

# Her Unwanted Mate On The Throne By Caroline

## Chapter 31

Stay away from her. What are you doing?!" Dunst to yan helf Out of his hold, but he only held hinder. "Le me 30! Pe There is no point in Tusiting them, their face held o sympathy for her or what was about lu hapen to hr. They did her out of her raam

and through the dark blways like she was an a l. Hi heart Ered to burst from her chest.

when the rear settled deep in her bob. She Want sure if she would be able to survive the night, but she had to try Prince Tack stood there waiting for her calm and collected His ce que no hint to how he will feeling of what was in stare for her and that temd her more than she wanted to admit There

is no chair this time, only chains remained where it once stood, "Have you settled on your confession?" Prince lack Asked as the door slammed shut behind her. "I still stand by what I said." Doris couldn't keep the shakiness out of her voice. Prince Jack lifted his chin slightly when he looked down at her. His ces roamed over her face that was partially healed thanks to the old man blood. The corner of his mouth lifted in a sinister smärk that wis na where near friendly. "I suppose I didn't impose enough pressure the last time we spoke." His eyes darkened as he took a step towards her. Doris quickly stepped away until her back hit against the wall. He laughed a little as if he knew there was no where for her to run or hide and he didn't have to

Hugh aller BH ID catch her: "Just admit Fence

Prince Jack wald Daris by her throat before she could finisili her sentence. She gripped his hands in he lifted her all the yound, she quickly gauw desperate for als before he threw her down as hard

she could against the stone floor. She felt it all of her breath was knockoud right out of her. He leated over her to qaba chunk of her hair and förde her wide, lemmik eyes to his. He gestund for the guards to chain her to the found even though They both know she would never escape him. "I'm not going to ask again, understand?" He hissed through his teeth. Doris winced when he forced her face closer, the chains rattled around her. He waited silently for her to say something but she only staned at him with a plea in her eyes. "Don't say 1 didn't warn you." Darls watched as his fist closed before he hit her so hard, her head stacked against the floor and left her dizzy from the impact. Her eyes felt as if they rolled back in her head. Prince Jack doubled in her Vision for a moment as he reached out his hand one of the guards quickly placed a short metal bar in his palm. Prince Jack didn't give her another chance to beg before he slammed the bar against her body-over and over again. Her legs, her torso and arins. Her skin split open in

hombre gashes each time he brought the bar down more than once in the same area. Doris couldn't register if she screamed, but her throat became raw enough that she knew must have been He paused for a moment to catch his breath. Doris

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steps to catch up to her and brought his build directly on her hand. Doris would never for the

The guards stood stoned faced by the doors in they watched their prince quickly lose control, they still nothing as he leaned over her brought the bar down across her face. We und over again until her te mixed with blood. Doris vreamed in agony. he threw the bloodied bar kross the roun when he pew tired of using it. "P-please... You can't kill me before the trail..." Doris choked on her own blood as she tried ta speak, Prince Jack raised his brows and looked at her as if she were a dying dog. \*You really think they'll care about an omega mald's life? You'll be replaced by morning without a single tear shed." Prince Jack wiped his face and only smeared more of her own blood across his cheek while doing so. Her heart ached, but she was tou hurt to are about his words. No matter how true they were, her mind wouldn't dwell on. anything he said when her body was screaming for medical care Doris struggled to breathe and felt closer to death than the night Melody tried to kill her Prince Jack was much stronger, every hit was worth ten of Melody's. Blood spilled from her lips and onto his shoes when she coughed, he looked down at her with disgust in his eyes and for a moment she wondered if he'd finally decided he wanted to kill her.

Fine Jack Pulled bug rope from his part slowly

watched her. His head tilted in A ty as her breaths lume louder the more

desate she became to breath. His face quickly datkend when she saw his patience slip. He mihi have been ulently waiting for her to win to his demands, but she wouldn't. Prince Jack sed the rupe away. if he changed his mind and fell to his knees beside her. He wrapped his large hands around her neck and Started to nueeze until she couldn't breath. She clawed at his hands desperately. Her eyes widened, he only applied more force the more she struggled. Doris tried to kick at him, she tried to wring herself out from underneath himn but it didn't work in the slightest. Slowly, her attempts weakened. Darknes started to flicker in her vislan and she knew she was about to pass out ordle. She was so close to fedomn, only to die at the hands of # horrible Prince Suddenly, Prince Tack was thrown off her for a moment, she thought it was the masked man that camne to save her front death. But when she sawali of the guards in the room had bowed, her blurry gaze landed on Prince William. He stood with nage burning in his eyes is he took in the sight of Doris half dead on the ground. She hadn't even heard himni come in, but it looked like the door was almost off its hinges behind him. Doris rubbed her sore throat and gulped in as much air is she could, quickly moving further away from where Prince Jack was. I His gaze was no longer on her, his fury burned into Prince William and Doris would have shivered from the look Prince William gave him back. "What do you think you're doing to her?" Prince William Spoke with a deadly calm as he took a step closer to Prince Jack

*It's time for her trial. Bring her but to the ECUTE." +1 never knew the count started their trials in the middle of the night – Prince kinoted. What's the hash? Are you womed Elil your lisele mid Or should I meter to her your mistress?" He*

Prince William moved quicker than Deris expected hiin to. He slumd Jack back into the stone Wall behind him and the guards around them didn't Sien ta know what to do. They looked ready to try and stop him, but made no mave to do so. Prince Jack threw a punch at Prince William, but it barely seemed to phase him in the slightest. He was at least a head taller than Prince Jack and it almost looked comial to see him try and fight against Prince William. Or, it would have been if every inch of her wasn't burning with pain. Prince William Smacked Prince Jack's head back against the wall angrily before he punched himn so hard his nose bled. Prince William grabbed his throat and lifted Prince Jack slightly off the ground. "I'm the only one that's allowed to deal with her. If I see you lay another hand on her. I will rip your throat out and feed it to your pack of dogs." He let Prince Jack drop with a thud. The prince rubbed his throat and gulped for air just as Doris had been a moment before. A terrible part of her was glad to see him in pain \*Stay away from her." Prince William said before he turned to look at Doris.

## Chapter 32

what will you do with her

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Harls Mlinched a little bit Prince William hered to help her up. A flash of something that looked life He neid his feature but it was gone before the could focus on L He gently removed her chains and hauled her to her wet, his eyes searched her face when she wined but he said nothing. Prince Jacht Binod and stumbled out as the daar as he was Erying to beat them to the court, but Prince William Lared him as he took – handkerchief from his jucket and dabbed at the blood on her face. The soft

esture surprised her more than he allowed to show. He was a close to her, their faces only inches apart and for once he didn't look angry ar annoud with her. Her shaly hand took the cloth from him and wiped some of the blood herself he watched her for a moment with a frow before he turned and made his way to the door. It is obvious he wanted her te follow him, she allowed herself to catch her breath before she limped after him. Prince Jack must have hit her left leg harder than she thought, it was agonizing to even put a little pressure on it. Prince William didn't rush her, he showed his steps when he realized she couldn't walk very fast. For a moment, it looked like he wanted to offer his um but looked angry at himself for even considering being nice. He probably felt bad she was almost beaten to her death before a fair judging. It was a miracle that the trial was moved to nightfall, otherwise she wasn't sure if she would have survived till morning. She'd never forget the

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murderous look intPince dik's when he strangled her. She would've worn it was the end for her if Prince William hadn't interfered. For OTH in her life, she was grateful to him Once they pushed through the doon, a silence fell over the inside.

All eyes fell on Doris and she wished she could have hidden behind Prince William's large frame but she kept firm and walked

There was a small podium with large tables on each side. One for the defense and the other for prosecution she assumed. Doris had never been in this room of the palace, she always thought she was lucky to be so far away from any of the courts business. Not today, it seemed. How did she get here? Just a few months ago, the library was all she'd known. Now it seemed she was the only one most of the royals glared at. There were more seats in the crowd for those to sit and watch what was to become of her. It was filled with so many royals, it made her blood chill from the sight. The king was seated in a throne by the table with his family spread on each side of him, he watched her with a little pity in his gaze as she limped to the other table. Prince Jack was already seated next to his mother, his suit had a bit of her blood on it as well as some of his own from his nose. He glared at both of them from the second they entered, she quickly looked away. A small sense of satisfaction grew inside her knowing he suffered a little bit for what he did to her. Luna Queen sat tall and tense with Lady Grace Fearby. Prince Daniel was seated away from them and he stood when he saw Doris. A flush of anger reddened his cheeks as he glared at Prince William as if he thought he was the one that caused it. Doris wished she could silently explain who it was

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lead where ince Willis directed. His iron ünly Fres h book in all the blood she didn't have in

chance to wash ofl. How howbile she must look to ate

"Well, you look like you've had quite the night."

Luis Queca leaned back in her chair and raised her com

brers but held na pity for Denis in her gaze. "Let's

et on with it then and charge her." Prince William stepped up to the podium and straightened his jacket. He didn't spare on glance al Prince Jack as if he wasn't even there. "Daris won't be charged for anything." He said, ignoring the mummuring that exploded from his first Comnent. Doris thought it must have been fare for anyone except his family to question Prince William \*That's absurd! She tried to kill me!" Luna Queen shrieked above the voices. Doris swayed a little on her feet. "She didn't. I found the maid who put the Aconitum in the soup." Prince Willam continued calmly, he raised his hand and the girl came forward. Doris didn't recognize the maid, but she looked as if she'd been crying all night. The way she stared at Prince William made it obvious who she was to himni, though. "I-I did put the flower in the soup, but I had no idea it was poison!" She cried. "I would have never done it if I'd known it was poisoned. I just I didn't want Prince William around Melody any longer. Everyone knows she doesn't deserve

him. I thought I tried to frame Melody as the one who put the flower in Luna Queen's bowl because I knew she was allergic."

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? I want to know who's behind the parson, Hol vault bedroomhair!" She hand her hand down mainst the table, Dusta rubbed her head and tried to stand straight. "Who's te wys wasn't hired to take the blame For others." Prince lack spoke up. his eyes what to Doris bile they landed an Prince William He clearly wasn't going to forgive him for the earlier

King Charles slammed his own hand down on the Table when he'd had enough of their qiel. Doris Flirched from the sound but remained silent. – That's enough. We don't need to sie here and listen to you going back and forth to waste my time." Prince William cleared his throt, Lunii Queen tumed red and seated herself again. No one dared speak to out of turn- Prince Williarn only spoke again when King Charles stüred for him to continue. "The flower that was placed in the soup was poisonous, but that wasn't the only poison found in the soup. A trace of minchirieel was mixed in as well. It's one of the rarest plants in this kingdamn that's only grown in the north, usually it could only be found on the black market for sale, Once digested, it can be deadly." Hushed whispers broke when he mentioned the north. Although the territory is ruled by house Amold, it was one of the most dangerous areas ini the whole kingdom. Rogue packs that didn't submit to the royal family roamed the area, even a prince wasn't safe in the north. In fact, they would only be more targeted. Whoever traveled to the blackmarket must have been very determined to poison Luna Queen, Doris briefly wondered who hated her so

"Allow me to go to the north." Prince William sad everyone silenced at his ward, "I have to find the truth and bring justice to everyone involved in this case. I don't think I'll be able to do that if I stay

He was risking his life for this case-why? Doris realized he must have truly loved Melody to do something like this for her. Prince Jack was wrong. he did care for her if he was willing to travel to the herth where everyone knew he might not corne back from. While Prince William was a strong woli, it wouldn't matter if he found himself backed in a comer against hundreds of rogue, angry wolves that only wanted his blood on their hands. "What are you going to do about the maid?" The king asked. Doris felt a Bttle dizzy, she gripped onto the table to steady herself but no one seemed to notice. What would they do to her? Throw her back into the cell until he retumed with some sort of evidence to free her? "Yes, what will you do about her? It hasn't been proven she wasn't the one to poison the soup." Luna Queen said with a sheer in her tone. 2 "It's not hert" Prince Daniel stood, his hands balled in fists at his sides. Doris would have smiled at his attempt if she had the energy. Prince Jack scolfed, "How would you know if it was?" "Doris would never poison anyone." Daniel insisted. "She's one of the kindest maids I've had the pleasure of meeting in this palace." "I didn't realize

you were so smitten with the pretty maid, Daniel." Prince Jack smirked as he leaned forward. He glanced at Prince William with a smug

sort of expression. Prince William lifted his gaze to Daniel, a bit of imitation flickered in his eyes. "Why would you ever act as if you know her more than anyone else in the

Their arguing faded away from Doris all at once. She tried to hold onto the light but the darkness swallowed her whole as she fell back into someone's grasp and saw no more.

### Chapter 33 Prince William had done so much more

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Doris wasn't sure how many hours passed when she finally woke. Light streamed in from the part curtains, and she'd forgotten all about prison and poison. Only the pain reminded her of the misery she suffered from Prince Jack's hands. "Oh, Doris!" Beth's familiar voice calmed Doris's growing fear. "I was so worried, you've been out for

Doris tried to sit up, Beth rushed over to help adjust her pillows. Suddenly she realized she was in their room—the room she shared with Beth before Melody asked her to be her lady's maid. "Did they send me here?" Doris asked weakly.

Yes. Prince William asked for you to be moved here instead of the cell." Beth smoothed out her blankets and brushed back her hair. Doris was relieved to see she was no longer in the dreadful prison attire, she was in her own night clothes. "He did?" Doris said, unable to keep the surprise from her tone. She was thrilled to be back with Beth. It made her feel so much safer and happier than any other place in the entire kingdom could. "Yes, I think he wanted to make sure you had someone to take care of you. The palace gave me these days off to look after you." Beth spoke gently, as if she were afraid her volume might hurt Doris's ears. She was surprised to hear the palace allowed Beth to stray from her duties just for Doris, perhaps she was closer to death than she thought. "Prince Daniel came by twice already to see you, I'm sure he'll be here any minute to check on you

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ced Beth, she rushed

little while

curled. "Your majesty, please come in, Dark is

Doris tried to sit up straighter: "Oh, please don't on my account!" Prince Daniel hurried forward to help Doris. She flushed a little at his touch, Beth moved at her behind Prince Daniel's shoulder "I'm going to get more towels, I'll be right back!"

Beth said before she slipped out. Prince Daniel looked as if he hadn't slept much, he smiled down at Doris and cleared his throat. "I left you flowers earlier." He gestured to the pink roses by her bed, Doris slowly turned herself to be the bouquet. "I picked them from the gardens, I saw you looking at them a few weeks ago so I took . guess that they might be your favorites." "Oh my." Doris whispered and lifted her fingers to brush across the petals. "They're lovely. Thank you, your majesty." \*Please, call me Daniel." He pulled up Beth's chair so he could sit by the bed. "There's no reason for you to call me your majesty or Prince Daniel in private." Doris opened her mouth to object, but closed it after a moment and smiled at him. It was odd to even think of calling a prince by his first name, but Daniel was different. He'd been a friend before he was a prince to her.

her torso and winced. "Doris, what's wrong. Does it hurt? Daniel stood quickly and looked around the room. He grabbed a small vial of medicine by her table and poured water of it on a spoon. Carefully, he brought it to her and held the back of her head to help her sip it properly.

1. CO After a few moments, the medicine started to settle in. She slowly leaned back against the pillows and took a breath. Daniel set down the bottle and nuzzled her hand that wasn't bandaged. "Are you feeling okay?"

Yes, the pain is fading a little. Thank you, your—" Prince Daniel gave her a look, she smiled. "Daniel." \*\*Did Prince William do that to you? Did he hurt you?" Daniel asked gently, though his eyes looked a little angry at the thought. Doris shook her head. \*Prince Jack did, he wanted me to confess but I wouldn't." Doris said as she blinked away a few tears that threatened to come out. Nothing would be more embarrassing than crying in front of a prince. A flash of anger crossed Daniel's features, for a moment she understood why he was a feared warrior. When he was angry. even for a second, he looked murderous. His face cooled back to normal and he squeezed her hand. "I'm sorry this happened, I know it wasn't you. I don't care what any of them say. I know you would never poison someone no matter how cruel they were to you." Doris weakly squeezed his hand back, "I appreciate your support, truly. Thank you for standing up for me." Daniel nodded, a fierceness in his gaze. "Of course. Always."

Prince Daniel stayed through dessert where she

He only left the Hell returned from her very long trip to meet her but Doris didn't mind. The Wills glad to his company.

Prince Martin came by after she was settled in bed

1. in. May I came in to see her?" He suddenly startled Leth. It was rare for any maid to see a prince up close, let alone two princes in the same day. Beth curtsied and bowed, quickly allowing the Crown Prince inside. Prince Martin stopped for a moment when he took in the sight of her. She bet she looked horrible, she couldn't even imagine what kind of bruising her face suffered. After a breath, he stepped forward with a book gripped in his hand. "I wanted to see how you were feeling I'm sorry I can't stay long." He said gently. "I'm doing fine. Thank you for coming, your majesty." The side of Prince Martin's mouth lifted, he gestured to the chair by her bed. "May I?" He asked, Doris nodded and he took his seat. "I brought you a book, I thought you might Now a

bit bored in here." "Oh! How kind." Doris took the small book and smiled when she realized it was the same poetry book he adored. She glanced up to see Beth watching them curiously. She would have thrown a pillow at her friend if she had more energy. "It's one of my favorites, I got you a copy so you could read it as well." Doris smiled as she flipped through the pages. Sadly, it seemed it was not the same copy he wrote notes upon. Though, he did write her name on the first page along with his own to indicate it was from him. Part of her heart warmed when she realized he must have purchased another copy so she could read it as well. Who

knew the princes were so kind? She'd worked here in the palace for years and only recently had she discovered that two of the princes were pure gentlemen. "Thank you, Prince Martin. I really appreciate this." Doris closed the book lightly and held it to her chest. He smiled at her, a light in his green eyes. "I also appreciate the time you stood up for me." He waved away her words with a frown. "It didn't do any good, clearly." He said as his eyes raked over her injuries. \*Prince Jack is quite persuasive when he thinks he's right or when he wants something." "Still, I'm thankful for your kindness. Not many people would stand up for a maid like me." Prince Martin glanced down at her bandaged hand before he met her eyes again. "Some people are worth it, no matter their titles." He stood and brushed the wrinkles off his pants. "I hope you feel better soon, Doris. Perhaps I'll see you in the library again." Prince Martin turned to leave before she could say another word. The door closed and both of the girls stared at it for a moment in shock before they looked at each other. Beth grinned widely. "Are you sure there's nothing between you two? I can practically feel the tension between you!" "Tension?" Doris said, confused "There's nothing between us at all, Beth. He's getting married to Lady Grace, remember?" "Yes, but do you know what he's been doing for you? Beth took the seat Prince Martin had just used. "He begged Luna Queen to let you go when you were in prison. Every single day he tried to convince her to release you, as did Prince Daniel." "They did?" Doris glanced at the door he'd just left

through -Yes! But..." Beth glanced back at the door as well to make sure it was closed. "Surprisingly. Prince William had done so much more than both of them."

## Chapter 34 Collect me

What do you mean?" Doris asked cautiously. She didn't think anything he did for her would be for her benefit. He hated her, even if he had moments of being somewhat decent she knew he hated her. It was obvious he didn't think she poisoned Melody, but that was it. "Prince William spent 3 days locked away searching for the one that actually poisoned the soup. He refused to do anything else or let anyone help him, he was determined to find out who did it so you could go free." Beth looked excited to finally share the gossip with Doris. She looked as if she were about to bounce out of her seat with all of the information she held in. "I heard he aggressively asked all of the servants who poured the soups and questioned everyone that worked that night until "Until what?" Doris asked, her hands gripping the blankets around her. It wasn't hard to picture him. yelling at cooks and servants until they admitted whatever he wanted to them. "Until one of his ex-lovers admitted it was her." Beth said with wide, excited eyes. This was definitely better than any book in the library to Beth. Doris briefly remembered the maid in the courtroom that came forward about the poison. Honestly. Doris was trying not to pass out so most of it was a giant, scary blur to her. "Really?" Doris breathed. It was quite scandalous for a prince to have an

ex-lover poison the soup because she was jealous of his new lady. She bet all of the maids were just as excited as Beth was about the gossip. "Did she say why?"

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"Apparently, we will have to try and frame Melody for making Luna Queen sick, but she claims she didn't know about the polkojaus herb in the soup." Burth propped her chin up with her hand and sighed. "I know Prince William is handsome, but who would go as far as poisoning someone over him? It's

"Do you believe her when she says she didn't put the poison in there as well?" Doris asked, feeling herself grow more tired by the minute. Her mind couldn't seem to picture anyone vicious enough to poison Luna Queen, not even a scorned lover. "I don't know, she claims she only put the flower in there but the flower alone has some poison in it. Perhaps she was too dull to realize that, but I'm not sure if she knew about the herb. I heard she was completely clueless when they asked her about it." Doris nodded and hummed to herself in thought. "He must really care for Melody to go through all that trouble." "He wanted to get you out of prison, Doris. He hasn't mentioned Melody in days. I doubt he truly cared for her." "Beth! You can't say something like that he obviously care if he's willing to travel to the north to find out who poisoned her." Doris frowned a little Prince Jack had also claimed Prince William hadn't shed a single tear about her poisoning. Clearly he wasn't huge on emotions, he must have been hiding his feelings for the most part. But actions were always louder than words and Prince William was doing the unthinkable by offering to travel to the north to find the truth for Melody. "He's going there to prove it wasn't you who poisoned Luna Queen, Doris!" Beth said stubbornly. Doris knew how much Beth dreamed of her having some sort of romance with a prince, but it was

never going to happen. It wasn't even in her own daydreams, the only thing Doris dreamed about was getting as far from this palace as she could. "He already knows who wanted to harm Melody. I'm telling you it's to clear your name." Doris snorted at the thought and shook her head. "Beth, I adore you but he is not doing this for me. It's for Melody. Trust me. I'm just a maid that unfortunately got mixed in all of this, I'm just lucky he doesn't think it's me like Prince Jack does." Beth rolled her eyes and sighed loudly. "Fine. Be blind to the three princes tripping over themselves to impress you!" She stood, Doris laughed a little until it hurt. She was ridiculous. If only life were so simple that she had three princes wanting her attention, but Doris knew it was nothing like that.

A few days passed and Doris was finally able to walk on her own again. She walked up and down the halls outside her room and then laid in bed after with a serving of medicine to calm her pains, Beth stayed by her side the entire time and made sure she had enough to eat and drink whenever she was hungry. Doris was eternally grateful for her. Many maids in the palace only dreamed of having a friendship as true as they did, it was hard to trust in this place. Prince Daniel had come by a few more times to check in on her. He once even brought her some cake for a change and made her laugh until her sides hurt and Beth had to shoo him away. "Don't you have more important things to do?" Doris teased him. "Me? Never!" Prince Daniel said before he bowed and left the room with his signature grin that lit up his entire face. Doris smiled to herself as she watched him leave.

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wilently hoped they would mand her back to the Library orce she *was able to work again*, sha couldn't imagine anyone else would want het in lady's maid after what she went through. Tainted wards like liar, thial, and now pointer were on her back. At least in the library. nat many people ventured in to see her besides a kind prince and the occasional servant looking for a new read. Perhaps she would talk to Mr. Carson in the morning about it, if he wasn't still mad at her about the party.

Later that night, Doris had gotten up to make herself a glass of cool water when a knock startled her. Beth was already dozing in bed, Doris pulled on a long cloak and quietly opened it to see Prince William's footman on the other side, "Oh... Hello, sir." She curtsied. -Good evening. Ms. I've come to collect you for Prince William." He said with i slight bow of his head. Doris glanced back to see Beth was still sound asleep "Collect me?" Doris asked, confused. "What is this for, may I ask?" "Prince William has asked you to accompany him in his private bedroom tonight." "-what? Me?" Doris stumbled over her words, her face heated immediately. "I... Why me?" Prince William's footman stared it her silently, she supposed he wouldn't know why either: "O...okay. One moment, please. I just need to get my shoes." When he nodded and turned away. Donis hurried to Beth's side and shook her awake. "What?" Beth grumbled and leaned up on her elbows. Her eyes flickered to the door and she sat up straighter when she saw his outline. "What's happening? Is

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Na, na." Donis shoulder leid, "I JULLW l ini tell you that Prince Willimin quested my EEE tonight so I'm leaving I didn't want yai la W TY. Deris whispered as she slippuden her shout Beth let a smink cover her lips, Haris ralled her eyes She knew exactly what her ridiculous friend was Thinking: "Oh really? Where? "In his private chamber." Daris said quietly. Beth sat up quickly. her eyes wide and absent of sleep. "What! "Shhh!" Doris glanced at the man but he wan't looking at them. "It's nothing, he probably needs maid or something." "So he asked you in the middle of the night?" Heth couldn't contain her grin. "It's rare for anyone to See his private chambers alone unless you're his

Doris blew out a frustrated breath. "I'll be back in the morning. I'm sure. I didn't want you to wake without me here and worry yourself." She turned to the door "Tell me everything the second you get back! I don't care if I'm sleeping. wake me!" Doris closed the door on her friend and followed the man down the halls. Her heart raced in her chest as she tried to keep up with his footman who didn't even glance back to see if she followed him. She hadn't seen Prince William since the trial, why did he want to see her so late at night?

**Chapter 35 Don't move.**

Doris wiped her sweaty palms against her cloak. This would not be a pleasant night, she was sure of it. A hundred questions moed through her mind she didn't have an answer to a single ane. Did he want her to serve him the whole night? Why didn't he have another maid do this? Surely there were dozens of closer, more suited maids to tend to his

The footman glanced back at her once they reached his door as if he was finally checking to make sure she followed. Doris released a shaky breath and put her hand on her chest to feel how fast her heart raced. It was not exciting to be serving the most Totten prince alone. What if he tried to pin her to his bed again? What if he had been drinking? The man knocked twice before he opened the door. The chamber was extremely dim, only a few candles lit the area. "Prince William, I've brought the maid you requested." "Let her in." His deep voice drew her gaze to the window where he stood with his back to them. She cautiously entered and flinched when the door clicked shut behind her. "Good evening, your majesty." Doris curtsied, trying to keep her voice calm. Prince William slowly turned to look at her, a sense of resentment crossed his face for a moment when their eyes locked. Doris held her breath and curled her hands into fists at her side. "You know, I would never let a liar near me like this." Prince William said, a flicker from the candle lit up his stony face. His blue eyes always held a

Time of their own when his emotions were on high

Prince William held up his hand to stop her. "I didn't ask for an excuse. Doris slowly released her breath when he turned away from her and looked out the window again. The stars were so bright in the sky, it almost distracted her from his tense shoulders. After a moment of silence, Prince William turned back to look at her. "You're the only exception. But if I catch you lying to me again, you'll suffer a lot worse than you have now." Doris swallowed and nodded her head. "Use your words." He demanded. "Yes Prince William, I understand. Doris bowed her head. "May I serve you some tea?" Prince William looked her up and down, she only wished she had more time to cover her marks with makeup before she came. "Yes." Doris unclasped her cloak and hung it by the door before she prepared a tray and carefully poured a warm cup of tea for the prince. One of her hands was still bandaged and healing, even in ounce of pressure made her suck in a sharp breath. She sensed every step he made even with her back to him, she knew his eyes followed her every movement and it only made her hand shake more. When she attempted to pick up the tray, he grunted behind her. "Just bring the cup." "Yes, your majesty." Doris said softly. She turned to find him already seated at the small table used for taking tea or quick meals. The top of his shirt was unbuttoned and his jacket was thrown over a chair lazily by his fireplace. His raven black hair looked as if he'd run his fingers through it a dozen times since she'd turned away

from him. The candle lit up the color of his

His eyes she most forgotten how dark that were up close. She'd never

looked dark

like a stern

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Finally, he placed the cup in front of her and smoothed out her skirt. "Is there anything else you need with your tea? -No, it's fine." He lifted the cup to his lips and looked at her over the brim. Doris cleared her throat and turned away to hang up his jacket. She limped a little as she walked, clearly she had

been on her feet much longer than she was supposed to. The rest of her was starting to beg for her to rest as well, but she doubted Prince William would allow her to rest when he wasn't even settled in bed yet. Doris hung his jacket and retrieved his night clothes. The last few times she'd seen him in his room, he didn't sleep with a shirt on. But that might have been because of the circumstances. Doris shivered as the sounds of his MORT resurfaced in her mind, she quickly pushed them away before Melody's haunted her too. When Doris emerged from his closet, he was already in bed. He wore a black satin set of nightclothes that clung to his form, she glanced down at the red pair in her hands. "Oh, I apologize for taking so long, your majesty." Doris turned to put them back. "Don't bother, put them on the chair. The maid in the morning can handle that." Prince William said as he stared up at the ceiling, his arm propped up behind his head. Doris tilted her head in confusion, why was she here if he didn't want her to do normal duties? Doris set down the clothes and quickly moved to

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adjust his blankets. She went, silently cuning half when she grabbed the pillow with her broken hand. His eyes shot to her face and then flickered to her hand. He yanked the pillow from her grip and fixed the pillows himself. Doris felt her cheeks burn, she wondered if he regretted asking her to serve him tonight yet. Or if he had the second she walked through the door still looking like a bruised one. "Is there anything else you need before I blow out the candles?" "No, that's all." Prince William said with his eyes already closed. Doris slowly moved around the room to start blowing out each candle. "Leave some of them on." He instructed when she bent to blow out the ones closest to him out. Doris bowed her head and went to sit in the chair by his bed. A sharp pain spiked through her when she seated herself. It was as if all of her weariness decided to hit her all at once the second she allowed herself to sit. She bit down on her lip as hard as she could to muffle the sound of her whimper. Doris turned herself away from Prince William and held her side when the pain thickened. She'd forgotten all about her medicine she was supposed to take before bed, Beth would surely scold her about it the moment she returned. Doris glanced back at Prince William and found him sitting up watching her. The way his eyes searched every inch of her made her feel bare, she hated that feeling. "Come here." He said. His deep voice vibrated through her body and held no room for objection... Doris slowly stood and winced at the new burst of agony. Her heart thundered nervously with each step closer she got to him. She was in too much pain to fight him off, but she would if she had to. "Yes?" Doris asked quietly when she approached

the side of his bed. He took her and pulled her into bed. Doris tried and tried to move away from him, but he held her still. His strong arm draped across her stomach and held her down in the bed, a wave of pain blinded her for 1 moment. "Enough." He growled. Doris froze. Prince William laid his head back against the silk pillows and closed his eyes. "Don't move." Doris watched his face, her entire body tensed. He gently pulled her against his chest and she felt terrified to even breathe in his hold. What was the king to do to her? Why did he grab her and force her in his bed-again! Her mind raced with hateful thoughts of what he was planning on doing to her, she glanced around and looked for items she could use against him if he tried to undress her again. After what felt like hours of unbearable tension, Doris realized Prince William had already been asleep. His chest rose and fell in rhythm and she couldn't help but stare at him to make sure he wasn't faking it. She traced his face with her eyes and was started to see him look so peaceful for once. His dark lashes touched the

top of his cheeks, she fought the urge to brush his dark hair away from his forehead. How could someone so chel look so innocent when they slept? . Her heart rate finally calmed to the beat of his owl. She allowed herself to relax under his hold and felt as if she was sinking into his cloud-like bed. She released her tight grip on his arm and saw her nails must have dug deep into his skin when he grabbed her, but he didn't seem to notice. Why did Prince William want her to sleep next to