—" *Melody* neared *Doris* just as the door opened.

"If you get any closer to her, I'll break your neck."

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Chapter 149 Taking out the trash

Melody took a step back when she heard *William's* voice. Quickly, she regained her composure. "That's right, *Doris*. You heard him." She lifted her chin and smirked. *Doris* almost had the nerve to be embarrassed for the girl.

"I wasn't talking to her, I was talking to you." *William* moved to step in front of *Doris*. *Melody* backed away a bit more, she even started to look nervous at the scene before her. She expected a night of love, not this.

"William, I don't understand—" *Melody* reached for her robe and quickly put it on. *William* didn't even lower his eyes to her body and *Doris* hated to admit how good that made her feel. Perhaps *Beth* was right, maybe he wouldn't desire another now that they found each other. "This maid just insulted me—"

"She can insult you all she wants. I invited you to come here to tell you that I no longer wish for you to be my lady." *William* said calmly. *Doris* glanced over his shoulder to see *Melody's* face collapse at his words.

"What? But-i'm- we're mates! I don't understand,"

William's back tensed at her words. "I don't like a fucking liar, especially when they lie to me in front of the entire kingdom." *William* grabbed *Melody's* arm and forced her against him. Her robe fell off one shoulder and the mark was gone. *Melody's* eyes widened and she quickly tried to cover it. Clearly she had forgotten to reapply the fake mark to her skin before she came here.

"No, I would never lie about this,"

"I know you're a fucking liar because I found my real mate! I don't need your fake mark to prove it." He growled in her face before he shoved her away from him.

She stumbled to the floor and just barely caught herself. Melody's eyes went right to Doris who stayed quiet behind William.

"She's lying! She's not your mate!" Melody cried as she moved back away from William. "I'm your mate! You found me that day and I've been loyal to you! I waited here as you went to find who poisoned me!"

"I didn't go for you, I don't give a shit who poisons you." William spat at her. "I went to find other answers for myself."

Melody choked on her tears. "She can't be your mate, William! She's not meant to be your mate!" (This novel will be daily updated at)

William glanced at Doris for a moment and she could read it in his eyes. Doris knelt down near Melody and moved down her blouse to show her the mate's mark. "This hasn't faded in the slightest since he put it on me."

Melody stared at the mark silently. Tears dripped from her eyes that filled up with hate almost

instantly. "You're nothing but a useless maid." She spat at Doris's shoes. "You're an ugly, useless maid that doesn't deserve to be here! I should have killed you when I had the chance you stupid bitch!"

William grabbed Melody by her arm and dragged her out to the door. Doris winced as she watched Melody try to struggle against his iron grip. "She is worth a hundred of you! Get the fuck out of here." William growled and forced her out the door. "I want her removed from the palace. Have her room emptied by morning and do not allow her back on the property."

"William!" Melody screamed, he slammed the door in her face without a hesitation. Her screaming continued down the hall and grew distant after a moment. It should have filled her with more of a satisfaction, but it didn't. She cursed her kinder side for always feeling bad for the people that didn't deserve it.

Doris nervously watched his anger followed him as he moved through the room. It was like a dark shadow that gripped onto him and marked every step he made.

"William..." Doris said calmly. He threw himself down on one of his chairs and she was only surprised it didn't crack with how hard he went down. She sat herself next to him. "I shouldn't have been here—"

"Why not? She needed to be faced with her lies. You are proof of it." He grumbled and stared at the fire. "I'm sure she'll go kicking and screaming the whole way out of the palace. A shame I couldn't keep it quiet for you."

"What do you mean quiet for me?"

"I know you don't want others to know about you. I'm sure she will scream it to the skies about how you're lying and she's not." William's fingers curved into the chair. "I would have asked for her to be beheaded, but I'm afraid there's enough tragedy around here." 1

"William," Doris frowned. She wasn't sure if he was serious or not. Something about the way he said it made her realize that he might have meant his words. "Are you alright? How did it go with your father?"

Doris moved a little closer and his hand found her lap. Her heart did a small leap in her chest and she wanted to curse the feeling.

"He's not well at all. He barely recognized me. I'm not sure how long he has left." William said quietly. "I always wanted him to suffer in his life for how he treated me. I thought I would be happy to hear he's on his death bed, but I'm not." 2

"It's normal to have resent for your parents if they wronged you. I know I do." Doris admitted. William threw her a curious look and it was then she realized she had never really told him about her past. He asked her once and she changed the subject. "My parents sold me to the palace when I was 16 and I haven't heard from them since. I think a big part of me resents them, but a smaller part will always want them to be alive and well. It's always going to be there, no matter how much time has passed." (This novel will be daily updaed at)

William shifted a little so he could have a better look at her. "You still would wish them well, even after selling you as if you were an animal?"

"I do. I don't want them to die, but I also don't want to see them anymore. They didn't regret selling me and they never tried to get me back even years later. If I knew something bad had happened to them while I was here, I would be very sad."

William searched her face as if he could solve some sort of puzzle that wasn't there. "I don't know if I could forgive someone for doing that to me. My father may have treated my brothers better than me, but he never gave me away. I think you're brave for that."

Doris felt her cheeks heat. She hadn't expected him to say that. "Thank you."

William looked away and leaned back into the couch. "I haven't seen any of my brothers since I've come here. I tried to seek out Martin and Daniel, but neither of them have come."

"They might be grieving in their own ways." Doris whispered. "I'm sure they'll come around."

"I just... I know the Luna Queen is responsible for this. I know she's the reason he's sick.(This novel will be daily updaed at) She's been trying to get rid of all the obstacles in her way so she can be the ruler of this kingdom through her idiot son." William stood.

"How will we stop her?" Doris watched as he paced the room again as if his thoughts had gone wild.

"If my father isn't well enough to hear my side of things. I will just have to take my crown forcibly."

"By harming Prince *Martin*?" Doris asked cautiously. He threw her an annoyed look.

"Not directly. I will bring an army. I have many followers here beyond my personal guards. *Many* men and women have sworn to stand by me if I ever wanted the crown. If *Martin* won't willingly give it up, I will have to call upon my army."

Doris sat speechless. She had no idea that William had so many people on his side. "Do any of these people hold weight towards the *crown*?"

"There are lords and ladies... I bet I can gain even more."

"William, you're ready to start a war over this? Is this wise? Perhaps we should wait to see if the king will recover –"

"If we wait it will be too late! *Luna Queen* is making her moves now while I'm distracted by my father. This is exactly what she always wanted to happen." William's steps turned into stomps. Doris stood.

"I know it's hard, but perhaps you should lay down to rest for a while. It might straighten out your thoughts."

"I know what needs to be done, Doris. You can either join me or stay to the side and watch me claim the crown that was meant for me."