

Love to live

"Where am I?"

"Yeah, about that..."

"Wow... Are you an angel? Am I in heaven? Wait... Am I dead?!"

"Yeah, so... about your death... We may have made a mistake..."

"Mistake... Mistake?! You think ending my life is a mistake?!"

"Calm down! We want to compensate!"

"Oh really? How?"

"You know how each person has a certain amount of years they'll live?"

"I guess, yeah."

"We'll give you a new amount of years, way more than you originally had, and send you to a new, really cool world where you'll be able to live the best life possible."

"Okay...?"

"But! One condition."

"What's that?"

"You have to make at least one person love you, and you have to love them too. Within a year. If not, you'll die again."

"Huh?! Wait a minu-!"

"Goodbye! Good luck!"

With that, I'm sent flying down and find myself in a shabby room, scrubbing the floor. Am I a maid? I quickly take a look at myself in the mirror and do a double take. Yeah, I'm still a little kid, and yes, I don't look my best with my tattered clothes and all, but I'd look beautiful if I grew up a bit and cleaned up. Look at my hair and eyes!

Elinora Ines(grown up) ↓



Long brown hair

Jewel like violet eyes

Wait, what am I thinking?! Angel guy! What the heck is this situation?! Is this what you call "a new, really cool world where I'll be able to live the best life possible"?! This is your definition of best life? Scrubbing the floor like a maid?! Even my past life you ended was better than this! That's when I feel a presence behind me. I turn around to see a super good looking guy who also looks really rich.

"Hello?"

"I guess it's you."

"?!"

And then, the guy brings me to his mansion. I later learn he's Duke Ines, a powerful and influential family who's on par with the royals. And I... am his long lost daughter. Apparently. Not sure. He heard some random rumor that some orphanage had a kid with violet eyes, which is a distinctive characteristic of his family. Not all members of his family have violet eyes, but all people who had these eyes of mine were from the Ines family line. So, rumors began circulating that the Duke abandoned his own daughter at an orphanage. Not good. So, he went to pick up this supposed daughter of his he never even knew about. Oh, and he named me Elinora, so yeah. My name's Elinora Ines. Elinora... Well, he cared about me enough to give me a name, and a pretty one at that, which is most likely a good sign.

- A week later

Ah... I'm so bored! There's nothing to do! My life is better now, guaranteed, but how am I supposed to love someone or get someone to love me if no one is here but

me?! Even my dad is always somewhere else like the imperial palace, never home! That's when I remember something I heard the maids talking about. The 2 young masters! And they call me the "youngest lady", so that must mean I have 2 older brothers! Even if dad's not here, my brothers must be here, right? I start exploring, trying to find my brothers, when I hear a loud noise coming from the library. What is it? I quietly step inside and take a peek at the situation. Isn't that... the eldest child of Duke Ines, Cassiel...?! Long, pale blond hair tied up into a low ponytail with 2 strands left loose to frame both sides of his face, with silver rimmed glasses over his golden eyes. But... Why is that maid being so rude? You should never treat anyone like that, let alone someone you're supposed to serve... Did she... just throw scalding hot tea at him?! I wish there was a way I could prevent it... I squeeze my eyes shut, not wanting to see, hoping the tea wouldn't hurt him by a random, miraculous stroke of luck. However... I don't hear anything... Then, I hear Cassiel's voice.

"Oh? A forcefield..."

He then looks no, kind of glares at the maid who threw the tea at him.

"Leave."

"Excuse me?!"

"Do I have to repeat myself? Leave."

When he says that last word, his eyes glow and he takes on a dangerous air. She, that is, the maid, gets scared and practically runs away. Cassiel closes his eyes and takes a deep breath, returning to his calm self. Oh, and the purple forcefield or whatever he called it disappeared.

"You can come out now, little girl~"

My eyes widen, surprised.

"Were you surprised? Scared, maybe?"

I peek out from behind a bookshelf to see him staring right at me, beckoning to me.

"Hmm... I'd hate to force you."

He winds a loose strand of his hair around his finger, looking conflicted.

"Fine. If you insist you don't want to come near me, I'll talk to you from here. You can hear me from there, right?"

"No, no! That's not it!"

He covers his mouth with his hand and laughs a little.

"Really? Then come closer so I can see your face clearer."

I slowly walk over to him and curtsy.

"I greet the first young master of Ines."

"Raise your head, little girl. I told you I want to see your face, no?"

He gently tilts my head up with his hand as he talks and leans closer to me, his platinum blond hair tickling my cheek.

"You'll have to forgive me for my lack of a proper greeting. I can't really stand, as you can see. Still, it's a welcome change to see someone look upwards instead of downwards when they talk to me."

Cassiel's in a wheelchair... Is he disabled? So... Is that why the maid looked down on him...? Now that I think about it, some maids whispered about how annoying it is to serve master Cassiel. However, that's still no reason to be rude to him!

"Shall I make it a little easier for you?"

What does he mean...? My question is quickly answered when he picks me up and sits me down on his lap.

"You're so small though. Are you sure you're Ines's one and only princess?"

"I was adopted... So... I don't know if I am an Ines or not..."

"Really? Ah, what should I do then? I've already accepted you as my little sister the minute you came to our mansion. And... It'd really be a shame to see such a talented mage leave. Especially so young."

"... Me?"

"Would I talk about anyone else?"

"But... Mage? I'm not a mage."

His eyes crease, sparkling with mirth.

"Oh, my. It seems you weren't aware. You remember that forcefield, right?"

"That sparkly purple barrier thing?"

"Yes, that."

I nod.

"Well, that was your doing."

I just stare at him. He sighs lightly.

"Ah, it seems my little sister doesn't believe me. Let me show you."

He adjusts my position and puts one hand on my back, securing my position. He waves his free hand in the air, creating a glowing orb of golden light.

"Now, little sister. Would you tell me what the color of this orb looks like?"

Gold... I look up at his face and immediately know my answer.

"It looks like your eyes."

"Indeed. The color of a person's magic reflects their eye color. As a result, mine's gold. Now, your eyes are the only pair that's such a distinctive color, violet. So, that means that forcefield must be yours. I must admit, I'm surprised though. I thought I'd see you tomorrow at dinner."

"Dinner?"

"Nobody told you? Well, father is nearly never home, although he's trying to make some effort, I suppose. You'll meet the rest of your family, including your other older brother, tomorrow, at dinner. Naturally, father will be present as well."

"What about mama?"

"Mother? I'm really not sure. It was a contract marriage. The relationship between our parents was anything but affectionate. I assume she's somewhere in the empire? If I'm being honest, I don't really care. She always saw me as a disgrace anyway. No, what I'm concerned about is why you were left in the orphanage. If mother knew

she was pregnant, couldn't she have returned? But father never wanted a daughter, so maybe she thought he'd kill you if he knew?"

"H- He's going to kill me?!"

"What? No, no. You are his daughter after all. Trust me, he has no intentions of harming you nor abandoning you."

"Lady Elinora! Where are you?!"

"Ah, that's my maid!"

"And I guess that's your cue to go? Goodbye... Elinora, was it? See you tomorrow evening, little sister."

He sets me down again and waves at me, smiling gently.

"Bye bye, brother! I love you~!"

- Cassiel's POV

Slap

"You... You monster!"

"You're no child of mine! How can my own child be disabled?!"

"You are a disgrace to our family."

I've faced nothing but disdain and disgust since I was little. Concepts like love, happiness, and praise were unfamiliar to me. I could do nothing but watch from the sidelines as my little brother, Calian, basked in the love of our parents. I didn't resent Calian for it though. I may have been envious of him, but I've never felt resentment. He was the only one who was constantly here, so how could I without feeling like every moment in this mansion was the embodiment of a nightmare? Still, I wanted to know what it'd be like. In an effort to earn that love I so desired, I researched magic and self taught myself all sorts of spells. As time went on, I grew proficient at it and became known as a genius magician, but was still unable to achieve what I wanted. I wished to fix myself. I thought that if I fixed my legs, everything would be solved. However, no matter how much I tried, I was unable to master healing magic. So, I accepted the fact that I would never be loved and pretended. Retaining the image of a kind, intelligent young magician with a bright and happy personality. I was always smiling, but it was all a lie. A mask to hide what I actually felt. It was the same everyday. Some might say it's difficult to act wi

th a mask on at all times. For me, it's simply routine. It wasn't just my family either. Even the maids and servants hated being called by me because my requests were "troublesome" and "annoying". I disagree with their opinions though. The most I ever asked was for them to bring me some tea or carry my meal up to my room if I didn't feel like wheeling myself down the stairs to join my family for dinner. Not that father ever makes an appearance. It's generally just me and my little brother. Of course, even requests like that automatically become annoying if I make them for some reason. I saw Calian ask the same thing and the maids seemed perfectly fine with it then. Whatever. It's better not to fight it and just bear it. Although... I never expected to be burned by tea because of a maid... I wait for the sizzling hot impact, but a shimmering purple forcefield blocks, no, neutralizes the tea. It basically made the tea disappear into thin air. That's... strange. Nobody's magic is that color. I reach out and gently touch it. It's... warm... and... kind. This is... the first time I've felt anything like this. The person who made this forcefield, or rather, this person had such a strong desire to protect me from harm that they accidentally made a forcefield. It's very easy to tell if a forcefield is intentional or not. If it's intentional, it has form. Flat forcefields usually have a rectangular shape as the most common, while 3 dimensional ones usually have a dome shape. It also holds for at least a few seconds after dealing with the threat. However, this forcefield was unintentional. Extremely so. I wouldn't be surprised if it was their first attempt. First of all, it had no form whatsoever. It literally blocked only the tea. It was basically a shapeless blob. Also, it disappeared after the tea, in this case the threat, ahh... It disappeared right after neutralizing the tea. Even so... I was so happy. Someone cared enough to protect me. But, first things first. Let's get that maid to leave. How easy. Human nature is such a strange thing. She knows my proficiency in magic, yet still throws tea at me. But the second I use a little magic, magic that didn't even touch her, she runs away. Anyway, let's find my protector using the remainder of the magic that's left in the air. Oh? She's hiding behind a bookshelf. How cute~!

"You can come out now, little girl~"

She seems surprised that I knew. Or... did I scare her? I didn't mean to though.

"Were you surprised? Scared, maybe?"

She doesn't move. Is she shy? Well, I don't want to force her, nor do I have the energy to spare, so I just tell her to listen from the spot she's hiding at. She grows flustered, saying it's not that she doesn't want to come near me. I intended it, really. She's a nice girl, so any implication of her being something other than that would make her do whatever I asked her to do out of guilt. She curtsies to me respectfully. I know she's new, but she's still my little sister. No need to be so formal. But... I like it in a way. Nobody greets me like that, regardless of wheth

er they should or not. I don't mind father, Calian, or the royals calling me casually, but it's really irritating seeing like... say, a baron's family do that. Although, she has nothing to fear. She can call me whatever she wants. I tell her to lift her head as I wanted to see her face. I tilt her head upwards a little by cupping her chin. As expected... Look at those stunning violet eyes. They're so pure and bright they sparkle like stars. On another note, it's a new feeling to have someone look up, not down when they talk to me, as even Calian is taller than me if he stands. I should make it a bit easier for her to talk. She's only around... 6 at most, but I can't help but think she's so tiny. Even if you give me a pass, Ines is known as the ruler of the North. Father is known as the hero of the battlefield, and Calian is already making a name for himself among the empire's soldiers. I get a pass because of my legs, but even I have magic power that can easily wipe out at least a few dozen with a snap of my fingers. Is this small child really the princess of Ines, the only daughter of father? When I voice this, she says she was adopted, so maybe she's not his biological daughter. She is though. I checked just now. Besides, I don't want to give her away even if she's not my sister by blood. After all, she has magic. Ah, she didn't know? I shift her position so she can see my visual presentation of magic better and give her a very simplified explanation of magic, hereby proving that purple forcefield is indeed, her doing. She seems so fascinated, her already jewel like eyes sparkling more by the minute. I am pleased to see her, but didn't expect to meet her today. She just stayed in her room ever since she came here, so I thought she was timid and shy. I thought I'd only meet her when father would introduce her to us at dinner tomorrow. It's been weeks since he's been present, but... tomorrow's special, so he'll be there, right? Until I find out she had no idea. But I don't want her to think ill of her father who is technically her savior, so I tell a kind lie. We talk some more until a maid comes to find her. I set her down and wave to her. She runs off, but turns at the last minute.

"Bye bye, brother! I love you~!"

She says that with the brightest, most innocent, and purest smile I've seen, before getting found and dragged off by her maid. I love you... I've... never heard those words before in my life. I feel tears gathering in my eyes. Ah... What is wrong with me? It's just 3 words strung together. I love you... To be honest, I don't know how to respond. In books, characters always say "I love you" to each other. But... If I were to say that to you, it'd be a lie. I... have never been loved, so I don't know how to love. I've lied over a thousand times. My whole life is practically a lie. However... I don't want to lie to you. This is the first time this has happened, I feel so strange... But I don't dislike it. Rather, it's the opposite. Elinora? Let me make a promise to you. One of these days, I will say "I love you."

sincerely, with all my heart. So, please wait until then. I will reciprocate how you feel no matter what.

"Brother!"

"Oh, Lian."

"Who's that girl?"

"Weren't you already awa- Ah, wait. You were probably too busy training. That girl is our new little sister, Ines's princess."

"Sister?! But she's so tiny!"

"So? Are you perhaps implying my magic was wrong? I checked. She's father's biological daughter without a doubt."

"No, I'm not saying you're wrong, it's just... Ugh, whatever! This is annoying."

"I'm sorry, did you just say our sister's annoying?"

"Well, yeah, sort o- Geez, calm down! Why are you so sensitive when it comes to her? The slightest bit of criticism sets you off?"

"Yes. So don't you ever slight her. I'm sure you'll understand her charm in no time."

"Yeah, yeah. I'm sure she's got charm seeing as she won you over so quick. Geez, it's been years and you're still so cold to me, but you love her immediately?"

"No, it's not that. Now, if you'll excuse me."

It may not be that I love her, but I want to. I wish I could say yes, but I want to stay as truthful as I can towards how I feel about her, which is why I answered like that.

"Huh? Wait, where are you going?!"

"I'm tired, so I'm going back to my room."

"Wait, at least let me take you there!"

"Lian. I really don't mean to scold you, nor do I mean to sound cruel, but it's really best if you don't help. Actually, you're helping by not helping. You've helped

d me a total of 3 times, and you broke my wheelchair, lost your grip and very nearly got me seriously injured, and damaged the wheels of my wheelchair. I assure you I'm fine on my own. Now, I have to go."

Lian is trying, I know, but his effort often does more harm than help. Maybe I should ask for a ramp to be installed. I can just use magic to float myself up, but it often uses up a lot of my energy. Using magic on inanimate objects like my chair is fine, but living things are far more difficult. Wheeling myself down the stairs are fine, although time consuming as I have to hold on to the railing every time my chair goes down one step so I don't go crashing down the stairs and lose even more mobility. However, my magic replenishes itself quickly, so I'd rather use it than let Lian help and causes another accident involving heaven knows what. Most likely damaging my chair again. The wood splinters if he grips it too hard, and not because the chair's fragile. Lian just had superhuman strength since birth. I think that's actually why Ellie's been confined to her room. We can't have him accidentally hurting her, now can we? Well, they'll meet soon enough. I wonder how they'll react when they do. Ellie is so sweet and adorable, so I hope Lian tries his best not to scare her.

- At dinner

"Where's Elinora?"

"Would you like me to go find her, father?"

"Cassiel...? I don't remember you normally being this forward about anyone."

"Well, our sister isn't anyone, is she? Besides, she's pretty."

"... Bro. She's like... Half your age."

"Yes, so?"

"You saying she's pretty is a bit..."

"Lian. Have you forgotten your brother is a magician? He clearly means her soul or whatever is pretty."

"Isn't that the same thing? Anyway... I'll go get her. Her room is on the first floor, right?"

"Yes, as I thought it'd be problematic if she were to trip and fall. She's so... Small."

- With Elinora

"Ellie~!"

"Hmm? Brother! What brings you here?"

"Haha, I came to get you for dinner!"

"Dinne- Oh! I'm so sorry, I completely lost track of time."

"It's alright. What were you doing that had you so absorbed, little sister?"

"Well... I was really interested in magic after you explained it to me, so I asked my maid to get a book on magic from the library so I could read up on the subject. But it's so difficult and there are a lot of words I don't know, so I was trying to piece together the meaning using the words I do know."

I normally would have no trouble, but... There were so many unfamiliar words that seem to relate to certain terms in magic that I had never heard before.

"Oh? Let me see. Ah, is this the book?"

He leans over and picks it up. I nodded. His face slowly grows more and more displeased as he skims through the book.

"Ellie... Is this the book the maid gave you? The exact one? She handed this to you?"

I nodded. Is something wrong?

"... I see. Well, this book is a bit difficult for beginners, especially for children like you. If you want, I could give you a different book that would be more suitable. Or... If you want to stick with this one, how about I walk you through it and explain anything you don't understand in an easier way, okay? I can also demonstrate as we go along if it'll aid your understanding, Ellie."

"Really...?"

"Of course. As your older brother, it's my job to help my adorable little sister. Especially if it's magic you wish to learn."

"Then... I want to learn with brother!"

"Haha, so cute~! Alright then, let's continue with this book for now. Tell me if you still think it's too difficult, I have a great multitude of books on magic."

"Okay~!"

"Ah... Look at the time. We have to go. Hurry now, father and Lian are both waiting for us. I guess I got too caught up as well."

"B- Brother?! Wait!"

He suddenly starts zooming away on his wheelchair... Can someone be that fast?! I start running after him to catch up when he suddenly turns around.

"Ellie?! Wait, don't run like that, you might fall and hurt yourself! There, there. I'm right here. No need to run. I'll wait until you catch up to me, okay? So don't hurry."

Once I catch up to him, he picks me up, sits me down on his lap, and starts moving again, but slower.

"Brother?"

"Hmm?"

"How do you direct the wheelchair? You're using both hands to make sure I don't fall."

"Oh, I'm using magic for that, of course."

"Wow~! You can use magic for that too?!"

"Mm- hmm. There are multiple types of magic."

"Is there healing magic too?"

"Ah... Yes, there is. Why do you ask?"

"I want to learn it and heal people!"

"Like a saintess, I see. Well... I'm not very good at it, but I think you might have talent in that area. I'll try my best to teach you well, Ellie."

"Ah... Ellie?"

"Hmm? Oh, sorry. I didn't ask you for permission yet, did I? Elinora is a very pretty name, but it was a bit long, so I wanted to call you Ellie instead."

"I see... It's okay! I like Ellie!"

"Is that right? I'm glad."

"But brother... You're 16, the first young master of this house right?"

"Hmm? Ah, yes. That's right."

"I'm 6, so you're 10 years older than me. But anyway... Why did that maid throw tea at you?! Did she intend to burn you?! Honestly! I feel so upset just thinking of what happened back then!"

"... Hahaha!"

"Wh... Hey! I'm serious here!"

"Right. Sorry, sorry. Brother was wrong for laughing when his little sister is sincerely angry for him. However... It really doesn't matter. It would if the tea had actually done me any harm, but you protected me, right? As a result, I'm perfectly fine. And... I'm used to it anyway. Everyone treats me like this as long as father isn't present."

"They do?! Why?! No matter what, you're still their master! Why are they so disrespectful towards you?! I understand if it's me, since I'm an illegitimate child who was adopted purely because of my eye color, but you're father's firstborn and the future head of the Ines household!"

"... I'm sorry, Ellie. What did you say about yourself?"

"I- I'm an illegitimate child who was only adopted because of my eyes?"

"Would you... Would you mind telling me who said that, my dear little sister?"

"Huh...? Well... I heard some maids whispering in the hallway about it..."

"Which maids? Do you know their names or remember any distinctive features?"

Why is he so curious? Whatever. I'll just tell him what I remember.

"Umm... One of the maids had black hair tied back into a bun and dark brown eyes. I think her name was... Reina? The other had long blond hair in a braid. Her name was Sophie or something, I believe. Why?"

"Oh, nothing. Reina and Sophie... Got it. Anyway... Do you see these legs of mine? I was born with a condition called spinal bifida. I'm lucky to not have any learning disabilities due to it, but since my nerve cells of my lower body are damaged, I was born paraplegic. Because of that, a majority of the maids look down on me. I really wish they'd stop though. How many times do I have to threaten them with magic until they finally remember that I'm known as a genius magician? It's tiresome having to waste my energy like that."

"And you don't find me tiresome?"

"What older brother could ever find his little sister tiresome? Not at all. I would give anything to spend time with you."

"Cassiel... While I'm glad to see you two are getting along well... How much longer do you plan to keep us waiting?"

"Father... My apologies..."

"Give your sister to me."

I'm suddenly lifted into my father's arms as he pushes brother's wheelchair with one hand and carries me in the other. Uhh... Wow... He's really strong. He can push a 16 year old in a wheelchair with just one hand? And carry a 6 year old child in the other? Wow...

"Cassiel? Is anything the matter?"

"I want her back."

"I beg your pardon?"

"I want my sister back."

His, I mean, our father sighs but places me back in his arms and starts pushing Cassiel's wheelchair with both arms, doubling the speed.

"Father. I can wheel myself."

"I know, but it was taking too long when I left you to your own devices. By the way, Cassiel. Why are you so interested in your new little sister, Elinora?"

"Is it wrong for me to care for her?"

"No. This situation is ideal, as I always hoped you would treat her well, along with Lian, as the oldest child of this household. However... I don't remember you being this enthusiastic with Callian when he was 6 and you were 9."

"Well, Callian was a different case entirely. He was taller than me when I was sitting, basically all of the time. Plus, Ellie has the cute and magic advantage."

"... Magic?"

"Oh, didn't you know, father? She created a forcefield while protecting me."

"You needed protecting?"

"Even if I'm a skilled magician, I can't automatically react if I don't expect an attack. Which reminds me. Would you give me permission to, ah... Reeducate some of the maids here, father?"

"I have no interest in them. Do as you please, Cassiel. Just don't kill them or make them unable to do their job."

"Of course, father. After all, the reason I'm reeducating them is so they can do their job properly. There's no point if they can't work or die in the process, now is there?"

"Did someone make a mistake?"

"Well... You could say that, sure."

"By the way... Do you intend to eat with Elinora sitting on your knee like that?"

"Of course. She's too small to sit alone on a chair without any support."

"That's no fair, brother!"

"Oh, Lian. Hello. Elinora, that's Callian, your other older brother."

I wave gently. Cassiel is wheeled to his seat with me still on his knees.

"Elinora, take a look around. Is there anything you want to eat?"

Wow~! There are so many dishes... Oh! I want that chocolate strawberry cake!

"Hmm? Ellie, do you want that cake slice?"

Ah... He noticed...?

"Haha, it's not uncommon for children to be drawn to sweets, but you can't just eat cake and the like. You'll get cavities, especially if you don't brush your teeth. If you eat everything else without being picky, you can eat the cake, okay? Now.. Is there anything else you'd like to try besides the cake, my darling Ellie?"

"Cassiel. She's been at an orphanage. The cake was probably the only thing she recognized except for soup or whatever. It makes sense she wouldn't know what anything tastes like. Give her descriptions or pick something for her if you really intend on keeping that position."

"Ah. I see. I apologize, I was too shortsighted. I grew up like this, so—"

"Cassiel. Don't say that out loud."

"Right, sorry. Hmm... Do you want some soup, Ellie?"

I shrugged. I didn't care either way. Everything looked good.

"Why don't you try it? Say ahh~"

I obediently opened my mouth and let him feed me.

"Cassiel, you must be joking. She's 6. Surely she doesn't need you feeding her."

"Yes, well, I would've stopped at 4 or so if she was... You know, actually here?"

Dad goes silent and lets Cassiel continue feeding me.

"Brother, are you not going to eat? I feel like you're focusing too much on me."

"Hmm? Oh, I'm sorry. Did I make you worry? Just watching you eat makes me feel full, so forgive me. You were just so cute when you obediently ate what I gave you, just like an adorable baby bird."

He smiles as he gently ruffles my hair.

"Let me know when you're full, okay? I don't want you to overeat and get sick."

"Okay~! But brother, I don't want you to starve. Please eat too."

"I agree. Elinora has more sense than you do, Cassiel. And she's less than half your age. Did your common sense disappear?"

"Yes, I got it. I'll eat too. Elinora, do you want to eat the cake now?"

Wow... Cassiel completely ignored dad and just answered me. Anyway... Yes! I can finally eat the cake! I enthusiastically nodded. Cassiel laughs and starts feeding the chocolate cake to me. Interestingly, Cassiel goes back and forth from Ellie to Elinora. I don't mind, but it's fun hearing him switch back and forth. Meanwhile, Callian is glaring at us. He suddenly stands up, slamming the table with both hands. What the... Did the table just get cracks just because Callian slammed his hands against it...? He's that strong?!

"Callian. That's the fifth time we'll have to replace the table this month. You need to control your strength and anger better."

"But... It's not fair! How come brother gets to do whatever he wants with my sister, while I can't even touch her?! I want to spend time with her too!"

"Lian. Your behavior is exactly why you can't be trusted with Elinora. You think she's stronger than the table? What will we do if you accidentally hug her too tight and break her ribs? Children's bones are softer and more delicate than an adult's. I can't have you hurting her, and you know I'm not gifted in healing magic, so I can't heal her automatically if you hurt her."

"I wouldn't hurt her!"

"You wouldn't hurt her intentionally, Lian, is what you mean. You need to learn better self control. You broke my chair and the table multiple times because of your strength. One wrong move and our sister could get crushed by you. Is that what you want? To kill her? No. So stay quiet."

"Cassiel, don't be so harsh on him. However, Lian, your older brother is right. We simply can't risk it. Cassiel is fine. He has a weak physique and his strength lies in his mana, which he can fully control. Therefore, he would never hurt Elinora, and even if he did, it wouldn't be something Elinora wouldn't recover from."

... I feel bad for Lian... This is so awkward...

"Hmm? Ellie, shall we go somewhere else? The garden, maybe?"

I nodded fervently. Cassiel wheels himself to the garden with me in his arms.

"Sorry, brother was too uncaring of how you must've felt. It must have been uncomfortable seeing Lian and father and I talk about you like you weren't present."