

Becoming Ella- Book 1

By Ashley_Hope

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Prologue

Once upon a time, there was this mysterious land. Just kidding, if you look to your right you'll see it. See that land over there? The one with the trees, and the intriguing stone castle. It looks like there is a small little beach at the very edge of the island. Oh, now you see it? Yeah, that's the Kingdom of Rosewater. Did you hear what happened there? No? Well, let me tell you the story. It's about a girl. A princess, named Ella. Now you may think this is a fairy tale, but it's no modern fairy tale, or any fairy tale you've ever heard of.

There was a King named Asher, and a queen named Violet. And Violet, well she was expecting a baby girl. It happened in the middle of the night.

"Asher, it's coming...ooh ooh..." Violet said loudly, trying not to wake up the servants. Asher just moans not wanting to get up. "Asher.." Violet says again pushing him.

"Huh...what? What is it Vi?" he asks waking up.

"Asher, it's coming...ooh.." she said getting angry now.

"Now? Like now, now?" he asks worried, and obviously not ready to help deliver.

"Yes like now now." Violet says yelling out in pain.

"Are you sure Vi?" Asher asks getting up quickly and rushing to her side of the bed.

"ASHER..HELP ME..YES IM SURE. SHE'S COMING..NOW!!" Violet says now very angrily.

Asher yells for servants to come, and a few seconds later, a couple of servants scurry in. They take one look at the Queen who is breathing steadily..but is having trouble at the same time.

One whispers, "OH. It's the QUEEN! Someone call for THE doctor...hurry, hurry now!"

All the servants leave, except two, Lola and Leslie, sisters, stay with the Queen and the King to help Queen Violet breathe. Violet, calms down, takes in a deep breath, lets out a deep breath.

"Huh phew, Huh phew, HUH Phew.." Violet breathed.

About 3 minutes later, the servants come rushing back in with the doctor close behind. The doctor's grey beard looked scruffy and he had this tired look on his face which made his caramel skin look like a dish rag.

"How are you doing your majesty?" the doctor asks getting his equipment together.

"I'm...getting there, Felix, thank you. I only wish.." Violet says trailing off and breathing painfully. Somehow managing a smile.

"You only wish..." Dr. Felix asked trying to have her finish her thought.

"I wish I didn't have to go through *this* pain, how much longer until she's out?" Violet asked screaming in pain.

"Oh, Violet, this happens to every woman, of course it's going to hurt. But just think, you are going through this pain because you want to bring another life into the world. And I'm sure she will be just as lovely as you are. Concerning the soon-to-be princess, she's due any minute now. You just gotta breathe with me for a second, and when I tell you "go" I want you to push as hard as you can. This may take a couple tries, but Asher will be there the whole time, holding

your hand.” Felix said comforting Violet and propping her legs up.

“Okay, I’m ready. Let’s do it.” Violet said smiling, and breathing really hard.

Asher took hold of her hand, Violet fought against it at first but then realized she needed something to dig her nails into.

“I’m here for you, Vi.” He said sweetly. Just then Felix said “Go”

And so it started. Violet breathing, crying, and pushing. Asher, crying and holding Violet’s hand tight. And Felix, grabbing the baby.

“She’s out. Your baby girl is out. You can relax now.” Felix says cutting the umbilical cord unattaching the baby princess from Queen Violet.

Violet relaxes, and laughs to herself. “Oh, thank God.” she says finally able to breathe correctly.

Felix brings the baby princess, now washed and wrapped in a cloth of some sort, to the King and Queen. He hands the baby to the Queen.

“Oh, how beautiful, my baby girl is. “ Violet says

“She has your eyes Vi” Asher says smiling.

“Let’s name her..” Vi says thinking.

“Ella” she says. Asher nods in agreement.

With beautiful Ella in their arms, Violet and Asher fell asleep.

The next day, the Kingdom had a huge celebration celebrating the birth of the new princess of Rosewater. They got Ella dressed and brought her out to the terrace for the whole kingdom to see. Everyone cheered with excitement and love.

“ May his and her majesty present, Princess Ella of Rosewater”, said the main guard very loudly.

When the village saw their new Princess, all they could do was holler. This would be their new ruler one day. Ella looked at the crowd, and giggled. This made the crowd laugh. And it made her parents laugh too.

“And with that..let the festivities begin.” said the king and queen.

Weeks went by, and Ella was the kingdom’s center of attention. People made dolls that looked like Ella. People put up posters saying Ella was their only hope of the kingdom surviving. And some, despised Ella, for she was standing in their way...

Ella grows up being a spoiled little girl, but not like how any normal princess is spoiled. Ella, she’s spoiled with love, with kindness, with manners. She’s spoiled with responsibility, with duty. On her seventh birthday, her parents surprised Ella with something she could only dream of. Her own personal library with books, books, books galore. Ella’s eyes brightened, and just spun around; looking at the towering shelves of books all around her. All the books that were hers.

“Is this..for me Mommy? Daddy?” Ella asks with curious eyes, lost in a dream.

“Of course my darling. We hope you like it. Is this an okay birthday present?” Violet says responding to Ella. Asher just nods his head in agreement.

“Okay? It’s awesome!!! It’s like a dream come true!! Thank you!!!” Ella says almost screaming. She is so happy she forgets to hug her parents.

“My dearest Ella, what will you pick first?” Asher asked.

“Hmm..” says Ella thinking. She wanders around her library,

and points at a book. "I'll read...that one." she says. Asher reaches up and grabs it. The book is called " Sleeping Beauty".

"Sleeping...Booty??" Asher says. Ella just giggles as she sees the title of the book.

"Haha, no daddy, it says Sleeping Beauty. Silly papa." Ella says giggling.

"Silly? Who me? Noo, you must be joking." Asher says joking with Ella.

"Papa! Yes you are silly. You're **always** silly. Why would I lie to you? I love you papa." Ella says trying to convince Asher that he's silly.

"Aww, silly Ella. I know you would never lie. You are the most truthful person I know. And I love that about you. Always tell the truth. It will set you free. It will lead you to the place of your dreams." Asher says hugging Ella. Violet joined in too.

"Honey, Ella, listen to Mommy. Don't ever be someone you're not. You may be too young to understand what I am saying, but..." Violet started but was cut off by Ella saying innocently.

"I understand Mommy, you told me that everyone else is taken, and that I can only be me. Right?" Ella said looking up at Violet.

"Yes, love. Exactly. I'm glad you understand. Daddy and I love you very much. I hope you know that sweetie." Violet said with a smile.

"Whoever you decide to be in the future, remember to always stay true to yourself." Asher said kissing the top of Ella's head.

" Okay daddy, I will." Ella said smiling and giving her parents

a hug.

They spent the rest of the day in the library, listening to Ella read “Sleeping Beauty”. And they fell asleep. Sometime in the middle of the night, Violet wakes up. She hears something in the hall, but figures it’s just the guards. Then she feels a breeze on her back. She turns her head and sees the window open.

“I’m pretty sure no one unlocked it, how is it open?” Violet thought to herself. She got up silently and walked to the window to close it. When she turned around, she saw someone standing in front of her.

“I tried to warn you once Violet. You didn’t listen. I don’t normally give people second chances...to change...but I gave you a second chance, you still blew it. I don’t give out third chances...and you are going to pay.” The figure said.

“What are you talking about? You know he’s in love with **me**, not with you. That’s why **we** are married, why **we** have a child. Why **we** are together. You’re overwhelmed by your jealousy, just leave us alone. Get out..” Violet says shakily.

“Leave? But I just got here...it’s such a shame...Why would I leave? I want to meet your daughter. Seven years ago...she was born. Did you ever invite me over, to meet the girl? I don’t think so.” the hooded figure said.

“If that’s what you want..” Violet tried saying but was cut off.

“No. No. Violet...just stop. If I wanted to see the girl, I’d have taken her. She’s worthless, ha, what a great daughter. I came for you.” The hooded figure said laughing.

“Me? Why me? What do you want Eli-”

“How dare you use my name, no. And you, my darling, don’t belong here...”

“Yes, I do...you don’t belong here. This is **my** home, **my**

family, **my** kingdom. How dare you walk in here and threaten me.”

“Hahaha. Threaten you say? I don't..threat. Haha. I say it how it is. I don't have time for threats.”

And then it happened. The hooded figure took their hood off, and through the cloak to the floor. It was a woman. She was wearing a midnight black dress, and red heels. She used her hands and made a swaying motion. She muttered words under her breath that no one could hear...and she through the force at Violet. Then she disappeared, along with the strange woman. The only thing left was the black cloak the woman wore.The worst part...Ella woke up two minutes before hand. She witnessed the whole thing without being seen. She quickly grabbed the cloak, and hid it in a box on one of the shelves that looked like a book.

The next day, Violet was no where to be seen. The kingdom panicked because they could not find their queen anywhere. They searched high and low, there was no sign of her. She just seemed to....disappear. No one asked Ella because they figured she was too young to understand or know anything that happened...but she knew exactly what happened. The kingdom sent out a missing person warrant, and posted missing signs all throughout the kingdom, and neighboring kingdoms. Weeks dragged on, there was no sign of Violet. After a few months, the King, in his terrible state, gies up hope, and pronounces violet dead, since no one can find her. The kingdom goes into mourning, and Asher, due to his loneliness, finds himself a new bride. No one would work out for him, no one seemed suitable, and that dragged on for years.

One day, Asher called his daughter into his quarters. He had this smile on his face that stretched from cheek to cheek. At this point, Ella was sixteen.

“Hey sweetie.” Asher says pulling Ella into a hug.

“Papa, what’s going on?” Ella says kissing him on the cheek, saying good morning.

“ How would you feel about having a new...mother?” he asks nervously.

“Papa, you found someone? Is she suitable? What does she look like? Will she love me? Will I have sisters? Are you going to be happy? Does she remind you of momma? Does she-” Ella said talking really fast until Asher cuts her off.

“Calm down Ella. Well, I can definitely tell you’re excited too. I found a woman. Her name is Elizabeth. She is suitable, she’s tall like your mother, and has dark brown hair. She’s beautiful. Ella, she’ll love you, I can’t imagine anyone NOT loving you. She is a single woman, of nobility, of course. She does make me happy. I haven’t been this happy with another woman, since your mother. I do miss her terribly.” Asher replies full of sorrow.

“Are you going to love her more than Momma?” Ella asked hoping he would say no.

“No of course not. Oh Ella, are you sleeping well? I could never love anyone more than your mother. Any woman in our life, I will love them, but not truly like how I did your mother, how I do you. No one will replace her.” Asher said giving his daughter a hug.

“Okay. Well, tell me about her. What’s her name?” Ella asks smiling, and sitting down on her dad’s bed.

“Her name is Elizabeth. She is a very polite and amusing woman. I think you’ll be able to confide in her. Maybe you’ll even like her.” Asher responded smiling and blushing.

“Awww, Papa...you must be in love. You’re blushing!!” Ella exclaimed happily.

“Yes, well...don’t mention it. Anyway, she will be arriving shortly.” Asher said being serious now.

“Shortly? Papa...how shortly?” Ella said looking confused, but kind of upset he told her at the last minute, because she still needed to tidy up her room.

“Like in a half hour shortly.” Asher said meekly.

Ella quickly ran out of Asher’s room, and went into hers quickly. There wasn’t anything to clean up so she reorganized everything. She turned her room upside down. All in just fifteen minutes. Suddenly there was a sound of wheels approaching the castle. Ella suddenly looked up, and ran out of her room. The moment she got downstairs, she saw a woman being welcomed into her home.

“Hello Madam. I am Princess Ella of Rosewater.” Ella formally introduced herself, with a curtsy.

“Why hello Princess Ella. My name is Elizabeth Duchess of Jocelitia.” The woman says.

“Hi Elizabeth. Welcome to our home. I am glad that you are here. Papa couldn’t stop talking about you. I hope you like it here.” Ella said walking with Elizabeth arm-in-arm.

“Like it? I love it.” Elizabeth said smiling.

And so that’s how it was, for a few months. Elizabeth and Asher happily wed, and Ella, happy that her father is happy. Elizabeth got crowned queen on the day of their marriage. The whole kingdom was happy. Yeah, seems fine and dandy, right? Wrong. Sure, everyone as happy, but there was something going on behind the castle walls.

Even poor King Asher, himself didn’t know what was going on. Everyone thought things were going to be alright. Until one day, Asher...is nowhere to be seen. The Kingdom went into panic.

“NOOO we are ruined. RUINED.” someone proclaimed.

“We’re going to DIEEE!!” Someone else implied.

There was even a conspiracy that the new queen was involved in his disappearance. And unfortunately, unlike her mother's disappearance, Ella didn't know what happened. She was the one who persisted on making the announcement.

"Your highness, Princess Ella, has an announcement." the main guard said.

Everyone looked at her with all eyes. People stopped what they were doing and looked at Ella, with curious eyes.

"My dearest friends and people, I have an unfortunate announcement. This past week, my father has been out. I thought maybe he was away on a business trip, or something, but no one has seen him. I woke up to a phone call...long story, short, my father has disappeared." She said crying. "There will be a search party going out. If you see anything, or hear anything, inform me directly." Then she walked away in tears.

King Asher was never found. It's like he disappeared into thin air. Little did Ella know, Elizabeth was the sole-cause of the disappearance. Just like the people in the Kingdom thought.

And that is the end....What? I thought you weren't interested anymore. Keep going? Well okay.

Well, inside of the castle, Ella was treated as one of the maids and servants. She was a slave for Elizabeth. But Ella always had a way to get something done quickly. She found refuge in her library. There, Ella found everything she was looking for. Ella was very intelligent. She even applied to the finest school in all of Rosewater. Even the neighboring kingdoms such as Langdon and Joceltia and Bohelia all fight to get into that school.

"Vinewood Academy? Oh, Ella. You really think you can get in? Are you foolish? Only the top of the top get in there.

Surely you must know that. I should know from experience.” Elizabeth stated.

“You went to Vinewood Academy? When? What was it like??” Ella asked eyes filled with wonder.

“Oh, what can I say? Vinewood Academy...everyone is competing to be the best. I eventually made it to the top three. But that was years ago. Ella. Listen to me, I mean this with all my....heart. Vinewood, that’s for smart people. You wouldn’t fit in there. You’d be better off getting a...private education. Like the one you’ve been getting all your life.” Elizabeth explained.

“But Elizabeth...erm..Madam, I have a 4.8, it’s almost a 5.0. You only need a 4.3 to get into Vinewood Academy. Please just let me try. Please!!” Ella said trying to convince Elizabeth to let her.

“Haha. Nonsense Ella. Absolute nonsense. And you know, if your father was here, he wouldn’t approve.” Elizabeth said snottily.

Ella just looked at Elizabeth with a questioning look.

“Oh, Ella. Sometimes I forget.” Elizabeth said putting a hand on Ella’s back.

“Forget? Forget what?” Ella asked politely.

“How much you look like your father. He was the only man I loved. I’m not sure I could love another. But every time I see your face, I am pained from his disappearance.” Elizabeth said with a face full of sorrow.

“ Do I really look like him?” Ella asked smiling.

“Yeah...the eyes, and the kindness...” Elizabeth said, eyes watering.

“Why are you crying?” Ella asked innocently.

“You’re fogging up my vision. Get away now. You can try to send an application, but that won’t guarantee you will get in.” Elizabeth said.

This time Ella really looked at her. Elizabeth’s eyes...changed. They were no longer full of warmth, and wonder. They were dark and scary. Her eyes were stern and it looked like they could scare off 10,000 armed soldiers with just one glance. Her eyebrows arched, and ready to discipline. Her hair was to the middle of her back. Brown as...well...we all know what’s brown...dark brown...Elizabeth’s skin was tanned a little and she had this poise to her. But it was very tight. She was wearing a midnight blue long dress with black heels.

“Okay. Thank you Eli...I mean Madam.” Ella said backing away and running out of the room. She immediately is called back by Elizabeth in just a few seconds.

“Now, Ella? Don’t run...” Elizabeth said in a sing-songy voice.

Ella submitted multiple applications to attend Vinewood Academy. Only one application made it to the administration at Vinewood. All the others were confiscated secretly by Elizabeth. That one was too, except Elizabeth did let that get sent out. After changing...just a few...things. Like her GPA and her academic skills... That is what impacted the application. Soon enough, Ella got a letter back...telling her to apply at a later time.

Ella soon figured out that it was Elizabeth, but she stayed silent. Because Ella had a secret.

Do you remember that library that Ella got for her seventh birthday? That’s where her secret lies. She still has that cloak from the night her mom disappeared, inside of the box disguised as a book. She also had a loose floorboard near the book box. Under the floorboard, there was a box. A box that belonged to her mother. Her father gave it to her on her

12th birthday. It held pictures, mementos, and most importantly, Ella's Diary. She wrote everything that has happened in that diary. What was unique about that diary was the pages. Normal diaries, there is a page limit. This diary, well, she's been writing in it everyday since she was 12. For years of writing, and it looks as if it was only half full. All of Ella's secrets lay in that diary...no one knew where it was except the Princess herself.

What would happen next in Ella's life would be completely unexpected. She would learn to grow up and make her own choices. She will learn what falling in love really means, and who is the right person for her. She will learn where her heart takes her. She will learn what it takes...to be Ella.

Chapter 1- The Man At the Market

"Ella? Ella...Where are you?" I hear someone call. Based on the melancholic voice I hear, there's only one person it could be.

"Coming Elizabeth..." I say literally throwing my blankets off of my warm lap. I'm still in my pajamas, I know, I know. It's like 11:00 am, and I'm still wearing my pajamas. Let me explain it to you, otherwise you're not going to understand.

Two words, it's a person's name. Nicholas Sparks. Nicholas Sparks is the reason why I am still in my pajamas. He's my favorite author, and he makes me fall in love over and over and over again. Last night, when I was reading one of his books, I started crying. Not because it was bad, or something bad happened in it. But because it was good. It was really beautiful. The way he writes just...moves me. I can't read one of his books without crying, it's seriously impossible. Last night I read "The Notebook". Right now I'm reading "The Lucky One". It's so good. I started like two hours ago, and I only have like a hundred pages left. And so, that's why I am still in my pajamas. If I read enough of his books, maybe he'll get word, and come to Rosewater, and then I'll get to meet him, and he'll just dump his wife and kids, and come marry me and write books about me, so that we can read them together and it will jut be amazing! But I know, that is just a silly teenage crush dream. Who cares about my feelings anyway, right?

"Ella.." Elizabeth calls, even louder.

"I said I was coming" I yell. I quickly put on my work dress, and flats and hurry down the stairs. Thankfully, my hair is so straight it never needs to be brushed, so I just ran my

fingers through it twice, and Elizabeth didn't even notice. I quickly run down the stairs, just in time to see her coming around the corner.

"Oh, Ella, good heaven's child, I can't believe that you took so long. I have news." she said curious as to what I was doing, then switching to a beam of joy.

"News? What news?" I ask, completely ignoring her first comment.

"Well, I need you to go to the market, we have some...guests today!" she says ignoring my question.

"The market?" I ask questioningly,

"Yes, Ella, the market. You go there quite often... Oh, why bother. I need you to pick up a 5 lb bucket of potato skins, and some olives, we don't seem to have much left." Elizabeth said making sure she had everything else.

"Yes, ma'am." I respond.

"Oh Ella, do smile..." she asks, teasingly. SO I do and she just waves me off.

As I leave, I get my basket, the lucky basket. It was my mom's before she disappeared. Before a lady in a black cape took her and disappeared into thin air. The woman, was no one strange, it was someone, that she knew, now, quite well. Elizabeth, but just holding the basket my hands, makes me feel like somehow, Mom isn't really gone. I take another few seconds to just stare at the basket, and then I leave.

When I get into town, everybody waves at me,

"Princess Ella, how do you do?" the baker asks me.

"Princess Ella, flowers?" the botanist asked handing me a bouquet of flowers.

"Thanks Mr. Baker, I'm just fine. And Mr. Miller, thank you or the daisies. They smell wonderful like always," I say then walking away. I made my way to the market area, and studied people for a few minutes. It was something my father used to do, and he was quite good at it. So every year since he disappeared, I would do the same thing every time I went into the village and to the market.

As I approached the market, I had a funny feeling something was going to happen, but I just shook it off.

"Good morning, Miss Ella." a voice says, I looked to the left, then the the right, then behind me, then in front of me. "Up here Miss". he says from up above. I look up, and there he is, Mr. Tangi, the manager of the market, and the guy who gave things to me for free.

"Why hello there Mr. Tangi. Why are you all the way up there?" I ask curiously and adding a little giggle.

"Oh, just fixing a few things. Nothing I can't handle!" He says almost in a sing-songy voice.

"Be careful!" I say giggling.

"But of course!" He responds. "Miss, may I ask? What brings you here today?"

"I'm gathering a few things for Elizabeth. we are having guests over tonight, and we need a few items."

"Oh? Well if you need help, just call my name...I'll be up! Haha haha!"

"I doubt I'll need help, but Thank You." I say now walking away. I stroll down the aisles, and study people, while getting the items that I need.

Suddenly, a gorgeous young man, with brown curly hair, brown eyes, and strong muscular features, walks in. He disappears, into one of the aisles, where I cannot see him.

Out of nowhere, the objects on the shelf in front of me, is moved, and I see that gorgeous face.

"Looking for me?" he asks

"Haha. Funny. No. Why would I be looking for you?" I say

"I don't know, why would you?"

"I'm not, I wasn't. If you think that, ha, you're an idiot. All guys are so that's not an insult, right?"

"I suppose not. But would an idiot be looking back at the girl that was looking at him?"

"No. But, you have to admit that only an idiot would think that a girl was staring at him in the first place."

"You're very compelling, don't you know?"

"I do believe that you don't know me, so therefore, you must not know anything about me, so therefore, I can't be compelling."

"You are quite strange."

"So I've been told."

Then he walks into my aisle, and he starts walking weirdly. Like a pervert. His brows were going up and down. And then he started to sing.

"Will...YOUUUUU...MAerrrrruy...Meeeeeeeeeee!" he sang, completely off-key. I don't know what came over me, I grab the nearest item off the shelf...a broom, and attack.

"YOU DISGUSTING PERVERT." I scream, hitting him with the broom. He tries to run, but I chase him.

"Okay, okay. I was just going to ask what you thought of my singing...."

"No. You are a filthy pig. You are an idiot and a filthy pig."

He looked to others for help, but everyone stood there laughing and egging me on. I would've kept hitting him, if it weren't for my phone ringing in my pocket. I look, and guess who it is?

"Elizabeth?"

"Ella, are you almost here, they're going to be here soon."

"Yes, ma'am. I just had to deal with a little misunderstanding, but I'm on my way. I think it'd help if I knew who was coming.."

"Ugh Ella, you're such a bother, fine, if you must know, It is King Rupert, Queen Giselle, and Prince Jake from the Kingdom of Langdon."

"WHAT?"

"Oh, Ella, just hurry." Then she hangs up. As I put the phone away, I look up to see the strange man is nowhere to be seen. I quickly grab the necessities, pay, and make my way back to the castle.

Chapter 2- It's...YOU!

When I get home, I quickly set the stuff in the kitchen and the cook get straight to work. Elizabeth grabs me by the arm, and sends me upstairs to bathe quickly, freshen up, and change into something appropriate. When I get upstairs, a warm bubble bath is waiting for me, and my favorite red and purple gown was hanging on the edge of my bed. It was my mother's favorite as well, she wore it, the day before my seventh birthday, the day before she disappeared..

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I remember just looking up at her, as she wore the gown. It was unlike any other I had seen. It was long, sleek, and it dragged on the floor in the back a little bit. It was a royal purple, dark and beautiful. But around the neck was red fabric that latched around her throat. There was never anyone as beautiful as the woman that stood before me.

"Mommy?" I had asked her. "Will I get to wear a dress like the one you're wearing so that I'll be beautiful like you?" She just knelt down, and embraced me.

"Oh darling," she had said. "My dearest, Ella. You are beautiful now. In the future, you will be even more beautiful. And it's not because of what you're wearing or what you look like. What matters most is what's inside of you. Kindness, love, ambition, passion. That's what makes a person beautiful."

"Like you, mommy?"

"Yes, darling. But sometimes, I look at me, and I look at you. And I think to myself, 'I wish I was as beautiful as my

dearest, Ella."

"But Mommy, you made me, so if I'm beautiful, I had to get it from somewhere!"

"Oh, Ella!"

"Mommy?"

"Yes, dear?"

"When I'm older, can I have your dress?"

"If that is your wish..." she said as she embraced me for what seemed like the longest and best hug I have ever had in my life.

.....

As I get the gown on, the one, that my mother left to me, I smile down on the memory of that day. After, I slip the dress on, I go to the bathroom, and blow dry my hair. Pinning certain parts back, so that it doesn't get in the way. I put on my gold eye shadow, which brings out the color of my grey eyes, my eyeliner, and some mascara. Then I add some lip gloss to top it all off. Basic, yet prepared.

I slip on my black heels, and descend the staircase. When I get to the bottom stair, I see Elizabeth, and she stares in shock.

"Ma'am? Is this appropriate?" I ask concerned

"Yes, Ella, it's fine. Why can't you dress like that all the time?"

"Well.."I try to say but she cuts me off.

"No need for an explanation. They should be here any---" she is cut off, this time, by the ringing of a doorbell. This was the only part I never understood about the castle, we had guards outside, to inform us on when someone was

coming, yet they always moved aside so the guests could ring our doorbell.

Elizabeth gestures for the doorman to let the guests in. He does, and they came in one by one. The doorman announces them. "His majesty, King Rupert of Langdon." The King came into view.

"How do you do your Majesty?" Elizabeth says seductively.

"Please, Rupert. And I'm doing fine." He says shaking her hand. Then he looks up at me. "Ahh, Elizabeth, this must be your beautiful daughter we have heard little about."

"Step-daughter" she mutters under her breath.

"What was that?" he asks.

"Oh, nothing, I said Oh yes, she's a beauty."

"Yes she definitely is. Hello, fair one, I am King Rupert of Langdon."

"How do you do, your majesty? My name is Ella, Princess of Rosewater." I say bowing.

"Introducing Her Majesty, Queen Giselle" The doorman says interrupting King Rupert.

The queen walks in with a smile on her face, and introduces herself.

"Good day! Call me Giselle." she says speaking to Elizabeth.

"Thank you for coming Giselle." Elizabeth says giving Giselle a hug.

"Hello, you must be Ella." queen Giselle says looking at me.

"That would be me." I say shyly.

As she embraces me, the doorman says,

"Presenting, his royal highness, Prince Jake of Langdon."
And I hear Elizabeth greet him. The queen is blocking my view, so I am unable to see.

"Prince Jake, if I may, may I introduce my daughter, Ella."
Elizabeth says smiling.

As the queen moves from my vision, I look up from the ground, and see...

"It's...YOU!" I yell unintentionally.

Chapter 3- The Prince cries

"Do you know this man, Ella?" Elizabeth asks confused.

"We've met." I say sternly.

"Madam...." He says taking my arm.

"Sir. How do...you...do??" I say fighting off the anger that wants to come out.

"Well, my back just has a few...uh.." he says leaning in and whispering. "Strange bruises."

"Well, Prince Jake," I say whispering now. "If you hadn't been an idiot, and a pervert...you wouldn't have those bruises."

We walk to the dining area. Where I am forced to sit by Jake. I fake a smile, and every so often, I dig my heel into his foot, causing him to yell out in pain. The adults look over at us, and we fake a laugh.

Then all of the sudden..

"Elizabeth, if I may, where is the restroom...I fear It's an....emergency." He says trying to hold his pain in."

"Oh? Well, right down the hall take a right and it's the fourth room on your left." she responds with a smile.

"Right..thanks Ma'dame." He says limping ever so slightly away.

Elizabeth gives me a stare, curious as to what was going on. I just shrug my shoulders. A few minutes later, I place

my napkin on the table.

"Elizabeth." I ask politely. "May I be excused, for a short while, I'd like to go make sure Jake hasn't died."

"Hurry back." she says sternly.

"Yes, Ma'am." I respond, pushing my self out of the chair, and walking out of the room.

I walk down the hall, and turn towards the restroom. As I approach the bathroom, I hear something strange. Jake is crying. I knock softly, and I hear Jake mutter.

"Damn it...who is it?"

"Jake? It's Ella. I just came to check on you. Are you...crying?" I ask with a bit of amusement.

Instead of him talking back, the door opens.

"....No.." he says stubbornly.

"Oh Jake, no need for tears, is it because I hit you earlier? Or called you an idiot?"

"Oh, Ella, please. I may be an idiot, but I do not cry.."he says while sniffing.

"Says the idiot sniffer."

"Ella? Jake? What are you two doing?" Elizabeth calls, walking to where we are.

"Nothing, Elizabeth, we were just talking." I say

"Yes...about this amazing soap, My mum should get this type..." he says playing along grabbing a bar of soap, that we usually get from the farmer's market.

"Oh, that's excellent news. And I thought something bad was going on. Good, that makes the news of the joining so

much easier." Elizabeth says happily.

"What news?" he asks.

"Joining?" I ask with the same confusion.

"Jake, your parents didn't tell you? Well, I'll tell you both. The reason we are together on this day, is because...Ella, Jake, you two will be joined in holy matrimony."

"Holy Ma-who?" I ask absolutely confused.

"Elizabeth, i fear, I'm not understanding..." He asks.

"Oh must I always have to dumb it down? Oh, why bother. Ella, Jake, you're getting married." Elizabeth says. Her words echoing in my head.

Chapter 4- The Unknown Proposal

Married. Married. Married. Married. Married. MARRIED MARRIED MARRIED Married... This cannot be...me married to an idiot? Can this day possibly get worse.

"Ha. Elizabeth, for a second, you got me there, for a second I thought I heard you say that me and Jake...ha..are getting married. I must've heard wrong though." I say not entirely believing what just happened.

"Oh? You think so? Because I thought I said 'Ella, Jake, you're getting married.' Correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe, you heard correctly, Ella." she says giving me the "Don't test me" stare.

"MUM? FATHER?" Jake called. His parents immediately walked to where the rest of us were.

"Jake? Is something the matter dear?" Queen Giselle asks.

"Uh...not really, there's just that...teeny....teeny, weensy....thing..." he tries to say.

"Ugh. He means, what's this about us, getting married?" I say for him.

"Thank you." He whispers

"I want to find out for myself.." I whisper back.

"Oh, darling. We have this chance to unify our kingdoms, but technically we can't do it without your consent. And in order for that to happen, you either rise to the throne, or you marry into ours. " Giselle says calmly.

"Wait...wait...wait..I thought when Elizabeth married papa, she became queen. How-how am I..." I ask completely confused.

"Well, darling, only temporarily, until you rose to power." Giselle says. I look over at Elizabeth, and she has this cold stare glued on her face.

"Mum" Jake starts. " Why didn't you tell me?"

"Oh Jake, I know you would never have come.." she says now gently patting her son's back.

"Who else knows?" I ask.

"Only the entire Kingdom Of Langdon. It's only a matter of time before Rosewater finds out." Elizabeth says as-a-matter-of-factly.

"Oh Jesus..."I say quietly. "We don't have a choice, do we?" I ask, even though I already know the answer.

"There will be a public announcement, tomorrow...be prepared." King Rupert stated.

"Now shall we go eat?"Elizabeth asks everyone.

"Oh yes, my stomach's been growling for days." Rupert says.

"And I'm famished." Giselle says.

"Well let's go then." Elizabeth smiles, then looking back at us, she asks "Well, aren't you too coming?"

"Yeah, in a minute, we're right behind you." I say softly. So she leaves with Jake's parents and disappears into the dining area.

"Ella?" he asks.

"I can't believe my first relationship will be an arranged

marriage with the idiot I met at the market who called me compelling and strange...and sung in a disgusting way. I can't believe you didn't tell me who you were. I'm so humiliated."

"Well, you didn't tell me who you were either..."

"True, I guess. At least you're marrying someone you can at least never get bored with. Haha." I laugh.

"Like I said Miss Ella, you're quite compelling."

"Will you still say that? When it happens?"

"Say what? And when?"

"Will you still call me by my name, instead of my dear, or darling, after we get married?"

"Yes, unless you don't want me to."

"I do."

"I do too."

"Well, we shouldn't keep them waiting!" I say with a smile.

"Miss Ella."

"Sir Jake"

Arm in arm, we walk to the dining table, where everyone else sits. He pushes out my chair for me to sit, and pushes it in. He then sits right next to me at the table.

Then the food comes, and everyone tears it up. Especially Rupert. He tells everyone of his seven stomachs. And we all start laughing. Even if someone is giving me an icy stare across the table. I look up, and there she is. The Elizabeth I am oh, so familiar with. Cold-hearted to the core. Faking a smile so no one would see the evil behind the mask she wears. But I've grown used to it. I'm the only one, who can

see through her.

Chapter 5- Lily

As soon as they leave, I immediately go to my quarters. I take everything off and put it away. I get into my pajamas, and plop on my bed, getting ready to finish the 100 pages I have left of "The Lucky One". Then my door flies open, ruining my whole plan.

"There's gonna be the announcement here tomorrow... So, you know what that means..." Elizabeth says bursting into my room.

"That I have to act like a lady?"

"Oh, Ella, shouldn't you be doing that already? No, something that comes before that...it has to deal with the castle...itself. It's your favorite thing....making this place nice and tidy. I'd suggest you get a start on it, you don't want your hands smelling when making the announcement, do you?"

"Yes, Ma'am. By the place, do you mean, a certain portion of it?"

"Oh, Ella. You must be joking. That's very funny. No, I mean the whole place."

"The.....WHOLE.....Place?"

"Yes, Ella. Clean out your ears."

"B-b-but..I can't clean the whole palace by myself..in like seven hours...."

"Then I guess, the maids can help you...just as long as it gets done..."

"Yes Ma'am. Goodnight!"

"Well, for me it will be, not for you hahaha!!" She laughs walking out of my room.

I spend the next five hours cleaning up the castles. Wash the windows, clean the kitchen. Dust the furniture, make a midnight snack, clean that up, sweep the floors, and vacuum the carpets. The maids do little to help me, but it's not like the castle is entirely dirty. I make my way back to my room shortly after finishing, and I plop on my bed.

I can't fall asleep, so I just lay down looking at the ceiling just thinking about that night, the night it all went down.

.....

I remember waking up after I felt my mom's hands softly slide under me and move away. I saw her looking at the window. I slowly crept to where she was, and was about to say something when someone caught my attention. It was a woman in all black, well in a cloak. I couldn't really see her face, but I knew she was bad. I slid under the table, and just looked at what was going on.

"I tried to warn you once Violet. You didn't listen. I don't normally give people second chances...to change...but I gave you a second chance, you still blew it. I don't give out third chances...and you are going to pay." The figure said.

"What are you talking about? You know he's in love with **me**, not with you. That's why **we** are married, why **we** have a child. Why **we** are together. You're overwhelmed by your jealousy, just leave us alone. Get out.." Mommy said shakily.

"Leave? But I just got here...it's such a shame...Why would I leave? I want to meet your daughter. Seven years ago...she was born. Did you ever invite me over, to meet the girl? I don't think so." the hooded figure said.

"If that's what you want.." Mommy tried saying but was cut off.

"No. No. Violet...just stop. If I wanted to see the girl, I'd have taken her. She's worthless, ha, what a great daughter. I came for you." The hooded figure said laughing.

"Me? Why me? What do you want Eli-"

"How dare you use my name, no. And you, my darling, don't belong here..."

"Yes, I do...you don't belong here. This is **my** home, **my** family, **my** kingdom. How dare you walk in here and threaten me."

"Hahaha. Threaten you say? I don't..threat. Haha. I say it how it is. I don't have time for threats."

And then it happened. The hooded figure took their hood off, and through the cloak to the floor. It was a woman. She was wearing a midnight black dress, and red heels. She used her hands and made a swaying motion. She muttered words under her breath that no one could hear...and she through the force at Mommy. Then she disappeared, along with the strange woman. The only thing left was the black cloak the woman wore.

When they disappeared, I crept from under the table, and looked around. Mommy was really gone. I quickly grabbed the cloak that the woman left behind and I hid it in a box. I went to go and lay back with Daddy, and when he woke up, I pretended to be asleep.

The next day, when Papa tried to look for Mommy, she wasn't anywhere to be found. After a few weeks, he gave up hope. He pronounced her dead, but somehow, I knew she was still there in the world. At the time, I thought if I spoke up, I'd be in trouble, like somehow, it was my fault.

.....

Why am I forced to marry this idiot. Jake, uh, yeah, Jake's not my ideal man to marry. No, he's like this annoying little pest. Of all people, why does it have to be him. Sure, he has those charming eyes, and Nicholas Sparks-like features, and he's absolutely amazing gorg-Oh, shoot. Dammit, Ella. You've known this guy for what a few hours? No, no, no, no. I can't like him, he's an idiot. And a per-per-pervert. Yes, that's what he is. I think in my head, now pacing my floor. But then again, there was that whole misunderstanding...I mean, it was a misunderstanding, right? I mean I didn't actually tell him who I was, and he didn't tell me who he was. But then those brows. It just threw things off. And further more when we were in the hall, he touched my soap. MY SOAP. Mine. No, no, no, this just won't do. OH JAKE, YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!!!

A sound ruins my train of thought, and I open my door quietly. Hearing the squeaking of the hinges screech. I tip toe out into the hall, and down the steps. As I descend the stairs, I see a shadow in the hallway. I quietly make my way towards it.

"Hello?" I call.

The figure turns around.

"Oh, Miss, I didn't mean to disturb you, I am sorry, forgive me your highness." the woman says. It's one of our newest maids. Liliana I think her name is.

"Thank the heavens, Liliana, is it? You just scared me is all. I've been up, I haven't been able to sleep."

"Yes, Ma'am. Call me Lily though. And Miss, aren't you supposed to be up early for the announcement?"

"Oh, Lily, I am, and I will, because I won't be getting any sleep. And plus, everyone is getting up in an hour, so I think, I'll just stay up."

"Madam, I do think it wise, that you at least get an hour."

"Lily, I've been up for this long already, another hour won't kill me."

"Well would you care for a pre-breakfast?"

"Yes, please. What do you have in mind?"

"Oh miss, come to the kitchen, let me show you."

"Thank you Lily."

So I follow her into the kitchen, and sit at a counter. She makes what looks like coffee, but is different. And makes something that looks like rice, and is that...bacon? Within fifteen minutes, she brings me a plate and a cup of the coffee looking thing.

"Here you go, Miss."

"Lily, if I may, what is this?"

"Well, this is a caramel macchiato, it's a strong coffee, family recipe. And here, you have grits and bacon. My mother used to make it all the time."

"Grits? It looks like rice."

"Well, that's the whole point. Try some, Miss."

So I try some, and it's absolutely delightful.

"Mmm, it's like a mixture of a grainy rice, with salt, and actual flavor. " Then I tried the drink, the one she called "Caramel Macchiato" A bunch of flavor rushed into my mouth and down my throat, making my whole mouth and body warm.

"Mmm, this is my new favorite drink, Lily." I say with a smile.

"Thank you, Miss."

"Please, Ella."

"Yes, Ella."

"Lily, can I ask you a question?"

"Yes, Ella."

"How old are you?"

"I'm nineteen."

"Why a maid so young?"

She took a deep breath, and pored herself a cup.

"Well, sometimes life doesn't work out the way you want it to. I had parents but a month ago, they died in a fire at a party. I would've kept the house, but it turns out they hadn't payed their rent in months. So it was taken away. They gave me a few weeks to pack up my stuff, and leave. No one would hire me, no one thought I was good enough. And so I spent the next few weeks begging and begging for a job. Even my fiance left me, because he thought that since my parents died, I would have inherited something, but I didn't really. They were extremely poor, they just faked their richness. So he dumped me, and I went begging for a job. One day, it was about two weeks ago, I was sitting on a bench in the park, late at night. And this man came up to me.

'Do you need a job?' the man said to me.

'Yes, desperately, but no one will hire me, so it's useless.' I had told him.

'What if I told you that it's possible for me to get you a job.' He had asked.

'Well, sir, I'd say that I'd do anything to keep the job.' I

smiled looking at him.

'Yes, and what is your name?' he asked.

'Liliana Castlewood' I replied.

'Well, isn't that a coincidence?' he said looking amused.

'What is , sir?' I asked completely confused.

'The job, Miss Castlewood, is in the castle.'

'I beg your pardon? You mustn't be serious. Are you?'

'Well, my dear, I am absolutely honest.'

'Oh, dear...the castle...'

'Yes, the castle. You would be a maid, I hope that is fine.'

'Yes, sir, yes that's completely fine...but there's only one tiny problem. How do I know that you're being truthful?'

'Well Miss Castlewood, I am Marcus Grusby, the Royal adviser to Princess Ella, and Queen Elizabeth, of this kingdom of Rosewater.'

'Your grace' I said immediately looking at him, and bowing my head.

'Oh child, no need. Just get up, and follow me.'

And then he took me here to the castle. And I'm glad, because if it weren't for him, I wouldn't be in your presence Miss Ella."

"Oh, Lily, I am so sorry about all that, but I'm glad you're here now." I say eating the last bite of my food, and sipping the last bit of coffee left.

"As am I. And how was the food?"

"Oh, it was wonderful, thank you Lily."

"Yes, of course Miss Ella."

As she clears the dishes, I look up at the time. Everyone is getting up in twenty minutes.

"Well, Lily, I must start getting ready."

"Yes Miss Ella."

I turn and start walking away, and then I stop, I look at her.

"Lily, do you want to help?"

"Yes, Miss Ella."

"Come on, let's go." I say with a smile.

So we head upstairs and into my room.

Chapter 6- Prince Jake...or umm..Jackson..

I am wearing this sleek, long golden dress, with my matching heels. I head into the bathroom so Lily can do my hair. She puts it in curls, and pin it up to look like an updo. She slides my tiara on my head.

"Is that part okay, Miss Ella?"she asks politely.

"Please, Lily, I want to be surprised." I say.

"Yes Miss."

Then she goes onto my face, and she uses two types of gold and one pinkish color for my eye shadow. I can't see how she does it, but It's different than how I do it. And she's very gentle about it. Next she puts on eyeliner. Then my mascara. Then she does something to my brows. It felt like she was brushing them but I couldn't tell. And then she goes to my lips, and I could tell she is putting lipstick on, and then she put some lip gloss to top it off. After she finishes she asks for my opinion.

"I'm done, now, Miss Ella."

"Oh? It's only been fifteen minutes."

"Yes, well you don't need much. Have a look?"

So I take a look, and am amazed. She used the darker gold on the outside, used the pink in the middle, and the other gold on the out skirts of the eye. I look at my hair, which is in the updo, and held with the tiara. I look absolutely stunning.

"Lily...I look...." I try saying, but the words wont come out.

"Miss? Do you not like it?"

"No, Lily. I love it."

"Oh how wonderful."

Suddenly there's a knock at the door. Elizabeth walks in.

"Up already, Ella?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Good. Now go fetch me my breakfast."

"Yes Ma'am."

I start to walk away when she pulls me back.

"Who is that, Ella?"

"Uh..Liliana, our newest maid." I say.

She just looked at Lily with an evil eye, and turned around swiftly to walk out the door.

I look back at Lily, and give her a smile.

"It's okay, Lily. She's not going to hurt you." And then I disappear out of my room and down the staircase.

A few hours later, there is a knock at the door. The doorman opens it, and it's Giselle, Rupert, and guess who? Jake. They were all dressed well, and Jake, looking even more fancy than his own parents, caught my eye.

"Good Morning, your majesties." I say bowing.

"And to you Miss Ella." Giselle says with a smile.

"Are you ready Ella? For the announcement?" Rupert asks.

"Yes, sir. Well, as ready as I can be for that matter." I say with all honesty.

"Well, some type of ready is as much ready as you need."

"What do we have to say?" Jake and I say in unison. This makes me blush a little bit.

Okay, Ella. What is wrong with you? Blushing because you guys said something at the same time? You have got to be kidding me. Come on, it's Jake we're talking about. He's just a guy. He's in your nobility, so technically he's just an average guy. I mean, DO NOT forget, he is an IDIOT. He's trying to lure you in, remain cold and collective. Don't show ANY signs of weakness.

But then at the same time, Ella, you have to admit, he is kinda gorgeous. And you did say it at the same time, ah, young love.

Wait love? No, what are you thinking. Nooo. Ella you must understand, don't fall in, it's going to be dangerous.

Oh shush...

"Ella...ELLA?" Rupert says interrupting my train of thought.

"Yes?"

"Were you listening to a word I just said??" He asks, giving me "THE STARE".

"Um.... no, sorry sir, I was...distracted, I'm so sorry. Do speak up though." I say apologizing.

"I said, 'There is a speech already written.' So, Ella, all you have to do is follow that."

"Wa-wa-wait. Um...did you say the speech was already written? And um, I don't get a say in it? Let me see the speech." I tell him confused but demanding the speech.

"I don't think that wise, Miss."

"Oh? I think it wise. Hand it over.."

He does as told, and it reads as follows.

Good day, my dear subjects, The reason I have come here today, is because I want to introduce something to you. Or rather, introduce..someone. But before I get to that, I wanted to tell you, that you have been very good to me as a princess, and I hope to still receive that gratitude as queen. Yes, I said queen. I am coming of age, and I have to take my rightful place on the throne, just like my father did before me. But alongside with that, I am getting married. This may come as a shock to you, but I am marrying Prince Jackson of Langdon. He is a good leader, and very courageous. He will definitely be fit as King. And together, we will join both Langdon and Rosewater. As you know, in this general area, there are four neighboring kingdoms. The most powerful of all the kingdoms in the world. Rosewater, being first, Langdon, being second, Jocelitia, being third, and Bohelia, being fourth. Together, we will help reunite al the kingdoms, in attempt to defeat those of more superiority to our own, the Kingdom of Jacalotiatania. Our greatest enemy. If we don't defeat them, our chance at survival is very slim. But enough with the depressing news, may I introduce, Prince Jackson of Langdon.

Okay, Um...Ella...no. No, no no no, No. This won't do. This is..outrageous. It hardly sounds like me.

"Ha. Is this a joke? No. I can't say this."

"Why not, Ella?"

Ha. Well for starters Rupert, it doesn't sound like me. I don't call them my subjects. And uh...what? Prince Jackson? That's Jake's name? Hahahaha, that is hilarious. And he'll be fit as King? He's a good leader, and very courageous? Hahahahaha. This is just tooo funny. How was he

courageous, when I was chasing him with a broom, and hitting him? How was that courageous? Hahhahaha. I have no interest in reuniting the kingdoms. I mean I think it might be wise, but I just, idk...something doesn't sit right with me. I can't put my finger on it, it just doesn't seem right. And our enemy kingdom, it sound gibberish. Jacalotiatania???
Whaaatttt???? This doesn't make any sense.

"Uh, well, it seems off." I say instead.

"Oh nonsense Ella, you're just scared that's all. You'll do fine." Giselle states.

"I hope so." I say looking at Jake, he just smiles and nods.

I go up to him. I take one look at him and I laugh.

"Hahhahahaha." I giggle.

He just looks at me like I'm crazy.

"Are you well, Ella?" he asks putting a hand on my shoulder.

"Yes, I am well. Quite well. I just find it funny..."

"Find what funny....?" he asks.

" Haha. Um...just something small."

"Which is?"

"Your name."

"Jake..."

"No...haha."

"What do you mean, 'No'?"

" Well, Prince Jackson of Langdon, I am Princess Ella of Rosewater."

"W-w-w-what was that name?"

"Oh? You must be joking?"

"No...What was that name?"

"Jackson..."

"Who is Jackson?"

"I believe, sir, Jackson is you."

"No. I'm Jake."

"Yes, you are Jake, but you're also Jackson."

"How can I be Jackson, when I am Jake?"

"I am not the person you should be asking, Sir Jackson."

"You find amusement in this, don't you?"

"Why yes I do, actually. It's quite comical."

"Comical you say?"

"Very much so, sir."

"I don't see how this is comical, please enlighten me."

"Why of course. See this is very humorous because here I am, getting ready to marry this Idiot I don't even know, no offense, and yet, I'm still going to do it for the sake of the Kingdom. And I read the speech, and I find that your name isn't really Jake, but Jackson. I don't know, my name is Ella. My nickname is...Ella. Don't you think it's a bit...odd? I mean, personally I think It's quite funny. Don't you?"

"No. I don't think so. It doesn't seem funny to me."

"Oh? Well, your opinion doesn't matter."

"But, you asked me.."

"Oh? Did I now? Well, I take it back."

"Miss Ella, you are quite strange.."

"Like I told you before, so I've been told. Don't worry, you're no one special."

"Yea, I'm no one special, just the prince of Langdon, and your future husband.."

"Oh? So you agree with me then."

"OH GOODNESS. When did you all get here?" a voice says interrupting us all. We all look to see Elizabeth descending the stairs. "Ooh, Ella, I do hope you haven't been boring them." She says giving me an icy stare that only I could see.

"Of course not, ma'am. On a little side note, you look absolutely..." I start, but she interrupts.

"..Ravishing, I know." she says with a smile.

She greets everyone, except for myself, with a hug and a smile.

"Okay. Shall we do this?" she especially looks at me while doing this.

"Yes, ma'am." I say with a smile, knowing that what was on the speech was not what I was going to say.

"Ella?" Jake asks taking my arm.

"Yes?" I ask.

"Don't say what's on there..."

"You have nothing to worry about....I never say what's on a piece of paper."

"Thank you!" he says. I squeeze his arm before continuing, letting him know that everything will be okay.

Chapter 7- The Wedding Announcement

As we make our way to the balcony, I can't help but get nervous. Who am I kidding? This isn't me. I cannot believe that I'm actually gonna do this. The crowd will know. they know I haven't been with anyone. Especially the one I talk to the most, Mr. Tangi. I tell him everything. Even my crazy obsession with Nicholas Sparks. Speaking of...

"Jake?" I ask

"Yes?" he answers.

"I just realized who you reminded me of..."

"Who?"

"Nicholas Sparks."

"Who?"

"Nicholas Sparks, he's an American. He's my favorite author."

"Oh? Is he now?"

"Yes, you look like him."

"Do I now? He must be very attractive then.."

"Well he is..."

"Ella?"

"Yes Jake?"

"Do you find me attractive..?"

Great, Ella. Nice going, now he thinks that you find him attractive. Well I mean you do, right? But he can't know that, and if he knows that, then all of Hell will break loose. Yes Jake, you are one of the most charming guys I have ever layed my eyes on. No, I can't possibly say that. Ughh this is sooo embarrassing.

"Why do you ask that?"

"Because you said I looked like him and that he was attractive."

"Yes. I said he was attractive. I never said you were."

"Mmhmm."

"What do you mean sir?" I ask now stopping.

"Nothing madame. Just I know you think I'm gorgeous, I can see it in your eyes."

"Well, maybe so, or maybe, you're blind."

"Maybe so, but I think not."

"Says the blind idiot."

"Touche madame."

And I just smile, and we get going again.

I hear Elizabeth talking to the crowd.

"And we just want to share something with you all. Very exciting for that matter. Without further ado, may I present your princess, Ella."

That's my cue. I take one more look at Jake, and he nods. I smile, and move to the balcony. Elizabeth keeps this happy stare glued on her face as to not alarm the public. And she

backs away and back into the castle. A guard comes up to her, and she is forced to exit. Perfect.

As I make my way to the podium, Yes, there is a podium, on the balcony. How safe is that?? Very safe. Not really. Anyway, as I make my way up to the podium, I get this sudden urge of courageousness.

"Good morning, my dear friends and people. I hope you are all doing well. I have an announcement. But first, I want to tell you something. What I'm about to say, does not change anything about my position, and the relationship I have developed with you all. You guys are like some of the coolest townspeople ever. Be proud of who you are. So, I have an announcement. See, I guess, I'm getting married." There was a gasp in the crowd. "I know Bill. I know. I just found out yesterday. And It's to this Prince that I don't even know. I mean, I had the chance to kinda get...situated with him, yesterday, but let me tell you something." I hold up the speech. "You see this piece of paper? This is the speech that was written for this day. What am I gonna do about it?" I rip it up. "That's what I'm gonna do about it. Anyone who knows me, knows I hate reading off of a piece of paper. Especially, when it's not my own words. Here, let me tell this story. In fact, why don't we both tell you this story. May I present, my I guess, fiance...Prince Jackson of Langdon." I look back at Jake, and he comes out with a smile. The crowd goes wild, some recognize him and start laughing. "Yes, I do suppose it is funny, considering what happened yesterday. For those of you not aware, I was in the market yesterday, and I met this young man over here. Pretty exciting day, don't you think, sir?" I say looking at Jake now I give him my arm, and he takes it in his.

"I'd say so Miss Ella. I mean, it was a misunderstanding...but I'd say it was quite....what was that word you used, comical?"

"Why yes sir, quite comical. Would you like to start it off?"

"I guess I would."

"Great then. Let's hear it.."

"Well, I was getting ready to meet my parents, and I was...distracted. I went to this person to go ask for directions, because I was terribly lost, but when I'd call out to them, they'd just walk further and further away. So I had to follow them. And it lead me to the market. And I thought the figure was a man, but it turned out to be the beautiful girl. And so I caught her eye at the market, and made my way to the aisle in front of her. "

"That is not true. I was not looking at him. I mean, Okay, Mr. Tangi, you saw...you were...UP..haha, was I looking at this gentleman.?" I ask.

"Sorry Madame, I was occupied." He said.

"What happened next?" Someone in the audience asked.

"Hello Cheryl! Well, he pushed the items in my aisle and I saw him from the other aisle. Jake? Would you like to tell them what you told me?"

"Sure thing. I said, 'Looking for me?'"

"And I said 'Haha, funny. Why would I be looking for you?'"

"And I said "I don't know, why would you?'"

"So I said ' I'm not, I wasn't. If you think that, then you must be an idiot. All guys are so that's not in insult, right?'"

"So I thought about it for a minute, and I have to admit, and I told her "I said I may be, but has anyone ever told you, that you are compelling."

"Yes, he did say that. What was my response??I-I-I think it was something along the lines of... Oh, yes. That may be sir, but you do not know me, so you mustn't know anything

about me, therefore, I can't be compelling."

" And me, being the stupid idiot I am, and trust me, I'm a big idiot, like she says, I decided, I was gonna do something, which I payed the price for immediately. I knew something was gonna happen, I had heard my parents say something about a girl in my future, and so I thought I's go up to this girl, and ask her how my singing was. I know, pretty weird. But at the time, I thought it was a good idea. But it wasn't. I was off-key, by a lot, and I think I was trying too hard, and I scared her."

"No. That is mostly accurate, but no. Yes, he came up to me, and started singing, but then, he started raising his eyebrows up and down, like a silly pervert. So what did I do? I attacked the stupid idiot. With a broom. What did he do? He ran screaming, like a little girl. He was defenseless. I mean, some of you saw, right? I mean, this poor prince, was asking for help, and you guys just...laughed. Because, why? You didn't know the guy. hell, I didn't know the guy. And this is where I make MY speech."

"Are you sure?" he whispers.

"Yes." I whisper back. I turn back to the crowd, my arm still in Jake's. "My dear friends, people, citizens of Rosewater, even though, we got off o a bad start, I am marrying Prince Jackson of Langdon. At first, I did not want to. I thought it ridiculous. But let me explain to you, why I changed my mind. As you know, there are four neighboring kingdoms in this area. Rosewater, Langdon, Jocelitia, and Bohelia. We are the most powerful of the five kingdoms. Yes, I said five. I know, I only named four, but there's another one. Not quite like ours, if I may. You see, in the world, there is good, and there is....evil. Rosewater, Langdon, Jocelitia, and Bohelia represent the good. And the other kingdom, is not so good. *Jacalotiatania* is the other kingdom. And up until recently, we've had more power than them. This kingdom, my dear friends, is growing powerful and steadily. They've

taken, and overthrown many of the tiny kingdoms out of our reach. My dear people, if we don't do something now, we're gonna be added to that list of taken kingdoms no longer there. So, this is the plan. I am going to marry Jake, and we are going to unite our kingdoms, so it's stronger, and we'll get Jocelitia and Bohelia on board, and we'll unite all of the the four kingdoms, so we can diminish the fifth. We used to all be on good terms, but something changed and Jacalotiatania didn't agree with what we were thinking, so they turned. And we became powerful. But our Kingdoms slowly departed. And if we don't do this, then we're goners. We'll be finished. I do not want to see that. I know my father wouldn't want to see the end of this Kingdom. And I'm going to do everything in my power to make sure it stays that way. Thank you!" I say very powerfully.

"Princess Ella?" a voice calls out. I look, and it's Delilah, one of my best friends in the village.

"Delilah.."

"Are we safe?"

"For now. But if we don't act fast, I'm afraid we won't be."

"Ella? We all love you, you know this, but how do we know that your motives as queen won't be like your mother, Elizabeth's?"

"Delilah? Elizabeth and I have completely different views on life. What makes you think that I'd want to be anything like her? She's not even happy anymore. Have you forgotten, my mother is dead. And Elizabeth is alive. Don't ever compare me to her again."

"Yes Ella."

I turned from the crowd and to Jake.

"Do you want to say anything?" I whisper.

"Yeah, a little."

"Knock yourself out, idiot."

"Don't mind if I do."

Then Jake looks at the crowd.

"Hello. Erm..I'm Jake. My name may be Jackson, but that was my Father's name. I am Jake. My father, King Jackson of Langdon, was killed eight years ago. I always went by Jake, never Jackson. So when my mother remarried, she married a king of a neighboring Kingdom. And he came to our Kingdom and became King. The other kingdom, however was overthrown by our enemy Kingdom. And so I must tell you, I was right there with Ella, pretty adamant about this whole marriage thing, but I'm going to do it for the sake of the kingdoms, and I think I deserve happiness. I mean, I have faith, that Ella will be a good wife, and I hope to not get bored with her."

"Ha. Sir, you *HOPE* not to get bored? No, sir, you *WON'T* get bored." I cut in.

"Haha, you're probably right, I won't get bored, because I won't have time to get bored, because you're just gonna be abusing me.."

"You got that right." I say with a smile.

"Is that...a real smile?" he asks.

"Umm.."

He looks at the crowd.

"Did you just see that? She gave me an actual, warm, genuine smile. Would you look at that." The crowd just laughs.

"You must be mistaken, sir, I do not smile...Okay, that's a

lie, but don't think much of it." I say to him, then turning to the crowd, I say "Thank you for coming out today, but we really must be going. "

I pull Jake away from the balcony, and wave goodbye to everyone. As we leave, he says,

"Ella? We are going to be in so much trouble."

"Yes, yes we are."

"I wish we could make an escape."

"I know just the place. Follow me." I say leading him in the opposite direction than that we came. I lead him to my secret place, my secret garden...

Chapter 8- How do you KNOW?

"What's this place?" he asks as we get to the garden.

"A place I go to think, and escape Elizabeth."

"A garden? What's so special about a garden?"

"Well, Jake? This garden, my mother started it. It was always her dream to start her own garden, and sit out in it late at night just admiring the work that she's put in. And once she disappeared, I kept it going for her. Back then, it wasn't really much of anything. Now look at it. It's thriving."

"It's beautiful.."

"Why do I feel like there's a but coming?"

"Because there is.."

"Jake? What's on your mind?"

"Well? I don't do well in gardens..."

"And why not?"

"Well...I sorta have anthophobia..."

Am I hearing this correctly? Does he know what Anthophobia is?

"Erm...Jake? You have anthophobia?"

"Yes..."

"Wait...so you're telling me...that you're...afraid of...flowers?"

"Well...yes.."

I can't contain it any longer. I just start laughing.

"You? hahahaha...Afraid of hahaha flowers? What? Dude, you have got to be kidding me. That's the most...omigosh, that is the funniest thing I have ever heard of. Afraid of flowers? Haha. Jake, you mustn't be serious, are you?"

"I am. That doesn't give you any right to laugh at me though."

"Yes, That's very true. Um...Well, I can't help myself."

"Of course you can't."

"Well, what's that supposed to mean?"

"Oh, nothing, you're too stuck up to understand."

"Ha. Stuck up you say? Oh, you have no idea who you are dealing with."

"Don't I? Oh, please, enlighten me."

"If that is your wish sir."

"It is my wish, madame."

"Okay. Well, if you want the truth, sir, then here it is. It all has to deal with one person. The person ho changed everything for me. I um..I was seven. In fact, I had just turned seven that day. It was a nice birthday. I got my own library. And it was so wonderful, because me, papa, and mama, we were all there. Just laughing, and smiling, and just being happy. Then we went to sleep. I shouldn't have gone to sleep. Because it ruined everything. I never even got to say goodbye. I just watched it happen. That was it."

"Ella? You're not making any sense."

"Sure I am. You're just not getting it."

"What am I not getting?"

"I witnessed it all..."

"How? And what?"

" Funny how you asked HOW before WHAT. We were there sleeping, all together, and what woke me was my mother's hands slipping out from under me. Then I heard her walk to the window. And I followed her, and was about to ask her what she was doing, when I woman spoke. I was so scared that I would get in trouble for eavesdropping, so I hid under the table. And witnessed everything. They were fighting, about Papa. And then the woman, dropped her cloak to reveal a her dress and heels. And...she made Mama disappear. Along with herself. And I went back to where Papa was, and pretended to be asleep. The next day, everyone went looking for her, they assumed I knew nothing about it, but I witnessed her disappearance with my own eyes. I never told anyone..but then Papa remarried. He married Elizabeth. And no matter how much I was nice and obedient, she hated me. She's always hated me. But I still listen to her, even if she is the one who caused this all. Caused Mama's disappearance, and Papa's too. But, you know, it stings, because you say I'm stuck up, but anyone that knows me, knows I'm the complete opposite. So, Jake, how dare you. I'm the least stuck up person you'll ever meet."

"I'm sorry Ella."

"No, I'm sorry. I thought I could be nice and you know give you the benefit of the doubt, but it seems like you're what everyone says about you."

"I beg your pardon?"

"Oh please, Jake, you're all over the news, of course I'd read about you."

"Oh, right. Ella, please..."

"No Jake, I'm going to marry you for the sake of the Kingdom, not the love of my spouse."

"Ella?"

"Jake..."

"I said I'm sorry."

"I know what you said. Too bad you don't mean it." I say turning around so I don't have to look at him.

"How do you know?"

I take in a deep breath, and turn around. Meeting his eyes.

"I am quite good at this sort of thing. I study people, I know the faces they make, the reactions they have, and the truth or lies in their words. Trust me, I know."

"But how do you know?"

So I show him. I kiss him. There is....nothing. There is nothing about the kiss that makes me feel like I'm in a Nicholas Sparks book. There is no...spark. There is no...feeling. And worst of all, he has his eyes open the whole time. And he pushes away.

"Ella? What was that for?" he smiles.

"That's how I know."

"I beg your pardon?"

"You asked how I knew..."

"Yes?"

"That's how I know."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean...I kissed you. You had your eyes open the whole time, I could feel it. And you didn't embrace me. You showed NO feeling. None. Whatsoever. That's how I know you didn't mean it."

"B-b-but.." he tries but I cut him off.

"I don't have time for this, we best head back. They'll be looking for us. Let's go." I demand and without another word, we head back to the main part of the castle. Back to where all of Hell was waiting for us.

Chapter 9- A call from the enemy

After everything settles down, I go to my room and finish the last few chapters of "The Lucky One."

"....my girl. The end!" I say out loud, reading the last page.

Oh, Jake, why can't you just be normal? Why do you have to be such a snob? And did I really....did I really kiss you? Oh, I am so stupid. I am a complete idiot. But at the same time you were pushing my buttons. Oh Jake.

And what was that? Elizabeth eyeing Jake the whole time through lunch. No. She's not the one getting married to Jake, it's me. I'm surprised that she was calm about everything. She didn't even give me an icy stare like she usually does...What is going on with her?

Ugh...life. I hate how I'm just automatically supposed to just live up to standards The other day, i was her slave. This is sooo confusing. Well, I mean might a well enjoy it while it lasts.

Knock knock. I hear. knock knock. I hear again. I go up to the door, and open it. It's Liliana.

"Lily?"

"Miss Ella."

"What's up?"

"There's a um...private message for you. A gentleman requests your voice on the phone." she says handing me this phone, that's obviously not connected to the castle.

"Lily, where did u get this?"

"It was mailed, your highness. In your name..."

"Oh? Well, thank you Lily."

"Yes Miss Ella. Good Night!"

"Good Night Lily." I say and close my door just as she turns her back to walk away.

I wonder, who could this be?

"Hello?" I say into the phone.

"Princess Ella?"

"Yes, sir. May I ask who this is?"

"This Is Lord Andrew Connolly from the Kingdom of Jacalotiatania."

"Um..sir, can you repeat that?"

"No. You heard correctly. I know we have had our disagreements, our Kingdoms, but I may have something that you want."

"Sir? I'm listening."

"Your parents."

"Ha. What?"

"You must know Elizabeth is behind it all..."

"Well, Im not stupid. I saw her take my mother."

"What? I beg your pardon Princess, I do not believe I heard you correctly."

"I said I saw her take my mother."

"You did? That must've been terrifying."

"Trust me, sir, it was. What is in this for you?"

"Well, your Kingdom."

"Sir, I cannot let that happen."

"And why not?"

"I made a promise, I don't break my promises. Is there, at all, any possible way, we can make a different arrangement?"

"Miss Ella, I like how you do business. I may have something else in mind. Do you mind doing me a little favor?"

"Like?"

"What are you doing tomorrow morning around 2 am?"

"Um..probably pretending to sleep?"

"I'll have someone pick you up. We'll meet at the palace in Bohelia. The prince has already agreed to meet you."

"How'd you know I'd say yes?"

"You're your mother's daughter."

"True."

"See you in eight hours?"

"Yes, sir." I say and I hang up the phone.

Well..well...well... Ahh Elizabeth, you're in for a treat...

Chapter 10- The Prince of Bohelia

At 1:00 am, I head down the staircase out through my window. I climb all the way down, and I run to the garden...where supposedly I was to get picked up. I wait for just one minute, when suddenly a ladder drops in front of me. I look up, and there's a man coming down.

He looks like...Jake. *No, Ella, don't think of Jake....get your head in the game..*

"Princess Ella?" he asks extending his hand.

"That's me." And I take it. He pulls me up so fast I hardly have time to react. I almost scream.

"Just hold onto me. " So I do, and we make it into the helicopter safely.

"Okay Felix, let's go." He tells the pilot.

"Yes, sir." Felix says.

The man who brought me looks at me.

"How's your morning going so far?"

"Haha, it's very...uplifting." This makes him laugh.

"Very true Princess Ella."

"Please, just Ella."

"Very well then, Ella. I should probably introduce myself."

"I suppose you shall." I say with a little giggle.

" I, am Prince Alexander of Bohelia, call me Alex."

"W-w-wait...you're the prince?"

"Yes. Last time I checked."

"And I thought this night couldn't get any better."

"Morning.."

"Huh?"

"It's technically morning..."

"Right. I forgot."

"Well...Ella, I heard the news..."

"Of me marrying Jake? I know.."

"No. Not that. That you're trying to join the kingdoms."

"Oh, that, yes."

"And you want my help?"

"Yes."

"We'll talk about it later..."

"Okay."

And he gives me that smile. I reminds me of Jake. And when his hand touched mine while pulling me up the ladder, I felt electricity. A spark...

NO ELLA NO. Stop your thoughts this instant.

"You know what I realized?"

No, Ella, STOP.

What?" he asks.

Oh Ella, you're a stupid stupid girl.

"You look like..." I start.

"Prince Jake?"

"Yea.."

"Yes, madame, I get that a lot."

"Do you now?"

"Yes."

"Is there any relation?"

"I don't believe so."

"Hmm..." I say just thinking.

I turn my attention to the window, and look at the sky full of stars. I think I see some constellations, but I'm not entirely sure, I'm not very good at astronomy and stars. I look back at Alex, and look at how focused he is on his journal. As much as he looks like Jake, there are differences. Jake has a brownish blonde hair, while Alex's is crazy black. And while Jake has freckles and a dimple on his right cheek, Alex doesn't have any freckles, but I can see that he has a dimple on the right. Jake's eyes are brown, while Alex's eyes are grey. But their faces are really similar. They look about the same height. But there's that other thing. Jake's hands are soft, and Alex's are rough. This tells me, that Jake has never had to work for anything in his life, but Alex has.

"Hello? Earth to Ella?" a voice says interrupting my train of thought. I blink, and when I look again, Alex is looking at me.

"Yes?" I ask trying to play it off.

"Ha. What were you staring at?"

"What were you doing in the journal."

"That's a secret, I mustn't ever tell."

"Well, I could say the same thing."

"Haha. Now that's what I call a great attitude."

"Huh? Wait...that's what you're gonna say?"

"Yes...what else would I say?"

"That I'm strange."

"Well, if you are, then I must be strange too." he adds with a smile.

"Ha. I cannot believe this."

"Believe what?"

"Everyone calls me strange..."

"I don't see you as strange."

"Well, that's because you don't know me."

"Then let me."

"I beg your pardon?"

"I said 'Then-' he was cut off, because Felix said something.

"Sir, we are landing."

"Roger that."

"I'm sorry sir, I'm not Roger."

"Yes, Felix I know."

"I know, sir, I was joking."

"Oh? I forgot to laugh." Alex says. That makes everyone start laughing. There's something about the way Alex laughs that makes me just want to see it all the time.

"Um..sir?" Felix asks.

"What is it Felix?"

"There's a HUGE crowd..."

"Oh God. Okay, Ella, I'm gonna need you to do exactly what I say." he says directing his attention at me.

"Sir?"

He doesn't answer right away, he reaches into a compartment of his head and pulls out a bag.

"Put this on." he says.

He throws it to me. I catch it, and open it. There's a wig, and a black cloak.

"A wig?"

"Yes, a wig. Don't worry you won't be recognized."

"Wait...it's like 2 something in the morning. Why is there a huge crowd?"

"Don't ask me."

I just put on the brown wig, and the black cloak. And as I looked at myself, I didn't look like...myself.

"Sir? Will this really work?"

"Yes, Ella. Trust me!"

"I'm trusting..." I say for the last time.

As the helicopter lands, we unbuckle. We hop out, and Alex

grabs my hand in his, pulls me close to him. And we run. I try to keep my head down, because the crowd is no ordinary crowd. A bunch of news reporters. Again, what are they doing out here at like 2 am? We run to the car that's waiting for us.

He opens the door for me. and I slide in. He slides in next to me.

"Francis, to the castle...and hurry."

"Yes sir." The driver says.

"Alex? What is going on?" I ask.

"I don't know. If I knew, I'd tell you."

"Are you one of those stuck up princes?"

"Why would you think that?"

"I'm just curious."

"Is your Jake one?"

"Yea, pretty much."

"Can I be honest?"

"That's all you can be.."

"I don't like Jake."

"I know. I can tell a lot of people don't."

"No. Like I don't like him at all."

"I thought you said you don't know him, really."

"I don't. But I read. And I can't believe someone like you is marrying someone like him"

"What does that mean?"

"Nothing, Ella. I'm just talking now."

"Okay..."

"Just forget I said anything."

"I don't forget, I'll try, but doesn't mean it will happen."

"That's fine with me. I wouldn't want to forget, either."

"Okay, you're a weird one." I say taking off the cloak.

"I'll take that as a compliment." he says laughing. His laugh is much more real than Jake's. Like I'm not saying Jake's was fake, but Alex's is more natural. I look at the window, when I feel Alex's arm touch mine. I look at the features of his arm. His hairs softly brushing my arm.

"Sir, we're here." Francis, the driver says. Alex's arm moves away from mine, and he opens the door to get out. I slide out after him, and for just a second, for one split second, I see Francis's facial expression. He's in shock. He has black hair and green eyes, and his skin tone is a little darker than mine. But just as soon as his expression had come, it faltered ever so easily.

As I got out of the car, I saw the palace in front of me, it was extraordinary. The castle itself was nothing like that in Rosewater. There was the stone wood that Rosewater had, but it seemed more elegant, more prestigious, more enchanting. And unlike the one in Rosewater, this palace seemed real. Not that the one in Rosewater was fake, there was just something about this palace that seemed filled with life.

"Gorgeous" I half-whisper.

"I know I am." Alex says. I give him a look and he starts laughing letting me know he was joking.

As we make our way up the stairs, I see the greenery. The

trees and plants are filled with life. It makes me wonder now what Rosewater has then. The only thing in Rosewater that is remotely like this land, is my mother's garden, and the people who are living, but even then, they're all dead inside, having lost a lot.

Just as we get to the doors, it opens. There are two male servants and three female maids.

"Welcome back sir." one of the maids say.

"Thank you Angelina."

"Yes sir." she says and bows, the other two maids bow with her and leave. The servants slowly back away.

"Marcus, Reginald, prepare the cabinet room."

"Yes sir." they said in unison, and walked off.

I look at Alex, just as he looks at me, and give him a confused look.

"The cabinet room?"

"Don't worry it's not an actual cabinet...it's where I hold all of my meetings."

"Ohhh. Okay." I say understanding it better. He just laughs and we go inside.

We go down these long corridors, and I'm about to ask what they're for, when I see, a door open up at the end of the hallway. A man emerges.

"Hello, Ella."he says and I know exactly who it is...

Chapter 11- Lord Connolly

The man looks at me with this shock and joy in his eyes. He's very tall, with dark black hair, and grey eyes. He's a little darker than me, but he's not a bad looking man.

"Hi. Long time, no see." I tell him.

"That is very true."

"So...are you telling me that you're Lord Connolly?"

"I am.."

"Ja-erm..Alex...did you know?"

"Were you just about to call me Jake?"

"Sorry. You just look a lot like him. A lot."

"It's okay. I get that...a lot."

"So did you?"

"Know that he was Lord Connolly? Yes I knew."

"No. Who he really is..."

"Lord Connolly."

"No."

"No? Then who is he?"

"He's my..my..uncle."

"Really? No, that can't be. Are you sure?"

Before I could answer, Lord Connolly cuts in.

"Alexander, please, do not doubt my niece. She is correct. I am her uncle. But it's been far too long."

I look at Uncle Andy.

"You can't be Uncle Andy, Connolly was not his last name."

"Yes, my dear, you are quite right. But 'tis I, uncle Andy."

"How?"

"Well, I was Andrew Collins, but I needed to change it, to stay alive."

"What do you mean by that?" I ask, pulling out a chair and sitting down, completely intrigued.

"Well, my dear Ella, shortly before your father disappeared, he contacted me. He told me that he knew what Elizabeth was planning. He knew that she was going to cause him to disappear. So he told me, and he said that she would come after me next. So after he disappeared, I changed my name to Lord Connolly, so Elizabeth couldn't find me. And she hasn't."

"Wait...on the phone you told me that you have mom and dad."

"Yes, I do."

"This isn't adding up. Because you say that Elizabeth brought them to you, and yet Papa told you that Elizabeth would come after you next."

"No, my dear Ella. If you remember correctly, I believe what I said was that Elizabeth was involved in the disappearance of your parents."

"Where are they?"

"Your parents?"

"No, the magical faeries that we are obviously talking about." I say sarcastically.

"No need for sarcasm, Ella."

"Well?"

"Your parents...well, they're safe."

"You're still not telling me where they are."

"Ella, for now, can you just be relieved with the fact that they're still alive?"

"I suppose so, but probably not content for long."

"A little bit of patience goes a long way."

I close my eyes, took a deep breath and when I open my eyes they are filled with more emotion.

"Uncle Andy..what do you want?"

"Ella, you're not going to like this."

"What do you mean by that?" I wonder now standing up and making my way towards him.

"I-i-i-" He started.

Alex interjected.

"Ella, he wants you to lift the curse."

A curse? Since when was there a curse in Rosewater. I know things aren't as lively in Rosewater as they are here, but for Uncle Andrew to think...something...like...this...it's completely and....completely understandable. But who would put a curse on Rosewater? Who has enough evil in them to do that?

"Um...Sorry, I fear I didn't hear correctly. Did you say, there's a curse on Rosewater?" I ask with a half-flat laugh.

"Yes, my niece. But only you can lift it." Uncle Andy says.

"What do you think I am? A witch?" I say with a snicker.

"Your parents...never...told you?"

I give Uncle Andy a look of confusion.

"Told me what exactly?"

Uncle Andy puts his hands to cover his face, and after a few minutes he removes them. He looks at Alex, then to me. I look at Alex, and he nods at Uncle Andy.

"Ella? I think it's time you knew."

"Can we get on with it? I'm waiting..." I say getting annoyed, tapping my foot on the ground showing signs of patience wearing out.

"Ella, you do know you're special, right?"

"Trust me, I know, Elizabeth says that's why I can't go to Vinewood Academy, because I'm special...in other words, I'm stupid."

"Nooo, no Ella, that's not what I am saying."

"No? Then what are you saying?"

"I am saying, erm..Alex, can you explain it, I'm not good at this." Uncle Andy started but directed his voice to Alex.

"Yes sir." Alex says looking at me now.

"Alex?"

"Ella. You are special, beyond compare. Not stupid special. You see, your family, holds this...magik."

"Magic? You mustn't be serious."

"No, Ella. Magik. With a K. Not a C. There's a big difference. And yes, I am serious."

"Please explain." I say yet again, sitting down.

He pulls up a chair right next to me, and explains.

"Ella. Let me tell you a story."

"I'm listening." I say as the story fills my head and imagination, allowing me into the story to see it for myself.

Chapter 12- The Warlock and Enchantress

"Once upon a time, there was this land. It was called Westercourt. Now, this land, it was enormous. It was vibrant, with fruits, and plants, and trees of every kind. It almost looked like the Garden of Eden, if you remember reading about that in the Book of Genesis in the Bible. The days were long, the nights even longer. On opposite sides of the land, there were two towers. One on the west side, one on the East.

On the East, there lived the most powerful warlock of all time. Evrazel Sin. Whenever he saw the land was in trouble, he's whip something up, and stabilize it. Contain it. But soon enough, he got weak, and couldn't do it on his own. So he had one of his messengers, travel all the way to the West. Now, in the West, lived the most beautiful, and powerful enchantress. Lesmixi Bric. She controlled things in the west, and was far more powerful than the warlock in the East.

When the messenger finally approached the tower of the powerful enchantress. He shook with all his might. Frightened, with the thought of anyone more powerful than his own master. The gate was open, as if he was being expected. He approached the steps, and knocked on the big giant brown and gold door. Lesmixi's tower, was... had golden stones all around, and her garden thrived of greens and fruits that couldn't grow on the land. Just as the messenger finished knocking, someone opened the door. He kept his head down, and spoke.

'I'm looking for The Enchantress Lesmixi Bric.'

'And you are?' the voice said.

'Percival Smythe. The royal messenger for Evrazel Sin, my master, and the highest warlock of this land.'

'Messenger Smythe..look up.'

So Smythe was forced to look up, and he saw the Enchantress, her beauty shining from the inside out. Suddenly Smythe was not so scared.

'Smythe? What does your Evrazel want?'

'He needs help.'

'He NEEDS help? MY help? Are you joking?'

'No. Madame enchantress, he has grown weak. And in order to regain his strength, he needs your help.'

'Evrazel is weak?'

'Yes Madame Enchantress.'

Lesmixi was astonished, because up until then, she had thought Evrazel was more powerful than she.

Lesmixi sent Smythe back on his way to the East, and she followed behind him. When she got to the East, it was a lot cooler, but she was filled with excitement when she saw how well he took care of the East. When she approached his tower, Smythe was there waiting for her.

'Madame Enchantress, he's up in his room.'

'Thank you Smythe.'

So she went into the tower, and walked until she found where Evrazel lie. She entered his room, and took a seat at a chair beside his bed. He slowly opened his heavy eyelids.

'Lesmixi.'

'Evrazel, what did you do to yourself?'

'Too much.' He said managing a dry laugh.

Lesmixi took her hand, and put it over his head.

'You are filled with the white light of HIS grace. You are a Star of God. You are surrounded by loving spirits. Great God and all you spirits of love that surround Evrazel Sin, bring him blessings. Be with him, now and forever.' she whispered, chanting a spell wishing him well.

Just when she took her hand away, what felt like a magnet made her hand raise up, and at the same time his hand reached out to meet hers. Their hands heated, and sparked a flame of purple when they touched. They were both mesmerized by it. But she ripped her hand away after a few moments.

'What did you do?'

'Nothing..you took my hand.'

'I did not.'

'Well I didn't move it.'

'Well neither did I..'

After the incident, she left him alone, telling him to get some rest. Before she left, she took one good look at him, and smiled. When she got back to the West, to her tower, she plopped on her bed, and stared at the ceiling. She couldn't get what happened out of her head. She could still feel the burning of the purple flame in her hand and in her blood.

She raced to her library, and looked through book after book. Nothing about purple flames. She tore her library down, until she came across this book that she didn't even know she had. "Violet Flame".

'What a coincidence.' she said to herself.

She opened the book, and a burst of positive energy flowed into her. The purple flame was a rare flame that people don't usually see. It brings Heaven closer to Earth, and it shows this rare connection of desire and mercy and forgiveness. And when two magical beings possess the fire at the same time, their souls are joined forever. She immediately closed the book, not believing what she saw. Without another thought, she created a wormhole into Evrazel's tower. She told him what she read. And he wasn't surprised, because he found the same book on his bed when he woke up again. They didn't understand any of it, but they felt this magnetic, almost spiritual, pull towards each other. And their hands touched. Which then sparked a flame, a violet-purple flame. More powerful and extraordinary than the first.

Months pass, and they contain the land together, they fall deeply in love, and marry. The people of land bare witness to it all. The warlock had two human brothers, and the enchantress a normal sister. These people became the leaders of Westercourt. There were different regions they each controlled. Evrazel and Lesmixi controlled the South East. Lesmixi's sister controlled the North, Evrazel's brother Banon controlled the East; His brother Merlwagnor controlled the South. And a dark force controlled the west. Lesmixi and Evrazel just found out they were expecting a baby when the bad news came.

The rulers of each region, the main four, could see the darkness was spreading. That it was trying to overthrow the kingdoms. So the rulers of the regions changed their names, and named their kingdoms. Evrazel and Lesmixi delivered their baby girl. And so they did something to their daughter so the power was safe. They gave up all of their power, and harnessed it in her. So that one day, she can fix what the darkness was trying to ruin."

"Wow, how long ago was that? Must've been centuries ago? And what happened to the family? To the girl?" I ask after he finishes telling me the story.

"Well, it wasn't that long ago. And they named the Kingdom..Rosewater."

"The founders of Rosewater? WOW!" I say enlightened.

"Do you know their names? Ella?"

"No..who are they?"

"King Asher and Queen Violet."

King Asher, Queen Violet. King Asher, Queen Violet.

Papa..mama? No this can't be..

"No, that can't be...that would mean that I..."

"Yes, Ella. You have the power of the purple flame. You're the savior."

Chapter 13- The Purple Flame

Savior, savior, savior. The only words popping up in my head.

"Uncle, Andy, please tell me Alex is making this up." I say looking from Alex to him.

"I'm afraid not, my dear niece."

"So I have 'The Purple Flame'?"

"Yes, my dear."

"Well I was definitely not expecting that."

"So?"

"So what?"

"Will you do it?"

"Well, Uncle Andy, there's just a slight little problem."

"And what's that?"

"I have no idea what I am supposed to do. I don't know who placed the spell in the first place, I don't know how to undo it. And if I try, Elizabeth is going to kill me."

"Ella. Elizabeth can't hurt you. You are so much stronger than her. And to the question of the spell caster, you don't have ANY POSSIBLE IDEA?"

"Elizabeth?"

"Yes. Elizabeth. Crazy, Psycho, Elizabeth. You can undo

her spell."

"I don't even know how to unlock the flame in the first place."

"It will come in due time. For now, You will be training with Alex."

"T-t-training? You do realize I live in Rosewater, not Bohelia."

He clicks his tongue and taps his finger to his chin.

"You do have a point there. What will we do? Oh, I know..." he says trailing off. He goes to a corner, and grabs an amethyst stone.

"This, will help. It will transport you. Keep it hidden though."

"Yes Uncle."

He hands it to me. At first it feels heavy, but then something about it made it feel like it was barely there. Then I see it happening.

"UNCLE???????" I say almost yelling. Both him and Alex come to my side without a second thought. They see what is happening too. The once giant stone is melting into my hand. It's not like it hurts, it feels weird. But it's going into my hand. And then it stops so just the top sticks out. Not uncomfortably. It's like a costume piece that's very comfortable. Except that the stone is an actual stone, and it's not a costume. It's really in my hand.

"Oh, Lord." Uncle Andy says.

"Uncle Andy...what just happened?"

"I don;t know, my dear." He directed his attention to Alex. "You have any clue?"

"Well, if you remember correctly, the book that Lesmixi was

reading said something about Amethyst and how it goes with the purple flame, Like how it adds extra power to the purple flame."

"That would make sense. And she could help." Uncle Andy says.

"Who can help?" I ask curiously. Not quite knowing where they were going with it.

They both look at me then look at each other and back to me.

Alex speaks up.

"Lesmixi, Ella."

"My mom? Wait will I get to see her?"

"No, Ella. Not yet." Uncle Andy says.

"Why not yet?" I ask.

"Because you have approximately three hours before you have to get up. And it's a three hour flight. And plus you need to gather your information. And you never did give us a definite answer. You still have a lot to think about." Uncle Andy says.

"Your right. How long has it been?" I ask not aware of the time.

"It's four am. We've only been talking for what? An hour?" He clarifies looking from me to Alex.

"One hour indeed." Alex confirms.

"Well when am I gonna be able to come back? There's so much I have to know."

"That's all in your hands my dear." Uncle Andy says.

I smile at that as Alex leads me out.

"Bye Uncle Andy." I say turning around looking at Uncle Andy.

"Don't say Goodbye. I hate goodbyes." he says.

"What shall I say then?"

"Good Day."

"Good Day!" I say smiling walking away.

As we walk away, I feel Alex's soft and warm gaze on me. We approach this room in the castle and he stops.

"This is where you must stop so you can go home."

"What are you talking about?"

"You have the stone, you have your power. Just think of where you want to go. It can be somewhere you are familiar with. If I were you, I'd go home."

He's just about to turn around when I say something completely stupid.

"Will I see you again?"

He turns back towards me and looks at me. He smiles.

"Always. Always Ella."

That makes me smile. He walks to a table and opens a box.

"This-" he pulls out a golden ring with a purple stone in it. "- will be our connection. If you need anything, I'll answer. I'll be here." he says giving me the ring, and showing me his matching one. When I slip it on, I feel like something rushed inside of me. My eyes open wide and I see colors everywhere. Colors that I didn't see before. Then I see him.

His eyes, now are...

"Your eyes...they're purple."

"Your eyes are purple too."

"No...my eyes are grey." I say then turning around looking in a mirror that's hanging on the wall. They're...purple."How is this possible?"

"I don't know. Go home, Ella. Go home, sleep it off."

"Thanks Alex." I say closing my eyes and thinking of my bed. I open them and I'm sitting on it.

OH Elizabeth. Ohh ohh Elizabeth. What did you do?

Chapter 14- The Girl at the Picnic

When I woke up again, it was six in the morning. Good no one is up yet. Maybe I was too harsh on Jake. I should apologize. I pick up the phone and dial Jake's number.

"Hello?" he responds on the other line.

"Hey Jake. It's Ella."

"Oh. Hi Ella."

"Hi. I wanted to apologize for acting like that yesterday."

"It's okay, I shouldn't have acted like that either. "

"Can I treat you to an apology picnic for lunch?"

"I'd like that Ella."

"Okay. Say 10:30?"

"At the lavender grove?"

"Yes."

"Okay. I'll be there."

"Okay. Bye Jake."

"Bye Ella."

And then I hang up. I put on a new dress, not too fancy but not my work dress either. I put my hair in a pony tail, and add some lip gloss. Pretty much being subtle and natural. I pack a basket. Some bread rolls that Lily made, and some roast beef sandwiches. I head out to the market to get a few

extra things.

"Miss Ella. Back so soon?" a voice calls from my left.

"Hi Mr. Tangi. Im here to get a few things for a picnic."

"Well knock yourself out."

"Thanks Mr. Tangi." I say walking towards the aisles.

Hmm Pumpkin Pie might be a nice touch. I mean it is October. Why not?

I am too lost into thought because I crash into someone. I look up. It's a girl who looks quite familiar, but I cannot place where I know her from.

"I am so sorry." I say apologizing.

"Oh, it's okay. Oh. Princess Ella. I am so sorry."

"Ella, please. And no I should apologize. I was distracted."

"It's okay. Hi I'm Lila. What are you doing here?"

"Just to get a few things for lunch."

"Oh? Me too! Me and my boyfriend are having lunch in the lavender grove."

"Really? Me and my fiance are having lunch there too."

"Maybe I'll see you then."

"Maybe."

"Well, if you'll excuse me, I have to be going."

"It's nice to meet you."

"You too Ella."

She moves passed me and I go looking at the shelf again.

My my. What a nice person.

After an hour of looking, I buy two slices of pumpkin pie, a thermos, cheese and crackers, and ribbon, I pay for my items, and Mr. Tangi being Mr. Tangi, gives me the Princess Ella discount...swhich is 70 percent off. When I get back to the castle, I put everything together and go looking for Elizabeth.

"Lily. Have you seen Elizabeth?"

"No Miss Ella."

"It's fine."

I walk away and ask everyone. No one has seen her. Where on earth is that woman. I look through the whole castle. No sign of her anywhere. So I write a quick note explaining where I am going and set off. I pack the sandwiches and the cheese and crackers and everything I bought for this little picnic, and set off.

As I get to the grove, I see Jake's nowhere to be seen. But I do see Lila. SHE's kissing what seems to be her boyfriend. But then she looks up and sees me.

"Hey Ella."

"Hi Lila. Don't let me interrupt you."

"It's okay. If it's fine with me, then it's fine with Jakey-poo."

"Jakey-poo?"

I look at her confused because something seemed familiar about that name.

"Jakey-poo, say hi to my newest friend..." she says to him. So he stood up, and turned around.

I'd recognized that face and scruffy hair anywhere. It's weird that I know his features so well. But it's all there. And he's

there. Mocking my conscious. He even gives me that face, as if he knows that he's been caught.

"JAKE?" I say a little too loudly.

"Hey....Ella..."he says awkwardly.

"Wait you know him?" Lila asks.

"Lila, if you'll excuse me, I need to talk to Jake alone."

"Why? He's my boyfriend."

"Yes, and he's MY fiance."

"No...no he's not. Tell her Jake. Tell her she's wrong." Lila said crying.

"Well..." Jake says awkwardly still.

"No Jakey-poo. Tell me it's not true."

"Well, I didn't ask to be her fiance. You know I do love you Lila."

"If you love me, then you'll tell them that you want me, and not her."she says to Jake, and then looks at me and says, "No offense , Ella."

"None taken,"Then I look at the basket in my hands and say."In fact, here, since you two are already here, take this basket. Enjoy it. I have no need for it, no need for any of it." I give it to them and walk away.

"Thank you Ella. See you around?"

"Always."

Then I turn around and start walking faster. I reach a field full of daisies, and kneel on my knees and start crying. I mean it's not like we were even together. But just the fact that I went through this, apologized, and trusted him, and he

just threw me in the trash like that, it doesn't make me sad, it makes me mad. How dare he do such a thing. How dare he use me like that? That son of a...oh why bother. I can't be bothered by him.

I look at the ring that Alex gave me and smile. How I wish he was here.

"Looking for me?" A voice says behind me.

Chapter 15- An accidental bond

I turn around and there he was.

"Alex. What are you doing here?"

"Well you needed me...so I responded. Are you okay?"

"I'll get there."

He sits down next to me, and starts talking.

"You know, when I was a little boy, my mother told me. 'Son, go somewhere where you feel safe, and let it all out. Just scream it out into the sky, and someone will answer. You'll never be left alone, you'll be surrounded with all the great joys of the world. You'll feel pain beyond compare, but do not let that affect who you really are. Don't look at a person based on what others say about them. Look at them based on what you know of them. And if you don't know them, get to know them. All will turn out all right in the world. You can't lose yourself if that's how you stay. If you fall, pick yourself up. Try again. Don't let others decide who you are in life. And when you feel like crying, let it all out, because it's you telling the world what you are ready to come to realization with things. And with pain comes life. New life. New beginnings. New chances. New bonds.' She said all of this to me on her deathbed."

"Those were very beautiful words she spoke." I say with a smile.

"Yeah, she was very kind hearted and always saw things from a new angle. Like you do."

"Are you saying I remind you of your mother? Haha."

"No the difference is that you have this....thing to you I have never seen in anyone else, it's something that my mother never had."

"Which is?"

"Dreams."

"She never dreamed?"

"No she did. She never had dreams like you do. You don't have to tell me, but I can see it. I can tell you have big dreams."

"I want to find my parents. I want to restore the world. I want to show the world that I can be someone. I want to show Elizabeth that she can't control me, I'm strong. I want to show Jake that..that.."

"Ella, it's okay. You will show everyone who 'Ella' is. You will show yourself. You are powerful, very powerful Ella, you just need to unlock your full potential. And remember, I'm going to help you train. I will help you become who you are. You just gotta believe in yourself."

"You know, earlier, at the meeting, Uncle Andy says my parents are safe for right now...what did he mean?"

"I'll let him tell you that. But for now, you just need to breathe, and find stuff out. Training is at 1 am...be prepared." he says now getting up offering me a smile.

"I will be prepared thanks Alex." He offers me his hand, and then it happens.

I take his hand, and just as our hands touch, I feel a sizzle. Then out from both our hands a purple flame appears.

"Um..you see what I'm seeing, right Alex?"

"And feeling it too."

"How is this-"

"-Possible? I don't know."

"It's purple. The purple flame."

"And it's coming out of both of our hands."

Suddenly the clouds in the sky turned a bubbly purple. And purple just shoots through the whole sky. Then just like that, it is gone.

"Well what's that supposed to mean?" I ask him looking at the sky.

"I don't know. For once, I really don't know." he says just as confused as I am.

I look at our hands. And I see the rings glimmering.

"Maybe it's the rings." I say. He agrees. SO we take them off. That's only thing that changes. That the rings are off. But what's really interesting is that the flame is still there.

"What the hell? This is crazy." he says staring in awe.

"Very crazy."

"We need to talk to your uncle about this."

"That I agree with."

We both pull our hands away at the same..or try to, but they bounce right back. And our fingers lace in each other's. I look at him, I look in his eyes, and I see purple glory. And he's looking back at me just like how I'm looking at him. With something no one has showed me since my parents disappeared. Love, and kindness beyond compare. And then...he blinks. Which makes me blink. Then tears start coming out of our eyes, and we start laughing.

And then I stop. My head is hurting. I try and look at Alex,

but he's fading from view, and everything gets hazy around me. The world is spinning. Faster and faster and faster. And then all I see, is Alex reaching for me, and I hear him yelling my name. And then I fade into blackness.

Chapter 16- Lesmixi

I walk through this mystical woods. The wind speaking my name. Not my literal name. But I can tell it's speaking to me. I feel like Pocahontas, and how she understands what the wind is telling her. I push some plants out of the way, and I see this enchanted land. There was a big daisy field and a lake on either side. Then there stood this magnificent tower. Of Gold and Silver. The sky was bubbly purple like I had seen earlier. I walked up the path and looked at my surroundings. Whoever's house this is...grows luscious fruits and greens, and plants and flowers.

As I made my way up the steps to the tower, I see the brown and golden door is open slightly. I knock, but the door just opens even more. So I step inside. Inside seems even more glorious than the outside. There are books, books, books, every shelf has books.

"Wow." I mutter aloud.

"Extravagant, isn't it?" a voice asks. I can't seem to see who says that. I look in all directions, I can't seem to see anyone.

"Who said that?" I ask confused and curious.

"I'm right here, how can you not see me?" the woman says.

I still look, and still I can't see anyone. I hear her feet shuffle somewhere, and she gasps.

"Omi. That's why. I forgot to undo the spell."

"What spell?" I ask.

In a matter of a few seconds, what was nothing appears to be this beautiful woman. Her flawless beauty and grace that I know perfectly well.

"Mom..?" I say staring at her in shock.

"Mom? Your mom is here?" she asks in confusion.

"You're Lesmixi, right?"

"Yes, that is me."

"And Evrazel is your husband, right?"

"Yes. Have you seen him?"

"No. Sorry. But it's me...Ella."

"Ella? Oh my. You're gorgeous. The last time I saw you, you were seven."

"Yeah. Mom. I've been waiting to see you."

I embrace her in the best hug ever. I let go of her, and we sit down in these chairs she just makes magically appear.

"Ella, how did you get here?"

"Mom so many things are happening. All so fast."

"Ella, tell me."

"Well, I just learned of everything that happened. And there's a curse on Rosewater that Elizabeth put on it. And there's this prince that im supposed to marry so we can join the kingdoms, but he's a total playboy, and he has a girlfriend, and she's so pretty. And at the same time, there's this other prince and he looks like Jake, and like we have this....bond. Like the one that you and dad had."

"WHAT? No....how is that possible?"

"I don't know." I say really confused. Because if she didn't know...how...?

"No...she couldn't have."

"Who? And Couldn't have what?"

My mother looks at me then and says sharply.

"My sister..Lizzie. She wanted everything I had. And she never got it. But I think somehow she got a hold of it."

"Lizzie? Why does that name seem...familiar?"

"Well she owned Joceltia."

"Joceltia..No. No. No no no no no."

"Ella? Darling? Are you alright? What do you mean 'No'?"

"Is Lizzie...Elizabeth?"

"Elizabethal. She hated that name so she went by Lizzie or Beth or Elizabeth."

"Oh dear God."

"What is it darling?"

"She took you...that night."

"Yes. She did...H-h-how did you..know?"

"I saw it. I saw all of it. I witnessed the whole thing."

"Oh..I loved your father so very much. Ronan. Mi corazon."

"Mom? Who's Ronan?"

"Your father."

"I thought...."

"...Evrazel? No. Oh..you don't know the real story...do you?"

"Another story?"

"There's always another story."

"I'm listening..." I say closing my eyes.

Chapter 17- Another story

" Once upon a time there were two towers one in the-" she starts but I cut her off.

"I already know that. I know that Evrazel was weak so you had to go help him and then u guys sparked the purple flame you didn't know what it was, you tore down your library, you found it, you fell in love, you were expecting a baby, and you guys split the land and changed the names of the parts which became different kingdoms. And you guys harnessed ur power in me. That's what I know."

"I was with Evrazel, yes, but he is not your father. There is this part of the land that everyone thought was bad. And this was before I met Evrazel. Well...before I fell in love with him. I went over to where the darkness was. I didn't let it consume me, instead I brought the light into the darkness and it wasn't dark anymore. There I was in touch with the ruler. His name was Ronan. I fell for this man so fast. I loved him. There's a point in my life that I wish I had never left, but I did. It was the worst mistake I ever made.

I found out that I was pregnant a month before I met Evrazel. Ronan was so happy about you too. But he knew what was coming and that what was coming was bad. So he told me to leave and he'd find me when it was time. So I left bawling my face out. And that's when I met Evrazel. And I fell in love with him. And...E-e-evrazel...he loved me, he really really loved me. But he's gone. He was killed. Right in front of my very own eyes. I had married him a few short days before he was killed. And I told him about Ronan. And he said that he didn't care, that didn't matter, all that mattered was that i loved him just as much as he loved me and was going to love you, Ella. A month before hand, sorry

I know I'm back tracking, Lizzie took a dive to the dark side. And she didn't come back. Ten of her soldiers killed Evrazel right before my own eyes.

And so I had no choice. I had to go find Ronan again. And I did. And I told him everything. He was very understanding. And so we just stayed together. And when you were born, Ella, we knew we had to keep you a secret. But the world was turning bad, so we decided that if all else fails, you would be the one to save us. We all changed our names, yes, that is correct. But this is the part that you don't know.

We changed our names, we changed our kingdom names. I was Queen Violet. Ronan, however, was not King. It was unsafe for him to be King. Do you remember in the story, a messenger?"

"Yes. Smythe...correct?"

"Correct. Smythe took a hold as the position of King. He was the...father you knew. But I was never in love with him. I would get angry at him for no reason. I didn't want to wake up next to him every single morning. We were never intimate, which I am glad for, because my heart, my mind, my soul, and my body belongs to Ronan. Only Ronan. Well, my heart belongs to you too Ella. My dear daughter."

"Wait...so if Smythe was King....then..."

"Ronan. He was always there. Doctor Felix. That's who Ronan is. Doctor Felix."

"Doctor Felix? My father?"

"He was always around more than Smythe was. "

" I realize that now. I mean Felix, he was like another father to me. But he's been gone."

"Gone? What do you mean?"

"When I was coming to Bohelia, Prince Alexander picked me up. And the driver, the driver was Doctor Felix."

"Ronan? No. Are you being serious?"

"Yes Mama. Yes." I say crying now. She gets up and holds me and cries with me.

All of a sudden, my body contorts.

"Owww." I yell. My shoulder blades hurt. It feels like something is poking at them...from the inside.

"Mama..what's going on?"

"Yes. They're coming. They're coming."

"What?"

"Your wings. They're coming. Ella. You must wake up now. You must complete the transformation. Complete it, and defeat her. She's no match for you."

"Will I ever see you again?"

Chapter 18- The Wings

"Are you ok?" he asks.

"Yeah. There's so much I have to tell you...but fist...w-w-wait. Where are we?"

"We're in Bohelia. Don't worry your safe."

"So let me get this straight, I faint, so you think it's completely fine to go ahead and kidnap me?"

"Well...I wouldn't put it as harshly as that...but...um..yes."

"Omigosh Alex. You're something else."

"Well, to be honest, if I hadn't then you'd be in A LOT of trouble."

"Oh? Why is that?"

"Well...considering you made this whole new...look in a matter of like thirty minutes, I'd say your sfe here."

"What look?"

"Just the vibrant purple wings that have sprouted from your back, may I add, they are quite soft."

Oh. I almost forgot about those. I go to the nearest mirror and look. I can't believe it. Me? Having wings. They are extraordinary. They look like the cupid wings you see around Valentine's Day. But they're purple. And that's not the only thing that changed.

"My hair....what happened to my hair? It's purple."

"Oh yeah, you say something about your hair, not the fact that you have wings growing out of your back."

"Oh yeah those are cool too. But look at my hair."

"Amazing Ella. Just amazing."

"Well, I have something big to tell you."

"Which is?"

"I saw my mother."

"You mean you dreamt her."

"No...more like a visitation in my head with my eyes closed. I thought it was a dream too, but it wasn't. Because she told me things that I didn't even know."

"Tell me."

Okay so first I walked..." I say getting into the story sitting on a couch he has in the room, as he makes his way to sit next to me.

.....

"Are you serious Ella?"

"I am. This is what I was told."

"So Felix....he's your father."

"Yes. Which would explain the look he gave me."

"What look? When?"

"This morning, when we were getting out of the car."

"I didn't see a look."

"That's because he gave it to me as I was getting out. You were already out."

"Oh. WOW. Ella this is a lot."

" I know. And I'm going to kill Elizabeth."

"With Kindness?"

"But of course...I'm not...Elizabeth. I'm Ella."

"Yes you are."

I smile at that. That's the first time anyone has said that without rolling their eyes.

"So..how do your wings feel?"

I almost forgot about them. But I rolled back my shoulders and felt them untense. Relaxing.

"They're pretty amazing."

"They look amazing."

"That's because they're on me, duh."

"Yeah, you're right."

"I am? You must be joking with me haha."

"I'm actually not Ella."

I blush at this comment. He actually looks...serious.

"Thanks Alex. I just wish I knew how to put these away."

"Maybe you have to shake or move your arms." He says with a serious look still on his face. So I do and he starts laughing.

"Hey. You did that on purpose."

"Maybe so....but you still did it."

"You tricked me."

"Says who?"

"Says me."

"No...really? I wouldn't have guessed."

"Oh shut up."

"Well, you can't lie, you are kind of amused."

"Yes, sir. I do not lie. It was funny."

"Here, Ella let me see if I can find something."

"Okay. Knock yourself out."

"Don't mind if I do." he says getting off the couch and going to a book case. He looks through tons of books while I study him.

What are you hiding Alex. Why are you so compelling. Why am I fa- NO no. Stop Ella. Stop. But Alex...but ELLA NOO.

"Are you okay Ella?" Alex asks which makes me snap out of it.

"Pardon?"

"You look like you and your head are debating.."

"Something like that."

"Well I found this..." he says showing me the book. It states that with wings, you can just feel them close and they will. And when opening them, feel them open and they will.

"So I just...feel it?"

"Yes. Maybe try imagining that they're not there."

"Okay..." I say. Then I close my eyes. I picture my purple cupid wings and I imagine my hands over them causing

them to disappear, and they do. I open my eyes, and feel my back. It's just my normal back. "It worked."

"Now try bringing them back out."

So I imagine my beautiful purple wings once again. And at first nothing seems to work. But then I hear Alex gasp.

"What Alex?"

"You did it."

"I don't think so...I didn't feel anything..."

"Don't believe me? Turn around."

So I do and I see in the mirror my wings are there again.

"Incredible." I say putting my wings away again.

"So are you."

I look at him face to face again, and my heart starts pounding.

I make my way closer to him as he makes his way towards me. He reaches for my hand and take it in his. A bubbly purple flame appears.

"We need to tell Uncle Andy.." I say.

"Yes, we do...but.."

"But?"

He doesn't say anything, he leans in. And I do too. Just as our lips are about to touch, someone opens the door.

A man comes in, out of breath.

"Ella." he says with shock.

Chapter 19- Felix/Ronan

He was tall and had grey eyes. He had straight black hair. He was very muscular, and had a scar on his chin. He was dressed in all black.

"Hi." I say.

"Ella...do you remember me?"

"Yes. You're Doctor Felix. You've been there for me my whole life, really. You're also...Ronan, my father."

"H-how do you know my real name?"

"Mama told me."

"You've seen Lesmixi?"

"I just saw her. More in a sleep-like state, but she told me soo much."

"She was sleeping?"

"No..I was. I wasn't sleeping...I just wasn't...not sleeping."

"Okay...so she told you."

"She told me a lot. You have to be more specific."

"What you are."

"What I am?"

"So she didn't."

"Ronan...please, tell me."

"No. I'm sure you've heard quite a bit of stories today."

"I don't mind another one."

"I'd like to hear it too." Alex says.

"Okay then. Where shall I start?"

"How about on the couch." I say trying to make it a joke. It is successful because they both laughed.

"Well, Ella. Let me tell you this story."

"I'm listening." I say closing my eyes.

Chapter 20- The Prophecy

"Lesmixi came to find me. I told her not to. That it'd be too dangerous. But she came anyway. And I'm glad. My beautiful love, and my beautiful daughter were safe. And then you were born. Not a regular child though. You have all kinds of magic in your blood, Ella. Lesmixi was an enchantress but also a dhampir. I am a warlock and a vampire. I know I don't know how it happened, but here I am. And we were blessed with such an extraordinary power, that we put it inside of you so that you could save us. You have angel blood in you."

"Well..what's a Dampir?"

"Dhampir. And it's like a female Vampire."

"Wait...so am I hearing this correctly? I'm pretty much a vampire witch angel."

"Given the circumstances..yes, I suppose so."

"No. This defies everything."

"Ella? WHat do you mean?"

"I mean, father, that there is no way that could happen. No possible way."

"Ella, I'm not understanding."

"Well, everyone knows that a vampire and like witches and warlocks and all those creatures, are downworlders. And an angel, well is on God's side. How...what..this doesn't add up."

"Yes my dear, but it is there."

"How do you even know it's supposed to be me."

"Because my dear, the prophecy says so."

"What prophecy?"

I look at Alex to see if he knows anything, he shakes his head.

"No one told you?"

"No, no one told me. I barely learned of the purple flame this morning."

"Well, I can't remember off the top of my head, but it was saying this..

'A land divided into five

Destroyed by each other

Comes a child alive

Who will save her people, father and mother

Born of two magical beings

And possessing such power

She brings peace and love as bearings

To defeat the woman in the tower

And to the land restore

Everything to its former glory

For evermore

And rewrite history'

I guess I did remember it. Haha." he says

"That's pretty...cheesy."

"Yes, well there you have it."

"Wait...who's the woman in the tower...?"

"Really Ella? It's Lizzie.."

"Of course it is. Why am I not surprised."

"So how do I defeat her?"

"Ella. Look around. Look at who you are. You will defeat her...by being you."

"How has that ever defeated anyone before?"

"Ella. You need to realize that no one can defeat you. Because you're special Ella. As long as you stay yourself, and don't turn to the dark side, you'll be just fine."

"You act like I have all the light inside of me.."

"But you do...Ella you harness so much light and power and goodness that other can only *Wish* to possess. Forget the prophecy, fulfill your own prophecy."

"What about joining the kingdoms?"

"That will come into play later."

I look at Alex and he gives me this warm smile that just melts my heart. I look down and I see he's holding my hand.

"What do I do first?"

"That's my Gabriella."

"What?"

"Gabriella. Ella."

"That's my actual name?"

"Lesmixi and I agreed upon it, yes. But we decided to call you Ella for short."

"What's my actual name, Ronan?"

"Gabriella Violet Bric."

"That's such a beautiful name." Alex says. I 100% agree.

"So? What are we waiting for?" I ask.

"Well...go back to Rosewater. Figure out what you're going to do. I'll be here when you figure it out."

"Thanks...father." I say with a smile.

"I'll leave you too it." He says turning around. Before he reaches the door, I run to give him a hug, Then he leaves Alex and I alone in the room.

"So.."

"So...Gabriella is it?"

"It's Ella. you stupid idiot."

"Oh. I do believe thta was the first time that you called me an idiot. Bravo bravissimo."

"Okay weirdo. I'll see you soon."

"Okay Ella, take care."

I'm about to close my eyes, when I stop and give him a kiss on the cheek.

"Bye Alex." I say then I close my eyes.

Chapter 21- The Plan

I opened my eyes, and I was in the kitchen. Thankfully no one saw me so I was good. I walked up the stairs, and I saw Lily.

"Hey Lily. Has Elizabeth come back yet?"

"No Ma'am. She actually just called though. You have a message."

"Okay thank you Lily, you're the best."

"Of course Ella."

So I continued walking until I got to my room. I picked up the phone, and saw a message from Elizabeth.

'Ella. I am in Joceltia right now, taking care of some business, so I won't be back until tomorrow. Make sure the castle is in tip-top shape for when I get back. Oh, and I heard about the whole Jake thing. It's not about love anyway..I mean unless you want me to marry him. Either way, the joining is happening, one way or another.'

"Great Thanks Elizabeth." I say out loud.

So I start my investigation. Where it makes the most sense. Elizabeth's bedroom.

Her suite is at the end of the hallway on the east side. Her room is a matte brown shade, very disgusting. Reminds me of feces. Eww. There is a lot of jewelry, and stuff she most likely never thought to look at twice. Her room isn't messy, how can it be, it's always getting cleaned. I look in a drawer in her nightstand. There is a phone. Her phone...but her old

one. *Hmm I wonder if I can find anything useful on here..*"
So I turn it on.

At first I don't see anything out of the ordinary, then I go in the messages. That's where I see it.

.....

Jakey Poo, we sure got her didn't we?

Yes my love, we sure did.

She fell into our trap. Now we really can be together.

I never even saw myself with Ella.

You're too good for her.

Yes, my dear, you're quite right.

She can't claim the throne.

What're you going to do about it?"

You mean we? What're we going to do about it?

Yes my love.

We're going to kill her.

When?

When she least expects it.

I don't have marry her, right?

No my love, you will marry me.

Now that, my dearest Lizzie, that I can agree on.

Well, I must be going, I have some business in Joceltia.

Okay my love.

Bye Jakey-poo

I love you Lizzie.

I love you too Jake

.....

And that was the end of the conversation. *Oh Elizabeth, or should I say, Lizzie, plotting to kill me. Not a good idea. Not a good idea whatsoever. You will be defeated. You will be **defeated.***

Chapter 22- A new plan

The next day when I wake up, I hear a knocking at my door.

"Come in." I say.

And the figure enters. It's Elizabeth.

"Ella. I'm back."

"I can see that ma'am. How was Joceltia?"

"Like all else. Wonderful." She exclaims.

"Well someone is in a good mood."

"Well, yes. I am. I have news."

"News? What news?" I ask not convinced of her happiness.

"Well, look, I know things are hard for you. But sometimes, life doesn't work out the way you want it to."

"Meaning?"

"Good news and bad news. But then again your bad news is my good news. Lovely how the world works, right?"

"Elizabeth, what is the news."

"Haha. Okay Ella. The good news is that I am not forcing you to marry Jake anymore. The bad news Jake doesn't even want to be with you. But that's good news for me, because..."

"Because..."

"Oh Ella, I know you wanted to be with him, but I can't let that happen. Me and Jake, we're in love. You can't deny the heart. We are getting married."

Just as she says that I drink some water. But spit it out upon hearing the word of marriage.

"M-m-married?"

"Yes married."

"O-o-oh. Congratulations Elizabeth. If you're happy, then I'm happy."

"I am very happy. Very very happy." She says giving me her not exactly icy cold, but getting there stare.

"Well have fun with Jake." I say in a not so motivated voice.

"Oh Come on Ella, don't be so boring."

"Sorry Elizabeth. I have a lot to do today."

"Understandable, but not tomorrow. You are planning MY WEDDING."

"I am planning it? The WHOLE thing?"

"Yes. Is that too much for little Ella?" she asks putting her lip out.

"No Elizabeth. It's fine."

"Well then, I'll leave you to it."

"Okay."

She turns around, gets to the door, and turns back.

"Oh, Ella?"

"Yes Elizabeth?" I respond with a smile.

"Don't go in my room.."

"Well I had to.."

"Why?"

"You told me to keep the place clean, so I went to check your room."

"Yes, Ella, but you forgot to close my drawer. If you're going to be snooping, at least close the drawers."

Then she turns her back on me and exits my room.

GREAT Ella. GREAT.

Chapter 23- The Kiss...finally

As soon as she left, I made my leave too. Back to Bohelia, back to Alex. I closed my eyes, and when I opened them, I sat on the couch that I sat on when I learned my true identity just 12 hours before.

I see Alex standing by a bookcase, lost in thought.

"Nice book." I say aloud.

He jumps, and then looks in my direction. He puts the book down, and walks towards me.

"Ella. You're back."

"Yeah, I have news."

"When don't you?"

"True, but it's bad news."

"Tell me."

"No. I need everyone here. Call Ronan, and Uncle Andy. Quickly." I say, and he does.

I close my eyes wondering if i can get in touch with Mama again.

I open and I'm back in her tower.

"Mama? Are you here?"

"Ella. I'm always here." She says coming from another room. She walks out and she greets me with a hug.

"Mama....something really important is going on. I need you in the world right now.."

"Ella. You know I can't do that."

"Not even for ten minutes?"

"I mean I could but it'd just be a projection."

"A projection is good enough."

"Okay, tell me what the room looks like."

"It's brown and purple, it has a massive library, and black velvet couch, and a little bar off to the side."

"Okay I got it. I see you sleeping...Wake up!"

"Yes Mama."

And so I close my eyes, yet again, and I open them to see Alex's gaping mouth.

"Alex?"

"I-i-is that.."

"Lesmixi, my mother. Yes. A projection."

"How'd she know?"

"I just told her..."

"She's..real?"

"Of course I'm real. Just not..here."

"Where are you?"

"Nonsense child, lets get this conversation going."

Just as she says that, the door opens and Uncle Andy and Ronan come walking through.

"Yes, my dear Ella?" he says staring down, and then looking up.

"I point behind me and both Uncle Andy and Ronan stare in awe."

"Is that my..." Ronan starts.

"Ronan!" Mama says. Even through the projection you can see her crying.

"My dear Lesmixi."

"Lesmixi, beautiful as always."

"Thank you Andrew. You're not so bad yourself."

"SO.." I say breaking the excitement.

"Sorry.." Uncle Andrew says.

"Sorry Ella." Ronan says.

"Go on Ella." Mama says.

"What's the news?" Alex asks.

"It's bad news, definitely. I went home yesterday, and I went looking through Lizzie's room, and I found nothing. But I went inside her dresser drawer, and found her old phone..that she still uses. And you know how I was supposed to be getting married To Prince Jake? Well..not anymore haha. Apparently, Lizzie is going to marry Jake. Jake never wanted to be with me in the first place, that son of a b-" Ronan cut me off.

"Ella.."

"Ugh. Fine. That idiot. Anyway. they are getting married, so that I never obtain the throne. And they are both planning to kinda sorta...maybe..possibly...most definitely...abolish..me."

I hear Mama gasp.

"Ella...don't tell me that you actually mean.."

"Yes Mama."

"No you can't mean that.."

"Yes Uncle Andy, I do."

"But there is no way that.."

"Yes Ronan, yes."

"But you won't let her.."

"Alex, of course I won't. She's hated me since the day she met me. What makes you think I'm going to let her kill me."

Everyone smiles at that. And they all say at the same time, which really scares me.

"That's my Ella."

"Since when was this a cult?" I ask.

Everyone starts laughing.

"Well? What do we do about it?"

"Ella. Stay Alive. I must go now, my time is up, but whatever you do...don't let Lizzie win."

"Never."

And Mama disappears leaving Alex, Ronan, Uncle Andy, and I alone in the room.

"Let me go do some research for a bit." Uncle Andy says. "I'll meet you guys back here in two hours."

"Sounds like a plan. I think I'll do the same." Ronan says.

"See you guys in a little while."

And it's just me and Alex left alone in the room.

I look at him, and he looks at me. I make my way to him like I did last time.

"Hi." I say.

"Ella.."

"Yes?"

"Don't talk.."

Then his lips brush mine. They are soft and sweet. And it's something that makes me feel like I'm in a Nicholas Sparks book. There's actually a spark. A literal spark because I can feel it in our hands.

I pull away smiling.

"SO Mr. Alex. I have two questions.."

"Fire away."

" Why'd you kiss me, we've known each other for what a day and half?"

" Well...I can't keep my feelings inside."

"Neither can I."

"Second question..."

" Would you do it again?"

"I most definitely would."

And so he kisses me again. But this time the door burst open.

"FINALLLY."

Chapter 24- The Twin Princes

We pull away, and turn to see who came through the door.
Ronan and Uncle Andy.

"We've been waiting.." Ronan says.

"For what?" I ask.

"You just found it Ella." Uncle Andrew says.

"What?"

"Ella, my darling, your power...it's fully unlocked." Ronan says.

"What do you mean?"

"We saw it Ella, Me and Andrew."

"Saw..the kiss?"

"Nooo..I mean, yes that too, but it's what happened."

"What happened?"

"Ella, you guys sparked a massive flame."

"Really?" Alex and I ask at the same time.

"Yes. And Ella, your wings came out. Your hair turned purple. It's still purple."

I touch my head, and look in the mirror behind us...he's right..it is purple.

"Oh my." I close my eyes and try to imagine my beautiful

black hair, but it doesn't work. It won't work.

"Ella?" Alex asks.

"It's staying purple..."

"Yes. Ella. You've unlocked your full power. That's how it should stay." Ronan says.

"No. No. Elizabeth is going to think.."

"Let her. Be you Ella." He says again.

"You're right. It's time to show the world who..Ella is."

"That's the spirit, my dear niece." Uncle Andy says.

.....

Weeks pass and I show off my purple hair. When Elizabeth first sees at it, she gawks at it. But she shrugs it off saying it'll come out eventually.

No it won't Elizabeth, no it won't. Whenever I see Jake, he stares at me in awe, but I pretend not to see him. He isn't worth my time. The wedding is happening in the courtyard. The reception in the dining halls. And I am the bridesmaid and wedding planner. Yeah that's right....not maid of honor, but bridesmaid. That's what she wants, so who am I to deny that.

It's the day before the wedding, and I see Jake walk towards me. I try walking the other way, but he calls my name.

"Ella...wait up."

"Yes Jakey-Poo?"

"How'd you..."

"I'm not stupid. I know how to put a puzzle together."

"Oh. Well I never said you were dumb."

"You didn't have to. I already knew."

"Of course you did. You always know."

"What're you trying to do Jake?" I say in an annoyed tone.

"Ella. I can't marry Elizabeth. Let's run away." He suggests ecstatic.

"Oh yes. Let me just grab Lucky, my unicorn and we'll be off." I say sarcastically.

"You have a unicorn? Wow. Well go grab it." He asks amazed.

"Jackson, what is wrong with you. You're getting married tomorrow. Snap out of it" I snarl.

"Ella. I want to be with you." He whimpers.

"You should've said that a few weeks ago."

"Ella you're so stuck up."

"Yeah? Well how about you? And you aren't?"

"At least I-" He stops because he looks up.

"Because you what?"

"Holy Guacamole." He says walking passed me. I turn to see what he's looking at. Or should I say..who.

"Alex?" I ask with a smile.

"Hey Elle." he says with a smile when he sees me.

I run and give him a hug.

"Heyyy Thank you for coming."

"Of course Ella. Is this guy bothering you?"

"It's fine. Alex. This is Jake. Jake, this is Prince Alexander."

"What do you know...he does look like my twin."

"I mean I am quite charming." Jake says.

"Sure you are You're like my dumb, special needs twin brother."

I can't help bt laugh at that.

"Ella, tell this guy to go away."

"No. Jake, Alex is my date to the wedding."

"No. You can't end up with HIM."

"And why not?"

Because w-w-w-well because.."

"Jake you're getting married to my step mother....don't talk to me like that."

"I don't know why I agreed."

"Just admit it Jake. You're actually in love with Elizabeth."

"No..."

"I hate liars. Stop it."

"He doesn't deserve you...I do."

"Well that's not your decision to make."

"Ella lat's go." Alex says. So I follow him. And leave Jake ther pondering the mistake he made when choosing Elizabeth over me.

Chapter 25- The Last Plan

I take Alex to my secret garden. And we start talking.

"Beautiful Garden."

"It was my mother's, but I've tended to it ever since she disappeared."

"It's thriving."

"Yes. You know, the last time I was in here, Jake was here...and he had this phobia..."

"Of?"

"Flowers."

"Flowers...really?" He starts laughing. "I have pediophobia."

"I think a lot of people do."

"Do you?"

"No. I have sedatephobia."

"What's that?"

"The fear of too much silence. It makes me feel alone."

"Oh Ella."

"Alex?"

"Yes?"

"Can you help me? I want to escape."

"What about the prophecy?"

"I need time. I need to be stronger."

"Then Yes I'll help you. What's the plan?"

.....

"You got it?" I ask thirty minutes later.

"Yes. We'll succeed."

SO the plan is right after they say their I do's, I make my escape, and we leave Rosewater.

But I know Elizabeth, she always has a trick up her sleeve.

"Whatever happens, Ella, I'll be there by your side."

"Thanks Alex."

"Don't think me yet. Our journey is just beginning."

"OUR journey?"

"Well yes. I can't let you be in this alone. You have to have a strong guy like me by your side."

"Oh Alex."

"I'm serious Ella."

"I know you are." I say and stand up and take his hands in mine.

"Miss Ella?"

"Let's dance." I say with a smile, and just like that we're dancing.

Chapter 26- The Wedding

She floats down the aisle with dignity and pride. I don't see the possibility of it, but it's there. The entire courtyard is filled with people. I spot Alex on the other side of the alter. He gives me a wink. When Elizabeth gets to the alter, she hands her flowers to me. And I take them. Just watching this wedding, makes me want to cry, because I'm extremely happy for her, even if she is trying to kill me.

"Do you Elizabeth Del Martel take Prince Jackson of Langdon as your lawfully wedded husband to have and to hold til death do you part?" The priest asks.

"I do."

"And do you Prince Jackson take Elizabeth Del Martel as your lawfully wedded wife. To have and to hold til death do you part?"

"I do."

"I know pronounce you man and wife, you may now kiss the bride."

And so they kiss. Jake holds her like he'd hold a delicate flower. Maybe that's what she is to him. A flower. They turn to the crowd and make their way down the aisle and into the reception hall.

I give Alex the signal, and he winks.

"Oh Ella, I need to talk to you." Elizabeth says suddenly.

"Oh? Well you don't want to keep Your mother waiting."

"My mother?"

"Yes, she's right behind you, I need to check on the snacks. I'll return."

"Okay...Hey Momma." Elizabeth says dazed but turning her attention to her mom.

Then i dive for it. I walk out of the door while people were coming in. I make it to the gate when I see Alex. He grabs my hand and we run. We run so fast we're out of breath when we get to the woods.

"We did it Alex."

"Yes we did."

Then he kisses me, and I forget all about my breath running out. It's like he powers me.

Just as we pull away, I hear a noise.

"Ella, I'm here."

I turn around to face the creature.

"Long time no see..." I say.

Epilogue

And that's that story guys. What? More? Sorry That's it. I know, but Ella she followed her heart. She saw what was needed in the world, and that was to be herself. I'll tell you this. She did make a difference. The other story, is a story for another time. This was just Her...Becoming Ella. I bet you, she's out there telling her story right now. Saving the world too.

We're almost back from the tour, there isn't enough time to tell you the rest. How about this. Come back tomorrow, and maybe I'll tell you. I have to go now. Thank you for listening.

"Hey you're off duty,"

"Oh, thanks Sandra."

"No problem Ella, say hi to Alex for me?"

"Sure thing." I say. I look back at the crowd, and see the shock on their faces. "Fine. I'm Ella. I'll be going now." And I open my purple wings and disappear.