

Her Unwanted Mate On The Throne by Caroline Chapter 162

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Chapter 162 Prepare for the battle ahead.

Martin stared blankly at his brother as if he had gone mad. "Oh really?"

"We both know you'll never be happy as the king, Martin." William said almost gently. "You always let everyone around you control every move you made. I could see it in your eyes that you never wanted this for yourself. I can give you the chance to be free in the world. TO not have these responsibilities on your shoulders."

Martin slowly looked William up and down as if he was sizing him up for the first time. A bit of distaste lingered on his lips. "So you think I would let you take my place, is that it? That's why you're here? You want me to leave so you can have my crown?"

"I've brought the rogues to the palace to agree on peace"

"And that suddenly makes you the better ruler? Because you brought a bunch of rogues to the palace?" Martin scoffed and took a step back. "Father didn't make you the crown prince because you're irresponsible, careless, and reckless. You never cared for anything but yourself in your life."

William's snowy cheeks had tinted red. Doris slowly moved closer to Enzo incase they needed to flee this battle between blood. "Father only made you the crown prince because you were born first and he knew he could mold you into another useless version of himself! All you do is let him control your thoughts as well as your rotten mother. Nothing that has ever come out of your mouth has been from your leadership."

Martin's hands curled into fists at his sides. "I am more capable of being the king. *More than*

you will ever hope to be."

"You just tried to run away with your brother's lady-which wasn't the first time you took something of mine. You were ready to drop this kingdom even with the king sick. Even knowing that he could die and you would have to take his place-you just offered to leave it all."

Martin swallowed. "I would make the better king. There is no way I would ever give you my throne."

"I plan on taking the crown with or without your blessing." William said through his teeth. "I have an army that is ready to take it if you refuse. I could have the here in hours."

"You have an army?" Martin laughed. "That's rich. Father wouldn't even let you have your own pack."

"I don't need a pack to raise an army. I need loyalty, which is something you have never gained. How could you when all you do is repeat what others tell you to say?" William took a step back. "I will ask you one more time to give up the crown. I don't want to force this."

"Even if I wanted to, Jack is after me. I doubt he would be willing to give up the crown any

more than me."

"You can pass the crown along to me if you requested it-you know that." William said. She could tell he was doing his best to stay as professional and calm as he could. A vein popped out on the side of his neck and was a telltale sign that his patience was running thin.

"Jack would challenge you for the crown if I did something like that." Martin smirked at William as if it was all one big joke they were all in on. "You think I don't have what it takes? You are the last person this kingdom would put their faith in. Everyone for miles knows how you are. You use women like they're nothing and ruin them. You ride out your days with no worries or responsibilities-not like the rest of us. They all see you as a pathetic prince that sleeps until noon."

*They would all be wrong." William said emotionlessly. "If they knew that there wasn't a single thought in your mind for the well being of this kingdom, they would throw you out themselves."

"They would kiss my feet if they knew I would continue the leadership father has brought on." Martin hissed. "You are the only joke of this palace. Didn't you ever wonder why father had made sure you didn't make a fool of this palace? Because he knew you would destroy us if you had the chance. Nobody has ever had faith in you."

William let the silence engulf them, Doris was almost afraid to breathe. This wasn't a matter that neither she nor Enzo could speak on. All they could do was blend into the bookshelves and pray they didn't notice them. Doris had never seen this harsh side of Prince Martin. Each day he grew more different from the version of him she had in her mind.

"Very well. I have no choice but to bring war." William turned from his brother. "I didn't want to do this, I had hoped you would see reason."

"Your idea of reason is blind to all but your needs. As always." Martin said. "If you thought I was going to give you my crown without a fight, then father was right when he said he didn't trust your judgments."

That one must have stung. She saw William's shoulders stiffen with restraint.

"I'll see you on the battlefield, brother." William said before he walked out the door. Doris and Enzo quickly followed after him so that they weren't left with Martin.

"Are they going to fight on the battlefield?" Doris whispered to Enzo.

"I doubt either of them have intentions of stepping on the battlefield themselves. William meant his army will see Martin's." Enzo explained quietly. They watched William's back as he stomped down the hallway. Everyone parted their steps for him as if he was a force on his own.

"We should give him time to cool off." Doris slowed her steps and Enzo did as well. "He normally needs time alone with his thoughts after something like this."

Enzo eyed her curiously. "Is it strange to have two princes in love with you? I always imagined it would have been nice, but now I'm not so sure."

Doris put her cold hands against her warm cheeks. "Will you stop? This has become a nightmare."

Enzo held up his hands in defense. "I was only curious, my love." He glanced back to where William was, but he was already long gone. "I suppose it has come to this. Another war."

"Martin may not have been passionate about his role, but I think it was obvious that he wouldn't give it up so easily." Doris whispered. She followed Enzo out into the snow. It was such a lovely day, she wondered how much colder it was in the north in that moment. "Who would give up their crown to someone that hated them their whole life? William made it no secret that they never got along."

"I tried to tell that to William, but he seemed so determined to go forward. I think he only asked to give his brother a warning of the war brewing." Enzo shoved his hands deep into his pockets. "My rogues are already on their way. I sent for them the moment we got here. I could tell the Luna Queen wasn't right. I had a bad feeling about all of this the moment we came here."

"Has anyone treated you bad here?" Doris asked quickly. Enzo laughed a little.

"No, no. Unless you count trying to starve us."

"I most definitely do!" Doris huffed. She felt horrified that the palace would treat their guests as poorly as they have. She wondered if it would have been different if the king was up and well.

Enzo slowed his steps when they were far enough from the palace. "Let me ask you something, Doris."

Doris stopped in front of him and raised her brows.

“Do you think William will make a good king? One that this kingdom and the rogues deserve?” Enzo asked quietly. There was no one around for a bit, but they kept quiet anyway.

“Yes.” Doris said after a beat of thought. “I do. I didn’t think he would before we left for the north. I used to think he was horrible and only cared about getting women in his bed like his brother said. But-then I watched him become a leader. It was like he was made to be one and no one had ever given him the chance.”

Enzo nodded and continued on the small path around the garden. “I was going to say the same thing. I think he lets his rage control his leadership sometimes, but he has potential to be great if he can only stick to it. I would hate to see him fail.”

Doris sighed and glanced up at the clouds above them. Small flakes fell into her hair. “I suppose we should prepare for this battle, then.”

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Chapter 163 A sweet offer

“You called for me?” Doris asked hesitantly as she entered the emptied kitchens. It smelled like vanilla and cinnamon, it was almost enough to distract her from the fact that William wanted to meet in the kitchens of all places.

“Daniel has already found out about the war.” William said. His back was to her and she couldn’t see what he was doing or why he was in here. She hadn’t seen him since the day before when he told Martin of his plans to take the crown. She figured he was preparing his side of the war and didn’t want to disturb him.

“Oh no, how did he take it?” She asked with a frown.

William’s shoulders rolled a little. “Not well. He confronted me a few hours ago. He doesn’t want us to fight over the crown. He thinks it’s forcing him to choose sides.”

Doris said nothing. She quietly sat herself at the counter and watched him curiously.

“I don’t need Daniel to be against me on this. I’m not asking him to choose sides. He’s always been the innocent one in the family, I would rather die where I stand than let that change.” William turned and set a tin in front of Doris. He had flour all up the front of his shirt and across his pants as if a bag had exploded on him. He glared at her when she started to laugh.

“Did you... bake?” Doris lifted the lid to see half a dozen cookies inside. “I didn’t know you

could bake? I've never heard any of the other servants talk about it." "It's not hard to read a recipe." William snapped and closed the lid almost harshly. "Don't touch them, they aren't for you to eat."

"Okay..." Doris moved her hands to her lap. "I just didn't realize you know how to bake. I thought the royals had never been in a kitchen for anything but made food."

"I'm not a fool. I had the chef leave me a simple recipe out." William sneered and leaned his elbows against the counter. "I made those for Daniel as a sort of... peace offering. It's not the best one, but it's something." I

"Oh, that's actually very kind of you." Doris smiled. "I know he would love that, he loves his sweets."

"Yes. I know. He always used to steal mine when we were kids." William ran his fingers through his hair and ended up with flour mixed in. "I need him to stay out of this war, perhaps this will convince him not to completely hate me for it."

"You wouldn't ask him to fight for you?" Doris asked.

"Of course not. Daniel would never go against the palace, it's not in him to do that." William sighed. Her fingers itched to wipe the flour out of his soft hair. "I don't think Daniel is one to hold grudges." Doris reached across the counter to hold his hand. "I think he just wants you guys to be okay, he doesn't want to lose either of you even if you aren't the closest of brothers."

William stared at their hands before his gaze moved to the tin. "Will you deliver this to him? I doubt he would want to see me after what happened."

"Of course." Doris moved to take the tin but his grip on her tightened.

"They're just for Daniel." He said again. .

Doris blinked. "Yes, I know."

Slowly, he released her. "Come see me in my room when you're done."

Doris nodded and watched William leave with flour still in his hair. She hopped off the stool and took the tin along with some milk before heading towards Daniel's room. Two guards were stationed outside of his room, they eyed her suspiciously but let her pass without a word.

Doris knocked three times before Daniel finally answered the door. His face looked a little hollow with sorrow, but it brightened when he looked at her.

"Doris, come in!" He pulled her inside before she could object and closed the door. There was always a part of her that was uncertain if she should be alone with a boy in his room-even though she trusted Daniel. The impropriety of it all

would make her mother faint. Not too mention the sort of gossip it would start if any of the nosy maids caught her alone with William's brother.

"How're you feeling? I heard what happened between you and William." Doris said. Daniel eyed the tin in her hands and she swore he must not have even heard her the second he realized she had sweets.

"I've been spending all day trying to figure out how to stop it but-are those cookies?" .

"Oh, yes! William made them for you. He wanted me to bring them by since he didn't think you would want to see him." Doris held them out and Daniel almost snatched them from her hands.

"Wait, did you say William made them for me? Or he put these in a tin and said he made them?" Daniel asked suspiciously. He held up one of the cookies as if it might come alive and attack him at any moment.

"No, he made them. I caught him covered in flour when I found him." Doris grinned. Daniel hesitated for a moment longer before he finally shoved a full one inside his mouth.

"Want one?" He mumbled. Doris shook her head. "They're not half bad. Who knew the man could bake?" "That's what I said." Doris muttered and seated herself by his fire. "Should I tell him you forgive him? Or that you might consider it in the future? He hates that you're upset with him."

"No. It'll take more than cookies to soften me this time." Daniel threw himself down on the chair from across her before he shoved another cookie in his mouth. "It makes no sense to go to war over this. *Martin* was always the one set to take the crown, I don't understand why he would choose now to challenge that after all these years."

"William thinks he will be the better ruler." Doris said softly. "He doesn't think *Martin* will take his role seriously. It seems he's already let *Luna Queen* make the decisions for him since your father had fallen ill."

"Don't do that. Don't take my brothers side just because you're his lady now." Daniel threw the empty tin on the table in front of them. She hadn't even noticed he ate them all that fast.

"I'm not taking his side because I'm his lady. I can see what *Martin* is doing with my own eyes." Doris sighed. "I don't want this war either, Daniel. You know I don't. It goes against everything in me to know there's a war coming."

"You should help me convince him to drop it then."

"It isn't that easy and you know that. William has been planning this longer than I've known him, he won't stop now just because we disapprove of it."

Daniel rolled his eyes to the ceiling. "This won't end well for either of them. I know my brothers, they're complete opposites but both can be just as cut throat when the time comes for it."

"If only your father was well, he could settle this once and for all." Doris frowned. Daniel deflated a little at the mention of his father. She almost wished she could suck the words right back inside

"I'm tired of being inside." Daniel said suddenly and stood, his cheeks looked a little red. "Let's go for a walk before I explode with all of this built up emotion."

Doris stood and followed him out of the palace and into the fresh layers of snow. They walked in silence for quite a while before Doris finally spoke.

"William cares a lot about you, even if he doesn't say it. He's not one to admit such things."

Daniel said nothing. He shoved his hands deep into his pockets and looked around them empty clearing. "I suppose I should try to memorize this place as best I can before war taints it all."

- "I'm sure it wouldn't destroy the palace-"

"No, it'll just kill hundreds of my men and pin others against each other." He kicked a thick rock out of the snow. "I don't want to fight against my brothers, but it is my job to do so to protect the palace. William knows he is forcing me to stand either with him or against-"

Daniel started coughing. They paused until it passed over but by then he looked blue in the face. "As I was saying,"

"Daniel, you really don't look well-we should sit."

"I'm fine." Daniel kept on even when he sounded choked. Doris hurried after him. "I just need fresh air—"

Daniel dropped to his knees before she could help him. He fell into the snow and didn't move again.

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Chapter 164 Already they fall

"Daniel!" Doris screamed. She dropped next to him and rolled him over-but he was already out. He looked so pale, he looked as if all the life had suddenly left him and she didn't know how to get it back. "Daniel!"

Stomps echoed behind her and soon she was ripped away from him as if she was the one that knocked him down. Tears blurred her eyes and made everything seem as if it was out of focus around her. What was happening?

Guards went to check his pulse instantly and it was then that she noticed his chest was moving evenly. "He's alive! Move him to the medical ward!"

"What happened to him?" Doris shouted. A guard roughly moved her further away from the scene and it only made her wolf want to break free and tear them apart for keeping her away from her friend.

"What did you do to him?" A man screamed in her face. Doris tried to push him away from her but his grip was like iron. His question ignited a fire inside her and made her ready to burn down everything around them.

"I didn't do anything! We just came out for a walk and he collapsed!"

It was like her claims fell to the ground. They didn't believe her for a second. Already she could see herself being thrown in the cells where it was cold and dark with no one but herself for company. She would suffer through hundreds of cells if it meant Daniel lived.

"Let me go with him! I need to make sure he's okay!" Doris struggled to get out of their grip, but they only held on firmer.

"We can't let you do that. We need to figure out what happened to him first-"

Doris finally forced her arm free from their grip with a growl that came straight from her wolf as if it was ripped from her throat. "How dare you treat me as if I had something to do with it? He started coughing and collapsed! I would never harm any of my friends,"

"Let her go to him." William walked calmly towards them. Everything about him was collected, as if there wasn't a worry in the world on his shoulders. "And don't ever touch her like that again. I'll rip both of your arms right off if I see you lay another hand on her like that."

"As you wish." The guards bowed to William and stepped out of her path. Doris looked at William for a second longer, but he did nothing but stare back at her. Had he been watching her walk with Daniel?

She hurried after where they took Daniel and found him in the medical ward with several doctors standing over him as if he was some sort of strange experiment that they couldn't figure out. "What happened to the prince?" Someone demanded. Doris quickly stepped up.

"He seemed fine until we went for a walk. He started coughing and fell to the ground a moment later. I told him we should sit but he insisted that he was fine-"

"That's enough, thank you." A doctor grumbled. The doctor checked his pulse and slowly she was pushed to the corner of the large room while they checked him.

"It doesn't seem to be a problem with his heart—"

"We won't know that until we do some tests—"

"The prince has been perfectly healthy! How would this have happened?"

Doris picked at her nails. She didn't even notice William was next to her until he cleared his throat. It almost made her jump out of her skin. How long had he been standing there?

"I'd like Daniel to be moved somewhere more secure than here while you treat him." William said. His voice silenced a room and brought all attention on him at once. It wasn't hard to see him as the ruler he so desperately wanted to be.

"Prince William, he's perfectly safe here—"

"I didn't ask if he was safe here. I asked for him to be moved to a more secure location while you treat him."

"This is the only place in the palace suited to treat him—"

William took a step forward and Doris swore all the doctors took one back. "I don't want him in the palace. He needs to be moved to a more secure location. Far from the palace."

Silence. The doctors exchanged uneasy looks that appeared just as confused as Doris felt. "Yes, your majesty. We will find somewhere...better for him to heal." One of the doctors bowed.

Doris felt a heavy lump settle in her chest when she looked at William. A realization slammed into her and left her breathless.

"No... you didn't." Doris whispered. William grabbed her by the arm without looking at her and hauled her out of the room as if she was a rag doll. "Let go of me!"

William didn't loosen his grip in the slightest, even when she felt her wolf simmer inside her and beg to be left free. He shoved her into a nearby closet and slammed the door after him.

"You did you poison him?" Doris asked. Even to her own ears she sounded utterly horrified. "Tell me you didn't do that to your own brother."

William stared at her for a long minute, and it was all the confirmation she needed. Doris shoved past him and left the closet before he could stop her. William ran after her and grabbed her by the waist before he pushed her up against the wall with his body.

"You can't say a word about this, Doris." He said against her ear. The hallway was empty of but she wondered what he would have done if she screamed at the top of her lungs.

"How could you do this to him?" Doris shoved at his chest. He released her after the third shove but didn't move to let her by. "Oh my god..." Doris whispered. "You had me deliver it to him! I basically gave it to him!"

William covered her mouth with his large hand, "Will you shut up?" He hissed. "I did this for his own good!"

Doris pushed him off her and hurried down the hall to her room. She glanced back and saw he didn't follow by the time she reached her door.

Doris slammed it as hard as she could and locked it behind her.

"Are you okay?" Beth asked, startled. She stood from the couch and eyed Doris as if she had gone mad. "What happened to you? Is someone chasing you?"

"No, no." Doris breathed. Her head felt as if it was about to roll off her shoulders. "I just... | just needed to lay down and get away from everything out there."

Beth hurried over to Doris and started to help her undress and put on clothes that were much more comfortable before she laid in bed.

"Are you feeling nauseous again?" Beth asked as she smoothed her hair back. "I can get you a bucket or anything else that might help."

"I'm fine, thank you." Doris whispered. She closed her eyes and tried to ignore the horrible pressure pushing down on her chest. What if she unintentionally killed Daniel? Why didn't William deliver those cookies himself if he knew what was inside them?

A small bloom of hatred filled inside her. It was hard to forgive a man who did something so terrible, no matter the reason. She should have realized it sooner-she should have stopped him. 0

Beth rubbed her back slowly, Doris had forgotten she was even there. How long had she been like this? "I had dinner brought for you, do you think you can eat?"

"I don't know if it'll stay down. I feel so utterly sick." Doris whimpered. She hugged her stomach and buried her face in her pillow as if it would ward out the world around her. Daniel's sweet, trusting face smiling at her as he shoved the cookies in his mouth one after another. He must think she's a monster if he ever were to wake up again.

How would he ever forgive her? 0

"William sent a letter asking if you would join him tonight."

"No. I want to be alone right now." Doris said quickly. Beth silently got up and left the room without another word.

Hours passed in her own misery before Beth returned with a light knock. "William has come to visit you. I told him you wanted to be alone but he said he needed to talk to you about

something important."

"Tell him he can tell me later." Doris mumbled.

William shoved the door all the way open and closed it in Beth's face. Doris quickly sat up.

"Don't you dare slam a door in my friend's face like that!" She went to stand and apologize to Beth, but he grabbed her and pushed her right back into the bed.

"You're going to listen to me." .

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Chapter 165 Reasonings among others

"Get off me!" Doris snarled. She tried to kick him off but it was like nothing phased him in the slightest. It all only irritated her more than she wanted to admit. Why did he always have to look so unbothered by everything? Would it kill him to show a bit of his feelings beyond the mask that hides it so well? 2

"I don't want to see you right now! Just-leave me alone!" She shouted to the ceiling. If only Beth was a strong wolf that could rip him apart with her. 2

"You need to hear why I did it, Doris." William hissed. (This novel will be daily updaed at)He pinned her wrists above her head and held down her legs with his knee before she could start kicking him again. "I did it for his own good! Daniel needed to be taken somewhere else,, this was the only way!" .

"You tried to kill him for his own good? How does that make sense!" Doris whimpered. She cursed her tears for showing him her weakness. "Daniel didn't deserve that! He trusted me when I gave him those cookies!"

"They wouldn't kill him, Doris. I didn't put enough of a dose to do that." William said calmly. She wanted to bite him and spit on him at the same time. She willed him to come closer so she could.

"Are you crazy? Why would you do that to him?! Why didn't you tell me what you were doing?"

"I asked Enzo for medication that would put him in a coma like state. The poison will keep him out for a few weeks, but it won't kill him." William explained as if it would all make sense. Doris felt the flame of anger fan brighter.

"Enzo was in on it too?" Doris stilled her thrashing. Now it tasted like betrayal on her tongue. "You two planned this together and used me to set it through?"

William nodded slowly. "Yes. Enzo was the one that suggested it when I said we needed to get him far from here. (This novel will be daily updated at)We didn't intend him any harm, Doris."

"That's horribly risky, William! It could have killed him and you know it. He shoved those down within seconds!"

"I knew he would. That's why I only gave him a few." William cautiously released her. He looked a bit unsure of his decision and it made Doris want to laugh in a cynical way. "I needed him out of here and safe. I can't have him while this war starts. He's the only innocent one in this family and I wouldn't have been able to go through with it if I knew there was a chance he would be hurt because of my decisions." 2

Doris slowly sat up and rubbed her wrists. "You poisoned him to get him out of the way? What if it killed him, William? What if you were wrong and you put too much?"

"I would never have made that mistake. I knew the risks and I wouldn't have done it unless I was completely sure." William said. He sounded more like he wanted to convince himself of it rather than her. "I don't want him anywhere near the battleground and I know he would have been there whether I wanted him there or not. (This novel will be daily updated at)He's not one to stay on the sidelines when it comes to a fight."

"Why didn't you tell me you planned to do this?" Doris asked weakly. "Why didn't you just give it to him yourself?"

"Because he trusted you more than he trusted me. He might not have eaten them if I gave them to him personally." William straightened himself. "And I know you would have never agreed to give it to him if I told you." —

"Well, I don't think he'll ever trust me again now." Doris looked down at her hands. They had so many small cuts across the surface. When had she become so ruined? "I can't believe you did this. I wish you would have at least told me." ...

"I don't regret what I did. I am sorry you were involved against your will."

Doris tried to look him in the eye, but it felt wrong. Daniel was unconscious now and it was partly because of her. (This novel will be daily updated at)Why did the guilt weigh so heavily on her chest but not on his own? Would he do the same to her if she tried to get in his way?

"I would like to be alone now." Doris whispered. She watched as William's feet backed towards the door.

"In the morning, we have to leave to find our safe space for our army. We won't be welcome here soon and I would rather not be forced out." He said. "I'll have someone come get you and your maid early." Doris said nothing as he left through the door.

After a few minutes, Beth hesitantly entered. "I think the prince just apologized to me."

Doris raised her eyes to look at her friend. "He did?"

"Yeah, he muttered it under his breath before he left. I thought I was going crazy for a moment." Beth seated herself next to Doris. "Are you alright?"

"I will be. I just need... to process what happened. I feel sick inside and I'm not sure where the cause is coming from. It feels like all of me is suffering." Doris sighed. "Please pack both of our bags, we're set to leave tomorrow morning."

"Leave?" Beth stood. "Where on earth would we be going?"

Doris realized she hadn't yet told her best friend about what was to come. Her guilt only grew deeper. "There's.... Prince William is calling a claim on the crown and challenging Prince Martin for it. He's calling on his army tomorrow and.. I believe it'll be the start of a war between the brothers."

"What?" Beth gasped. "Doris! How long have you known about this?"

"Not very. I didn't want to frighten you when I learned it would come to this. I hoped it would have resolved itself on its own but clearly it isn't going to." Doris dropped her head in her hands. "And now Prince Daniel is.. sick and he's being moved far from the palace and away from all of this. I almost envy him for that."

"Prince Daniel is sick? Does he have what the king has?" Beth started pacing the room and chewing on her nails in worry. "Doris, I wish you had warned me about this!"

"No, he doesn't have what the king has! He'll be fine... I hope." Doris ran her fingers through her hair. "I wanted to tell you but-Beth I'm so sorry. I should have warned you sooner. There's no excuse for me leaving you in the dark like this!"

Beth sat next to Doris and took her hands. "It will be fine. We'll get through this like we always do." She kissed her hand. "You won't be alone this time. I will be with you, don't think I would leave you for a second."

Doris threw her arms around her friend and buried her face in her hair. "I don't know what would do without you." She mumbled before she pulled away. "I feel as if this is all going to come crashing down on me, I almost forget how to breathe most of the time."

Beth pat her hand and stood again. "Rest yourself, I'll get everything settled before morning. I'll have to head down to the servants quarters to get some extra supplies-but I'll have it all done."

"Thank you Beth." Doris smiled weakly at her friend. She gripped her hand and squeezed three

times.

Doris fell asleep after her friend left her alone to her own thoughts. Her exhaustion pulled her free from the tight grips of worry, how long would she have to live like this? She dreamed of a time when there was nothing but old books on her mind. That, and the taste of freedom. The two things seemed so far away, it was almost hard to wrap her fingers around.

She woke when her chest felt as if it was about to explode. (This novel will be daily updated at)She tore herself free from her blankets and made it to the bathing room just in time to throw up inside the nearest bucket. It was as if all of her insides were being forced out of her more violently than they had been in the past few days.

She felt starving and sick at the thought of food at the same time. She stumbled out of her room to find it empty with a fire that was long put out. It felt as if it was snowing inside her room, she could see her breath in front of her.

She spent the rest of her night bunched up by her poorly lit fire, waiting for the uncertain morning to come and tear her away from this fantasy