

Representative

"Mother, father! You can't be serious!"

"... Harmonia, dear."

"Nia, don't be like that."

"Big brother... But why is it me?"

"Nia, you know why. Would you like to hear it again?"

Brother Galen smiles gently as he strokes my head, fluffing out my long hair. I nod, my eyes still full of tears.

"Nia, I know you're only 16, little sister. It must be scary knowing everyone else is 18 and up. However, throughout your life, you've shown how you can bring everyone together and form bonds. Even sworn arch enemies were laughing and conversing within a minute with you."

I sighed, half resigned.

"I know... And I know all too well I can't send you in my place, big brother. Besides, we're the only direct descendants of the royal lineage. There is no one more adequate than us for representation."

"Right, you know it well. I would gladly go in your place, even if it's just until you're 18, but you know I can't."

"Yes, I know. Even the doctor said you shouldn't strain yourself."

"Right. So could you please go instead, Nia? Even if it's just for me?"

I nod. My older brother Galen is 20. However, when he turned 18, he suddenly coughed up blood. The royal physician said it was a very rare disease. It wouldn't affect his lifespan, but he had to be very careful and take great care not to strain himself. As a result, I have to go to the summit. The summit is a one month long camp where delegates from each kingdom gather to form alliances and friendships with each other. This is the way we've been able to maintain peace. However, it hasn't taken place for years because every delegate was busy. This year is the first time it will ever take place since I was born. And it's especially important because the heirs of every country will be coming. Before, it was the rulers. This time, it'll be their children because they will be the future rulers. That way, they hope alliances will be secure for a longer time. After all, a parent's greatest weakness

is their child. Plus, when the children eventually grow up and become rulers, the alliance will still be going strong because of their long standing friendship. And that's how I, Harmonia Emmaline Amani, princess of the Amani kingdom, was chosen to go to the summit.

- A week later

"Harmonia... Will you really be okay?"

"Of course she'll be fine, mother!"

"But..."

"Nia will be fine, my dear..."

"Mother, father! Honestly, why are you two so worried when you encouraged her to go in the first place? Nia, sister, come. Let me at least take you to the harbor."

"All right. Thank you, brother Len."

Summit takes place on an isolated island in the middle of the sea called "Pax Island" and I've heard it's very beautiful. However, since it's an island, the only way to get there is by boat. The name, Pax island, is due to the fact it was hoped to bring peace. If I don't succeed, our kingdom could be on the verge of war. It hasn't taken place for around 20 years, so all alliances made were greatly weakened. It's practically like we're starting from scratch all over again. Okay... While we get there, let's review each of the delegates. There are a total of 7 kingdoms, including our kingdom, the Amani kingdom. Our kingdom is famous for its trade. There are many rare items shipped from all over the world. As such, I've been trained in all sorts of things from a young age. From history to art to etiquette, there is nearly nothing I don't know about. However... I must admit, I very much enjoyed scholarly classes like history and learning foreign languages the most. I even learned ancient languages because I loved reading so much and found it frustrating when I realized I couldn't read books in our library because they were written in ancient languages. Another activity I enjoyed was singing. My music teacher always used to praise me for my voice. Despite that, my dance teacher despaired when it came to dancing without tripping. I don't think it mattered much though, as every gentleman I danced with found me so charming and endearing as I tried and failed to not step on their feet or trip.

Anyway... We have Verdentia. Filled with plants and teeming with wildlife, it's where you want to go if you love nature. There's one prince who's serving as delegate. He's 19 and... Where's my notes on him? Oh, yeah. An gargarean warrior. Super s

trong and adventurous. I don't think I'd get along well with him, unless you count the fact that I love nature. His name is... Give me a sec... Ah, here we go. Marcus von Verdentia.

Next... Eclipsara. We used to be allies with this kingdom. They're sending... 2 delegates? Their daughter and son. The son is 20 and the daughter is 18. The son's name is Adrian and the daughter is named Amelie. Adrian is a gifted negotiator while Amelie is kind and gentle. Loves tea. Okay, nice. These two seem pretty easy to make friends with.

Now we have Aetherlyn. Famous for it's magic, it has mines filled with magic stones. Ruled by faeries, they're sending an 18 year old elf as their delegate, prince Elrond. He's shy and introverted. Well, you and me both. Welcome to the club of being forced to go.

Crystallara. Famous for it's beauty. Also sending 2 delegates. Twins Lucian and Kieran. Lucian loves art while Kieran loves music. Also a past ally of my kingdom. 18.

Whirlwind heights. Oh? This time it's a duke, the king's younger brother. Apparently, the couple is infertile and decided to hand the throne to him. Duke Lyon. Very intelligent and academically gifted. My parents said I should try and make an alliance, but... His age makes me worry. He's 22, the oldest delegate.

Finally... Nyxshire. Crown prince Ciaran is their delegate. 19. One of the youngest. Nyxshire, huh...? There are a lot of rumors surrounding his family, and a lot of them aren't good. Still, let's not judge.

And that's all of them. We have a total of...8 delegates, 9 including myself. And... I'm at least 2 years younger than everyone else. Well, yeah, since the minimum age requirement was 18 and my parents had to write a letter and explain the situation for me to be accepted as a delegate.

"We've arrived, princess."

"Ah... Thank you."

"Please make your way to the meeting spot. We will have an introduction and a welcome meal. After that, you may rest in your designated room."

"Yes, thank you."

- At the meeting spot

Oh, am I the last one here? That's embarrassing... I sit down as the chaperone of the summit makes a speech. She's the one in charge.

"Greetings, all delegates! Welcome to Pax island, the place where you will hopefully form long lasting alliances and friendships! From today onward, you will spend one month here. You are free to hold events and send invitations to others. It is encouraged to forge bonds and friendships to strengthen your already existing alliances and form new ones for your kingdom as well. We will start with introductions of each delegate and a welcome meal. After that, you may rest in your rooms. Events may be held starting tomorrow."

After that, each delegate steps up and introduces themselves, oldest to youngest, with the exception of princess Amelie, because she introduced herself along with her brother, who's 20. I'm clearly last.

"Finally, her highness, princess Harmonia Emmaline Amani, from kingdom Amani."

Harmonia Emmaline Amani ↓



Long light brown hair

Blue eyes

Sweet and kind but shy

Wearing something a bit fancier

"Hi~! As you've already heard, my name is Harmonia Amani. You can call me Harmony or Nia for short. I'm 16 and—"

Everyone starts whispering and talking among themselves once I announce my age. I raise my voice to be heard.

"It seems there is a lot of curiosity about my age. While I realize I am younger, please rest assured I am just as capable and skilled as the rest of you. As I was saying, I'm 16 and I like reading and singing. I hope we can all get along."

I sit down and wait for the meal to be served. I'm aware of all the stares, but I pay no mind. I'm sure I can prove myself in due time. If people are curious, that just means a higher success rate, as they'll want to know about the capability of the youngest member who's under 18. The welcome meal is served soon after my introduction. I'm not all that hungry, so I observe the others while sipping some water and nibbling on a pastry. Hmm... Princess Amelie seems to like sweet things. And it seems she really does like tea. As for her preferred dessert... Brioche, maybe? She keeps staring at it. And as for her older brother, Adrian... Oh? He's just looking around as well. Ah... Our eyes met. We stare at each other for a bit until he looks away. It was kind of like we were trying to see who breaks eye contact first. A few seconds later, he glances at me again. I smile with my eyes at him and he looks away again, his ears slightly red. Haha, maybe I should wave the next time he looks at me. I look at someone with long green hair. Oh, he has elf ears. That must be prince Elrond? He's not eating, just picking at his food. I once heard elves don't feel hunger, so maybe that's why. He just takes a few sips of water. He feels my gaze and takes a quick look at me. For a split second, I see his eyes clearly. Woah... Such pretty eyes. They're like a mix of emerald green, mint, and cyan. He quickly looks away though. I knew he was shy, so no big deal. After that, I find my eyes drawn to duke Lyon. He has long, black hair tied back. His eyes are a really mystical looking deep purple. He's only 2 years older than my brother, but... There's this unapproachable, nearly regal, air about him that makes him feel so much more older and mature. But at the same time... I can't help but think he must be lonely. I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels he seems unapproachable. Even the people sitting next to him have slowly inched away and are as far as physically possible while sitting next to him. He looks like he doesn't notice or mind, and continues eating gracefully, table manners flawless, but I still feel he looks lonely. After, my eyes flicker over to Ciaran. Silver hair and eyes with pale skin. He looks like an angel. Ethereal beauty at its finest, in a different way from prince Elrond. People are avoiding him too, but the situation is different from duke Lyon. If everyone was avoiding duke Lyon out of respect, everyone is avoiding Ciaran out of fear. Rumors are simply that. Rumors. They're not real. Besides, aren't we all here to make alliances? How will we do that if all you do is ignore people? And then we have the twins. Opposites. One has white hair and blue eyes, while the other has black hair and red eyes. If I'm not mistaken, the white haired one is the older twin, Lucian, while the black haired one is the younger one, Kieran. They're not talking to anyone but each other, and half the time they don't even communicate with words. It's like they can read each other's mind. Prince Marcus is just wolfing down all the food. He has tanned skin, golden eyes, and dark brown hair. Very muscular and healthy looking. None of them are talking to each other though. I just hear people's silverware clinking against plates and sounds of people eating or drinking. I know I'm not one to talk since I've just been observing people, not talking to them, but I'm concerned if this is how it's supposed to go the whole mon

th. Was sending the heirs really a good idea...? We're supposed to forge friendships and alliances, but... How can we if we don't say a word to each other...? Anyway, the meal soon ends amidst my concerns and we're sent back to our rooms for the day. Adrian was surprisingly shy, to the point it was cute, but I'm currently most interested in duke Lyon. Of course, prince Elrond is also very fascinating because he's an elf. As for prince Ciaran, I'm interested in how those rumors came about. And twins who are the opposite of each other was always a favorite concept of mine. I just thought I'd never see it outside books. Princess Amelie seems sweet and easy to make friends with, so maybe I should try talking to her first...? As for prince Marcus... He's not exactly my type. I felt a little uncomfortable, but maybe that's because I'm a princess who's been sheltered within the palace walls all my life. Alright, I've decided. Let's try forming an alliance with Eclipsara through the princess. After that, I'll try getting closer to her brother. After all, in a place where you don't know anyone, wouldn't you rely on or feel protective of your siblings more than anything? I'm counting on that possibility. While it's not like women can't take the throne in Eclipsara, prince Adrian is a far more likely candidate than the princess. Also being a skilled negotiator, he's definitely got the makings of a ruler. I write a letter to princess Amelie to invite her to afternoon tea tomorrow. I heard she likes tea parties, so she should accept. But if not, that's fine. I can always do something else. I hope she comes though. I love setting up small events for specific people and planning them out to their taste. I write the invite and give it to one of the workers who say they'll deliver it to the princess. Good. Hmm... Anything else I should do before I go to bed? That's when I spotted the book on my desk. I almost forgot. That book is the only book I haven't read that's written in ancient language. I should get to reading that.

- Meanwhile

"Brother!"

"Yes, Amy?"

"Look! I got an invitation!"

"I see, who's it from?"

"Princess Harmonia!"

"Harmonia... The 16 year old? The youngest delegate? Ah, I remember her. Long hair, blue eyes, no?"

"Yes!"

"What was her last name? She's from direct royal lineage, correct?"

"... Harmonia Emmaline Amani. She's from the Amani kingdom."

"Amani... I don't particularly like the fact she's only 16, but the Amani kingdom is a good ally. We used to be allies with her kingdom, and it's never let us down. You can go, Amy. Make a good impression if you can. What's the event?"

"She says she wants to have afternoon tea with me."

"Afternoon tea... That sounds like she prepared the event solely for you alone. It's your favorite thing. I've never seen you refuse an invite to a tea party, even if you weren't good friends with the host. Maybe there's no need to try to make a good impression. Just be yourself, Amy."

"Okay!"

- The next day

Oh, she accepted! Lovely! This should be fun... Now... What tea should I use? Some floral tea? Or maybe something fruity? Oh! Maybe I can mix both! Hmm... Ah, I think roses and rooibos paired with each other nicely. She's not allergic, so it should be fine, right? Now... Let's see... As for tea cups... I'm so lucky the summit allows all the delegates to use whatever they desire. They have everything you need for any event. I choose a white tea set with some painted on flowers. I also choose some desserts to be paired with the tea. This is honestly... So much fun!

- Tea time

"Princess!"

"Oh, princess Amelie? You look beautiful, your highness. Thank you for accepting my sudden invitation."

"N- No, it was my pleasure."

"Well, please come right this way, your highness. I've set up everything in advance, so I hope you enjoy it, princess."

Haha, she seems so shocked. Did she not expect me to be so polite? Being born as the second child, and a girl at that, my parents were very lenient on me, letting me grow up with nearly free reign. However, I still had teachers who taught me etiquette, so I know how to act like a proper lady. I just don't put it into practice most of the time.

"I know I've already said this, but you look lovely, your highness. Even the flowers around us cannot outshine your beauty."

This may look like flattery, but I'm truly not trying to flatter her. I thought that is when I first saw her, but she was really pretty. Long wavy blond hair and emerald eyes. Skin as smooth as porcelain. A gentle smile. She looks just like a lovely fairy. I'm terrible at actual flattery and end up choking and coughing when I try.

"O- Oh! Thank you..."

Her cheeks flush a bright pink, and she looks away embarrassed. Haha... I guess both siblings are quite similar in that respect. Both get embarrassed quickly. I decide to stop talking about her beauty and get to the actual event.

"I don't know your preferences, but I guessed based on your response at the welcome meal. I hope you enjoy it."

I lead her to a white gazebo I've set up with all the necessary equipment.

"Thank you, this looks beautiful!"

"I'm glad to hear it. Please, take a seat and make yourself comfortable. For tea, I've prepared a blend of rose and rooibos. As for food, I've prepared various baked goods, including but not limited to brioche. I hope you enjoy it, princess."

"A- Ah! Princess..."

"Is anything the matter, your highness?"

"U- Um... You can drop honorifics with me! Please talk to me comfortably!"

... She's older, but cute...

"Haha, gladly. Then, Amelie, please call me as you please as well."

"Then... Harmonia...?"

"Haha, although, if you wouldn't mind, I would very much like it if you were to call me Harmony instead of my full name."

"Ah... Then... Please call me Amy! It's my nickname... My brother calls me that too."

"Your brother? Oh, you mean prince Adrian, don't you?"

"Yes, yes! Brother Rian. He's much smarter than me and the future heir of Eclipsara."

"I see... You seem to truly adore your brother. I'm sure he's proud to have you as a little sister. I actually have an older brother the same age as him."

"Ah? Is that so...? But... Why are you here instead? I definitely thought you were an only child because of your age!"

"Haha, I'm sure that's a common misconception a lot of delegates have about me currently. This is a bit of a secret, but... My older brother got sick 2 years ago, and was told not to overexert or stress himself out in any way. Since the Summit is undoubtedly going to be at least a bit stressful, I came instead. Which reminds me. Why did Eclipsara send 2? I understand for Crystallara, as the delegates are twins, but Eclipsara could've just sent Adrian, as he is the next heir. Although... I guess I'm not one to talk, considering I'm not the heir as well."

"Oh! That's... Well, this is also a bit of secret information, but... Father sent both me and Adrian to appeal to as many people as possible."

"Appeal, you say...?"

"Yes. Appeal. While brother and I look fairly similar with the same hair color and slightly different eyes, our auras... How should I put it? Auras or moods are very different. Therefore, our father thought we should go together so we could each form alliances with different people."

"I see... So it was a strategic move."

"Yes, that's right."

"Hmm... Who did you plan to appeal to?"

"Oh- Oh, umm... I honestly had no idea."

"You... Don't know?"

"No, I don't..."

"Well, at least you appealed to me! Although... I guess that's not much considering I'm the youngest delegate. I'm sure your family wants you to make alliances with anyone other than I."

"N- No! Actually... My family told me to rebuild alliances with past allies, especially the Amani kingdom. Adrian was told the same, although we are also supposed to branch out and make other alliances as well."

"I see... Speaking of your family, what is your older brother like?"

"Oh, brother Adrian? Well... He's very intelligent and good at talking to people when it's about business relations and other professional settings, but he struggles when it's more casual and he has to make small talk. I remember our father leaving him to entertain a guest for around 10 minutes or so, and after he commented on the weather, the room was in total silence until father came back. He started talking animatedly when the actual purpose of the meeting started."

"And... What were you doing?"

"Oh, father told me to just sit tight and look pretty and appealing."