

Mischief, Tales of a King

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*To Tom Hiddleston,
In my mind's eye, you are beauty. In my mind's ear,
you are the voice. In my mind's heart, you are love.
Thank you for being such a great inspiration and a
wonderful human being.*

*Frank Iero, from the 1st moment I saw you, you
became the image of what the leading man in my
stories would be like. Thank you so much for your
beautiful inspiration! Your intensity keeps me
going...*

*With lots of love for Jordan, Kelsey, Alannis,
Danny, Emi, and my 4 legged furry babies Toby,
Wheatie, Carter, Zora, & Chow Mein*

Thank you all for being amazing...

I love you... Mom

*Never give up on your dreams because they do
come true...*

Amelia

*I'm Amelia of Willshire over Mount Windsor
heading towards the North.*

*As a young girl, I lost my Mother to disease. My
Father King Adam of Willshire was left with 3
young children, my 2 brothers, Paul and Michael
and I. Even though he tried his hardest, it became
difficult to raise a young girl without her Mother.*

*Also struck with the same disease that took my
Mother, my Father, the strongest man in my eyes,
became very ill.*

*Not really having a choice, my Father contacted his
friend King Emmanuel of Landford for help. King
Emmanuel knowing how ill my father was, he
obliged. He suggested bringing me to his Kingdom
and raising me to be bequeathed to his eldest son
David. With a broken heart, my Father agreed and
soon after died. I think he did not want to leave
this world without knowing I would be taken care
of.*

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As a young girl, I really did not know what it really meant to become another's wife, but for me it was years away. Plus what better than to know I would be marrying a Prince one day. The only thing was the moment I met them, my heart chose Thomas, David's younger brother.

I came to live at Landford at around 13 years of age.

It was strange for me.

Most my life I lived with my Father and brothers but now I had an entire family and my future already created for me. Queen Catherine was so happy to have me; she never had the opportunity to have a daughter. She immediately connected with me and I with her. I was very appreciative of my new family but I missed my birth family and our Kingdom immensely.

When my Father passed, my brother Michael became King of Willshire. He was the youngest King and unfortunately very unprepared. In a matter of a year, Willshire would succumb to wide spread disease and mismanagement by the King and his court. I really could not do anything but

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watch my Father's Kingdom crumble in front of me. Queen Catherine had explained to me that what was happening to Willshire was not my fault and I should live on with my new life, and so I did.

David, Thomas and I became great friends instantly. King Emmanuel, their Father, treated us equally. Whatever his boys did and had, I also had and was allowed to do, even weapons training. This was totally unacceptable for women to do. Father believed it would be better if I knew how to protect myself.

David and Thomas were total opposites. David was tall, dark hair and eyes, goal oriented, predictable.

Thomas was also tall, but with light hair and eyes, more spur of the moment, spontaneous and definitely of strong will.

That was what I loved about him and thinking back I knew I loved him from the very first day I met him. His emerald green eyes became a part of me instantly. His look was intense, piercing. They seemed to have a magical power or maybe that

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was all in my head because I was hypnotized by them. And that smile, that beautiful smile, it could melt the largest iceberg.

David and I knew about the arrangement but as we grew older, we knew it was not going to be. His heart belonged to Elizabeth, a peasant girl in town and mine belonged to Thomas. Even though, Thomas was not interest in me at this time. He had many “female suitors” if I may say. He was so handsome. But he wasn’t really interested in anyone or anything; he was just interested in becoming King. Even though, he was not next in line to be King, he trained and studied as if he were.

Throughout the years, my friendship with David became more of a brother/sister relationship. We did everything siblings would do together. After a while, everyone thought we were actual siblings and Thomas was the adopted one. He was always a bit distant from us, in his own world.

My friendship with Thomas also changed. He had given me my first kiss and seemed to be showing interest in me as I did him as a child.

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David had mentioned I grew out of my weird little girl stage to an attractive sensual woman, which Thomas could not help become charmed with. Of course, I was not upset about this because it was my life's dream to be his wife.

We were not the perfect juveniles. We got in as much trouble together as we did separately. We did so many things to upset Father and Mother. Punishment from Father was extreme but Mother was always there to console us.

I remember escaping with David and Thomas into town in the evenings so David could meet with Elizabeth. We were prohibited to do this but we knew exactly when Father napped and how long. So we were never really caught.

As David visited with Elizabeth, Thomas and I rode around town. Since as children, Father and Mother did not introduce us to the townspeople, no one really knew who we were. I really enjoy being around Landfords people. Everything was so simple. Thomas on the other hand, had a bit of arrogance to him, but was never disrespectful. As I would always joke to him, he should get to know

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his people before he became King. He always answered with “Ha Ha, Amelia, you should teach them to kneel before their future King” and would try to force me to kneel to him.

All fun and games.

Our trips to town became more frequent. David was becoming very serious about his lady and was planning on telling Father and Mother. Even if it meant he'd be banished, he was willing to lose the crown for love. How romantic!

On these trips, Thomas and I had a lot of time to ourselves which we used to get more acquainted as young adults. A young woman should not flaunt but I gave myself completely to Thomas one evening. It was not planned, it was written in the stars like Thomas said. Thomas was always so poetic. As we left David, we rode upon to an abandoned farm house, it was a chilled night, many stars in the sky and the moon was very bright.

*“Let’s rest here for a bit Amelia” Said Thomas
“What if someone is here?” I responded.*

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“It looks empty, come” He replied.

*I followed Thomas into the barn and leaned upon a
bale of hay.*

*He smiled and whispered, “What shall we do while
we await David? He is going to be a while.” As he
walked around the barn, to make sure no one was
around.*

*I smiled and said “Tell me a story or recite some
poetry, you do that so well.” I answered as I
walked in the opposite direction, looking around.
Thomas had a wonderful imagination. His stories
were full of excitement. And not enough could be
said about his poetry, so full of love, any maiden
would fall to her knees upon listening to him. He
had a different tone of voice, very soothing and
gentle. I always told him he should be a storyteller.*

Which he often disagreed.

*He smiled as he walked towards me “All right, all
right, hmmm?” he said as he rubbed his chin.*

*“Once upon a time, there was this beautiful young
maiden who had stolen the heart of a sad lonely
Prince.”*

I laughed and replied “Thomas, please.”

He came up behind me and whispered “May I have

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a kiss?"

His warm breath on my earlobe gave me shivers.

*I giggled, pushed against him and said "No you
may not"*

He grabbed my waist, pulled me to him and replied

"Then I shall just take it."

*I could not help but tremble as his cold soft lips
gently touched mine.*

His kisses were so intense. Very experienced.

I felt them deep inside me.

*He looked around and pointed towards an upper
loft. He grabbed my hand and led me there. He*

*had grabbed a blanket off his horse and placed it
on the floor so we had an area to sit and relax. I*

lied down and look at the beautiful sky.

*"Look at how lovely, Thomas" I said as I pointed
upwards. The barn was missing part of its roof.*

*"Nothing more beautiful than you in this light" He
replied.*

*He lay next to me and smiled as he looked at the
night sky.*

*His profile was perfect, his eyes looked clear green
as the starlight shown on him.*

I thought to myself "Nothing more beautiful than

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you in this light, Thomas”.

*He gently caressed my cheek as he approached me
for another kiss. This kiss was different.*

*More wanting. It created a feeling in me I had
never felt before.*

*As he lies upon me, he whispered, “Amelia, I want
to be the only man*

*that beds you. Give yourself to me and I will
forever be true to you. We have come this far*

together and I love you as much as you love me”.

*I shyly smiled and said “I’d give anything to be with
you, Thomas. You are all I have ever hoped for and
wanted.”*

He smiled and kissed me deeply.

His eyes penetrate my soul as did he.

We stared in each other’s eyes the whole time.

*Our souls have become intertwined and we were
now one. One heart, one breath, one love.*

It was magical.

*As we rode back to the Castle, he would glance at
me and smile.*

“Could this be heaven?” I asked myself.

I could not believe Thomas and I had shared such

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an intimate moment. I rode in a daze the entire time. David seemed to suspect something was different between us but never questioned it. Upon reaching my bedroom door, Thomas reached for me and whispered "Sweet Dreams my angel, I love you".

I smiled, mouthed I love you and entered my room.

My lady in waiting, Shyanne was waiting for me with her arms crossed as I floated across the floor.

"Amelia my lady, where have you been?" She asked sternly.

I shuttered and replied "I went out with David and Thomas, as I do every week".

"That I see, but you seem a bit strange, my lady" she added.

I giggled and said "Tonight, my world has changed. Thomas has made me woman"

She looked confused and said "What do you mean?"

I could not stop smiling. I was in a dream state.

"Oh, OH MY! She added.

"You and Thomas?" she asked.

I shook my head in agreement. She ran towards

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me and hugged me tight.

“Amelia, oh my? How was it? No, do not answer. I’m so happy for you. Oh my, when will you tell your parents?” She asked.

Right then I immediately snapped out of it.

“Ahh, I do not know, I really did not think about that.” I replied.

Reality had just smacked me in the face. Father was going to be furious. Mother not so much, she would understand being a woman and all. She hugged me and walked me to my bed “Its late, we will talk more tomorrow. I do not want Your Majesty to hear us giggling and get upset”. She whispered.

She winked and made her way to her quarters.

I could not sleep.

The moment kept replaying in my mind. Thomas' sweat shimmering body was etched in my mind forever.

“If only this feeling could last forever” I thought.

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I awoke startled to yells in the corridor. It was David and Thomas play arguing as they fenced. They did this often but today I was not having it. I opened my door and shouted "Do you know how dangerous it is to play with sharp objects in such a small corridor?"

They both laughed.

"How dangerous, my lady?" said David in a teasing voice as he bowed.

"This dangerous" I replied as I grabbed Thomas' sword and pinned David to the corner.

"Touché". David taunted.

Thomas laughed and joked "Did you forget she has the same weapons training as we do, brother".

Smiling he looks at me and winks.

David put his arms around my neck and said "Let us go Mother awaits us".

"I will be there shortly I must dress." I answered.

As I walked back towards my room, Thomas bumps me and says "Meet you later at the stalls?"

We will go riding, yes?"

I shook my head in agreement and smiled.

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Our meetings became more and more frequent. So frequent that Thomas decided he would just sneak into my room every night, instead of sharing our moments with the horses. He said the horses; Toby and Beauty watching us gave him the willies. I think everyone knew about us but no one said a word. We were inseparable.

So inseparable that Mother began to question me about us. As I returned from riding, Mother had requested I visit her chambers.

Thomas raised his eyebrows and smiled, "Don't worry, you are not in any trouble, I hope".

I was not afraid of showing my love for Thomas. I just did not want to disappoint my parents especially when they expected me to marry David.

As I reached her door, I inhaled deeply and knocked.

"Come in my child." Mother said.

I walked towards her, she sat near the window watching her sons practice their battle moves.

"Sit here, Amelia" she added as she motioned next to her.

"Is there something wrong, Mother?" I asked. She smiled and answered, "Of course not, my

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child, I just want to spend a few moments with my daughter."

I felt relieved but a little uneasy.

"So tell me," she said.

I quickly interrupted her "Tell you?"

She smiled and continued "Yes, we do not speak much, how are classes with your new tutor? You have not spoken of any suitors?"

My heart completely stopped.

"Oh sweet child, I know you are bequeathed to David but there will be other suitors" she added.

I could not lie so I decided to confide in her.

"Mother, I carry someone in my heart which may disappoint you and Father."

She smiled and whispered "Thomas?"

"Yes, how did you know? I asked. "I have noticed you both, the glances, and the smiles." She replied.

"Mother I do not know what to do?" I responded worried.

She stood up and leaned towards me.

"Amelia, you must not do anything, your heart has chosen Thomas and I know his heart has chosen you. This is not a disappointment, it brings joy to me. It reminds me a lot of your Father and I."

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I still felt tense.

*“But Father? He will not be happy” I added.
“Don't worry about your Father, I will tend to him.
If your love is meant to be, no one, not even your
Father can intervene.” She assured me.
She hugged me tightly and said “Just tread lightly
until the time is correct to tell your Father.”*

*Months had passed and our relationship was
stronger than ever. Since Mother knew, we had a
bit more freedom with it. Father was too busy
ruling our Kingdom, he barely had time to eat or
notice us.*

*David had begun preparing to bring Elizabeth to
the Castle to meet Mother and Father.*

*As always Mother knew, she was our biggest
advocate. But she was a bit uncomfortable with
this. Father was not going to approve but David
had his mind made up.*

*As every week, we would meet at the stables
before leaving for town. David seemed nervous.
Revealing his true love for Elizabeth would also*

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disclose our visits to town, disrespecting our parents and that was a cause for punishment. Thomas nervously paced back and forth as David brushed his beloved horse, Hemi.

“David, are you sure you want to do this?” Thomas asked.

“She is my true love and Father needs to know, she will be my wife.” David replied.

“That will put Amelia and I there and Father will not hesitate punishing us also. Do you not care about our fate?” Thomas exclaimed.

“Brother, I will not tell Father about you or Amelia accompanying me. If there is to be punishment I will receive it solely.” David answered.

I just stood there quiet.

“You both stay home tonight; I will go on my own as not to implicate you.” David continued.

I looked at Thomas concerned.

“You cannot go into town unaccompanied Brother that is out of the question.” Thomas said.

“We can follow far behind as if we were going to market.” I suggested.

“Yes, that is what we will do”. David agreed.

I was so excited for David, even though we all

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knew this would not end well.

Thomas pulled me aside and said "I cannot believe you suggested that, are you mad? Father will have our heads for this."

He began to pace again.

"What was I supposed to do, either way he was going to go." I replied.

"We are putting our love and happiness in jeopardy for his, which is unconventional and will be unaccepted. It is not fair!" Thomas continued. I had never seen Thomas that angry. He walked away towards the Kings Men stables. As he entered the stables Thomas saw the men congregating. He walked over to them and said "I was just told something unbelievable, wait until you hear." He stood in the middle and began whispering to them.

As David continued preparing his horse for this trip, I just sat near a tree watching him. He was such an elegant man; any woman would be honored to have him as a husband. He was strong, extremely handsome and very funny. As I stared at him, he threw a branch towards me.

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“What are you looking at? Shouldn’t you be preparing Toby for our travels.” He said.

David had given me Toby as a gift. Toby was the offspring of his mare, Hemi. She was recognized and prized in our kingdom, so that made my Toby super special.

I just smiled, made a joking face and ignored him. He continued on.

Time quickly passed.

It was time to leave for our outing to town with David; Thomas seemed different, quiet, and standoffish.

As we rode, I felt strange.

The look in Thomas' eyes was not the same. It seemed cold, angry. As we reached the town, we went our different ways. David excitedly rode toward Elizabeth's home and we went in the opposite direction as usual.

I rode up to Thomas “Are you well? You seem angry.” I asked.

He smiled and replied, “Of course all is well and I am not angry, let us explore our South Landford today.”

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It seemed like he was avoiding the subject so I let it be.

He pointed and replied "In that direction there is a small chapel, I saw it the last time we were here, it looks interesting."

His mood seemed to have changed. We rode a bit and there in the distance it was. Tall, white and surrounded by colorful flowers.

It was so beautiful! Upon entering I felt a bit awkward, I had never visited a chapel before and it was quite overwhelming. As every girl, you imagine your wedding day and dream of the beautiful church it will be held at. This one was simple but exquisite.

I smiled at Thomas and said "When I marry I want to do it here. It is so lovely"

He looked around and replied "Really? You know you will wed at the Castle, it is tradition"

"Yes really, look at how beautiful this place is, so tranquil. The Castle is lovely but maybe Father can change that tradition for me" I responded as I walked across the room.

"I think not. If you like it so much let us marry

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now” Thomas said loudly.

“What?” I replied in shock.

He smiled and said “Sure, why should we not, do you love me?”

“Of course I do but Father” I replied.

“Father is going to have our heads for this trip anyway, might as well make the most of it. Let us do it, these people do not know us, and it can remain between us as everything else and this way we are not living in sin anymore Amelia because you will be my beloved wife.

“How about it?” He announced.

As he walked towards me he added

“Why should David be the only one with good news and happiness.”

I did not know what to say. This was my dream but

I did not want to disappoint my parents and

overall I did not want to disappoint Thomas.

Thomas walked over and asked “Is it yes?”

I smiled and said “Yes.”

He walked towards the back of the church and knocked on a door.

Out came a priest.

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“Dear Father, My lady and I would like to be joined in the eyes of God, I have gold for payment, Can it be done?” Thomas said.

“Yes it can, my son, but for when?” said the priest.

“At this moment, if possible Father. We would like to leave here in union this evening.” Thomas said excitedly as he looked towards me smiling.

The priest looked at us both and replied, “Let me get a few things and I will return.”

Thomas looked at me and said “Are you ready to be my wife?”

I smiled and replied, “The real question is, are you ready to be my husband?”

He smiled and nodded.

The ceremony was quick and sweet.

Thomas had a sweet expression on his face as he listened to the priest.

Throughout the ceremony, he just looked at me. I was engulfed in love as his beautiful smile appeared while he repeated his vows to me.

In a matter of minutes, we were husband and wife. Though no rings were exchanged, the priest said it was still legitimate. At the end the priest said “Thomas, Amelia I could feel your true love. Thank

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you for letting me join you in the eyes of God.”

Thomas could not wait to tell David.

I wished to remain quiet, as I was still in the moment.

We met David at our usual spot.

David was smiling and very happy. “Congratulate me, I will marry soon, Elizabeth has accepted my proposal, soon we will be husband and wife.”

David announced.

I jumped up and down in excitement and hugged him. I asked excitedly “Can I be part of your wedding? I do not have to be the maid of honor, if you do not wish. I just want to be part of it”. David smiled and answered “Of course, my sister. I could not have a wedding without you.”

David then looked over at Thomas.

“My brother, guess what Amelia and I have done?”

Thomas teased.

David expecting a joke as usual, smiled and replied

“What damage have you two gotten into?”

Thomas while shaking David's hand and says “We are husband and wife.”

Thomas' smile became serious because he expected a different reaction from David.

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*David stopped what he was doing and said
“WHAT? You are not serious?”.*

*“Yes I am, brother” Thomas replied arrogantly.
“Mother and Father will kill you both. Marriage is
a serious vow, nothing to jest with”. David
exclaimed.*

*Thomas confused by his reaction said “Who are
more serious than Amelia and I. Why should we
deny our love, brother? You are not denying yours
and it is unconventional.”*

*David smirked and replied “Oh brother, if you are
happy, I am happy for you both but let us hold off
on telling Mother and Father, yes? This can be very
sensitive and you know Father.*

*As we rode, we were suddenly surrounded by
Father's men. “Prince David, your Father has called
upon us to return you home immediately.” said
Greyson.*

*David laughed and answered “Why so many men?
I am not a criminal”*

*“Your highness, your Father requested you be
brought in.” Greyson added.*

“Brought in, for what?” David interjected.

“For “Treason your Highness” Greyson said.

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“Treason? There must be a mistake.” I interrupted.

Thomas remained quiet.

“Treason? That is a joke, my fellow men.”

explained David.

“Just oblige Prince David, we are just following orders.” Greyson replied somberly.

As we arrived at the Castle David was pulled off his horse and taken to Father.

Thomas and I followed.

“What is going on Father?” David questioned.

“David, my eldest son, with a heavy heart, I must detain you. You have defied me beyond belief. I have been informed you have betrayed me, my son”. Father affirmed.

Confused David replied, “Betrayal? You cannot be serious, Father. What are you talking about? I did no such thing”.

“Take him away” Father commanded without looking at David.

Thomas walked towards Father and proclaimed “Father, Betrayal? He’s your son; he has not done such a thing. Your punishment too harsh!”

“This matter does not concern you Thomas. And I will deal with you and Amelia later.” Father replied

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as he walked out.

I lowered my head as Father exited the room in respect but at that moment I felt none for him.

I could not understand what was happening.

I rushed to Mother who was sobbing uncontrollably.

“Mother, what is going on?” I asked.

In between sobs she replied “The soldiers informed your Father that David had been plotting to overthrow the kingdom with the townspeople.”

“That is untrue Mother, you know that!” I exclaimed.

At that moment Thomas entered and said “Mother, we must tell Father the truth, that he has been courting that maiden.”

She disagreed “No Thomas, this must remain quiet; you must not go against your Fathers word”.

“Mother, but it's unfair and untrue” Thomas yelled.

“My children, let it rest for now please” Mother pleaded.

Father also punished Thomas and I. We were not allowed to fraternize with each other and worst of

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all we were not allow us to see David. He was treated horribly as all prisoners are. This destroyed my heart.

My brother whom I loved imprisoned for loving someone.

*How was that possible? How is that accurate?
The only betrayal was Love.*

Father disowned him completely; we were not even allowed to mention his name. How could we tell Father this was a huge misunderstanding without disrespecting him. I tried many times to no avail. I decided to keep trying, my brother had no fault in what he was being accused of.

Father was sitting alone in the front room, so I decided to see if I could convince him to at least listen to David. It did not hurt to try.

“Father? May I speak with you?” I asked.

“Yes my child, come sit with me?” he invited.

“Please hear me, there has been a total injustice, my brother David, did not betray Landford, Father, I know for a fact.” I affirmed.

“Amelia, I have word from a trusted source, I have not gone into this decision blindly.” He conceded.

“But Father, I was with...” I was saying when

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Father interrupted me “My decision is final, nothing else will be discussed. Now go and do not let this talk ruin your day.” He concluded as he kissed my forehead.

In a short matter of time, things in our Kingdom became hard. Schillingburg had called battle against Willshire and then Landford.

Everyday life was interrupted by attacks and unruliness. Father made himself believe that all this was further proof that David had betrayed him. Father had no choice but to intervene and prepare his troops for battle. With anger in his mind and heart he felt he must first make an example of David and put him to death for betraying his Kingdom.

This way no one would dare betray him ever again because even his son was not saved. Thomas, Mother and I had no say in Fathers decision. On the third day at the third bell toll, David was scheduled to death by hanging.

I needed to find a way to postpone this.

The only way was to defy my Father’s orders. At this point it did not matter; he was my brother

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and did not deserve this injustice.

Very late, a few nights before, I with the help of Greyson planned to commit the ultimate sin in my Father's eyes.

I had planned to help David be free.

At 5 past 3, Greyson accompanied me to the dungeon. Everyone was fast asleep.

I entered David's cell, he was so thin, unrecognizable.

I whispered "David, it is me, Amelia".

He quickly arose.

"Amelia, I am so happy to see you, what are you doing here?" He answered.

"I am going to set you free" I whispered excitedly.

"Are you insane, Father will have your head for this" he responded.

"Listen my brother, I have it well planned, just hear me out" I pleaded.

"No Amelia, you can not do this." He said.

"Do not worry brother, all is well thought of, just listen. Father will not be attending the hanging so I will request your face be covered to obstruct the view. But it will not be you. You will be in Willshire by then with Elizabeth." I said excitedly.

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He laughed and ask "My sweet sister and how are we going to do this?"

I have it all planned and with Greyson, it can be accomplished" I added.

"The late King Adam, my Father had built me a small cottage in the forest where we visited. It has been abandoned since I left Willshire. You and Elizabeth came make it your home. I have looked into it and no one has taken residence there." I continued.

"As for the prisoner who will die in your place, the prisoner in cell 4 is scheduled to die the next day, he will take your place and Greyson will retrieve his body after and act as if he cremated it. But actually he will place that prisoner back in his cell and when he is called for, the guards will noticed he has killed himself. By then you will be long gone". I acknowledged.

"Oh my goodness sister, I think this can actually work" David answered.

"Have you spoken of this with anyone besides Greyson? Thomas?" David asked worriedly.

"No, not at all, this will remain between us" I replied.

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David hugged me tight and asked “When will we do this?”

“Same time as now the night before your execution” I answered.

“One last thing, how do you know Greyson will not betray you?” David asked.

“No worries brother, I have that under control” I assured him.

We quickly said our goodbyes and I hurried back to my room.

To my surprise, Thomas was waiting for me.

“Where were you?” Thomas asked.

“I was feeling uneasy so I decided to wander a bit.” I murmured.

“Are you sure?” he asked suspiciously.

“Positive, Thomas” I replied hastily.

Since I did wander the corridors this wasn’t strange to him.

“I have missed you” he whispered.

I smiled and walked towards him.

“You seemed a bit preoccupied lately, what is on your mind?” He wondered.

“Nothing at all, Thomas.” I replied as I reached for

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his hand.

“Can you hold me until I fall asleep?” I whimpered. He smiled and answered “Of course, my love, I will hold you for an eternity if that is what you would want.”

The next morning I awoke to Thomas still in my bed.

“Oh my Thomas, get up! Shyanne will be in soon” I rambled.

“My love, no need to worry. I will be gone before she arrives.” He snickered as he tried kissing me. At that moment, there was a knock on my door. “Who is calling?” I asked. As Thomas ran and hid behind the drapes.

“It is Greyson, my lady.” He replied.

“Enter” I said.

“My lady we have much to do, you must arise.” He commanded.

I took a deep breath “I will meet you in the garden soon. Thank you” I stuttered.

He bowed his head and made his way to the garden.

“What was that all about?” Thomas asked

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suspiciously.

“Nothing, every day chores, if you were not so preoccupied with yourself, you would know I study with Greyson every day. You must not be so jealous. It can turn to madness.” I snapped.

Thomas looked upset. “Jealous? Me? Never! It is just curious to me what Greyson can teach you.”

He added.

“Greyson is brilliant. He is my mentor, nothing more jealous boy.” I said as I walked and opened the door with Thomas behind me.

We were startled by Shyanne who bumped into both of us as Thomas exited my room. She just lowered her head in respect to the Prince and entered my room.

I turned around and followed her.

“My lady, pardon my boldness but Thomas should not stay in your room overnight, your parents are bound to find out” She cautioned.

“Shyanne, we are very careful. I replied.

As she prepared my clothes for the day she asked “Will your Father let you say farewell to your brother tomorrow?”

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I shrugged my shoulders and replied "I think not, we have been prohibited to even see him."

"How sad, tomorrow will be a very horrible day in Landford history" she added.

"I must hurry, Greyson awaits me" I said. She smiled and helped me with my clothes.

As I made my way to the garden, I passed Thomas in the Great Hall. He sat beside Father having a conversation. I glanced at both and smiled. Father smiled but Thomas did not. He must still be upset about Greyson.

On a table in the garden, Greyson had aligned my books as if he was going to help me study.

Very smart, I thought. No one would suspect what we were plotting.

"I have already prepared an exit for David, tonight he will exit through the north, he will have to run to where the creek meets the Red Oak Tree, there your horse, not his because then it will be obvious, will be waiting. That would be far enough away so his gallops cannot be heard. I will retrieve your horse in the early morning. I have already prepared the house in Willshire and advised

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Elizabeth to meet him there.” Greyson explained.

I smiled and agreed. I felt so much excitement. As I looked up, I could see Thomas staring down at us. I smiled and Greyson automatically grabbed a book and slammed it on the table.

“Young maiden, you will never understand if you are not listening, you can toy with Thomas later” he shouted.

As he looked up and motioned for Thomas to leave the window. Thomas smiled and bowed his head in agreement.

“I’m sorry, Greyson.” I replied.

Greyson looked at me grimly.

“Amelia, Thomas cannot know about this. I do not trust him!” He whispered.

“I know you love him and would not want to keep anything from him but this is one thing no one should ever know about.” He added.

“I know, Greyson” I said as I looked away.

“Everything must go as planned today, if you have to meet with Thomas, you do so, if you have lunch with your Father, you do so. No one must be the wiser of our plan. Go and I will see you at 3am”

Greyson concluded.

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I picked up my books and returned to my room. At the end of the hallway, Thomas stood.

“You are not fooling anyone, Amelia” he said.

“What are you talking about? I asked. He followed me as I entered my room.

“Thomas, you have an overactive mind.” I added.

He laughed.

“So shall we go riding?” He asked.

“Sure” I responded.

“Let us go to your little cottage in the Willshire woods” he insisted.

My heart almost stopped at his request.

“All the way to Willshire?” I answered.

He smiled as he wrapped his arms around me and said “A man enjoys private time with his wife, once in a while.”

I giggled and responded, “Why go so far, when we can begin right now.”

Those beautiful green eyes could convince me of anything.

His soft gentle touch and his kisses drove me wild.

I let him have his way with me, not that I did not enjoy it because I did. I just had to keep him from suspecting anything. Greyson did say everything

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should play on as normal.

“You are not afraid of being caught by Mother or Father? He asked as he removed my slip.

“No, that makes it more exciting, do you not think?” I replied as I kissed his neck.

Mother and Father were out so I knew we had a bit of time for ourselves.

As always our love making was like a dream.

Thomas was a forceful but gentle lover. He always knew exactly what to do to make our time together unforgettable.

After the wonderful time I spent with Thomas, the day went on as usual. I attended my classes, did some training and then prepared for dinner with our parents. The day was moving so fast as if it knew what was going to happen tonight.

During dinner, Father began disclosing some thoughts towards me.

“My dear Amelia, you have grown to be such a beautiful woman. I must find you a suitor since David no longer qualifies”.

I glanced at him and then my Mother.

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Confused I answered "We have all the time in the world Father."

Thomas looked at them and said "Why could I not be a suitor?"

Father looked over at him, laughed and replied "Thomas, you are not worthy of her."

Thomas looked angry and confused "And David was worthy? A Traitor was worthy?" he replied.

"THOMAS!" Mother yelled.

Thomas stands up and slams his hands on the table "How about if I tell you that Amelia and I..."

I immediately interrupted "Thomas, please do not." Thomas looked over at me and asserted "Do NOT? Are you ashamed?"

Mother intervened "Thomas, this not the time."

I had never seen Thomas like that, he slammed his fists on the table again and said "Father is a strong man, why must we always shield him, now is a good time as any."

Thomas shook his head in disagreement and left the room.

Father looked over at me and asked "Why is Thomas so angered? Is there something I should know? Is Thomas the suitor you chose?"

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I looked at Mother, then back at Father.

Mother gestured as if for me to say yes.

I said nervously "Yes, Father."

Father looked so confused but did not say a word.

I quickly left the room to find Thomas.

He was at the Kings Men Stables.

"Thomas, Thomas" I called out.

He turned around and very upset.

"I am so sorry." I quietly said.

"I do not understand Amelia, do you not love me?"

He asked.

"Oh Thomas, I love you but now was not the time to tell Father, not with all that is going on." I

added.

"Then when is an appropriate time Amelia? Father is never going to accept me as your suitor, either way, you heard him, I am not worthy." he snapped.

I reached out to him as you guide him to me, as my fingers touched his face I said

"He did not mean that Thomas. We will both know when the time comes. Either it be today or many days from now, our love will not end."

I kissed his teary eyes.

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“My love, I have given myself to you. You are my life. I will never stray.” I added.

He did not look convinced so I added “Does it matter who knows and when? As long as we do, that’s all that matters. I LOVE YOU THOMAS!” I shouted.

The men outside the stables all looked at each other and walked away.

Thomas looked up at me and responded “If you did love me, like you say you do, you would have said something to Father.”

I touched his lips and uttered “I did, Father asked if I wanted you to be my suitor and I said yes.”

He stood up and began walking towards the door.

“I was not there so I did not hear, telling Father then is a little too late” Thomas concluded and left the stables.

I sat there in silence.

My heart hurt but I had an eventful night ahead and I could not let this trouble me.

Evening had come and it was time to prepare for bed. I returned to my room with an empty feeling in my heart. Shyanne awaited me with my bed

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clothes. She began brushing my hair. She could not help notice I was sad. "My lady, what is wrong?"

She said worried.

I had no words to explain how I was feeling.

She wiped my tears and said "My sweet Amelia, if these tears are for Thomas, they are wasted. He knows you mean no harm to him, do not cry."

I covered my mouth and mumbled "I have hurt him Shyanne and I do not know if it can be mended."

She gave me an endearing look and responded

"Thomas knows you love him, his hurt is temporary, you will see."

At that moment there was a knock on the door.

Shyanne opened it slowly, there stood Thomas.

"Good Evening Shyanne" He said.

Shyanne dismissed herself as he entered.

"I'm so sorry, please forgive me, Thomas" I blurted out.

He grabbed my hand and kissed it.

"Amelia, I have nothing to forgive, I have acted like an envious spoiled child, on the contrary please forgive me." He said.

How could I not forgive him, he was the love of my life, my reason for breathing. I quickly hugged him

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*and whispered in his ear "Thomas, I belong to you
never doubt it."*

*He kissed me good night and dismissed himself.
He would not be staying due to a Sportsman
competition in the morning.*

*I could not sleep, my heart raced as I anticipated
the moment of freeing David.*

*I paced back and forth near my window as I watch
the guards, one by one fall asleep or become
distracted.*

*Exactly at 3 I heard tapping on my door. I slowly
opened it.*

*"Are you ready, my lady?" whispered Greyson.
With a smile I nodded in agreement.*

We made our way through the dark passage ways.

*Today it all seemed so much farther. I felt like I
have walked miles to get to him. All was quiet, the
prisoners were all asleep.*

David anxiously waited in his cell.

*"Prince David, please follow the instructions to the
letter, any misstep can get us all killed." Greyson
advised.*

*"My horse will be waiting for you near the creek." I
added.*

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David grabbed and hugged me “Little sister, I owe you my life.” He said as he kissed my forehead. I handed him a bag with some of his belongings. “What about tomorrows hanging?” David asked. “I have that covered. You go and live your life, my boy.” Greyson replied.

David ran down the corridor to the open exit, at the door he waved, blew me a kiss and disappeared into the moors.

I smiled. A feeling of accomplishment filled me.

I think that is the only time I had ever seen Greyson smile. Greyson quickly turns to me.

“In the morning, you act as all is normal. I will bring out the prisoner and will retrieve him afterwards. No one will know different. You tend to your Mother and especially Thomas.” Greyson asserted.

The next day started as usual. Thomas competed in the early morning then we prepared ourselves for the disgusting spectacle that was about to occur. The guards prepared the noose and Greyson prepared himself and the prisoner. As Greyson directed, I watched over my Mother and especially

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over Thomas, who seemed distant.

At the time, we were taken to our thrones on the square to watch.

Father did not attend.

I took a deep breath as Greyson brought he prisoner onto the stage, his hands banded and face covered in a dark cloth, only his eyes were visible.

The prisoner said nothing, he stood stoic and seemed to stare directly at Thomas, as to be giving him a mental message. I could not watch. It was quick and to the point.

Thomas seemed unaffected and just walked away.

I could not even imagine what he was feeling.

All I knew was that I felt ashamed and extremely sad for that man but I had to save my brother.

Mother would never be the same after witnessing David's death. Greyson made it appear that David was given a proper Prince's burial.

As planned, the next day, the prisoner who took David's place was pronounced dead in his cell.

Greyson and I never spoke of this event again.

Days after, I received word that all was well with

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David and Elizabeth.

Our plan went on without a hitch.

Now I had to live life as normal as possible. This was one secret no one should ever find out. The secret of Thomas and I still remained.

Mother was so affected that she did not speak much anymore. Especially after finding out that Father was preparing Thomas to lead in battle. Father's decision of sending Thomas to war was, in my view, his way of proving his remaining son was honorable. And Thomas did as Father commanded, not because he wanted to but to win his affections.

I watched as Thomas trained tirelessly to fight. He was a master with his sword but was his mind in that same state.

He fought so elegantly but was that enough to protect him in battle. One of our last night's together I decided to ask him directly how he felt about going to battle. He assured me it was what he wanted to do. I was not convinced. I was so worried about him. To fight, he was definitely prepared but battle is not only fighting with your

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hands but also with your mind.

I remember the day he was to leave for battle. He looked so handsome in his Prince's battle uniform.

I wept as he said his farewell.

Mother and Father looked on proud.

As he stood before me, my heart became weak. "Amelia, I will be back, I promise" he said flashing that beautiful smile which he knew always made me feel better.

I smiled and replied "I will always await you, my sweet Prince, be safe my heart."

He looked over towards Father then kissed me fully.

We both whispered I love you as we separated from the kiss.

He got up on his horse and galloped away. In minutes he was gone, on his way to protect the borders of Landford.

The Castle seemed so desolate. The echoes of silence could drive you to madness. So many days had passed and no word. Father grew anxious and was also looking very ill. I was always shielded

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about the truth of his health but I was beginning to notice drastic changes in him.

Days turned to weeks then months and still Father struggled to keep his composure. It was hard for him to awaken in the mornings and tend to his normal routine. His decision about David was taking a toll on his mind and now thinking he has lost his other son was making it worse. Even though he appears happy to see me every day, I was no consolation on him losing his flesh and blood.

Early Tuesday, we were all summoned to his chambers for news on his health. My Father was not well and needed to appoint his successor. His sons were gone, at this point, David was put to death in his eyes and Thomas had been declared dead in Schillingburg since no news was received about him.

Mother looked over towards me and smiled. You could see the worry on her face but she tried to keep Father from noticing. She was a strong woman, I admired her so much. I slowly approached his bed and grabbed his hand.

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I tried to keep the tears from streaming down my face but it was impossible.

He was not my blood Father but he was the only Father I knew and I did not want to see him suffering as he was. He was not on his death bed but he was ill enough to be immobile.

He turned his head towards me and smiled. "Don't cry my child, it is not as bad as it looks" he whispered.

I replied with a smile.

He continued "Catherine and I have come to a decision, from this morning on, you will take my place on the throne as Queen of Landford."

I was in shock and said "But Father, I am not prepared to rule a Kingdom".

He smiled and replied "You are just as prepared as I was when I became King, my sweet girl."

Mother added "You will be a wonderful Queen". I could not refuse my parents wish. I felt I owed them, after all they took me in. I did cause them heartache with all the mischief I gave them in my younger years. This was my time to give them pride.

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I sat in silence and tried to gather my thoughts. It seemed like everything was moving around me, like I was in a dream.

Suddenly Mother said "My child, are you well?" I shook my head and dismissed myself from their room.

My Lady in waiting Shyanne followed me to my room.

As we entered, she smiled and said "Oh my Amelia, you are Queen, Queen of Landford. I never thought I would see another Queen rule over a Kingdom"

I was still in shock and I really did not want this. "What am I going to do, Shyanne?" I whispered. "You will rule this Kingdom with beauty and grace, my lady" She replied.

I took a deep breath and let it out slowly as I glanced out the room window at the Kingdom, My Beautiful Kingdom.

As I prepared myself for bed, I could not help but think about David and Thomas.

I missed them so much!

David always remained in my thoughts; he taught

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me many valuable lessons and always made me laugh.

My Thomas, his soft, spellbinding voice and that smile. I longed to hold him.

I often envisioned him sitting in my room. I was eager to have news about him, so I can have some type of closure.

The next few days were hectic as everyone prepared for my coronation.

I remained in my room, thinking.

I was terrified of this future. I have never prepared for this. I had no idea what to do. Thomas knew exactly what to do but he was not here. Oh how I wish he was. I know I should be ecstatic, this was a moment of triumph, of happiness, but I felt empty and undeserving. David or Thomas should be King, not I. But this was my Father's wish and it was to be granted whether I liked it or not.

The day of the coronation, the Castle was buzzing with excitement. Shyanne had returned to my room with my gown and began to prepare my bath.

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“What is wrong, my lady or should I say My Queen” she asked.

“Just feeling a bit nervous, I suppose” I answered.

“I would be terrified” she replied with a nervous laugh. “No need to worry though, you are going to be a wonderful Queen, the Kingdom is welcoming you with open arms. Everyone in town is talking about you.” she added.

I smiled in response.

I felt like my gown weighed 100 pounds or was it the weight of my nerves.

Mother entered the room to glance at me before the crowning.

“My child, you look so beautiful. I am so proud of you and I am sure your brothers would be too.”

She said in a broken up voice.

I was so scared not a shutter came from my lips.

Mother began to walk away and I stopped her.

“Mother, I need to tell you something.” I whispered.

“My child, we have all the time in the world as you say” she replied.

“This is important and it is something I should

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have told you a long time ago.” I muttered.

“It is about Thomas and I.” I sighed.

“I know Amelia, about you and he being wed. He told me before he left to battle and I have kept it deep in my heart” she said.

“And that is ok with you?” I replied.

“Yes, of course, why would it not be? You were brought here to marry David and Thomas won your heart, it is all the same to me. They are my sons and I love them and you immensely.” She said teary eyed.

Suddenly the trumpets sounded. Mother grabbed my hands and kissed them.

“It is time, my child, go with God” Mother said proudly.

Shyanne and others helped me down the corridor to the Throne room. It was full of people, some I knew, and others were just there to support their new Queen.

My Father stood so frail but handsome at his throne. My eyes filled up with tears as I walked towards him. Greyson accompanied me.

“My Daughter today is a glorious day.

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I remember you as a child running through these corridors with your brothers.

The Joy of my heart.

Fate has taken them and has illuminated you as the chosen one.

With my power I today named you Amelia, Queen of Landford.”

I felt my whole body tremble as Father placed the crown on my head.

“Long live our Queen” The crowd chanted.

Father grabbed my hand and led me to the balcony as to introduce me to my Kingdom.

To my surprise the Castle was surrounded by spectators and townspeople who had congregated there to see me.

As soon as I appeared they began chanting

“Long Live Our Queen”.

I waved at them, terrified but with gratitude. I wondered if David knew or even attempted to come see or if Thomas, wherever he was knew he was finally King.

My Mother looked proud as Father accompanied me to the throne. The trumpets played again, as the flags were raised on the Castle announcing the

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new Queen.

Amelia, Queen of Landford...

*The celebration continued on into the wee hours of
the morning...*

Schillingburg

Meanwhile, The Soldiers from Schillingburg had invaded and planned to overthrow King Michael of Willshire.

Greyson rode back and forth with news about the battle.

My Soldiers stood strong at the border of Landford but Thomas was nowhere to be found.

My heart grew to believe he had been captured by the enemy or killed.

So many nonsense casualties.

I'm not even sure they knew what they were really fighting for anymore.

King Erich of Schillingburg created a battle which he could not win.

He envisioned himself as ruler of all.

“Willshire has always been part of Schillingburg; it was divided because the late King Adam had the stupendous idea of giving both his sons a Kingdom.” Said King Erich to his Army.

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“Well King Adam has passed and King Michael does not deserve to run a Kingdom, he has been a pariah. Luck was bestowed to him when his Father passed and he has not known how to run his Kingdom”. He continued.

“I cannot tolerate this anymore. We will go in, overthrow and remove him from power. If he must be killed, so be it! Willshire will once again belong to Schillingburg.” He demanded.

The army cheered in agreement. He raised his hand as to quiet them down. “Go and prepared our borders. At dawn we will invade.” he finished.

In Willshire, all seemed quiet. They did not expect what was coming. They did not even have their soldiers truly prepared. I deployed a few of our soldier to watch over Willshire, in case they needed help. Thomas rode up and down the border. He was far off from Landford, which is why there was no word on him.

One day on his watch, he saw an unusual sight. He followed from a distance, a man and a maiden,

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who were traveling deep into the woods. Of course, this was not too strange; the strange part was that the man looked a lot like David. Thomas felt since he had been without sleep so long he was seeing things. But he still followed to get a better look. He followed them into the forest. After a short walk, the pair arrived at a cottage. The cottage Amelia's Father built her as a child.

“Could it be?” Thomas asked himself.

The cottage was abandoned and anyone could have taken refuge there.

“I do not think Amelia had ever told David of this place.” He thought to himself.

Thomas stood quietly in the forest, trying to get another view of the man but to no avail.

He did confirm the maiden was Elizabeth, though.

“Could that be David? But how? David IS dead.”

Thomas questioned himself.

In a minute, he was turned around and did not know where he was. He began riding north, or what he thought was north. His mind was so confused after this sight that he could not even tell which direction he was heading. Suddenly in the distance, he could see soldiers but he did not

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recognize them.

*“This must be Schillingburg” he thought to himself.
He jumped off his horse and quietly walked to find
an area to rest and hide. As he walked he could not
help but think and try to make his mind
understand what he had just saw.*

“Was it possible? But how?”

He asked himself.

*“Amelia, could she have betrayed me in this
manner?” he whispered out loud.*

*As King Erich prepared his strategy. His soldiers
searched the parameter and lined up to protect
Schillingburg.*

*While aligning the troops, William, King Erich’s
first Officer heard an unusual sound coming from
the forest.*

*He turned to his soldiers and said “I’ll go this way;
the forest seems quite alive tonight”.*

*As he ventured in, he could not help but get an
uncomfortable feeling.*

“Who is out there?” he shouted.

*He could hear cracking of branches but due to the
fog he could not see anything.*

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After a few minutes, he turned to make his way back and he heard a noise again.

“I hear you. If you were a bear you would have killed me by now.” He said out loud.

“Announce yourself or I’ll be forced to protect my land in the name of King Erich of Schillingburg” he affirmed.

He quickly went and retrieved a few soldiers.

“Men, someone is hiding in our forest, it might be a silent coup” he said.

“We must go in and fight for our borders”. He added as they entered the foggy forest.

In a matter of seconds, fighting against the soldiers and Thomas began. He was a very skilled warrior but one man could not overthrow all of Schillingburg’s soldiers. He had slain many by the time Schillingburg overtook him. As the soldiers apprehended him, William grabbed ahold of his arm.

“I know you” he said.

“Oh do you?” Snickered Thomas.

“Yes, you are a Prince. Prince David of Landford, I am sure of it” William answered.

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“There you are wrong, my fellow man” Thomas replied.

“No, no I’m correct, you are a Prince, and I know you. I have seen you before.” William continued. Thomas just smiled and said “Prince David is dead!

You have the wrong man, now release me!” After a short struggle William grabbed Thomas, pushes him down and snarled “Well, no matter whom you are, Prince or not, you are now a prisoner of Schillingburg”.

William excitedly returned to the Castle to advise King Erich.

“Your highness, May I?” He asked.

King Erich turned towards him and motioned with his hand to enter.

“I have a prisoner you need to see” he said excitedly.

“Who is this prisoner, William?” King Erich asked.

“He is a Prince, a Prince from Landford, I am sure of it” William answered.

“A Prince?” said King Erich.

“Well bring him in, this should be entertaining” continued King Erich.

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*The armed soldiers accompanied the prisoner in
and kneeled before their King.*

Thomas remains standing.

*“You show no respect for Schillingburg” said King
Erich.*

*“Who do you think you are, that you do not have
to show respect for Schillingburg and its King?” he
continued.*

*“ANNOUNCE WHO YOU ARE!” King Erich yelled as
he walked towards Thomas.*

*He grabbed his face forcefully and repeated “WHO
ARE YOU? ANNOUNCE YOURSELF!”*

*Thomas smiled and answered “I am Prince Thomas
of Landford”.*

King Erich began to laugh.

*“Are you serious? We captured a real Prince with
not even trying” King Erich said amused.*

*“Well, Prince Thomas of Landford, I don’t care who
you are, show respect and kneel to YOUR King.”*

Thomas did not move.

“You are NOT my King” Thomas responded.

“Very well” King Erich added.

*“Soldiers, show Prince Thomas what happens to
disrespectful people”.*

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He said as he walked towards his throne. The soldiers began hitting Thomas.

“ENOUGH” Yelled King Erich.

“Now that you are on your knees, that is better” he said amused.

“So Prince Thomas, what were you doing in Schillingburg? Is Landford planning a coup?” He asked and then began to laugh.

Thomas remained quiet.

King Erich slowly walked back to Thomas.

“ANSWER ME?” King Erich yelled as he hit Thomas with his staff.

“I am here on my own accord, Landford has no such plan. I was just passing through” Thomas replied.

“Wrong Answer, Prince Thomas” King Erich groaned as he pressed his staff against Thomas’ neck.

“BUT I am glad to have you here; I have been told you are a very knowledgeable fighter. I can use that in my army” King Erich continued.

“I will not fight for you or Schillingburg”. Thomas mumbled.

King Erich laughed.

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“Oh, I think you will, Prince Thomas. You don’t have a choice in the matter. Let us make a treaty; you fight for Schillingburg and I WILL NOT kill what is most precious to you. Your Mother? Your Sister? Two beautiful women, if I remember correctly. Oh what I’d do to be the first to bed your sweet Amelia.” King Erich said as he made a thinking motion.

Thomas struggled to be released from the arms of the soldiers.

“Relax, Young Prince Thomas, I know you will do as I say, now that you have an idea of what will come to your precious family.” He added.

King Erich walked back towards his throne. He motioned to the soldier and said “Show Prince Thomas his lovely accommodations in our dungeon”.

King Erich sat at his throne and began to clap, “Good Job, William, The Prince will be a great asset, I’m sure of it”. He says.

“You are welcome, your highness” William replied. “I have the perfect plan, it just came to me.” King Erich said in a low voice.

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“We will put the Prince in the front line, I will coax King Michael of Willshire to a meeting as if to end the battles and when he is here, the Prince will kill him” King Erich continued.

William remained silent.

“Trust me; this will end Willshire and Landford for sure. Schillingburg will be triumphant over both but this plan must remain between us, you betray me and I’ll kill you.” King Erich added.

William nodded his head and dismissed himself from the King.

Early the next morning King Erich visited Thomas in his cell. “Wake up!” He yelled as he kicked Thomas who lies on the floor in a corner.

“Today is a special day, my boy” He said.

“You will lead Schillingburg in battle, we will attack Willshire”. He added.

“I will NOT fight for Schillingburg, did you not hear me?” Thomas yelled.

King Erich shook his head in disagreement.

“We spoke about this already Prince Thomas, must I visit your Mother or even better, the beautiful Amelia. I will be sure to let her know you sent me

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as she screams as I ravage her body.” The King said ominously.

Thomas motioned to attack the King but his guards stopped him.

Shaking his head the King said “No, No, Prince Thomas, not a good idea, save your anger for the battlefield.”

King Erich’s battle went on as planned. Thomas was forcefully sent out to fight. But for Thomas, he was not fighting for Schillingburg, but for himself and his family.

At the same time, King Erich’s plan for King Michael was set forth.

King Michael made his way to Schillingburg for the meeting.

During the ride, his caravan was ambushed by Schillingburg’s army. King Michael was stripped of his royal uniform and placed in the middle of the battle to fend for himself.

King Michael was not a soldier.

Like every man he had the basic skills but not enough to battle against any man, especially Thomas.

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After fighting against a few soldiers, Michael came face to face with Thomas. Thomas did not know King Michael; this man was just another soldier to him. The fight between them was quick and the death quicker. King Michael did not suffer. Not to Thomas' knowledge, King Michael's guards had surrounded him as he threw the finishing blow. There were too many to fight so Thomas surrendered.

"Do you know who you have just killed?" A soldier said.

"It's the King, King Michael of Willshire" another responded.

Schillingburg's soldiers had retreated quickly while Willshire's soldiers attended to Thomas.

From a distance William could see that Thomas had killed King Michael and was being led away by Willshire's Soldiers.

He immediately went and informed King Erich. "Your Majesty, it has been done, Thomas has slain King Michael but Willshire Soldiers has taken him prisoner, what do we do?" William explained.

King Erich looked content.

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“We do nothing!” King Erich replied.

“I must say, Your Highness your plan succeeded but Thomas is now a prisoner of Willshire, he will blame Schillingburg.” William confirmed.

“It turned out better than I could imagine, now Young Prince Thomas will be killed by Willshire and not us. He will not speak and we have no knowledge of him.” He laughed.

Greyson and William had their weekly meeting to update each other about the battles. To Greyson’s surprise William informed him that Thomas was alive and fighting with Schillingburg. William never mentioned Thomas was taken prisoner by them and forced to fight to save his own life. He also never mentioned Thomas had killed King Michael either.

By this time, the bloodshed was vast.

So many innocent people had lost their lives.

I often thought about when my soldiers would have to fight and it terrified me. They were there to protect me but I was responsible for their lives. I did not look forward to commanding them into battle.

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As I sat by the window looking north towards Willshire, My lady in waiting tapped my shoulder.

“Your highness, your Father wishes to speak with you”. Shyanne said quietly.

I got up and slowly walked towards his room.

“Yes, Father, is all well?” I asked.

“Oh yes, I wanted to consult with you on a battle ending treaty I received from Schillingburg” He disclosed.

“Father, I have no idea. I do not even know what we are fighting for. And from Schillingburg, since when do you trust King Erich?” I interjected.

Suddenly Greyson enters unannounced,

“Your Majesty” he said loudly.

Father and I turned towards him surprised.

“I apologize Your Highness but I have news from Willshire.”

Father motioned for him to enter.

“News from Willshire, Greyson?” I asked.

“King Michael of Willshire has been murdered.” He said.

Greyson knew Michael was my birth brother, so he thought I should be aware of his death.

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“Your birth brother Paul wanted you to know the murderer of King Michael had been apprehended and he is being held prisoner at the Willshire Castle.” He added.

I remained unaffected until he left the room.

“Oh Father, my brother has been killed.” I said.

“At least, you have solace to know that who did this despicable crime will be punished accordingly, you must travel to Willshire and grant the punishment personally.” Father advised.

“I cannot Father” I sighed.

“Why is that? You are Queen; you can do anything you desire.” He praised.

“I have no business in Willshire, especially to award punishment to a murderer.” I continued.

“You must go show support for your remaining brother and mourn for Michael.” Father conceded.

“But I am afraid Father. I do not remember them as my family.” I confessed.

“We are all afraid my precious girl, but it is something that has to be done. You are Queen of Landford, you must show strength, power and support for others.” Father proclaimed.

I lowered my head in agreement.

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“Greyson and his men will accompany you, he will protect you.” Father reassured me.

“I am not sure that is safe Emmanuel” said Mother as she entered the room.

“Nothing in this world is safe, Catherine. We must all take risks in life. Amelia is going in peace, to mourn her brother” Father replied.

“Why is she allowed to mourn this brother she did not know and not the brother who protected and guided her?” Mother protested.

“Catherine, must you always speak of him” Father replied.

“It is only true, Emmanuel! Mother added.

“Mother, I mourn David and Thomas every day of my life and I think I will show them pride and honor by doing this. Plus Michael and Paul are my blood and I must honor them too” I proposed.

“I am not content Amelia, you are all I have left” Mother wept.

“I will make you proud, Mother” I assure her.

“I do not need pride like this, I am already proud of you.” She urged.

She turned to Father and said “And you. How dare

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you condemn me for speaking about my first born? Where has your heart gone Emmanuel? No matter what David was accused of doing, no matter what a monster you think he is or that he betrayed you, which is completely false. He is still your blood, a part of you, you cannot erase him.” She began to walk away when Father grabbed her arm and replied “Maybe you should go be with YOUR son, if that suits you. You are NOT needed here!”

I turned and shouted, “Father that is unacceptable behavior, Mother does not deserve such treatment and disrespect. How dare you?”

He raised his hand and slapped my face “HOW DARE YOU? You are still my daughter under that crown. May it never cross your mind again to address me without respect!” He said as left the room.

Mother ran to me and touched my cheek “He did not mean that Amelia.” She said.

I said nothing.

I dismissed myself from the room and wandered the corridors, as I did as a child.

It was my only consolation, all that was left of the

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happy times in Landford Castle.

In the corners, I could hear the echoes of David and Thomas chanting, playing and running behind me. I could feel David raise me up high and spin me. I could feel Thomas pull me into a corner and kiss me. I could feel their presence all around me. It was so loud in my head, it was driving me mad. As I reached the end of the hall, I crouched in the dark corner and began to cry.

I could not do this.

I was not fit to be Queen.

I needed my brother.

I needed my husband.

I tried to hide my broken heart under all this gold, satin and lace but it has become too much to bare.

What should I do? Where should I go?

Willshire

Father quickly made the preparations for me to go to Willshire. He notified my brother Paul, who had now become King that I would be arriving in 2 days. I sat in my room looking out as Shyanne prepared my bag. Greyson motioned for me from the courtyard to come down.

“I shall return Shyanne; I need to collect a few things.” I said as I dismissed myself.

As I arrived at the yard, Greyson whispered. “I have great news for you.” I smiled and replied “You do? Is it about Thomas?” He made a sad face and responded “No my Queen, but it is about David”.

I smiled.

“On our way to Willshire we will visit him, he has a great surprise”. He added.

“Oh Greyson, it warms my heart, I have missed him so much” I said graciously.

Now I could not wait for our trip. Even though it was a sad situation, just knowing I would get to spend a bit of time with David made it more

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worthwhile. Greyson kissed my hand and said "Go rest my Queen; it is going to be long trip."

Early morning, my carriage had arrived and was prepared for my long trip.

Father and Mother waited by the door.

Shyanne grabbed my bag and accompanied me downstairs.

"Amelia, you listen to Greyson, he has the best interest for you." Father said.

Mother remained looking down and said nothing.

"Mother?" I said

"Please do not be upset with me" I added.

She looked at me with tears in her eyes and whispered "Go with God, my sweet daughter."

I hugged her tight as if not to ever let go.

Greyson then said "My Queen, we must leave now to take advantage of the daylight".

Father leaned over and whispered "My heart is full of pride for you." I bowed at my parents and boarded my carriage.

Greyson looked in my window and winked.

And away we went.

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The view was so beautiful, as we passed through town. The townspeople stopped what they were doing to watch my caravan.

I waved as we went through.

There was not much to do but read or look at the landscape, which was extremely exquisite.

After a way of travelling, we were passing the outskirts of Schillingburg.

Greyson knew which way to go where we would not encounter their soldiers.

The sun began to go down. I knew I was near David's home. I recognized a lot of the area. The excitement in me was bursting.

I could not wait to hug him after so long. As we arrived I could see the little cottage.

So many memories flowed through my mind.

My Father and I having tea in the front room.

Thomas and I just sitting together in front of the fire as he told me one of his wonderful stories.

I looked down at myself to make sure I was presentable suddenly my carriage door flies open.

"AMELIA!" David yelled.

I leaped out of the carriage into his arms.

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We hugged hard and strong. He put me down and laughed as he bowed. "I apologize, my Queen".

"Stop being silly, you are my brother" I answered.

He grabbed my hand and led me inside.

"I have so much to tell you" He said.

I smiled.

"You will be an aunt soon" He said excitedly.

Elizabeth then came out of the kitchen.

"Oh my Elizabeth" I said as I hugged her. "You are with child, how exciting!" I added.

She began to curtsy at me. I stopped her and said

"No need Elizabeth, you are my sister."

She smiled innocently.

"I have made you a lovely dinner" she said.

I was so happy to be there.

There was so much love. I missed David so much.

We spoke about so many things I could not keep track.

For a long time I thought to myself, if I had did the right thing with releasing David and going against

my Father but being here and seeing his

happiness, my answer was Yes, I did what was correct.

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The time went so quick. I did not want to leave. Greyson touched David's shoulder and said "We must be on our way, Prince David. Willshire awaits us. We must get there by tomorrow evening. I do not want to alert anyone by arriving late. Thank you both for your hospitality."

Elizabeth smiled and reached for me. As she hugged me she said "Thank you! You have made my life a dream".

Suddenly David grabs me and spins me around "I bet you have missed that." He said laughing.

I laughed.

We stood and just looked at each other. He smiled and said with tears in his eyes "Look at you, My Queen"

I motioned him to stop.

He continued "Amelia, I am so proud, thank you for everything you did for me, may it be returned to you tenfold".

I smiled.

He stood up and hugged me tight. He looked over at Greyson and said "Take care of my girl".

Greyson lowered his head and replied "With my life, Prince David."

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Greyson helped me into my carriage and we were on our way. David stood outside his home waving until we were out of sight.

The moment was bittersweet.

But my heart was full of love and happiness.

I fell asleep to the gallop of the horses.

As I awoke early the next morning I could see Willshire Castle in the distance. The sun was coming up behind it.

It looked amazing.

Greyson rode alongside my carriage and said

“We will be there by noon, my Queen.”

I smiled but I was not glad.

I did not know how to react to all this. I did not know my brothers.

Upon arrival, I could see the Castle. The flags were lowered and it was dressed in dark purple, in honor of the death of a King.

Willshire soldiers stopped us at the entrance.

Immediately they raised their gate and let us in.

My brother Paul stood in the doorway. I had not seen him in many years. He was tall, so handsome, looked a lot like my Father. I thought our first

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meeting would be awkward but it was like if we had never been separated. As I got out of the carriage, he came down the stairs. "My beautiful Amelia," Paul said.

I smiled and responded "Oh my brother Paul".

We hugged and held hands.

"Come inside my Queen, Greyson you also" He said.

Entering Willshire Castle was a bit overwhelming.

This was my original home.

Bits and pieces of memories came to my mind but it was hard because I was so young when I left.

"Lunch is being prepared; I know you had a long trip. I will show you to your rooms so you can relax a bit." Paul added.

He grabbed my hand and kissed it. "Look at you, all grown up" He said as we walked down the hall.

"I have prepared your old room for you" He said excitedly.

I smiled and thanked him.

He opened the door to a huge room which I did not remember.

He pointed out "This was your sanctuary as a little girl".

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I looked around and smiled.

“Thank you” I said quietly.

*He smiled and replied “You are very welcome. I am
happy to have you here.*

Refresh yourself and I will return for you in a bit”.

*I slowly wandered the room, trying to remember
the tiniest thing but nothing came to mind.*

I felt strange.

I felt sad.

*How do I not remember my childhood? I could not
even remember my Fathers voice. I did not want to
seem ungrateful but I wanted to go home. Being at
Willshire Castle depressed me.*

The smells were different.

The view also.

*I washed my face and changed my dress as I
waited.*

Soon after, Eloise, the Kings helper came for me.

*“My Queen, King Paul would like your presence in
the dining hall.” She said.*

I got up and followed her.

*The dining area was so vast; the table was long
with many chairs.*

“Sit where you please Amelia” Paul said.

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I walked and sat next to him.

“I am so sorry your visit has to be during this horrible time” He mentioned.

“It is well; I am here to honor my brother and you.”

I said with a smile.

“Tomorrow Michael will lie in state for his Kingdom to honor him then he shall be buried at The Belvidere Arch.” He added.

I shook my head.

“Now nourish yourself, my sweet sister. We have enough time to discuss the rest.” He ended.

I had such an uncomfortable feeling being here.

I could not place what it was.

After lunch, we went into the main room to converse. He pointed at a painting and asked “Do you remember him?”

I smiled and replied “Yes, that is Father.”

He smiled in agreement.

“How about her?” He pointed at a picture of a beautiful lady.

I had no idea who she was.

He smiled and said “That is Mother; you were so young when she passed.”

I smiled and replied “She was so beautiful.”

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He smiled and pointed out “You look a lot like her.”

I totally disagreed, she was gorgeous.

“Do you know why she named you Amelia?” He asked.

I had no idea.

I shrugged my shoulders.

“She would say that the meaning of your name was beauty, sophistication and intelligence, which described you perfectly.” He added.

That was so lovely. I never knew that detail about my Mother.

We conversed for a few. It was nice reminiscing with him. He seemed to enjoy telling me about happier times at Willshire Castle.

Unfortunately I had no memory of it.

After a bit, we began talking about Michael. He described him as a quiet, loner type. He even confessed that he was an awful King.

I could not wait any longer. I wanted to know about the prisoner and what happened to him. I looked at him and bursted out “Are you positive the man you have imprisoned is the murderer of Michael” I asked.

“You wish to speak of that now?” He asked.

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“Yes Paul, I do. I am sorry, with all my heart I would love to speak to you about your family but I do not remember any of you. I enjoy hearing your memories but I figure we should get to business now.” I answered.

He shook his head.

“As you wish. Yes Amelia, I was there when this man with no regret pierced his heart with his sword” Paul answered.

I felt awful, I did not want Paul to think I was disrespectful.

“I am sorry my King for being so direct” I quietly murmured.

He smiled and replied “I understand.”

He stood up and walked across the room.

I cleared my throat.

“When can I see the prisoner?” I asked.

“Now if you would like” he replied.

I followed him and Greyson to the dungeon. As we walked Paul added. “I found it strange because the sword he carried had the seal of Landford engraved on it.”

“Really?” I said.

It was so cold, dark and damp.

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Prisoners filled almost every cell.

*The prisoner I wanted to confront had been put in
the very last cell.*

*As I stood in front of the cell, the prisoner stood
with his back to me.*

*“Kneel for your Queen, Prisoner” the guard said
out loudly.*

The Prisoner did not move.

*He then said “I will not kneel to your Queen. I have
no Queen”.*

The sound of that voice pierced my soul.

I knew who it was but could not believe my ears.

“Prisoner, turn to me” I asked.

*Suddenly a tall dark figure appeared from the
shadows.*

*His head was held down; my heart sank as the
vision of a disheveled Thomas approached me.*

I remained in silence.

I could not believe what I was seeing.

Thomas looked directly at me and grinned.

“Let me in his cell” I ordered the guard.

He looked at Paul.

“Are you mad? Paul asked.

“Yes, now open it and leave me with this prisoner”

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I said.

“Absolutely not Amelia” Paul replied.

“Do as I say Paul” I yelled.

“She will be fine, King Paul, do as she says. I will be nearby” Greyson added.

Paul motioned to the guard to open the cell.

I walked in, not really knowing what to say.

I want to kiss and hold him but at the same time I wanted to kill him.

“Thomas? Prince Thomas of Landford” I whispered.

He laughed and said “When did you become Queen, Amelia?”

“Thomas, what did you do?” I asked.

He turned away and said “I did nothing. I protected myself”.

“You killed my brother Michael” I whispered.

“It was me or him, I prefer living” Thomas answered angrily.

He then grabbed my arm and said “Now, when did you become Queen? I ask.”

His eyes were different, cold and evil.

“Is Father finally dead? He whispered menacingly.

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"No, he is not" I replied.

"Then?" He murmured.

"I do not have time to explain to you what is going on in Landford" I answered trying not to appear terrified.

"What am I going to do? I asked myself out loud.

"Yes, what are you going to do, my Queen?" He said condescending.

I turned to him and nodded.

He walked towards me and knelt before me

"My Queen, I apologize for my act of disrespect."

He said.

Grabbing my hand and bringing it to his lips, he murmured "I am your King, so kneel before me" as he pulled me down to the ground.

Being face to face was chilling.

He kissed my lips and whispered "We did marry or did you forget?"

I closed my eyes and swallowed slowly as not to cry.

He remained kneeling as I stood and began to walk away.

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*“Amelia, you cannot leave me here” he whispered
angrily.*

I turned and looked at him.

“GUARD” I yelled.

*“Amelia, AMELIA! You cannot leave me here to
die” He repeated as he followed me to the door.*

My thoughts were all turned about.

*The man I love and longed for killed my brother
but he was my husband, my King.*

I could not leave him here to die.

My love was strong for him still.

*He grabbed my arm and said “Do you not feel love
for me anymore?” He asked.*

I turned away without answering.

*I left his cell breathing hard and scared, I leaned
against the wall for balance.*

*Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought I
would be putting Thomas to death.*

What was I to do? I could not do this? I loved him.

“Guard, take me to your King” I said.

*As I walked through the long hallway I thought of
what to say. I could not let him know Thomas was
my husband.*

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*As I entered the room, there sat my brother Paul
on his throne.*

“So, what did he say?” Paul asked.

“He confessed but he says it was self-defense”

I answered.

*Paul laughed “Really? Everyone knew Michael was
not a warrior. Michael was lured into the forest
and slaughtered like an animal. How is that self-
defense? He is a paid killer from Schillingburg and
must die for the murder”.*

I nodded in disagreement.

*I was still in shock that Thomas was the man who
did this. I could not believe it or show Paul I had
any connection to him.*

I had to think quickly.

*I knew I was of stronger will than Paul so I just
came out and said “I will be taking the prisoner
with me to Landford. Here in Willshire, he will not
get the proper trial he deserves.”*

*“A Proper trial Amelia? Are you trying to save this
man? He will not get a trial, he WILL die. He killed
your brother” Paul yelled.*

*“He killed your brother Paul. I did not know
Michael.” I argued.*

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“This is unbelievable Amelia; you would not be Queen of Landford if it was not for THIS family. You ungrateful...” Paul said before I interrupted him.

“I am Queen because of you? I laughed.

“Believe as you wish but the prisoner leaves with me. He will not get a trial here as I see it Paul, and you will not stop me. I have made the decision and he will accompany me to Landford in the morning.”

I added as I walked away.

Greyson followed and said “What are you doing my Queen?”

I turned to him and replied “I am bringing Thomas home; I will not be responsible for his death”.

“But my Queen, it is his destiny, he killed a King.”

Greyson said worried.

“He is a King also, Greyson. This discussion is over.”

I whispered.

Greyson stared at me confused. “A King? What are you talking about? He is not King!” Greyson whispered.

“I will explain later Greyson; just prepare him for the trip.” I replied.

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Paul paced back and forth.

He then followed me into the hallway.

“What will I tell our people?” He asked angrily.

“The truth, I suggest, you do not want to begin your reign on lies, as did other Kings” I answered. I was not sure if my decision was the right one but my love for Thomas could not leave him there to die even though he took my brother’s life.

Greyson returned to the dungeon. “King Thomas?” he murmured quietly.

Thomas turned towards him.

“Pardon me, I mean no disrespect, but can you explain how and when you became King?”

Greyson said as he kneeled.

Thomas answered “My loyal friend, Amelia and I married before I left Landford. She became Queen, thus that makes me King.”

Greyson slowly stood up and whispered. “Your highness, if you have deceitful thoughts or ill feelings towards my Queen, I will slay you, remember I taught you everything you know and I will not think twice in using it to protect her against anyone, including you.”

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Thomas smiled "My man you taught me to kill others. I will not my own."

Greyson replied "You think I not know that it was you who betrayed your brother. Who poisoned him in your Fathers mind and requested his death".

Thomas laughed and said "You give me too much credit, Greyson."

Greyson nodded his head. "You have been warned my King" He added.

Thomas smiled and replied "You do not scare me but do not worry, Amelia is the only person I care for, she will never be harmed by my sword BUT be afraid for others. Those I cannot spare."

Greyson bowed at Thomas and ended "We leave for Landford in the morning my King."

The morning came quick.

I was anxious to leave but I had to pay my respects to Michael. I slowly entered the front room where his body lies for funeral. I could not help but see his resemblance to Father.

I placed a medal on his chest. "King Michael, my brother. I feel so ashamed that I have no recollection of you. Please forgive me. Your death

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was an accident, please pardon me for exonerating who did this to you but he is my husband.” I

whispered as I touched his face.

I looked up with teary eyes and said “Say hello to Father for me, I hope he is proud of me, aside of this, which you may see as an indiscretion.”

As I turned, I saw Paul stood in the doorway. He looked at me with anger but respect.

“Are you sure you want to do this, Amelia? Paul asked for the last time.

“Yes, Paul, please accept my decision, it is for the best for Willshire.” I replied.

He lowered his head.

“Amelia, forgive me for the outburst last evening, I am ashamed.” He said.

“Oh Paul, It was forgiven automatically, I had fault too, my brother.” I replied.

He grabbed my hand and led me to my carriage.

“It was a great pleasure seeing you again. I hope you will visit more often and under better circumstances” Paul asserted.

I smiled and replied “I will, promise.”

We hugged and I quickly entered the carriage as the guard retrieved Thomas from the dungeon.

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*I was ready to finally return home.
I asked Greyson to put Thomas with me in the
carriage.
He only allowed Thomas to sit with me as long as
he wore restraints.
As he entered the carriage, I just could not help
but look at him. The outer shell was my Thomas
but the inside seemed to be a stranger.
He glanced at me and bowed his head. "My
Queen, I would kneel but you have me tied up like
an animal and it is not possible." He said.
"No need" I said.
"Behave yourself." Greyson said to Thomas.
Thomas just looked at him and smirked.
As we rode away, we sat in silence.
I looked out the window, if not I would be staring
at Thomas all the way.*

*"So what is to happen now Amelia?" Thomas
whispered.
"I do not know, Thomas." I said quietly under my
breath.*

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"If I may ask, was this your plan all along?" He asked.

"Plan? What Plan?" I replied.

"Yes, Amelia. Your Plan. Your sick Father sends you to live in our Kingdom, you become Queen and now the Willshires have 2 out of 3 Kingdoms" He added.

"What are you talking about?" I exclaimed.

"You are smart, WAS THAT THE PLAN!" He said in a loud tone.

"Thomas, there was no plan, I did not want to be Queen, I did it for Father, he is ill and I did as I was told. That is all." I angrily replied.

"Hmmm, well this turned out to be a lucky win for Willshire then." He commented.

"Does Father know we married?" He asked.

"No, just Mother". I whispered.

"Oh" he said and laughed "This will be a great surprise then."

I looked over to Thomas and asked "What has happened to you?"

He laughed and replied, "What happened to me? WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? You really want to know?"

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I shook my head yes.

“You have NOT seen battle! You have NOT seen bloodshed! BATTLE that is what happened to me?”

He said with hurt in his voice.

“I was ambushed in Schillingburg, to this day I believe it was planned, someone betrayed me and advised King Erich of my whereabouts because it all happened so quickly. To survive I had to kill and kill many I did. Your brother’s death was no fault of mine. Who sends their King out to battle? Their King, Unidentified.” He continued.

I really had nothing to say. I have missed hearing his voice. I just indulged in the sound. I really was not paying attention to him at all.

“Amelia, are you hearing me? He exclaimed.

“Yes, of course” I replied.

“I have missed you so much” I said under my breath.

“I have also” he replied.

He knelt in front of me with his hands bound on my lap.

“Amelia, you have already stolen my birthright, do not steal my life also.”

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I pushed against his hands and replied "I have not stolen anything for you. You have lost it all on your own. I did NOT want to be Queen, Thomas. I would give up the crown for you at any time."

He smiled and reached for my face.

I flinched in fear.

He gently caressed my face as he kissed me deeply.

As our forehead touched, he commented, "No need to be afraid of me, Amelia, I would never hurt you." His whisper seemed so menacing.

"My heart may have been turned into a rock after witnessing all the bloodshed, but you, only you Amelia have something that makes it soft and weak." He added.

I could not help look into those beautiful green eyes.

So mesmerizing.

I wanted to give myself to him, then and there but the thought that he killed my brother kept entering my mind and I felt sick.

"Do you not love me anymore Amelia? Is there another?" He asked.

I nodded and whispered "There will never be another, my King."

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He smiled and asked "Amelia, please take these restraints off me, I want to touch you."

I was afraid but did what he asked.

He rubbed his wrists as I removed them.

"May I sit next to you?" He asked.

I nodded yes.

"You are trembling. I hope it is because you are cold, not afraid of me." He added.

"It is a chilled day, winter must be approaching" I responded.

He grabbed a blanket that was next to him and covered me as he put his arm around me. I could feel his hand reaching for mine under the blanket. I looked down as to avoid eye contact.

"The only reason I fought to survive was because I knew I would be returning back to you." He whispered in my ear.

I turned my head towards him.

He moved forward and kissed me passionately.

His warmth covered my entire body. He gently placed his hand by my heart and lowered my dress. His kisses covered my neck and down to my breasts.

I was speechless. He whispered "Amelia, I want to

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*be one with you again. I have longed to bed you
and experience heaven with you again.”*

*How could I say no, I loved him deeply and I missed
him so.*

*The carriage was small but we managed to
indulge ourselves in ecstasy.*

*His warm breath on my thighs made me release
quickly.*

*As he entered me I could not help but sigh deeply,
the feeling was unexplainable.*

*The way he nibbled on my chin and whispered he
loved me just made the moment complete.*

*The taste of his lips was better than the most
expensive wine.*

*As we climaxed, our eyes met. He watched me.
He enjoyed seeing me savor this moment.*

*Finally he grabbed my face in his hands and kissed
me again.*

*“I do not ever want to be away from you again” he
whispered.*

I opened my eyes and replied “Nor do I”.

*As we approached Landford, the reality of it all
began to sink in and I still did not know what to*

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do.

*I was so happy to have Thomas back but I knew it
was unreal to think Father would feel the same.*

I watched Thomas as he slept.

He was so beautiful.

*His soft light skin and light reddish hair made me
weak and were so complimenting to him.*

There was no way I could imprison him.

He was my King.

*How do I return Thomas to Landford Castle, tell my
parents he is the prisoner and he is also King.*

I will bring happiness and sorrow with this news.

Mother will be heartbroken once again.

Father will definitely have our heads.

And my people will hate and despise me.

*But wait, I am Queen, now is the time to exert my
power and use it for Thomas' sake.*

God help me.

Landford

As we arrived upon Landford Castle, I sat in the carriage.

“Thomas” I whispered. “We are here.”

He arose and looked out the window.

“Home Sweet Home” he joked.

I was nervous. I did not know how Father was going to take all this.

As Greyson opened my door, I paused and said

“Greyson, take Thomas to my room.”

“Your room, My Queen?” He responded.

“Yes Greyson, my room. He does not belong in the dungeon.” I replied.

“But he is a prisoner, Your Highness.” He continued.

“I will go and speak with Father and Mother first, please give me a moment.” I said as I looked at

Greyson, then at Thomas.

I quickly enter the Castle.

Mother awaited me at the door.

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“My daughter, I am so relieved you are home.” She said as she hugged me. I grabbed her hand and kissed it.

“Where is Father?” I asked.

She looked puzzled and asked “In his room, Why?” “I need to speak with you both immediately, please come with me.” I replied.

We both walked hand in hand to his room. Father lie in his bed, he was awake but not feeling well. He raised his hands as he saw me and murmured “My child you have returned, what you have to say about your adventures?”

Mother helped him sit up as I sat at the end of his bed.

“Am I not worthy of a hug?” He asked as he opened his arms.

I moved over to him, bowed my head and hugged him.

“Father, I have a dilemma I must speak with you about but you need to completely listen to everything before you respond.” I said.

Mother glanced over pondering what I was going to say.

I took a deep breath.

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“This is something I should have told you a long time ago.” I asserted.

“What is it my child?” Father said concerned.

“Before Thomas left to battle, he and I were wed at a chapel in town. I know it is against your permission but our love was too strong”.

He looked at me then at Mother.

“You knew about this?” He asked her.

I interrupted “No Father, no one knew, just Thomas and I.”

Mother lowered her eyes.

“Well then, Thomas is gone, why are you telling me this, to clear your conscience?” Father added.

“Thomas is not gone, Father” I said.

Mother inhaled loudly.

“What is this you say? How do you know Thomas' whereabouts?” Father said.

I looked down and said “I found him in Willshire.”

“Alive?” Mother asked.

I nodded yes.

“WHAT? Where is he? Is he with you?” Father said excitedly.

I nodded yes and replied “He is but he is the

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prisoner from Willshire, he is who killed King Michael."

Mother began crying.

"Amelia, did you not think? You have committed a crime, why did you bring him to Landford?" Father said sternly.

"I could not leave him to die in Willshire." I answered.

"But child, that is his destiny, he killed a royal!" Father shouted.

I stood up and said loudly "But he is King, Father!"

"Just because you are Queen does not make him King, Amelia" Father yelled upset.

"He is my husband and I could not betray him in that manner" I said in a soft voice.

"No you would rather betray your Kingdom and Willshire by harboring a murderer." Father continued.

"He is your son Emmanuel." Mother said weeping.

"Where is he now?" Father asked.

"In my room, he will not see the dungeon here." I said.

"You are making a huge mistake, Amelia. Your

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Kingdom will not allow this treason” Father interjected.

“If there is treason, may I be punished but in my heart, it is what I choose.” I replied.

“Take me to him” Father said as he weakly rose from his bed.

We slowly walked down the corridor to my room.

As we opened the door, Thomas stood in the center of the room.

Mother quickly ran to him and began hugging him.

“My son I have prayed for the day I would see and hold you again” Mother said.

“As did I Mother” Thomas responded.

Thomas walked passed Mother towards Father.

Half way to him, he kneels and says “May I approach Father?”

Father stood strong and nodded yes.

They stood face to face.

The room was silent.

Father raised his hand, grabbed Thomas and began hugging him. “My son, my son” he said as he collapsed in his arms.

Thomas held him as tears streamed from his eyes.

“Forgive me Father” He said as he helped Father

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to my bed.

*“Thomas, the sight of you does not make me ill.
The excitement has gotten to me.” Father replied.*

Greyson stood at the door.

Father called for him.

“Greyson, come to me”.

Greyson slowly approached and knelt.

“My King” He said.

*“Greyson, thank you for returning my children
home safely.” Father exclaimed.*

*Greyson bowed his head as he stared Thomas
down.*

*“It is my duty, Your Excellency. I must take the
horses to the stable for food and rest.” He said as
he dismissed himself.*

I ran after Greyson and said “Greyson, Thank you!”

*“For what my Queen, I have done nothing for you
to be thankful for” He admitted.*

*I smiled and replied “You have always been a great
friend and confidant.”*

I reached over and hugged him.

*“Oh my Queen, what an honor” He answered
shyly.*

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I walked into my room and the view was beautiful, all it needed was David. Mother and Father were so pleased to have Thomas home. As I stood in the doorway Thomas motioned for me to enter.

“Is all well? He asked concerned.

“Oh yes, my King all is wonderful” I answered as I put my arms around him. Father smiled and proposed “Tomorrow we must sit down and figure out what we are going to do about this situation.

Thomas is still a prisoner in Willshire’s eyes.”

I nodded in agreement.

“But for now we shall eat and rest.” He added as he walked towards the door to leave the room.

“Also this room must be prepared for you and Thomas, now that you are wed. Shyanne please make the preparations.” He continued.

Shyanne bowed her head and proceeded out. Mother smiled and whispered “We will leave you alone.”

I began removing my travel attire when Thomas commented “I forget how small you really are”

I smiled and replied “Small but dangerous”.

He laughed. He sat in a chair near the window and murmured “How I missed this place. I thought I

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was never going to return.”

I sat on the bed and replied “Well you are home now; better make the best of it”.

“I just feel so strange, I know now what these men know, I have seen what they have seen and it is nothing pretty. I am hoping my mind can forget.”

He added.

I listened and smiled.

As he stood up and walked towards me he added “I also saw something, I am not sure if it was an illusion since I was sleep deprived but it has remain in my mind since.”

As I removed my shoes I asked “And what was it? He cleared his throat and whispered, “I think I saw David?”

I reacted surprised “David? Our brother David? No, where?” I asked.

“Down by the old cottage on the outskirts of Willshire, the one your Father built” He continued. I began folding my clothes as to avoid eye contact and said “Your eyes must have been playing tricks on you, Thomas. David is dead.”

He grabbed my face and raised it to look at him “Were they, Amelia?” he questioned as he looked

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at me suspiciously.

“Yes Thomas, you saw him die” I replied hastily.

“Other mysterious things have happened, I just thought...”

He said as I quickly interrupted him “You thought wrong. I often think I see him in town. It is because we miss him terribly”

I knew if Thomas saw David he was not going to put this to rest.

I must think of a way to imprison Thomas without really imprisoning him.

This way he could not leave the Castle and go investigate what he saw.

As Thomas bathed, I looked for Greyson. I found him at the stables. “Greyson we have a problem” I stated.

“What is it my Queen?” he replied.

“Thomas saw David near the cottage, he says when he was hiding in that area, he swears saw him at a distance” I recalled.

“It is possible but David is not unwise, he would not show himself.” He reasoned.

“I know Thomas, he will go and seek him out if he believes it was David he saw” I reassured.

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“My Queen, relax maybe after speaking with you his mind will be at ease and he will forget about it” Greyson theorized.

“I hope it shall be” I added.

It was time to join Mother and Father at the dining room. I felt nervous, Thomas’ words about David kept replaying in my mind. If he finds him, it will be awful. I would have betrayed Father and my Kingdom. I will be put to death.

Father looked at me and commented “You look a bit jittery, is all well?”

I took a deep breath and responded “Oh yes Father, it was a long trip and I am still a bit jumpy.”

He nodded his head.

Thomas glared at me from across the table and added “Are you sure it is that?”

I nodded yes.

The evening went on as usual.

As Thomas and I returned to our quarters I was still uneasy, hoping he would not revisit the subject.

He closes the door behind him and says “What is wrong with you Amelia, all through dinner you

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were acting strangely?"

I removed my shawl and replied "I am fine, I just have a lot on my mind especially what to do with you or did you forget? You are a prisoner."

He smirked and insisted "Are you sure? Plus a King cannot be Prisoner? Look it up, it is in the testaments"

"Thomas, please" I answered angrily. He was taunting me as if to get a confession of some kind.

"I apologize" He said softly.

"Are you going to imprisoned me like any common criminal?" He continued.

I shrugged my shoulders and scratched my forehead. "I do not want to do that but what am I to do? Maybe I can make an amendment that has you only in the Castle and its grounds, no further. Then you would be a prisoner but not a prisoner."

He laughed and responded "Anything is better than the dungeon, only thing you need to rephrase it so Father will understand your gibberish"

I laughed "You understood so you must be fluent in gibberish."

Even though I was in Thomas' arms I could not sleep. I tossed and turned enough to interrupt

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Thomas' sleep. "Amelia, my love, what is bothering you?" He asked.

*I cuddled myself to him and whispered "Life."
He kissed my forehead and replied "Try to sleep a
least a little."*

I smiled and closed my eyes.

*My nightmares were so vivid. Thomas finding
David, David being brought back to the Castle and
imprisoned and I being put to death for treason.
There was no way of making all this correct. But
then Thomas was not sure he saw David. As long
as I could keep Thomas away, everything would be
well.*

*I awoke to Thomas already gone; Shyanne said he
was riding around the grounds. I took the
opportunity to go speak with Father on the
decision to imprison Thomas.*

*"My beautiful girl, come in come in" Father said.
He seemed to be feeling better and in better
spirits. "Father, I have made a decision about
Thomas. I will not imprison him in our dungeon. I
will confine him to the Castle and its grounds. He
will not have access to the outskirts. Thus he is*

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imprisoned.”

Father smiled and replied “But Amelia, he is your husband and King, he must be introduced plus he is very stubborn, you must remain strong with your decision, no matter how much love you feel for him.”

I looked confused but responded “I will be strong I know he will try to get out of it. He can be King and not have any real power, is that correct, Father?”

Father jested “Thomas, King with no power, impossible and not likely.”

“Well if he likes his freedom, it is what he must agree upon.” I responded.

Father agreed so the decision was made, now to let Thomas know. I awaited him in the garden but he did not return promptly, this worried me.

As I was speaking with Father, Thomas decided to take a ride to Willshire; he needed to prove to himself the man he saw was not David. As he arrived at the cottage, no one was there. He looked through the windows and through the surroundings. In the distance he created an area

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where can sit inconspicuously and watch. The sun began to go down and no one had returned to the cottage so he decided to head towards Landford.

“Maybe it was my imagination” He thought to himself. “But it was so real” he whispered to himself. As he rode back through unknown passages, he saw Schillingburg Soldiers. He rode quickly to avoid them but they saw him and returned to Schillingburg to alert King Erich.

“Your Highness, we have word for you.” The 1st Soldier said.

King Erich disturbed snarled “About what?”

“Prince Thomas of Landford, he is free, we saw him” answered the 2nd Soldier.

King Erich got up from his throne and motioned to the soldiers to approach him.

“Where? Where was he?” King Erich asked.

“He rode on the outer passages and he now wears the King’s Cloak” 1st Soldier replied.

“King’s Cloak? Kings Cloak from where?” He sneered.

“Landford, my King” 2nd Soldier responded.

“IMPOSSIBLE!!! Willshire returned him to

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Landford? WHAT IDIOTS!!! Where is William? Get me William!!! He yelled.

William quickly entered the room.

“My King, you called?” he said nervously.

“YES I called. What is this I hear that Thomas is in Landford and wearing the King’s cloak?” he asked.

“I have no idea Your Highness” William answered.

“THEN GO FIND OUT!!!” King Erich shouted.

Upon arriving at the Castle I confronted Thomas at the stables. “Where were you?” I snapped.

“I was riding, why? Must I ask permission from the Queen to go riding?” He answered.

“Did you leave Landford? Are you mad?” I hollered.

“Just for a bit, I have returned well, what is the problem?” He argued.

“The problem is that you are a prisoner Thomas, you cannot be doing as you please, it can get you killed.” I suggested.

“Killed? Not likely.” He laughed.

“For once Thomas, you need to take things seriously, your imprisonment is not a laughing matter. I spoke with Father and we have agreed

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upon you being confined to the Castle and its grounds only” I continued.

“WHAT? I am not a child” he replied angrily.

“Yes and as your title of King, it will remain but you have no power.” I added.

“Is this a joke, a King without power?” He replied with a laugh.

“Take it or leave it Thomas, I am done trying to make you comfortable and you with no respect, not even for yourself, be trotting around like you are a free man.” I concluded.

“Wait and what is my other option?” Thomas asked.

“The dungeon” I said as I walked away. “Oh and make your decision hastily” I added from a distance.

As I entered the Castle I came across Father who overheard the conversation.

He smiled and said “Well done.”

I smiled and went to my room for a bath, maybe it could relax my tension especially after the moment I just had.

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Shyanne as always had everything prepared for me.

“My lady, your warm bath water awaits you.” She said.

I smiled as I began to remove my clothing.

“I cannot wait.” I replied excitedly.

“Yes, Your Highness, I added lavender and other oils, it is perfect.” Shyanne added.

I walked across the room and climb into the basin.

The water was so warm and inviting.

Suddenly the door flies open and Thomas stood in the doorway.

“Excuse us Shyanne, I must have a word with the Queen.” He said loudly.

Shyanne quickly left the room and closed the door behind her.

I had nowhere to run so I remained covered by the water.

“What is it Thomas? Can you not see I am occupied?” I said annoyed.

“It is a perfect time because you cannot run and hide, as usual” He implied.

I watched as he stormed across the room.

“Have you gone mad, you are just as unreasonable

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as Father. A King without power is a joke an unflattering spectacle. I will be the laughing stock” he protested.

“And what would you like me to do, Thomas?” I answered.

“I am fine with being jail at the Castle and its grounds but not a King without power” he interjected.

“Give me some time to think and see what I can come up with, yes?” I responded.

He looked at me serious and walked away. Thomas did not return to our room that night. He remained in his old quarters or so I thought.

As I slept, Thomas again made his way to Willshire. This time he uncovered my secret. It was not an illusion. It was David, in the flesh.

“But how could this be? I saw him die.” He asked himself.

As he rode home, he could not help but think Amelia knew about this. “She did react strangely when I mentioned David and she is rather witty”

He said to himself.

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At the same time Greyson and William were meeting. William asked Greyson about Thomas and Greyson told him what he knew but nothing to incriminate anyone.

He advised Greyson that Thomas was seen around Schillingburg Castle and if he is seen there again they will be force to kill him.

Greyson agreed and went on his way.

William returned to Schillingburg with the news. King Erich could not believe what he had just heard.

“So Thomas is King” He said confused.

“How is that possible?” He added.

“I cannot believe Willshire did not execute him for killing their King.” He continued.

“IT IS UNACCEPTABLE!” He yelled.

“I am sure when King Paul finds out about Thomas he will think the same. Maybe I should take things into my own hands and punish Thomas myself, you know, a show of good faith for Willshire” He contemplated.

“What will you do, My King?” asked William. King Erich stared off and mumbled “Hmmm,

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maybe it is time Thomas lost what is important to him. What greater punishment is there than losing Amelia?"

The next morning as I walked along the garden, Greyson confronted me "My Queen, I spoke with William of Schillingburg and he informed me Thomas was there."

I nodded my head

"I know, he told me he went to Willshire" I answered.

"He is going to get himself killed" Greyson affirmed.

"I know, I have told him but he is of strong will and laughed. He does not care." I responded.

"It will end soon enough. I am confining him to the Castle as his punishment. He will not be allowed to leave." I added.

"Do you think he will obey?" Greyson asked.

"I am hoping so, for his sake, he really does not have a choice." I concluded.

As I returned to my room, Thomas stood there with flowers in hand.

Smiling he said "Flowers for you my Queen, I know

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how much you love them.”

I smiled

“Thank you Thomas, they are lovely but why do I deserve such a beautiful gift?” I asked.

“I regret not staying with you last night due to my uncalled for anger and I ask for your forgiveness with this gift.” He replied.

“You are too sweet, thank you so much and of course, you are always forgiven, my love” I answered as I grabbed the flowers from him and handed them to Shyanne. Shyanne looked at me strangely. I also felt like Thomas was up to something but I refused to see it.

“I have a day planned for us. If you are not occupied that is.” He said.

“Really?” I said suspiciously.

“Yes, really?” he said mimicking me as he kissed my cheek.

“Come, we’ll be on our way”

He said as he grabbed my hand and led me to the carriage.

He suddenly turned to me and said “We will not be leaving the grounds, so do not worry. I will not disobey my Queen”

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I smiled and entered the carriage.

“Where are you taking me, Thomas?” I exclaimed.

He laughed and whispered, “It’s a secret.”

He had a picnic planned by the creek. I felt a bit strange, it seemed as if he were up to something. I had lost trust in Thomas but I loved him so I put those feelings aside.

We spent the day talking and reminiscing, just like old times.

As the sun began to come down, we walked back to the Castle and in hand.

We quickly retreated to our room.

The day had been so romantic but I still had an uneasy feeling in my heart.

The evening was beginning to look even better. As we entered our room, the floor was prepared with pillows in one area. The moon light began to shine directly on it. It was idyllic!

Thomas led me to this area.

He kissed me passionately as we lowered ourselves onto the floor.

Thomas knew how to make me feel special. He always made sure I was enjoying our time together.

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He kissed the back of my neck as he unzipped my dress.

As my dress fell off, he grabbed me and pulled me onto him.

His arms were so strong and firm.

It seemed as we made love for hours. His stamina was unbeatable.

Suddenly a moment of tenderness turned into savagery.

Thomas held me down tightly.

"I think it is about time I let you know I know your secret." He whispered in my ear.

"Thomas, you are hurting me, please stop. What secret?" I replied.

"Your precious David is alive, I saw him with my very eyes, and I know you helped him" he snarled.

"What are you talking about?" I whimpered.

He slapped my face and said "How dare you lie to your husband. How dare you betray me?"

I closed my eyes as tears ran down my face.

"Now that I have your attention, we are going to modify your stupid amendment. You will from this moment on give me partial power to Landford or your precious secret will come to light and I as

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your King will have to put you to death for treason. I really do not want to do that.” He added.

I just looked at him terrified.

“Did you really think you could fool me? You have created a monster in me with your lies. When I realized you betrayed me and helped David, I had to rethink my love for you. Amelia, the moment I saw him, I knew his freedom was all your doing. Now you must live with this monster or suffer the consequences.” He continued.

He let go of his grip and pushed me away.

“Do not worry Amelia, I promised I would not hurt you. Now dethrone you that is a different story, how does it feel to be betrayed, my Queen”. He laughed.

“TELL ME!!!” He yelled.

“How does it feel?” He then whispered.

I said nothing.

“Get dressed, NO, even better it is now time for you to service your King.” He added.

I awoke the next morning to Shyanne looking over me. She looked disturbed.

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“What happened to your arms, my lady?” She asked.

I had some bruises on my arms and marks on my neck.

“Oh do not worry, that is nothing just some rough play” I said as I pulled my sleeves over my shoulders.

“I came to awaken you; Thomas and your Father are waiting for you in the parlor. I have laid out your dress but let me see if I can find another that can cover up those marks.” She added.

I nodded then asked “Would you happen to know what they need?”

She shrugged and replied “Thomas has been with him all morning, I have not heard anything.”

I got dressed and made my way to the parlor. I arrived at the door when Thomas says “My heart come in, we have been waiting for you.”

He walks over to me and grabs my hand and guides me to the nearest chair.

“Good Morning Father” I said in a soft voice. He smiled. Thomas continued with “I was just telling Father about what we spoke about last night. How you want to introduce me as your

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husband, King of Landford.”

I swallowed hard and looked at Father.

“As I told Thomas, I am not sure if this is a good idea. Let me consult with the elders and I will let you know” Father interjected.

I smiled and nodded.

“Be patient my son, you are King, it is just a matter of time.” Father concluded.

Thomas did not look amused.

Father dismissed himself.

“Thomas, you must not be so anxious, let me handle this.” I said softly.

“Like you have handled everything else, NO!” He responded.

Months had passed and nothing had resolved itself. The fights between Thomas and I were worse. I was truly terrified of him and what he was capable of doing.

Father once again became gravely ill. He was confined to his bed permanently. He would sit up and talk with us but only for short periods of time. Everyday Thomas and I would visit him. It was the only time, we were not fighting. One day I found it

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very peculiar, Thomas had gone to visit him alone. As I passed Father's room I decided to leave them alone. I did not know Father had called Thomas to his room.

"Father, you called?" Thomas said.

"Yes, my son." He said in a sick weak voice.

"Is all well?" Thomas asked.

"I have made my decision, after speaking to the elders. I cannot grant you the power you desire. Let Amelia reign as Queen and you as her King that is all." Father commanded.

Thomas remained quiet. This was not the decision he had hoped for.

"I will speak to Amelia of my decision." Father added.

Thomas looked around frantically. "Father, she is not even your daughter, how can she reign over your Kingdom." Thomas proclaimed.

"She is my daughter and now your wife, you must respect her." Father proposed.

Amelia must not know about your decision, Thomas thought to himself. He then grabbed a pillow. He paced back and forth contemplating. He walked towards the door and looked out to see if

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anyone was in the corridor. He quietly closed the door and walked slowly back to Father's bedside. As Father slept Thomas covered his face with the pillow he was holding.

"Father, please forgive me" He whispered as he smothered him.

When Father did not move he removed the pillow and placed it on his side. With no regret he walked out of the room and out towards the stables. He knew Father would not be checked on until later on in the evening so this gave him enough time to ride far and compose himself. As he arrived at the stables, he grabbed David's horse Hemi and rode away. The stable hands did not find it unusual.

Thomas frequently did this. When he was far enough that he cannot be heard, he jumped off the horse and began screaming. He could not believe what he had done. And there was no turning back. He knew that by the time he returned to the Castle, Father would have been found. He kneeled near a tree and sobbed.

Late that afternoon, Father's caretakers found him. They had said he passed in his sleep. Mother

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was destroyed by the news. I was just arriving from Willshire when Shyanne told me. I quickly went to Mother, who sat sobbing next to Father's lifeless body.

"Mother..." I said.

She motioned for me to come to her.

"I am so sorry I was not here when Father passed."

I added.

She sniffled and asked "Where is Thomas?"

"I do not know, maybe he is out riding. Let me go search for him." I replied.

As I turned around to leave, Thomas stood in the doorway. I could see the grief on his face but the grief I thought I saw and the real grief he was feeling were different. His was an act. "When did he pass?" Thomas asked as he walked towards me.

"This afternoon, his caretaker told me, he passed in his sleep." I answered.

He kisses my cheek and continues "Was Mother with him?"

I nodded no.

He walks over to Mother and hugs her. Father looked so peaceful.

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*Father's death would be a strong hit to Landford
and the Monarchy.*

*The grief was overwhelming for me because now I
was left alone with Thomas. At least, with Father
there Thomas could not intimidate me too much,
but with Father gone I knew Thomas was going to
take full advantage.*

*Mother's depression overcame her and she died
soon after Father.*

Now the true battle began.

Who would rule Landford?

Thomas or I?

Monarchy

Every day was a struggle for me. I became weary and weak. My heart had been broken so severely that it would never be mended.

Thomas took advantage of the deaths of our parents to appoint himself King.

At this point, Willshire felt betrayed by Landford, because our King was a murderer.

Little by little, Thomas' true color began to show. He had confessed to me that he was the one who poisoned Father's mind against David. He also confessed to have helped Father die a little faster. I was utterly horrified by him and his actions. He enjoyed knowing that he was the subject of my nightmares. He had discharged Shyanne and Greyson, so I had no one left in the Castle.

Thomas kept me close at hand. I was not allowed to do anything without him or his permission.

I had become his prisoner.

He would often remind me about the fairy tales he

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had told me as a child and told me how he knew he was the villain in all of them and he laughed at the thought of me seeing him as the charming Prince.

I had overheard Thomas with his advisors at the front room. Thomas had asked for me to attend but did not know I was at the doorway.

“My mission is not yet complete” Thomas addressed his advisor. “You must attend to this promptly, my Lord” The advisor replied.

“Oh I will. But as my Father said, my day shall come” he added.

He saw me at the door and asked me to come inside.

The Advisor and his help kneeled as I entered the room.

“Oh no need for that my good men, she is just my wife.” Thomas announced.

“You needed me, my King” I said in a soft voice. He laughed “Needed? No, I have never needed you. But I want you to be aware of what is about to come.”

I nodded my head.

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“Willshire has threatened to attack Landford. We will not let it happen. Your brother King Paul does not know who he is beginning a feud with. I will not hesitate to annihilate him and his weak Kingdom.” He said.

I stayed quiet because I knew if I interfered the backlash for me would be horrendous. His Advisors whispered among themselves and decided that an overnight attack would be best to overthrow King Paul. I felt sad but I could not do anything. I had betrayed King Paul by releasing Thomas and now I was paying for it.

Thomas dismissed his Advisors but kept me in the room.

“So Amelia, you have nothing to say?” He asked. I turned away and nodded no.

“I have thought very well about this.” He snarled as he stood behind me.

“You see my dear Amelia, it is all a game of the mind and as I see it I am triumphant over yours.” He added.

I stood immobile as he put his arms around me and placed his dagger near my heart.

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“Did Mother not tell you never to play with a man’s heart? Betrayals toy and tear a man apart. It makes him insane and things begin to happen, bad things. I did love you actually I still do in a love/hate type of manner. I did not mean to reduce you to rubbish but that is where you came from and where you deserve to be after all that you have done.” He ranted.

“I deserve it everything I am receiving my King” I whispered as tears ran down my face.

“Why could you have not just left well enough alone, Amelia? Why?” He replied.

“We would have been so happy.” He ended. Thomas had gone completely mad. One moment he was tender and kind then next a tyrant. I lived my life on a Thomas schedule. When he was sweet, I responded with care and niceness. When he was cruel, I remain quiet and out of his path. It was hard but that was the only way I knew to survive. Thomas would not think twice about killing me.

Landford’s Army had attacked Willshire and successfully took over that Kingdom. Thomas was

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not only King of Landford but now of Willshire also. This made King Erich of Schillingburg very dismayed. He began to plan just in case of attack.

Schillingburg Soldiers always protected their boundaries, in war time or not. King Erich was very evil but very paranoid.

One night as Thomas plotted with his soldiers; I snuck down and listened behind the door. I had become very curious as to what he was planning now since he had taken over Willshire.

“My brother David still lives and my mission will not be finished until he is dead because only he can remove my title.” Thomas whispered to them. “What is your plan, Your Excellency?” his 1st Officer asked.

“I will go to Willshire and slain him.” Thomas answered.

“This has to be well planned, my Lord, you are a wanted man in Schillingburg, Words has been put out the King Erich is looking to confront you.” 1st Officer advised.

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“Yes, my man I know and it will be. When I have all the details, we will set the motion in play” Thomas concluded.

As the Officers dispersed I quickly ran to my quarters and lay in bed.

A few minutes later, Thomas appeared at my door, “Amelia, I have brought you some tea my sweet.” He said quietly.

I smiled softly and whispered, “Thank You.” He looked like something was bothering him but with Thomas you would never know.

He handed me my tea and said “We must talk.” I nodded and answered “What about my King?” “Sweetheart you need to get out of this rut. I want you to be my Queen, as you were before. I did not lie when I said I have a soft spot in my heart for you. I know a lot has changed us but inside there is deep love” He insisted.

“I will try but give me some time, my King; I still mourn my Mother and Father. Plus you are doing a wonderful job as King on your own” I explained. “Putting all aside, good or bad, I forgive you and I want you to forgive me. I want you to love me as you did before. I am a sick man, my mind betrays

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me at times but it has never betrayed me when it came to loving you. I may be harsh at time but you need that stability” He admitted.

I did not know what to say, this all made no sense to me.

I looked at him and smirked.

He nodded his head and said “Drink up so you can sleep. May I sleep in your bed tonight?”

I moved over as he walked towards the bed. I turned my head as he crawled in.

He placed his face by my face from behind and whispered “Us men say things we do not mean in a moment of anger, I do love you Amelia.”

I closed my eyes.

He kissed my cheek, turned over and fell asleep. As I lie awake I kept thinking of what I can do. His behavior is making me crazy. Should I flee? David would gladly take me in. I glanced over to him as he slept, the moonlight made his pale skin look as if it was glistening.

My thoughts went from love to murder in seconds.

Should I kill him? Oh my, what am I thinking?

Maybe if I gave in he’d change his motives.

I was so lost, so confused.

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I really had to choice but to surrender and do as he wished. Be the Queen he wanted. I reached over and tapped his shoulder "Thomas" I said.

He opened his eyes and looked at me.

"I do love you. I have never stopped loving you" I whispered.

He reached and moved my hair out of my face and smiled.

I suddenly felt really drowsy. I remember falling onto my pillow and nothing else. I felt Thomas get out of bed but did not react. I felt I could not, my body felt heavy, sluggish.

This night was the night Thomas would go and seek out David. His soldiers prepared him for his trip. He was even told when David would arrive home. So he planned it out perfectly. Thomas took off on his horse towards Willshire. He did not know Schillingburg was vigilant of his plan.

I woke up to hearing them charging their horses.

I slowly made my way to my window to see in what direction they were heading. My eyes were blurred. I felt dizzy.

I had a strong feeling they were heading to David's

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home. I waited until they all left and went to the stables for my horse. I had trouble getting on and staying on. My body flailed back and forth, as I tried to control my riding.

Thomas had arrived at the cottage with his men. He walked up to the door and pounded on it. David opened the door. He was surprised to see Thomas standing there.

“Alas I see your face close up, brother.” Thomas said.

“What are you doing here Thomas, where is Amelia?” David asked.

Thomas pulled out his sword and placed it on David’s neck.

“I have come to kill you. As for Amelia, she is serving her punishment for betraying me at Landford” Thomas said smugly.

The soldiers grabbed Elizabeth and pulled her outside.

“Leave her alone, she has nothing to do with this.” David yelled. He then looked at Thomas and said “Are you mad? I will not fight you, you are my brother.”

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Thomas reached out and hit David in the face.

“Then it will be easier to kill you and your peasant girl.” Thomas whispered.

Thomas grabbed David by his shirt and pulled him outside.

“PROTECT YOURSELF!” Thomas Yelled as he threw him a sword.

David got up slowly.

Thomas drew his sword and pointed it at David. “If this is what you wish, let us bring this to an end, my brother.” David replied.

I rode my horse as fast as I could. I was still so far away from Willshire.

To my left in the distance, I could see the lights at Schillingburg Castle. I could hear other horses in the distance, some ahead and some behind. I was not interested in where they were coming from. I just needed to get to David and Thomas.

David and Thomas were both very skilled combatants. So this battle was going to be brutal.

David realized he was fighting for his life when Thomas commented on how he had killed Father.

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“Brother, you have gone insane!” David yelled as they fought.

“You will NOT steal my birthright” Thomas answered in the same tone.

All Elizabeth could do was cry. She did not understand why brothers would act in such a manner.

I knew I was getting close when I heard the yells of soldiers.

I had never ridden a horse that fast in my life. The clanging of the swords got louder and louder.

As I arrived near I could see Thomas had David on the floor.

They were both bloody.

I jumped off my horse and decided to run the rest of the way. As I saw Thomas lift his sword, I also saw David draw his towards Thomas’ chest.

Thomas looked down at David and said “Now you will die, my brother.”

At the same moment David answered “And you will die also.”

As I ran I screamed “Nooooooooo!” and suddenly all went black.

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*I felt like I was moving but my eyes were shielded.
After remaining blind for it seemed hours,
suddenly I heard an unrecognized voice.
As he pulled the cover off my face I could see his
he was a King but he had an awful scowl.
He laughed. As he walked away, he said "Amelia, I
hope you accommodations are to your liking, you
are going to be here for a while. Welcome to
Schillingburg, my Queen."*

To Be Continued...

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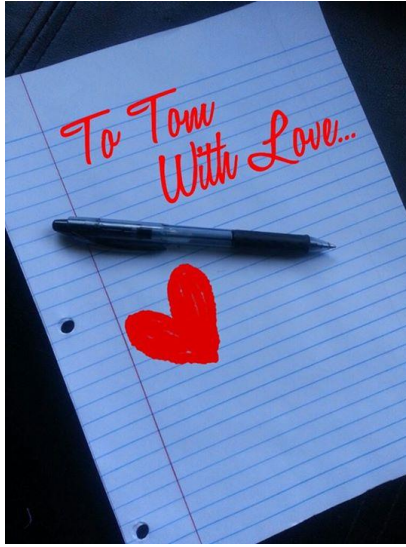
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Coming In 2014!

"To Tom, With Love..." is a book in honor of British Actor Tom Hiddleston by his fans. Joana created this project as a way to help donate to his favorite charity. Many HiddlesFans submitted letters and artwork to show their appreciation for him. This book is a wonderful keepsake and will help many.

Proceeds of this book will be donated to UNICEF.