

Are you Falling in Love?

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Summary

Ash is destined to be the next king of well, his kingdom. Standards are thrown on him and well most of them he can handle. Some of them though makes him question who he is. Did you know its standard to marry a princess?

Notes

Just a little extra Subz, Vitalasy, and Branzycraft are adopted so Ash is the only one who's 'fit' to take the throne.

See the end of the work for more [notes](#)

Ash leaned on his bed feeling his pillows wrap around his ears. He looked out of the balcony able to see the night clear. A slight breeze broke through the windows. They were open of course. Ash's parents didn't really like the fact that he preferred to keep his windows open. Constantly worrying about his safety and what not telling him that someone could break in or maybe he'll catch a cold. The first one was unlikely the whole palace was fortified like Hell. Anyone who even dreamed of trying to break in couldn't do it. Although it was easy to get out of. Getting in was harder with

cactus like walls and what not.

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Click

Click

Ash craned his head upwards hearing what seemed to be boots on a wooden floor. Pacing. There's only really one person who paces that he knows of, of course. He got up from his bed and walking over feeling the cool breeze on his skin as he opened the door. Branzy. Branzy looked up at him in surprise his purple eyes wild with shock and a fear like state. He smiled awkwardly and waved at Ash expecting him to talk first. Although Ash, was being difficult.

They stood there for a while until Branzy took a deep breath. "M-may I come in?" He asked nervously gesturing into his room. Ash raised an eyebrow and shrugged.

"Seriously? Damn, am I in trouble or some shit? You live here yunno," Ash muttered just low enough for Branzy to hear as he stepped into Ash's room. Ash closed the door shut and walked over to his balcony and looked down at the garden below him. That's the only entrance out of the castle that isn't fortified like hell. His parents always thought he would try to escape from there when he was a kid, but since he hasn't yet they were surprised and kinda disappointed that their son wouldn't try to have a life outside the one that was planned for him.

"I mean... I guess you could take it as being in trouble but not really,- I mean, I'm sure its fine but for the next few weeks Mom and Dad are gonna have some guests from multiple kingdoms over and uh, I think that you know the rest," Branzy muttered scratching the back of his head. Ash turned around and walked over to Branzy who was sitting on Ash's bed.

"Really?"

Branzy nodded preparing himself for Ash's rage although it never came as he just laughed it off instead. "Alright, its a waste of time anyways, *and* if they do try to get someone to marry me I'll just break up with them. They know that, it'll cause worse relations for both kingdoms! So they can't get me to do shit," He knew this with his whole heart. His parents knew it too and weren't too fond of it. Although they couldn't *make* Ash marry. He was one of those people who if put their mind to something, they were gonna get it one way or another, whether they liked it or not.

"I mean yeah, but I just thought that I should tell you," Branzy laughed in relief watching his brothers expression to the situation being nothing but calm and well over-confident.

"Did you draw the short straw again? Be honest," Ash smiled looking at him. Branzy laughed and nodded.

"I'm pretty sure Subz rigs it,"

"Oh he does I know how he does it. After all I did teach him how to cheat," Ash smiled pointing to himself while Branzy stood in awe.

"Why would you do that!"

"I was bored as hell, whatever don't tell Vitalasy,"

Branzy laughed and waved bye to Ash as he walked out of the room shutting the door behind him. Ash took in a deep breath and sighed glancing up at his ceiling with images of fairytales embedded

onto them. Promising a bright future for a prince and his true love. His room had been like that ever since he was a kid. Something that he's not fond of yet it doesn't bother him to the point of bothering anyone to take it off.

Sure the concepts cheesy, a prince walks in the woods find a beautiful sleeping girl and kisses her, also kinda creepy to some degree but Ash never thought so far into it. People thought it was beautiful and sweet, so it was beautiful and sweet. Although sometimes he wonders if people would think the same if the princess was a boy, and the prince. Well was a prince. He had imagined it since he was about 4 thinking about whether it would be natural or not.

For a boy to like a boy. If they were commoners would society except them, how about royals? It was just a thought that had settled underneath his mind and thoughts ever since he was a kid, like said before. He had scenarios of people falling in love with the same and opposite genders wondering if society would except them weighing the odds and soon coming to the realization that they probably wouldn't. The people never really try to go away from the norm. First example, the same bloodline has been leading them for centuries now, all because of one ancestor that was oh so great and holy.

The second well refer to the first.

He glanced at the age old tale of Cinderella and laughed at it. It was so dumb a fucking fairy godmother coming to save some random kid from her abusive mother. Maybe it was because he lived a 'comforted' life that he didn't get these fairytales. That was his parents excuses for him not getting it and asking him about it as a child. Although being told that one day you were to rule a kingdom with everyone putting their faith and trust on your just because you're part of a bloodline does have some stress.

Not to mention the classes where he would constantly be given in time limit completing large tasks in under an hour or coming up with different strategies to outsmart others. Yeah, totally chill childhood. To be raised ever since birth, to be put on a pedestal for everyone to see his rights and wrongs. To be the human form of perfection, well to try and be. After a while of considering a few more things he went to bed.

The next day he woke up to footsteps in the hall. He got up and put on actual proper clothes as his mother would call it and walked on out. He didn't wear his crown, just for the fact that it was too heavy. He walked over to the dining table and sat down next to Vitalasy who was shouting above Subz's voice and plugging his ears saying how he couldn't hear him. Ash glanced at Branzzy for an explanation but he just had his head down on the table and his hands covering his ears to block out Vitalasy's screaming.

Ash's mother and father came down Mrs. Swag and Mr. Swag although people usually addressed them by their first names Anastasia or Ana as she preferred, and Osiris. They were very powerful names in Ash's opinion, you probably couldn't smile saying them if you tried. They were hard and cold. Vitalasy stopped shouting and looked down instantly taking a bite of the tart on his plate while Branzzy looked up while Subz shouted 'I win' loudly.

His mother laughed walking over and setting his hand on Subz's shoulder. "You've won what?" She asked softly running her hands around the back of his neck. Subz stiffened and gently took it off turning to her and smiling.

"Uh, an argument I was having, nothing too big," He said quickly glancing at Vitalasy who just smiled and waved at him giving him a smug glance. Subz stuck his tongue out at him once he wasn't looking while his father walked over to Ash.

"I trust that Branzly has told you the news?" He asked.

"Yep," Ash tapped the table as if trying to tell his father to just leave him alone and thankfully he took the message and walked away from him. His father sat next to his mother as they began discussing topics for today and speeches and drama that he has to address as females aren't supposed to be in control of cities or towns.

"So anyways Ash, we have our first visitor today she should arrive in a few moments, Ms. Ivory Cello," His father announced sitting up straight as his mother scolded him.

"You should've waited until after," She said sharply. Ash smiled at his mother, she was very much known for her sharp demeanor and cold touch. His father tried to argue with her but instead of her talk just tilted her head at him and stared right into his eyes asking him if he really wanted to disagree with her now of all times. So he stopped.

People say Ash has the same look his mother has, stone cold and will only smile at you if they know you're wrong or if they find amusement in your suffering. When Ash is told this though he can't say that it's wrong, but not right. He's smiled at his brothers before, he just happens to smile more at darker things. It's not his fault.

His mother flicked her hand and played with the many rings on her hand. Ash never knew which one his father married her with, sometimes he thinks that's the point of them. "Well," his father cleared his throat, "Ivory will be here in a few moments so everyone on your best behavior, Ash finish up eating and clean yourself up one last time okay?"

Ash nodded as he finished eating and got up from the table. He wasn't gonna clean himself up, he looked fine. So he just waited in his room until Ivory arrived. He knew Ivory well, she was one of his best friends. They met at a camp once where Ivory challenged him to see who could hold their breath underwater the longest, Ivory won. She held her breath for 3 minutes while Ash went up at 1 minute 30 seconds gasping for air whilst Ivory showed off. She probably could've gone longer but she only came up because his mother was fretting over her saying that she needed to get up now.

He waited until he heard his father call his name and walked down the stairs seeing a familiar glimpse of white hair, it was tinted pink to a degree and a pink eye shined under a lock of her white hair. Her other eye was a lighter pink and looked up at Ash with a smile. Her crown placed firmly upon her head with swirls of pink and silver lined up upon it. Safe to say she looked like a queen.

"Ash," She addressed smiling her eyes glinting as the sun flickered onto them.

"Thank you for inviting us to your home Osiris," Her mother bowed her silver and grey ball gown drooping down to the floor as she did so. Ivory looked up at his father and smiled although didn't bow but instead nodded her head softly to him closing her eyes. Ivory didn't bow, that's another thing that he learned about her quickly, or well an unlucky prince did. She punched him in the stomach hard after he kept demanding her to bow to him.

"No problem, I'm just hoping your daughter can get my son to come out of his shell," his father laughed at the last part to which Ivory held a strained smile on her face. Her father soon walked in with grey like hair and purple misty eyes.

"Well, I suggest we let them get to know each other a bit more, why don't you show us around?" He suggested.

"Of course," His father dipped his head to him and began leading him through the castle and when he was certain they were out of earshot he let out a long sigh of relief and glanced at Ivory who was smiling at him widely.

"You know I never took your father to be so inviting, he always seemed so cold at first," Ivory inquired walking by Ash's side.

"You're thinking of my mother, my father is the only one whose kind to people other than my actual family, remember?" Ash nudged her arm and she looked at him playfully her eyes glistening in the sun once again leaving a sparkle like shine throughout the room. Ivory was considered one of the most beautiful princesses in the world after all.

"Ah, yes. Sorry your mother's the cold one. I do assume that she warms up behind the public eye though no?"

"Nope, she's actually colder believe it or not," Ash began walking throughout the halls with Ivory following him her dress dragging on the castle floors.

"That takes talent," She remarked glancing up at the ceiling looking at pictures of prince and princesses before them finding their happy endings and living out amazing lives together. She smiled although something was clearly hiding behind it. Ash decided not to push further though. Ivory would shut him off completely if he did so.

"So anyways what do you wanna do now?" Ash asked walking over to his room.

"Where's your crown?"

"In my room, we're walking there right now. Come on," He led her over to his darker colored room to which she looked around.

"You need to really lighten up your room, honestly these curtains are so dull I think that they're making my dress darker," She laughed looking at her dress which contrasted the colors of the black marbled floors.

"That might've been my plan all along,"

"I wouldn't doubt it that's for sure,"

Ivory glanced over to Ash's crown and smiled running over and picking it up before running out of the room. It seemed to be a game of chase. Ash scoffed and took off after her running past the huge columns that supported the building and trying to catch up with her. The worst part about this being she was in high heels, Ash was not.

He began quickening his pace as he turned the corner and Ivory stopped looking at a beautiful painting containing the one day when all of the royal families gathered together to make one little portrait together. She gaped in awe and laughed. "This is beautiful," She tossed the crown to Ash to which he caught with ease and walked next to her.

"Yeah, they got one of the best painters in the entire world to do it," he explained gesturing his hand towards the painting. It was made when his mother was about 6. He scanned the crowd for her and finally his eyes fell upon her and his jaw almost dropped in awe. Ivory also saw and laughed.

"Your mom seems to be the most beautiful princess there," Ivory complimented her eyes closing as she giggled at it. Ash took a deep breath and nodded. His mom has hair down to her waist and some that was tied into a bun, vibrant purple eyes stuck out as she smiled softly wearing a black

and purple gown similar to the ones that she wore now but much brighter as if the color hadn't faded away. Her earrings were emerald flowers and her wrists were decorated with jewels as her own mother set a hand on her shoulder.

Not only that but flowers and butterflies seemed to lay at the feet of the girl along with one rabbit behind her. She seemed like a fairytale princess the way she was drawn.

"She certainly looks... different," Ash stumbled on his words his mother still looked like that today but less, fairytale like. She seemed more like an evil queen with her hair just reaching down her back and she wore the same gown but once again the colors were darker. She wore more rings and her smile as shown in the picture had faded to a stern look to those who crossed her. He glanced across the painting to see someone else.

A boy with chestnut hair and red eyes as he smiled at the camera his lined features showing through his clothes and honestly his clothes seemed slightly too small for him or maybe he was just really in shape. He had one hand in his pocket and the other at his side as he stared ahead into the camera a smug like look on his face mixed a certain kind of innocence. The kind you expected a child to have. He looked at his chiseled features and didn't notice that Ivory caught him staring.

"Doons, family. Mostly known for their ability to trick others," She hummed picking at her pink polished nails with heart like designs on them. Ash broke out of his trance and looked at Ivory.

"What?" He muttered although he laughed a little at the end. Ivory just turned to him a smile on her face as she tilted her head at him.

"Hm? I thought that you wanted to know. Although that guy died a few years ago, something about his food. It wasn't poisoned but rotten. He was already suffering from health so that just made him kick the bucket," She said spewing more and more information from her lips.

"Okay why would I need to know this? Is this some weird ass trivia shit that I need to know meeting them? Am I even gonna meet them?" He laughed. Although as he stared back at the picture with princes and princesses he found himself looking at both with awe.

"You're so fucking gay," Ivory muttered under her breath but just enough for Ash be able to hear it as he turned back his expression priceless with shock.

"What the hell? I'm not fucking gay alright,"

"Bi?"

"What does that even mean?" Ash scoffed putting his braid to his shoulder as it was getting down his neck. Ivory chuckled and grabbed his arm before letting it go as if she was telling him to follow her. She walked down the halls as they passed by paintings of famous people before Ivory stopped at two pictures one with a knight and the other with a princess.

"Which one do you think is hotter?" She asked giving him a smug look as her hair covering her eye shifted over. Ash stumbled for words wondering what kind of quiz this was. He was going to open his mouth to speak although nothing came out as Ivory gave him a smile.

"How the hell should I know?-"

Ivory laughed walking to the other side of Ash and setting her hand on his shoulder. "Its not that hard Ash, just choose which one you think looks better,"

Ash scoffed slightly and flicked her hand off to which she giggled her hand covering her mouth. He

shook his head getting his loose strands out of his face as he looked up at the pictures a black night or a gothic princess. What was he supposed to choose again? Oh yeah which one looked better. He looked at both feeling unease rise in his chest along with a muddled pool of confusion tied up in his brain. What the hell was the point of this anyways.

"The girl, whatever," he hissed out looking at Ivory who didn't look convinced at all.

"So you would date the girl?"

"I'm not gonna date someone solely on looks Ivory,"

"But what if you had to?"

Ash was done with this conversation he didn't like the bubbling feeling in his chest when he spoke about this and held up his hand to show Ivory that he wasn't listening to her bullshit anymore. Although Ivory's not one to give up. "I'm sure you won't mind me explaining to you something then," Ivory tried walking in front of Ash although he just turned his head away from her as she laughed.

"Alright, well you know what being gay is. But being bi is also known for bisexual it means you like both girls and boys not just one. But since you're 'straight' I guess you don't need to know that," She hummed shrugging at it. Ash turned his head around a sharp glare thrown at her. He definitely inherited more of his mother's traits.

"Damn right I don't," He snapped. Ivory looked shocked for a moment before her face fell to her usual smile.

"Well, anyways, I've got to be going soon and by the way if you do end up being bisexual just remember... I told you so," She cooed as she walked back with him. Although she was in front as if to prove a point. She didn't talk with him on the way back leaving his mind fumbling for answers to the question asked before. Could he really choose? Of course he could! Girls! There was no way he liked boys out of all things.

As they returned to the doors their parents waited for them and Ivory's mother smiled at her. "Well, do you think it'll work out?" She asked bending down to hug her daughter, it was fitting after all kinda hard to hug someone with 5 inch heels.

Ivory smiled and shook her head. "I like being friends," She declared loud enough so his father could hear it and frown. Ash couldn't help but chuckle to himself as his fathers reaction. His father then smiled at her and walked over bending down.

"Well if you ever decide to change your opinion we'll be here," He smiled. Thats a strike Ash thought to himself as he watched his father bend down.

Ivory made a half disgusted look as she kept trying to smile as his father. Instead though she bent down so that she was lower than him and looked up a cocky grin plastered onto her face. "Thank you, but I've made my decision," She bent back up with grace as she stared at Ash's father with a passive aggressive look. Leaving him stammering.

"O-oh of course my lady!" He was at a lost for words as his son Ash laughed behind him.

Soon enough though the day went on and the princesses came and came.

One had brown hair and bright green eyes, they wore a green dress that was decorated with pearls of the sea and ocean. She had a sea foam scent to her and she had a golden crown. She was pretty

and all, but she acted so undeniably sweet. Ash probably got a cavity just existing near her.

The next had firey red eyes and dark blue hair, she wore a combat like dress and constantly shouted as Ash for doing something dumb, not even in a playful or sarcastic way she just got mad at him for anything. The whole time Ash felt like ripping his or even better her hair out, out of a fit of rage he actually had to grab onto his other hand to refrain himself from slapping her clean across the face.

The next princess had chocolate brown hair and eyes with a light blue dress she wore expensive earrings and talked formally. When they tried to have a conversation Ash found himself blacking out and instead praying to whatever god was up above to let him be free of this pain.

The next one had dyed purple hair and brown eyes it was clear that she wasn't very interested in him either so she just didn't talk and he let her just roam around the castle. He got yelled at that of course by his father while his mother just watched with a stone cold face as if she was expecting him to say something about it.

Then there was a girl with emerald eyes and dirty blonde hair she wore a purple dress and a pearl necklace as she came with multiple siblings. She was loud and confident, her name was Mid, probably one of the only names Ash remembered from that night. Honestly she reminded him more of Ivory than anything the way she never let people talk her down. Although she had a certain showstopper vibe to her as well she knew how to actually listen to once. She was one of the more rounded people he met that day.

Soon enough though what was supposed to be only a week turned into a week and a half with his mother only allowing his father one more chance. To which he grabbed someone from the Doons family. The daughter had bright curly flamed red hair with pale white eyes, she wore red lipstick and her dress seemed like something that you might wear to a fashion show or maybe a famous bar.

She was decorated with satchels and she looked at Ash with a confused look in her eyes. She wore black tap shoes and she walked across the room with confidence in each stride a smile plastered onto her face like clockwork as she bowed to him. Ash just looked around awkwardly and saw two other people. Her brother perhaps. One had white eyes like her and hair that was sort of in his own face his clothes were the normal royal thing with a dress shirt and a vest. Although he had more black tones to his suit than Ash had saw before.

The person next to him wore shades that hid his eyes although when Ash did get a slight glance at them they seemed to be a milky blue. His dress shirt hardly showed at his buttoned up his vest and fiddled with the cuffs on his shirt adjusting them constantly. His shoes were a black and blue like color and seemed polished as they talked to each other. Ash could already tell that this guy seemed laid back even with his upright appearance. How? The way he looked at Ash, he looked at him and smiled nothing forced and just waved.

Ash had waved back of course with his parents watching, that had been his excuse at the time, and it still is. He turned his head back to the girl in front of him. She stuck her gloved hand out and smiled at Ash a slight tilt on his head and a sparkle in her eyes.

"My name is Ruby Doons, its nice to meet you," Her words felt loose and real for once as Ash shook her hand. Once again she was pretty there was no denying it but he just felt like they would be better off as friends. Don't get him wrong he knows what love feels like he had a crush on a girl in his class a few years back although that was only for like a week.

"Ash Swag," He introduced trying not to come off as too threatening. Ruby smiled as Ash shook her hand and their parents let them run off to do whatever.

"So what do you like to do for fun here?" Ruby asked her tap shoes clicking on the floor in a rhythmic manner. It was clear that she just wanted to break the silence between them so Ash would let her do that.

"I mainly just mess around with my brothers, one of them is trying to become an inventor he's making all sorts of little instruments and what not. He's following in his parents footsteps," Ash explain waving his hand.

"Branzy right? Thats his name, he seems like a nice guy from what I've heard but news does change place from place. Although the thing about you mom being scary stays the same-," She laughed although cut herself off upon talking about Ash's mother.

Ash waved his hand as if dismissing her. "I don't mind it, I think that she's pretty intimidating too, my father had to be a pretty brave man to ask her out,"

Ruby nodded her curls bobbing up and down as she looked up at Ash. "You've got a lot of her traits. I don't mean that in an offensive way. You just seem a lot like her. The looks and the attitude," She said gesturing her hand up and down Ash only hummed in response.

After a while of walking the halls and starting useless small talk Ruby stopped and thought to herself for a moment before smiling. "Listen, this isn't going to work out between us. I think that you're a nice guy and all but I just don't think that we could be... lovers or whatever," She trailed off as Ash let out a sigh of relief and smiled at her.

"My exact thoughts,"

"Well anyways, I'm gonna find Spepticle and Red. Cya!"

With that she ran off to where she last saw them leaving Ash speechless. Didn't she need his help? Probably not she seemed capable enough. He began walking through the halls once more the palace feels a lot more lonely without someone by your side. Even if you do wanna rip their hair out at times. He turned around and glanced up at a painting of a beach. The sand was black and the sun was purple as it shone upon it. Small crystal like bumps surround a cave off in the distance as Ash stared at it getting lost in its picture.

"Thats look pretty," A strange voice said behind him. Ash turned around quickly seeing the mad with shades behind him.

"Yeah, my mother said its where she went once on vacation,"

"Really? Huh, I always thought places like that were closed off to the world," He replied. He then tilted his head down to meet Ash's eyes and smiled. "Well, anyways, my name's Red, Red Doons. Kinda matches with the family name don't you think?" He joked.

Ash nodded and looked at the painting. "Well then Red, places like those are closed off now but before they weren't. They were get closed off 20 years ago, my mother was alive back then so she could witness them before they closed and apparently so could this painter," He explained waving his hand over to the painting. Red looked at him and for a split second Ash felt a tense feeling in his chest as if the world was suffocating him before letting him have the sweet taste of air.

"Huh, you memorize that or some shit?" Red laughed walking closer to it and running his hands along the frame. Usually Ash would get at him for it although it was just the frame, not like thats gonna destroy the painting. Red soon took his finger off and glanced at Ash smiling smugly at him.

"Only for people like you," Ash replied back.

"Really? For amazing people like me?" He said his voice dripping with his own ego, although it was fake. Ash knew that Red had a high opinion of himself but not so high to put himself above all others.

"Try uncultured," Ash corrected. Surprise dashed onto Red's face before amusement took over and he laughed turning back to the painting. Ash watched as Red held his hand above his smile trying to hide it as he stared at the painting above them.

"I feel so offended," Red mocked his voice cutting through his laughter.

Ash couldn't help but smile.

"As you should,"

Red turned around and coughed into his hand as if trying to set himself straight. "So anyways your castle looks cool," He said still smiling through his lips. Ash nodded and found himself walking side by side with Red matching his pace as he walked through the halls his mind racing as red talked to him.

Soon Ash walked over to his room and opened the door as Red walked through he tried to slam it shut on him but Red caught it just in time laughing as he stepped in. "Come on trying to get rid of me already?"

"You'll surely be a challenge thats for sure," Ash walked over to his nightstand and looked at his crown and held it in his hands as he sat down on his bed. Red walked over and looked at the crown with awe.

"Thats your crown? It looks amazing,"

"Yeah, it was my mothers, its some weird tradition that the next heir to the throne wears this crown, something about knowledge and all of that bullshit," Ash muttered. Red took it from Ash's head and placed it on his head. Ash took the crown off and glared at him.

"What you look good in it!" Red laughed laying down. Ash only rolled his eyes at that and turned so that he was facing Red. "What do your brothers wear if you wear that then?" Red asked out of the blue.

"Well we had crowns designed for them, Vitalasy's has a bunch of foxes on it since he was obsessed with foxes at the time and Subz has a lot of darker swirls and whatnot on it. Branzys has a clock on his," Ash explained pressing his knees to his chest. Red sat back up and crisscrossed his legs so that he was facing Ash.

"That sounds cool,"

"Yeah and I'm stuck with some dusty old crown," Ash joked.

"Yeah how has that thing not rusted yet?"

"Its made out of titanium, and diamonds, although with sapphires and rubies, amethysts and whatnot. Its gonna take a while to rust," Ash explained running his hands along the features.

"I guess thats true, I mean it is pretty hard to rust gems and all," Red got up and began walking around the room before looking out the balcony and smiling. "It would be so easy to escape from here," he blurted out.

As got up and walked over looking down seeing the garden and the entrance right out of the castle. "It would be, although I've never tried,"

Red looked at him in shock before shaking his head and grabbing Ash's shoulders. "No, no, no, no, no you're lying right?" Red laughed, Ash brushed off his hands and watched as they fell back to Red's side.

"Why would I wanna escape from the castle? Its my home, plus the people have it worse out there. So tell me why in the world would I wanna go out and what get kidnapped or some dumb shit like that?" Ash walked over to the balcony and set his arms down on the railing leaning his weight on it.

"I don't know have some adventure and whatnot. Plus getting kidnapped? If you fucking get kidnapped thats on you,"

Ash watched Red walked next to him leaning on the railing too now and looked at him, Ah could see his eyes closer now. The were a light blue they seemed white to a point of degree but not so much that you would see it at first. The colors blended in together creating a snowy like background in Ash's eyes. He caught himself staring and for a second thought Red was doing the same. He looked away resting his gaze on the garden below him with flowers such as tulips and roses.

"You wanna go down to the garden?" Ash asked after a moments of silence.

"Sure, but I wanna do it my way," Red retorted pointing his hand to himself. Ash looked over and watched as Red began hopping over the balcony and scaled down the castle with ease laughing at Ash's expression. He stumbled on a few looser bricks and concrete but in the end made it all the way down. He then took a bow and glanced up.

"Your turn your highness,"

Ash let out a laugh of disbelief and hopped over the balcony looking down debating whether he could fall from this height and survive without any broken limbs. After debating no he climbed down to a reasonable height and jumped down balancing himself and looked up at Red his face inches from his own.

Ash backed up upon seeing it but smiled while doing so. "Are you not entertained?" He asked.

"I am very much entertained Mr. Swag," Red finger gunned him while turning back and walking through the garden. "You know I never would've thought that you guys had something like this,"

Ash gave him a confused look and walked by a set of purple and black roses Red was staring at. "What makes you think that?"

"Nothing just looks and all that, kinda seems like your palace would be a place for the dead, not gonna lie there," Red shrugged his voice rising the more he went on.

Ash looked at the walls of the castle for a while looking at the gothic carvings in it depicting terror in people's faces and flames all around them as they slowly died. He shrugged it off though and turned to Red. "Yeah, I guess I see what you mean,"

Red let out a laugh of disbelief before straightening his face and looking towards a bush of purple and white flowers. "Well I guess its the normal for you if you've lived here long enough," He stated.

"I guess so,"

The two walked around the garden constantly jabbing and poking at each other trying to see who could get the other angry first but instead of getting angry they would end up just laughing together. Ash would try to push Red into a small pond or thorn bush and Red would drag Ash along with him for the ride. It seemed like they were inseparable already.

Ash sat down on a bench and leaned onto the arm rest looking at Red who sat next to him. Now he saw his features more clearly, his hair was cut more than Spepticle's not enough to make it seem like it didn't get in his eyes but just enough so that it framed his face correctly. Not only that but he had slight specks on his face, it was the slightest different color and Ash didn't even realize it till now. They weren't freckles though more like different tones of skin.

"I probably have to go soon," Red said, he adjusted his arm on the arm rest and turned to Ash who was trying to hide his disappointment. Apparently he was doing a good job.

"Really? Alright," He moved his hand as if he tried showing that he didn't care although something in him just didn't want Red to go. He had finally found at least someone to mess around with.

"Our castles aren't that far away from each other,"

Ash turned his head to Red who was now smiling at Ash. "What are you suggesting?"

"We could meet up if you wanted. I know that your parents don't like you going out of the castle and all of that but think about it! It'll be fun. I mean you have a great escape route and I'm a master escapist," Red exclaimed, he gestured his hand pointing to himself while Ash scoffed a smile clinging onto his face.

"Doubt the last part," Ash said clearly.

Red gave him a smug smile and patted his back. "What don't you trust me!" He laughed loudly dragging out the last few words. Ash only shook his head and glanced back at him to see his reaction. Although Red was still smiling and laughing.

"Stop it you look insane," Ash scolded smacking the side of his head. Red stopped for a while before reducing it to a small chuckle although that smile was still on his face. Something that Ash found amusing and ended up smiling back himself.

After a while Red wiped an imaginary tear off his face and stood up holding his hand out to Ash who slapped it away instantly. "Come on let's head back, I need to see what kinda bullshit Spép's up to," Red snickered. Ash got up and began walking Red back to the main entrance feeling a pang in his chest, not a sharp one but more like a small snake bite as the venom slowly flowed through him leaving Red.

Before they walked through the doors Ash stopped and glanced at him. "Where would we meet?" He asked surprising himself. Although Red didn't look surprised as he turned around with a smug grin.

"Are you gonna come?"

"I'll consider it if I have nothing better to do," Ash snapped back feeling the hairs on his neck stand up as if he was being threatened.

"Ash, its the middle of the night what do you have to do?" Red didn't look convinced to say the least and Ash wasn't even very convinced with himself either.

"I don't know get a full nights rest?"

"I doubt that you even do that," Red laughed patting Ash's back as he stared at the doors his hand on one of the handles. He turned his head back to Ash with a grin. "Well, if you were to come you would have to be the Apple's Lake as 1 a.m, its not that far of a walk probably only 30 minutes at most, 15 or 10 if you run. Depends on how fast you run," Red shrugged.

"Like hell I'm running in the middle of the night," Ash exclaimed, shaking his head. Although he still kept a smile on his face. It was like it couldn't go away.

"Alright, well hopefully I'll see you there,"

"Doubt it,"

At that they both opened the door in unison to see Subz, Spepticle, and Ruby cheering Vitalasy on as he chugged a bottle of water. Ash rolled his eyes and walked over his steps following a small rhythm. "What are you guys doing," Ash said with disappointment in his voice and eyes as he tilted his head as if that would help him better understand whatever the hell was going on.

"Vitalasy made a bet with me," Subz declared pointing his thumbs to himself. At that Vitalasy wiped away the remaining water from his chin and looked at Ruby with wide eyes.

"How'd I do?"

"Took you about 30 seconds to chug that entire thing," Ruby declared clapping her hands together. Subz held a smug look on his face and he patted Vitalasy's back.

"Don't worry I'm an expert at bets," Subz gloated. Ash walked up behind Subz and put his hand on his shoulder to scare him and it did as he jumped physically and turned around seeing Ash smiling at him.

"Wanna bet?"

"Uh, with you, hell no," Subz said, pointing his fingers at Ash. Soon enough Branzzy came down the stairs with his mother and his father. Soon the Doons' parents came down too talking about politics probably and what not with a bored Branzzy at their side. Upon seeing his brothers he rushed to them and hid behind Ash.

"Dad went on a 30 minute rant about what we do, a freaking 30 minute rant," Branzzy dragged out playful despair in his voice. Although some of it was clearly real.

"Yeah that happens," Ash muttered quietly nudging him. He didn't know that he was still smiling but Branzzy noticed, but before he could ask his father smiled and began talking loudly.

"So the Doons have to go now but we will be in touch and they might come back to visit next week," He declared. Ash couldn't help but feel his chest lift with that. He would be able to mess around with Red again. That'd be fun.

He watched as they all went and disappeared with his father resting his hand on Ash's shoulder.

"Well did you have fun today? I saw that your princess wasn't with you for most of it and thought that you two got into an argument," He replied with concern. Although it probably wasn't for Ash, he knew that his father didn't really care too much about him compared to the kingdom.

"We didn't get into an argument just decided that we both didn't like each other and went our separate ways, literally. Anyways I just messed around with Red," He explained trying to keep his

voice flat and straight although he wanted to get more excited talking about Red. He wanted to just ramble on and on about the day that they had because it was just so much fun. It was just so much fun to finally act like a little kid again. To have a childhood that he never really had.

"I see, oh well. I won't have another few kingdoms come back for a while with that. Besides we've reached the kingdoms more near us anyways," His father sighed, picking at his nails. Ash couldn't help but smile in relief at that. Finally no more people to meet. Unless he meets up with Red although he doesn't even know if he wants to do that.

Before his father could ramble though his mother opened the doors letting a chill flow through the room. She walked down to his father her black and purple dress grazing across the floor as she stopped by her sons side. "So I take that it didn't work out?" It was almost like she was gloating with her purple like eyes floating over to his father.

"I mean he found a friend,"

"A friend isn't a lover," His mother replied stiffly. Ash had to agree on that one. A friend isn't a lover. "Well anyways Ash its almost time for dinner so I suggest that you get ready, your brothers are already waiting for you," She said dismissing him with a flick of her hand. "I'm going to talk to your father,"

Ash followed her instructions not wanting to see what goes down next. He walked through the halls feeling a sense of loneliness creeping up on him once more as he didn't hear anyone next to him. Ash may never admit it even to himself but he doesn't like being alone. He doesn't like wandering off alone. He'd rather prefer his brothers right next to him talking to each other.

Just because Ash doesn't like being talked to all that much doesn't mean that he likes the feeling of isolation. He sat down at the dinner table hearing Branzzy and Vitalasy argue over something petty while Subz leaned back in his chair and glanced up Ash smiling. "Whats up Ash," He greeted waving his hand ever so slightly as to hardly make an effort.

"Nothing much,"

"Damn not even the ceiling,"

Ash glanced up at Subz and tilted his head down ever so slightly his eyes having to go up to meet Subz's. It was something that he picked up from his mother, mostly from watching her debate with others a few times. Subz just laughed and turned back around. He wasn't gonna be talking to Ash for a while.

Soon enough his parents walked down and began sitting at their places while maids and chefs brought food to the table. Vitalasy and Branzzy stopped their arguing and instead gave each other the silent treatment, which Ash knew wouldn't last for long. Those two are practically brothers now, even if they aren't directly related.

Ash served himself up some food and began eating it slowly hearing the conversation of his parents to the left of him and the sounds of his brothers to the right.

"I just think that he'll be better off with a princess," His father pushed anger threatening to boil out.

"I think that we need to let him decide who he wants to marry not bring people to his doorstep do you know the amount of pressure that puts on someone?" His mother scoffed and Ash could see her flipping her hair as it got in her face. He could see her glaring at his father as if trying to curse him.

"Well he isn't choosing anyone any time soon and you and I both know that. I want him to be happy too but-"

"Happy?" His mother's voice cut him off, it was cold and harsh as if she was smacking him in the face. "If you want him to be happy you won't push him into something that he doesn't want to be apart of. I know you Osiris, I know what men like you are. So I suggest that you look back down at your plate and *never* use that tone with me again," Ash's mother was the type of person who didn't need to raise their voice to sound threatening, she didn't need to raise her voice or even speak to send you running away, but maybe all mothers just have that.

Whatever it was his father didn't protest and began eating and shutting up finally. Ash stabbed a bean with his fork and glanced up to Branzzy and Vitalasy who were already muttering insults to each other under their breaths. Ash lifted up his fork and watched as they both had their backs turned. Within an instant he flung a bean over hitting Vitalasy on the head who then turned to Branzzy pouting and shouting.

Cue the chaos. Branzzy began explaining that he didn't do it while Subz pursued both sides taking them both on and never truly defending one of them. None of them would talk to Ash about their argument though. They all knew that he didn't like to be talked to very much.

"Will you boys quiet down?" His father asked looking up. Branzzy huffed in frustration while Vitalasy looked down at his plate glowering. Subz just smiled and rested his face on his hand smiling at the chaos and the situation he had just created. Although he knew that Ash had a part in that too, neither of them mentioned it.

"Sorry," Vitalasy and Branzzy mumbled in unison.

His father huffed and began eating once again. Ash knew that he was just being a bitch because he got shut down by his mother.

Once dinner was done and that whole chaos factor was out of his life he went up to his room alone once again. Now he could go with Vitalasy and Subz to the park to go and play tag or run around in the dirt, but he didn't like doing so all that much now. It was fun when he was a child but now it just seemed boring to him, besides Vitalasy and Subz were more interested in making each other suffer from exhaustion rather than paying attention to Ash. What about Branzzy? Well Branzzy was going over to a blacksmiths to try and make some clocks and little machines, Ash could go with him but he never understood anything that Branzzy did from the little cogs to the small electricity conductors.

So he was alone all up in his room glancing at the walls and the ceilings looking at every fairytale in existence don't get him wrong they all had happy endings and what not but they were all only happy because of some sort of miracle in their life. By some sort of godmother or some spell that made their lives happy. That made them find their true loves. Meanwhile that was never going to happen in the real world Ash couldn't just eat some dumb poisoned apple and magically be kissed to wake up to his lover. Although if he was would he really want to go with them? Some person he's never seen before just decided to kiss him, kinda creepy.

Ash is never gonna waltz into a ball and lose a glass slipper of some sort to find his lover once again. These things just don't happen in the real world and if they did well half of them would just be really weird and awkward to sort out. Like how did you meet your mother? Oh yeah I just saw her laying down on a log and decided well I'd be a good time to kiss her. Did you know her? Nope.

Yeah spare him the embarrassment. He flicked a small metal scrap across the room and watched as

it flew. He then turned over to his desk and picked up a book. He could read if anything. He could read for the rest of the day. He could study for the rest of the day. Although reading all of the interesting books in the library didn't help that. He sighed debating it for a while before opening the book. It was Frankenstein a book about some guy who created a monster and who's life was destroyed by said monster. He chased glory and fame but instead ended up with all of his loved ones dead and with an innocent life hanged because of him.

He liked this story the best. Besides from the monster coming to life thing it was reasonable. Like hell Victor was just going to kill the monster that he created, not only that but Ash found it ironic that the monster was supposed to be a perfect being. Victor tried basing the monster off of everything perfect about the human body, he robbed graves and committed sins to try and reach the perfection of the human race. Although the 'perfect' human that he created ended up being horrible haunting him and destroying him, hell it even killed him in a way.

He flipped to the last chapter watching as Victor cursed the creature that he made with his last breaths and begging Robert Walton to kill the creature, Ash watched as Victor went delusional saying how spirits were guiding him and how he'd guide Robert. Then he watched him die and the monster appear fearing what he himself had done. The monster feared himself and told Robert that he regretted everything from killing people to terrorizing villages. Then he was said to burn himself in the Arctic to die alone as he was destined to.

As Ash finished this book he looked at the time it was darker out now and his brothers were probably home by now. Although he didn't hear them come in, they would usually come in screaming and shouting at the top of their lungs. Although it was quieter now.

He didn't bother asking them what they were doing though as he got up and got dressed for bed. He wasn't gonna meet up with Red, that guy was fucking delusional. Why the hell would Ash wake up in the middle of the night to meet up with him of all people. He put on his pajama's and opened his door to the hall. He was just gonna walk around and probably get another book. He stepped outside of his room and began looking around before hearing his brothers slam a door shut and burst through laughing and screaming.

"Branzy get the door!" Vitalasy screamed through his own laughter. Ash walked over and leaned over the railing to see as Vitalasy and Branzy were locking Subz out.

"Branzy you better fucking let me in or else!" Subz shouted slamming his hands against the door. Branzy let out a fit of giggles and laughter as he covered his mouth. Vitalasy just taunted Subz shouting insults and names at him. Ash decided to let them have their fun as he walked past and into the library. He walked through the bookshelves and looked up at the towers and felt a presence by his side.

"You know I don't think I've ever seen one of your brothers in this place before, maybe Branzy one or two times but I see you here the most Ash," He felt his mother's hand rest on his shoulder. He looked up at her and nodded slightly.

"I guess I just find being here more interesting," Ash looked at the several rings on his hand and began spinning them around.

"I know you do," She then walked in front of him and looked down at him although he didn't feel smaller under her gaze but instead stood up straighter. "Well have a good day my son," She pressed a kiss to his forehead and walked away leaving him alone among the piles of books.

He took out a book about a fairytale that he's never seen before and walked up to his room and began reading it. Although it wasn't like the others instantly.

It was about a girl who was taught to be perfect her whole entire life who was taught to draw inside the lines instead of out of them. She was one of the most beautiful in the land her hair going down to her waist and her eyes a magnificent blue. Her blonde hair bobbed and bounced whenever she walked and the girl's voice was as sweet as honey. She had the sweetest personality and everyone loved and adored the girl wherever she went. They would always try to help her whenever she needed it and soon enough the kingdoms began getting interested in this girl.

They would talk with her parents about an arranged marriage sending tons and tons of princes her way, charming ones too. Ones with white hair, blue hair, and black hair. Some with blonde and others with brown. While others were shy some were louder and more bold around her. Some treated her as the smartest person in the room while some treated her as the dumbest. Either way prince after prince she could never choose one. She never felt an attraction to them. She never got why she could see herself being friends with them but never lovers. She could never imagine herself dating one of them. She never ever in a million years days whatever could ever picture herself with one of the princes.

She thought that she could never feel love for years on end until something happened that changed her life. One day a prince with raven black hair came to the castle his eyes were a royal blue although it wasn't the prince that had caught her eye. It was the person next to him. There was a girl next to him her hair fell down to her middle back and her eyes were of an emerald green that sparkled at the lights.

Her dress was black and blue as her makeup was green and black. To the blonde girl this one was a goddess. From her looks to the way she acted, she was carefree she walked around with a pep in her step and never slowed down as she talked. Her voice was lower than the others and softer as she spoke but she always seemed somewhat energetic. Whenever the blonde was around her it was like her own facade faded as she would stumble constantly at each and every time the other girl lightly teased her or flirted with her. She couldn't stop thinking of that girl every single night and every time when they would meet again felt like a slice of heaven to her. It was like she couldn't get enough of it.

This girl seemed to be her knight in shining armor. Whenever she got sick or got hurt the other girl would always be right by her side smiling and laughing with her. The blonde got attracted to the dark haired girl and didn't even know it until she was forced to marry. She found herself resenting all men that came to her and ended up shouting and turning them down before one day she left in tears, she couldn't understand herself. She couldn't understand this feeling in her chest. She couldn't understand why she was like this.

She felt like a stranger in her own heart and mind.

Then the black haired girl came again talking to her and calming her down. She helped dry her tears with her own dress and cupped her face telling her everything was gonna be okay. Telling her that she was gonna be there for her no matter what. Then they both kissed.

Maybe it was some uncontrollable urge or an attraction to each other but they kissed and didn't stop. They found comfort in each other and were willing to risk everything to be together.

The book ended there was Ash blowing his candle out and instantly put the book on his nightstand feeling heat rise to his cheeks. Maybe it was the fact that there was a girl kissing a girl book in the library or the fact that he just read it and thought about what it would be like if it once again were two princes. He'd imagine the story the same but at the same time flushed at the thought of so. He curled up in his bed sheets and tossed and turned his mind on the book. For the first time in his life he wondered what it would be like to kiss someone else, not a girl though. A boy.

The thought squirmed in his mind as he pulled the sheets over his head and felt his heart race as he felt the scenario run through his mind. He kept imagining different faces until he fell asleep, or so he thought.

He imagined what it would be like to kiss Red. He imagined the scenario and couldn't keep it out of his head. When he finally broke out of his day dream he looked at the time and realized it wasn't a dream at all. He was in full control of his own thoughts and his own thoughts went to him kissing Red. A guy he just fucking met.

He dug his nails into his palms and glanced up at the time as it read 1:20. Red said to be there by 2. He could leave now and still make it. He pondered the thought for a moment before deciding to just go for it. He put on actual clothes and looked down at the balcony scaling it like he'd done before. He jumped down and shivered against the wind. If Red wasn't there he was going to kill him. He walked past the walls and began wondering through the forest. His father lead him here once to hunt. Although Ash didn't kill anything. Turns out he wasn't big on hunting.

He walked for a while before reaching the lake. It did take about 30 minutes but that was behind him now as he looked at the small lake. Its water shine din the moonlight and the plants around it grew over it. It was practically untouched by people. He sighed deeply and leaned against an oak tree and pressed his knees to his chest once more feeling the scent of water rush through his lungs.

He didn't know how long he was like that until he heard something. He turned around and saw Red walking through and looking at Ash in surprise. "I honestly didn't think you were gonna come," Red laughed his face reddening slightly. Ash stood up and looked at Red with a smug grin.

"I that makes two of us,"

"Hey I arranged this I kinda had to come," Red snapped walking over to Ash who just smiled in response. Ash walked around Red for a while before Red began talking again. "Do you think that you could make it across the lake without drowning?" Red asked leaning against the tree. Ash looked over and nodded.

"I know I could," he said smugly. Red looked back at him and Ash just noticed that Red still had his shades on.

"Then do it," Red challenge getting off the tree and walking over to Ash who just smiled and ran around the lake to the other side. He could still see Red who was laughing and walked closer to the edge upon seeing him. Ash felt his lips form into a smile and his eyes adjust to the new light as the moon was now shining off of Red's glasses.

"I should've specified, that's on me," Red shouted over, admitting defeat. Although Ash wanted to hear it one more time.

"What?" He shouted back cupping his hands over his mouth to amplify the sound.

"No fuck you! I'm not saying that again!" Red shouted back laughing. Well he knew Ash heard him the first time, that's a bummer. Ash laughed and ran back over to which Red pushed him into a bush causing Ash to fall down. Although before he hit the ground he grabbed Red's arm dragging him down with him. Red made a small noise of shock before hitting the ground the wind getting knocked out of him.

Ash tried getting back up but Red pulled him back down. "You're staying with me now bitch!" Red protested tugging Ash back down. Ash let out a fake scream and tumbled down next to Red. He the. Turned over and began trying to push Red away from him although it wasn't working very

well. Red just kept pulling him back and laughing, Ash himself wasn't even trying very hard.

"Fuck you let me go!" Ash heaved feeling himself get out of breath. Red didn't respond and instead kept pulling on Ash. Red then grabbed his arm and stood up trying to drag Ash.

"No!" Red shouted back it was clear that he was getting out of breath too. Ash hissed under his breath and pushed himself back up looking at Red's blue eyes. His shades were off. Red seemed to notice too but not before Ash found them and grabbed them. He laughed at Red who was now chasing him as Ash had them on now. He could hardly see anything through them especially with the night sky but still could see just enough to be able to navigate the terrain.

"Bruh! Give me my shades!" Red pouted as Ash was holding them out of Red's reach. Although they were the same height Ash would move his hands whenever Red was close to reaching them. Red made one last attempt before giving up and crossing his arms. "You know what how about a deal?" He asked.

Ash thought about it for a while before slowly letting the glasses down but keeping his eye on them encase Red tried to take them. "What kind of deal?"

"How about... I teach you how to dance!" Red exclaimed, throwing his arms up in the air like it was a great idea.

Ash smiled in disbelief. Why the hell would he wanna dance? "How do you know that I can't dance?" Ash pushed.

"Ah nothing just a feeling you know," Red stated now walking around him. It was subtle but enough for Ash to be put on edge as he lowered the shades down. Soon enough Red lunged for them and grabbed them within his hands. He let out a shout of triumph and looked at Ash smiling as he was now in the grass his hair all messed up.

"Got them!" Red shouted thrusting them into the air. Ash wasn't gonna steal them, Red did take them fair and square after all.

"Alright, but now you gotta teach me how to dance," Ash walked beside Red and nudged him with his elbow. Red only looked at him in disbelief before putting his shades back on and turning to him.

"Seriously? You actually want me to teach you how to dance?" It was clear the Red didn't believe Ash one bit although Ash wasn't joking. If Red got his shades back he was going to learn how to dance from him at least. After a few beats of silence Red laughed and smiled patting Ash's back.

"Okay, I'll teach you tomorrow, its getting late and I do wanna get some sleep," He yawned, stretching his arms to the sky. Ash felt a similar pang in his chest leaving his friend, but he didn't wanna seem clingy though so he had to agree.

"Sure, tomorrow then,"

"I'll teach you how to waltz," With that Red bowed and walked back into the forest leaving Ash alone and with a sweet feeling crawling up his throat. It felt like honey thick and kinda made him wanna puke at times, but sweet.

"Why are you in such a good mood today?" Vitalasy blurted out as they walked through the hall to breakfast. Ash didn't realize he was talking to him until he realized that no one else was answering.

"What do you mean? I'm always like this," he tried making his voice calm and monotonous but he still felt that honey like sensation from earlier creeping at his throat.

"Sure you are bud. You smiled in the morning you usually just kinda groan and tell us to shut up is we speak to loud, but Branzly freaking screamed! You didn't say anything!" Vitalasy exclaimed, disbelief written all over his face. Ash didn't have a response to that but instead looked back at him.

"What do you want me to tell you guys to shut the hell up, or would you rather have me in a good mood,"

"I think telling us to shut up would suffice," Subz interjected.

"I didn't fucking ask you," Ash snapped turning around and stopping to look at Subz in the eye. They were about the same height so it made it seem less ominous and less I'm gonna kill you like but it was enough for Subz to hold up his hands and kinda dip his head down as to tell Ash that he won.

With that none of them talked as they walked over in silence. Ash looked at up the walls seeing the different pictures and portraits of those before him. What would they think about him sneaking out? They've probably done so before so why would they care? Should they care? Ash steadied his thoughts as he opened the door the sudden temperature of hotter air from the windows blasting his face. Vitalasy complained about it while Subz just told him to shut up.

Ash sat in his seat and began eating breakfast once more his mom glancing at him every few times. She was upset about something and Ash had a guess about what. His father seemed like he wished to speak, but whenever it seemed as if he was gather up the courage his mother just talked instead changing the conversation.

Once they were done eating his father spoke though ignoring his mother's glares and protests as if she wasn't even there. "Ash, I have decided that if you can't find someone to marry in the next month I will have to arrange a marriage for you," He declared trying not to look into his mother's eyes.

Ash would be lying if he said he wasn't panicking or if he wasn't angry. "What? Why? Mom didn't marry you until she was 21 I'm 18, I have like an extra... 3 years," Ash said in disbelief.

"I know that this seems hard now but its better for everyone in the long run,"

"How," Ash replied sternly, it wasn't really a question more like a this-isn't-going-to-work statement.

His father seemed to stammer a bit on his words before shaking his head. "Whatever, the decision is already made and I won't change my mind so I suggest you find yourself a princess soon,"

Ash balled up his fists trying not to slam his hands into the table or to shout at his father, he was definitely more like his mother with her personality. He glanced up at his father and instead of shouting bit his tongue feeling the pain shoot up through his brain causing him to shut up. He didn't wanna argue right now, not in the morning at least.

Silence spread around through the hall like a disease none of his brothers were talking and the only noises were made by the clinking or dishes or the occasional servants wandering through to do their assigned tasks but even then, that was rare. "I'm going to go to my room," Ash said lowly not caring if anyone heard. they would figure out where he went soon enough.

The only acknowledgement of his statement was Subz muttering okay under his breath. Even then

though Ash thought he imagined it for a moment. It was like when you say something but no one responds and you begin to wonder if you even spoke at all. Ash stood up from his chair grinding his teeth at the sliding noise and walked around it pushing it back in. It was clear that no one was gonna say anything although his mother didn't look pleased. In fact it looked like she wanted to rip out his father's hair and use it to gag him. Ash wouldn't put it against her.

He walked to his room his mind in a haze of fury, he wouldn't care about this a few weeks ago. He'd just break up with the princesses that's what his parents knew he would do. Although this time though they didn't care as if saying that it's his decision and that they wouldn't care anymore, because they wouldn't.

Once they hand the throne to him everything that he does is on him and him only. He opened his door and slammed it shut not caring for the poor hinges on the door which would probably (and most likely) need a changing. He walked over to his desk and looked at the mess of papers and stories. Most of which were fairytales and the papers were just nothing but notes for his classes.

It was at times like this that Ash did wish that he was in a fairytale with someone to help watch over him no matter how dumb it sounded. He knew that he mocked fairytales but they had happy endings and right now it seemed like his story wouldn't. He grabbed his pen and looked at a piece of paper on his desk. He needed to clear his mind of something anything.

He would draw but he never really liked drawing. He would write but the stories and the plots and characters would just put more and more stress onto him molding his mind into mush. He felt his hand putting more and more pressure onto the pen until he forced it to stop. He didn't wanna break it and have to go back out to ask for another one.

So instead of writing or doing anything productive he just scribbled circles onto the paper watching at the blackness soon took over it making it seem like a jumbled mess. Probably because it was. It was his mind. He couldn't think straight, for once in his life he couldn't think straight. That was probably the worst feeling ever. After a few jumbled seconds, maybe it was minutes his mind was going so fast at this point that he couldn't even correctly recall the time, he set down the pen and laid his head down on his desk.

He wanted to be left alone but at the same time didn't. His mind couldn't make a choice on what it wanted. So someone made the choice for him. A knock on the door was heard as he turned around. "Who is it," He didn't realize how sick his voice sounded until that very moment. Probably sounded like he'd been grieving the death of someone. Technically he has, his own.

"Vitalasy, just thought you needed someone to talk to is all," A cough could be heard after the sentence leaving Ash to get back up and look at the door.

"Come in I guess," He said sighing afterwards. Maybe he was going to regret this.

Vitalasy walked in his orange hair glistening at the sun. "Oh, wow, you seem... upset," He laughed nervously. He was trying to deescalate the situation and he was doing a shit job at it.

"Wow what gave it away," Ash didn't wanna talk right now, maybe he did though. What he did know for sure now was that he just wanted someone to sit next to him. Vitalasy seemed to pick up on it and ended up sitting right next to Ash not saying a word. Although he did end up humming the occasional song Ash didn't mind. It was better than getting drowned out in his own thoughts anyways. At least the humming brought him back to his shit reality.

The rest of the day passed by with Ash in his room only coming down to eat and glare at his father.

Now though he was going to meet up with Red once more. The thought printed into his mind causing his chest to warm and his mouth to force itself into a smile. Red had to teach him how to dance today and Ash was going to be difficult.

He climbed down and did what he did last time this time with more ease as he walked through the forest to the lake. He walked over to the water looking down at the shimmering lake. The moon was out, full. So the water looked like a small sea of crystals with the algae shining in it. Soon enough a rock splashed into the lake and Ash turned around seeing Red toss another stone up and down into the air.

"Hola," Red said, smiling awkwardly and waving at Ash. "I'm supposed to teach you to dance today right?"

"That was the deal,"

"Technically you never shook on it though soooo," Red dragged out the last word his mouth turning into a slim smile causing Ash to mirror it.

"Well I could always go back," Ash pushed walking over back to the castle but Red walked over and grabbed his arm. He seemed pleased with Ash's reaction and rolled his eyes under his shades, Ash couldn't see it but he could feel it.

"Well you came all the way here, plus I'm a gentleman so I'll teach you how to waltz," Red said pretending to be sad and even using his finger to outline a fake tear causing Ash to chuckle a little.

"You're damn right you will," Ash walked back with Red towards the lake and looked down at the water. "So when do we start?"

Red walked up right next to him and sat down near the water. "Whenever you're ready,"

Ash stood up and smiled at him as Red did the same sticking out his right hand as Ash took it. Red stuck it out not letting go and Ash realized that they were in fact starting. He felt his heart beat slightly fast as Red put his hand on Ash's left shoulder blade. "Place your left hand on my shoulder," He instructed gesturing his head over.

Ash did so and Red look at him. "Alright step back with your left foot," he said, looking down and watching where Ash stepped. Which was forward. "Wh-what? I said back," Red laughed in disbelief.

"My back or your back?"

"Why would it be my back?"

"I dunno might just be a shitty instructor," Ash said shrugging it off. Red leaned his head back and looked as if he was considering what he was doing for a moment before tilting it back down and sighed deeply. "Alright move your right foot back- your back,"

Ash gave him a smug smile as he did so. Red seemed to shuffle his own feet to step forward leaning ash back as he now felt some weight of his own being leaned back. "Move your left foot so its parallel with your right, make sure its about shoulder-width apart," Red muttered.

Ash did so but ended up slipping on a rock with Red catching him up and pulling him back up. "Waltzing is simple how are you this bad at it," he laughed pulling Ash closer to him to make sure that he didn't fall.

"Skill," Ash said confidently tilting his head up.

"Whatever, now step forward with your left foot," Red said quickly changing the conversation. Ash did so trying not to mess it up now as he was slowly wrapping his brain around how to waltz. "Now step to the side with your right foot so its parallel to your left- not so close together," Red laughed watching as Ash was trying not to fall again as he adjusted his position.

Ash mumbled something under his breath that Red didn't hear or he just didn't care enough to know. "Alright now left foot together with your right,"

Ash did it looking down and feeling pride swell up in his chest as he did it. The whole time Red was following him and mirroring his movement. "Alright, now just that again!" Without warning Red started stepping forward and Ash following. He was going to complain but swallowed it trying to just focus on the moves themselves. Ash then looked up noticing Red was staring at him and suddenly felt himself panic mentally. He smiled softly at him while Red just smiled back as they both danced trying not to fall.

Soon though it came to an end as Red spun Ash around and dipped him smiling before pulling him back up. Now Ash never felt closer to him as his heart began beating faster and faster he could probably feel his own pulse through his arms right now. "See it wasn't that bad," Red teased.

It took a while for Ash to register what he said before nodding. "I mean, I'm just skilled,"

"You tripped during a move,"

"It was planned,"

Red didn't look convinced but instead just nodded before both of them realized that they were still holding hands and dropped it. Ash's hands fell to his sides and suddenly his hands felt oddly cold. Until he realized that Red's hands were just overly hot. Odd. Ash felt a feeling of awkwardness climb over him as he looked at Red he felt his cheeks warm up and turned around looking at the lake.

"Do you think you could swim through it?" Ash asked after a while.

"Didn't I ask you this question?"

"No,"

Red walked over to his side and looked at the lake. He then bent down and picked up a rock skipping it across and sitting down on the ground. Ash sat down next to him feeling his heart begin rushing more and more until he felt like he was going to through up the honey in his throat. The sickening sweet feeling that wanted to come out but couldn't. "If I say yes are you gonna ask me to prove it?"

Ash looked at at Red seeing his blue eyes somehow still shining through his shades and turned back. "If I say yes are you not gonna do it?"

"I will, maybe in the morning though when it won't be odd coming home wet,"

"Thats a fair point... I still think you should to it though,"

After a few beats of silence Red took in a deep breath and smiled. "Of course you would,"

Night after night Ash found himself meeting up with Red no matter what. He couldn't stop himself, he knew Red would always show up because he always has. Never once has the other asked the other to stop showing up and Ash like it like that. He still didn't know what the sickening sweet feeling was though. Although he might have an idea today, later though, later.

He walked over to the lake and saw Red sitting by it messing around with something in his hands, but once he heard Ash he stopped and look up. "Whats that?" Ash asked walking by and sat down right next to him. Their hands were touching with how close they sat but neither of them noticed or cared too much to make the other move their hand.

"My sister Ruby has a bunch of jewelry and um," Red laughed a little leaning back and shifting one of his hands so that Ash and his hand were still touching but so that he himself could lean back. "She just gave me this ring the other day and said that she didn't want it anymore. Something about it not matching her. It just kinda... reminded me of you so here," He muttered handing him a black obsidian ring with purple gems in it.

"I don't know why it reminded me of you just the colors I guess," Red trailed off as Ash took the ring in his hands and put it on.

"How am I gonna explain to my parents how I got this?" He sighed about to take it off.

"Just say I gave it to you last time I was here and that you just didn't wear it until now they'll probably believe that bullshit and stuff you know," Red shrugged, clearing his voice he stood up and helped Ash up. He turned to the lake and began walking along the edge of it with Ash both just sitting there as Ash toyed with the ring in his hands. It fit perfectly kinda odd but still it was nice.

"Do you ever get dreams about falling i-... just falling like into something," Red cut himself off the first time, it was obvious that he said something different. Ash wasn't sure what though although that sticky sweet feeling creeped up onto him once again.

"Yeah, I was a pretty dumb kid when I was 10 and fell into a well, it wasn't deep and it was old thank god only about 8 feet deep but still. It scared me for about 2 months I wouldn't dare go near a well after that. Hell I even got nightmares. Horrible ones just about wells being underneath my feet when I stepped and I couldn't move," Ash rambled moving his hand up closer to his face and began adjusting the ring looking at the carvings in it. Who would just give away a purple and black ring? Especially when it was made so well.

"Why'd you ask?"

Red looked up from the lake and gave him a small feeble smile. It felt like something was wrong. "Oh, nothing just you know wondering and all. I used to have dreams about falling from cliffs all of the time so out of spite I began telling Speg about how he'd fall if he got close to one too. I don't know why I did it but I remember being a total dickhead to him about it. Although it was funny whenever he'd see a ledge he'd scream and hide behind me," Red laughed at the memory leaving him and Ash in a silence.

This time it was different though. It felt tense, like they each felt or knew something that the other didn't. It didn't feel care free anymore and Ash could feel his mind running they walked side by side before Red stopped and began tapping his finger against his leg impatiently. "I have to marry someone in like the next 3 days," Red slipped out.

Ash stared at him for a while before finally responding. "Same, except mine is in like a day," Ash scoffed. "And its so unfair like my parents didn't marry until they were 21 why do I have to start now,"

"I don't know. All I know is that I don't wanna be forced into some dumb ass relationship with a girl that I just met. Like do you know how awkward that is? Dating someone you've just met in the span of what? A fricken second!"

Ash nodded. "Honestly yeah, I'd give it about a week at least,"

"Along with being told how to live! What to they care?! Not like they'll be around long enough to witness it anyways," Red balled up his fists and let the tension go instantly upon Ash noticing. "It doesn't make sense,"

"I don't think any of this makes sense, like we're from a bloodline and suddenly we're gods most praised souls. Do you know how, cultish that sounds?" Ash laughed at the mental image before returning back to Red who was also smiling a bit.

"I know, hierarchy is a lot lot praising a certain bloodline, so you know kinda cultish,"

"Except for those who don't praise it, then they would be not cult people or whatever the terms called,"

Red looked like he was about to say the term before stopping and letting the silence fall over them once again. This time Red sat down in the grass and Ash did the same feeling his braid get slightly out of place. He took out his hair band and moved it over to his side and began braiding it as Red watched. "I will never get how people braid hair," He muttered softly.

Ash looked at him calmly and continued braiding his hair. "Ivory taught me, she hated how I kept it in a ponytail and told me to do something else with it or else next time she visits she's gonna bring her personal barber," Ash laughed at the memory while Red nodded scooting over towards Ash so that now they were touching.

"I know how to braid, but its just you know. It feels weird after a while I keep getting lost I guess,"

Ash hummed in acknowledgment. "You get lost? How do you get lost doing something over and over again?"

"I guess my mind just sort of goes blank you know?"

Ash thought for a moment he's never really had a moment like that before in his life. Ever second was spent thinking and reading books trying to get lost in any one else's story other than his own. Why? Their stories were happy, they had happy endings and as far as Ash knew his didn't. Something he found after a few meetings that he was just jealous of.

"If you say so," Ash finished up his braid and Red looked at it for a while before Ash moved it over to his side. He felt Red run his fingers through it as if he was trying to figure out how Ash did it. They sat like that for a while, Ash would never admit he liked the feeling of Red brushing his hair, not even now.

"When do you plan on going back?"

Ash looked at Red confused at his question and sighed. "I don't know, soon maybe. I mean look at the moon, its not too late but you know. Should be getting home at 5. They won't check my room until 9 though probably I have a habit of sleeping in,"

"Before or after the meetups?"

Ash chuckled feeling his cheeks heat up as he looked at Red who still had a dumb smirk on his

face. "Both,"

Red didn't say anything else and just leaned his head on Ash's shoulder instead of saying anything else. After a few moments of considering Ash grabbed Red's hand and wrapped his fingers in between his feeling the sudden warmth sink into his own cold hands. He breathed softly feeling his chest go up and down.

His heart was slowing down too although he felt his throat and mouth dry, he felt nervous for some reason. "You have to get married tomorrow right?" Red muttered softly, his head was still leaned into Ash's neck but neither of them showed any sign of noticing it.

"Yeah,"

He felt Red shift under him to the point where they were now staring face to face at each other. "That, that sucks," The words came out of Red's mouth hollow, even though he did seem to mean them it was like he had another thing in mind. Ash tilted his head closer towards Red.

"Why so?"

"Because..." Red trailed off considering what he was about to do, what he was about to do might bring upon him. "Then I can't do this again,"

He leaned forward kissing Ash gently, Ash leaned back a bit, for some reason he wasn't shocked or disgusted by the kiss. He grabbed Red's neck and pulled him closer longing for the kiss to last a little long as the feelings in his chest and stomach slowly faded away into it. When Red pulled away he stared at Ash for a while, Ash's hands were still on Red's neck and they didn't say anything for a while.

"Well, I'm sure we can figure something out," Ash breathed out his words light and airy as Red nodded and moved over to Ash's side and kissed his cheek.

"Yeah, I'm sure that we could,"

Ash didn't get any sleep that night still feeling the kiss he and Red had previously shared still linger on his lips as he tossed and turned in his bed. He pulled the cover over himself still feeling Red's hand against his and no matter what couldn't stop his face from heating up and from his eyes from imagining Red's face. Although that would have to end soon. It can't last, he's supposed to get married tomorrow after all and his parents are gonna start checking in on his behavior making sure that everything's right and whatnot.

He would be deprived of his freedom, freedom that he wished he had discovered before Red showed up. Freedom that he desperately now wanted. This freedom was to be himself, not just personality wise but *himself* without fearing what his parents might think of him now. When he 'woke' up he grabbed his sleeves feeling Red hold onto him. It was like he couldn't get his mind off of Red, and now, he liked that feeling.

He liked Red being next to him and talking to him, he might even go as far to say he loves that feeling. He heard a knock on his door and looked up his eyes glued onto the door some part of him not wanting to speak, he had to though.

"Who is it?"

"Subz,"

Ash sighed and got up opening the door to see Subz's face. "What do you want?"

"You slept in till like 9:45, come on dads not exactly happy about it," Subz said motioning his hand for Ash to followed him. Ash just sighed and held up his finger as he shut the door and began getting dressed looking down at the ring upon his finger. He grabbed it and considered taking it off before stopping himself. His parents probably wouldn't notice.

Once he put on his clothes and got washed himself up he walked back out to see Subz leaning on the side of the walls picking at his nails before turning his head over to see Ash and wave. "Finally, come on lets go I don't wanna get in trouble for you taking so goddamn long," Subz said rushing past him.

"Whatever," Ash followed him down the halls and to the dining room where their parents weren't. "Thought you said they were here?" Ash asked as he walked over and sat down in his chair.

"Yeah, they're coming later come on eat," Subz gestured over for Ash to eat as he looked back seeing Vitalasy and Branzzy.

"Alright," Ash took his fork and began adjusting his grip before eating his food quickly. He watched in the corner of his eye as Subz and Branzzy were talking quietly about something. Vitalasy on the other hand was standing off to the side looking at Ash. Ash didn't need to turn his head to see it though, something about his stare burning into the back of his skull. When he was done eating he stood up and walked over only for his brothers to shut up.

"What are you talking about?" Ash demanded. Neither of them spoke a word, almost then Ash knew that one of their parents told them to not tell Ash something. He took in a deep breath and looked down at Vitalasy granted they were about the same height but something about Ash's stare could make someone feel smaller.

"Vitalasy?" He murmured lowly.

Vitalasy looked at Branzzy or Subz for help but only got an awkward smile from Subz and a thumbs up from Branzzy. Vitalasy looked up at Ash and was about to open his mouth before stopping and looked at the ground. "I'm sorry," was all he could manage out before his father came through the doors.

"Ash, my boy!" His father greeted walking over.

"Whats going on?" Ash snapped not dealing with his father's sweat talk today. His mother stared at Ash with a confused face, looks like she's not the only one who was not let in on whatever was happening.

"Its the best news that you'll ever have! I found this girl and I've decided that you're getting married!" He said proudly. Ash rolled his eyes and returned them back to his fathers.

"And?" He asked after all he could feel something else coming on.

"The weddings today and will be in private! The next one will be public," He announced. Ash tensed up and felt every fiber of his body burn with newfound rage as he stared at his father in disbelief.

"What?!" He and his mother shouted in unison. She was totally not kept in on what was going on today.

"Well you're not going to choose your princess anymore I gave you time for that but you're just so

picky-

Ash cut him off. "Yeah well its almost like I met them for only a fucking hour!" He exclaimed laughing a bit at the end, he couldn't even believe that his father would tell him something like this, especially on such short notice.

"Osiris!" His mother shouted walking up to him in a fit of rage. His father was taller than her but she was wearing boots. So they were the same height. "Why did you not tell me this earlier?! I need to prepare and its family tradition that I'm notified a week-

His father just laughed. "Don't worry your head off my dead sweet Ana, I'm just doing what I think is best," He smiled wrapping her in a hug only to get punched in the gut. She scoffed and watched as he looked up at her in anger.

"Know your place Miss Ana," He laughed standing up trying to talk her down. That was his mistake.

"Know *my* place? I'm sorry Osiris do you remember who you're talking to? You were nothing until you met me, after all you married into *my* bloodline and I can kick you out if I so choose-

"And rule with who? A girl needs a boy to rule after all," His father scoffed.

His mother looked up at him and began laughing as she walked closer. "I don't need you to rule now I suggest that you step down before I have the guards escort you out!" She shouted pointing her finger over to the halls. Ash flinched at his mothers sudden tone as he looked back to see his brothers cowering beside him and looking at the floor. Vitalasy was covering his ears because of sensitive hearing and Branzzy was hiding behind Subz and making himself seem smaller.

Meanwhile his father turned around and walked over to the halls huffing in anger. Although half way through he turned around and shouted. "If you can get that boy to find a lover before the clock hits 3 then I'll cancel it!" Then he stormed off with his mother glaring daggers at that man.

"God I hate that man at times," His mother scoffed turning back to him. Her hair fell to her sides as she looked at her son. "Although I am the original bloodline the people will only listen to him. Being a man and all," She sighed and looked over to her son.

"I'm gonna talk with him, please for your sake find someone who you love, I don't care who they are or what they act like as long as they love you and you love them alright?" She asked, she ran her hand along Ash's cheek as he nodded.

"Alright," With that she left in the direction that his father went and his siblings looked back at him.

Within a few beats of silence Subz broke it. "I'm just gonna go ahead and say what we're all thinking, they're so getting a divorce sometime soon, either that or they're gonna argue for like... an hour a day," He predicted.

"Yeah probably," Ash put his hands in his pockets and looked down feeling his mind swirl with thoughts. One way he might get his own happy ending and the other he could be outcasted into society with his parents hating him and never talking to him ever again in his entire life. Great, fun.

"You good Ash?" Vitalasy asked walked over and resting his hand along Ash's shoulder. Ash only laughed and looked up at Vitalasy.

"Yeah... give me a minute is all," The words were left to the wind after a while as Ash wasn't even

sure if he spoke them in the first place. Branzy was the first to leave, Vitalasy and Subz next leaving Ash alone. He didn't wanna move but after a few seconds of standing alone in silence he did. He walked up to his room and looked around for something to do in the meantime while he questioned his decisions. Tell his parents that he likes Red and either have them accept him or not. Or he could not tell them and live his life with them never knowing and him living a fucking depressed life.

Knowing his family the second one sounds better.

Besides he couldn't just do the first one anyways, how would the effect Red? Of course Red could deny any feelings for him but Ash wouldn't wanna see that happen. It would be like getting rejected but worse, because you know that they love you. He flopped down on his bed and leaned back putting his hand up in the sky and tracing out the fairytale pictures on the ceiling as if that would help. It didn't but it made him feel better.

"Ash can I come in?"

Vitalasy.

"Sure," Ash sulked up and didn't bother opening the door, Vitalasy was perfectly capable after all of opening a door. Vitalasy walked in the room and glanced up at the ceiling and then to Ash giving him a small thin smile.

"So, uh, how you doing?"

Ash just stared at him.

"Yeah... I thought I'd get that response," He sighed shifting on the bed.

"Then why'd you come?"

After a few moments Vitalasy just smiled. "Well, I thought that you needed a friend or someone to rant too, and Subz is just being himself and telling me to go away for god knows what reason-"

"Did you steal something of his?"

Vitalasy had a guilty expression on his face as he nodded. He still smiled though as if it were some kind of joke. "I stole his sword and hid it from him, anyways like I said Subz is being a total meanie and Branzy is working on some sort of radiation type of thing, I don't know. All I know is that his room is dangerous for me. I got electrocuted 5 times! In a minute," Vitalasy pouted, throwing his hands up in the air.

"Well what did you touch?"

"Everything he told me not too but thats besides the point," He sputtered out quickly. Ash just nodded, Vitalasy had a habit of touching things he wasn't supposed to. In fact one time he ended up touching a hot pan when told not to, that taught him... for about a day.

"God, so whats Branzy working on then?"

"I told you some sort of radiation type of thing, he says he wants to be like his parents, you know. The best inventors. I do think he's on the right track I mean he's pretty smart for his age... I think," Vitalasy added quickly.

"I guess so, Branzy's just... he feels like he owes something to them I guess," Ash sighed, that was

his brother. He always felt like he owed people and did so in the dumbest ways possible but in the end they did end up making you smile.

"Do you feel like you owe something?"

Ash turned to Vitalasy who's eyes were now looking at his, it was curiosity. Why must he always be curious? "No, what would I have to owe?"

Vitalasy couldn't hide his shock from the answer and nodded. "I mean, Ash it feels like you're hiding something from us and as your brother I don't like that feeling you know? It feels like I'm in a house with a stranger and I mean... I don't think that's true. Although it might be... are you Ash?" He joked nudging him. Ash just responded with batting him away and giving him a playful look.

"Dang it, thought I got rid of you for a second there,"

"Sorry to get your hopes up,"

They both talked for a while getting Ash's mind off of the marriage which was apparently today to someone he has never fucking met. This was fine. When Vitalasy left Ash stared at his ceiling once more and then to the time. He looked down at his hand the ring on his finger shining in the sunlight the gemstone turning a lighter color in the sun. Ash liked it better in the moonlight, although it's still beautiful now.

He looked at the clock, 1 pm, he has to do something to prevent this, but nothing was coming to mind. His mind was blank with nothing. He couldn't think as pressure and thoughts invaded his mind of not being accepted. What if his mom got mad at him, or his father? His father would take it the best right? He just wants Ash to get married. So he would take it the best, probably. Then there was his mother, the coldest one in the family and with the most judgemental stares in the entire world. Would she except him? She seems unhappy with the marriage too but would she like the idea of Ash being with a boy?

While lost in the thought the time changed, it was 1:25 pm now. Ash sat up on his bed and sighed looking at his door. Well there's no time like the present huh?

He got up and walked out of the room shutting the door behind him louder than he would've liked. He was just anxious, stressed, basically anything that would make him seem angry right now, but he wasn't actually angry. He thinks. He walked down the halls and over towards the main room where his father and mother were. He felt himself getting cold feet as he stood outside the door of the room.

The fire was lit and his mother and father were sitting across from each other. Neither of them were talking and instead engulfed in a newspaper that they were reading. Ash could feel his feet grow into the ground as he tried backing away or stepping forward but his muscles refused to listen. Neither of them have noticed him yet, he could go back.

But he would live a shit life, there were two bad ways this could go and one good one. Ash really hated those odds.

He felt a lump in his throat as he tried to speak as if something was clogging it not letting him get a single word out to his parents as he just stood there watching him. He wonders if they even noticed him and just don't care enough to ask about what he's doing. That would surely be horrible.

Ash took a deep breath and held it as he walked forward to his parents. The both let down their papers at the same time with his father looking at him expecting him to come at him with an

answer. "Hi," He muttered softly. He couldn't even hear himself, if this was a first impression to anyone they would probably give him an awkward smile or walk away.

"Ash," His father stated. "What are you doing here? Do you have someone in mind to marry?" He asked looking at him.

Ash couldn't force a word out of his throat even though he knew that it'd be better if he did. He opened his mouth but it was dry so instead he just nodded fiddling with the ring around his finger.

"Why that's great news! What's her name and what kingdom is she from?" His father looked at him with delight in his eyes while he merely glanced up at him, her expression unreadable.

Ash let out his breath and looked at his father trying to keep his eyes steady. "Doons," He tried keeping his voice steady but it faltered so much.

"Ruby? She's a lovely girl I'm sure that you'll be great together, let me just cancel the wedding," He stood up as he was about to walk away though Ash spoke.

"Not Ruby, Red,"

Osiris stopped and turned to him looking into his eyes. "I'm sorry I didn't quite hear you,"

Ash knew that this was his chance to turn back to marry a girl and make his parents proud. But as much as he wanted to make his parents proud he wanted to be happy too. "I don't wanna marry Ruby,"

"But there's no other girl in the Doons kingdom, I don't know what you're talking about-"

"I wanna marry Red," Ash cut him off, he just couldn't stop his mouth. Osiris looked at him his eyes looking at Ash's with fire.

"Ash, Red is a boy. You cannot marry a *boy*,"

Ash swallowed back his confidence and forced his eyes to the ground. "Why can't I?" He pushed out the words felt sick and hollow as he spoke them. He suddenly felt like everything he's ever thought was wrong.

"God created a *man* and a *woman* for a reason. Not a man and a man. Men and women are meant to be together. No gender should be with the same sex-"

"Oh shut up," His mother cut him off as she stood up. "Enough with your nonsense. He can marry a boy if he so chooses too," She declared.

"No he cannot. Where have you ever gotten such ideas? Such tendencies? Ash your mind is corrupted and it's probably from hanging out with some peasant or someone of that stature. You are not to marry a boy you are to marry a girl. No one will except a king without a queen," Osiris scoffed getting closer to Ash and towering over him. For once in his life Ash felt small, really, really, small. He felt as if he couldn't do anything.

Ash's mother pushed him away and motioned for Ash to step back, and he did. "Someone of a peasant stature? Our people are not peasants Osiris, they are our *people* they are smart and kind. If Ash was hanging out with them and he got the idea that he can marry a boy then he is right. I see no reason to put him down for saying such things-"

"Our people are not peasants but maybe there is a spy corrupting his mind and making him make

this choice to marry a boy!" Osiris exclaimed pushing onto the subject.

"You don't choose who you love-"

"Of course you can! He's just demented. Ash is just ill and we must take him to a doctor of some sorts to set his mind straight! He's not, not, not, in love with a boy. The thought of that is just horrendous!" His father got closer to his mother and right as she opened her mouth to speak he slapped her.

Ash jolted back at the sound and looked at his mother. There was a mark from the slap but she didn't flinch instead she just looked up at him and turned around walking over to a glass case a flipping it open to reveal a sword. She grumbled something under her breath and walked over to Osiris and pointed the sword at his neck.

"Get out of my castle," She demanded.

He scoffed and pushed the sword down with his finger. "Please as if you know how to-" he was cut off by his own scream as his mother jolted the sword up leaving a cut along his hand.

"That wasn't a suggestion, now out." With her other hand she pointed out the other direction. Ash watched as Osiris's chest heaved up and down but soon enough he walked out looking at Ash and silently cursing him as he walked out blood dripping from his hand and onto the floor.

"Good riddance," His mom huffed as she looked back at Ash. She walked over to the case and put the sword back in. "So you wanted to marry Red you say?"

Ash tapped his finger on his bed eagerly. Apparently Red's parents had known that he had feelings for Ash the moment he arrived to the castle in the first place. So they were fine with his decision and supported it. So now Ash was waiting for them to come back and for them to discuss the wedding with Red. He felt his mind rush as he flopped down on his bed trying hard not to smile.

He usually wasn't like this, but it did feel nice. Soon enough he heard a knock from below and jolted up trying not to run down the halls as he walked quickly. Soon enough Red was there and smiling at him. His mother looked around and soon her eyes set on Ash's mom. "Where's Osiris,"

"We're getting a divorce, never really liked him in the first place," She huffed.

Red's mom nodded as they walked into the building letting Ash and Red run off to do whatever they wanted. Ash walked over to his room with Red following behind. "You're wearing the ring I gave you," Red observed, as he picked up Ash's hand.

Ash took his hand back and tilted his head at Red. "Yeah, well it matches my style what can I say?"

"Thank you?"

"Nah I'm good," They walked Ash opened his door and shut it with Red. Red flopped down on Ash's bed and picked up a story, it was the story with the two girls.

"Whats this?" He asked flipping through the pages.

"A fairytale, or a story, I'm honestly trying to figure that one out for myself right now you know? But its a good book, for a romance you know?" Ash said sitting down next to him. Red sat criss-crossed and opened up the book to the middle of it. Ash just grabbed it back and flipped it o the start as if telling him to start from there.

"Come on," Red muttered leaning against Ash who just laughed and pushed him away. "What, you let me lean against you a few nights ago," He complained punching Ash's arm softly.

"Yeah well that was a few nights ago,"

"You've changed," Red said dramatically flopping down onto the bed letting the book fall onto his face. Ash rolled his eyes and mocked him flopping down beside him and picked up the book from Red's hands. He flipped it to the start and looked at Red who was already reading over it.

They then turned so that they were on their stomachs as they set the book in front of them reading it together it took a while before Red realized that it was about a gay couple and looked at Ash with a smug grin on his face. "Do you only like it because its gay?" He asked, his smile said that he was joking as his voice was trying to be light and innocent.

"What the- hell no, its good story," Ash snapped defending himself.

"Alright, alright, I was just wondering is all," Red said, calmly his voice getting a little higher. Ash just let Red have this one as they continued to read the book. Ash leaned against Red's shoulder and Red just shifted ever so slightly.

Soon enough they got a fourth of the way through the book when they both stopped. "We should probably go down soon," Red sighed stretching his arms. Ash grabbed his hand and pulled him back down flopping onto the bed. Red tried pushing him away but Ash just kept dragging him back down with him.

"What? Come on, they'll call us over when they need us, they have voices after all," Ash said, trying to reason with Red. Red turned around and sat down on the bed next to Ash who now sat up.

"I guess they do, but won't your mom get mad?" He asked looking at the door probably expecting to get yelled at anytime soon.

"No, I think that she likes setting up wedding and whatnot, the whole time before you came and before I could just chill up in my room she was talking to me and asking how I wanted to do my wedding, private or public and all of that. Even asked about flowers and if I wanted them to represent something. Honestly I don't know," Ash laughed it off looking at Red who was just nodding.

"Yeah, my mom was freaking out then went on a rant about how she was scared that I wasn't gonna find anyone and how she was scared that I might've had to get an arranged marriage and all of that, since you know. My parents don't really like arranged marriages,"

Ash looked at Red thinking about Ruby. "Then what about the whole Ruby thing?"

"Oh, yeah. Ruby didn't want to date anyone so they just decided to let her meet you, I mean that wasn't an arranged marriage technically seeing as you know. You're not getting married and all of that. More like a blind date I guess," Red and Ash were both sitting on the bed now staring at each other.

"I mean, its the same thing,"

Red gave Ash a bland look and shrugged letting him have this one. They looked at the door but since they weren't being called down just laid back down on the bed looking at the ceiling. "This is the most basic ceiling ever, but its also kinda cool," Red muttered.

"Basic? What does you ceiling have fucking fairytales on them?"

Red turned to Ash and smiled. "I mean no but like think of the stereotypical kids room. A ceiling like that is definitely the first thing that comes to mind for me,"

"Maybe so but I think some weird forest animals or some shit,"

"That'd be kinda scary,"

"Ya think?"

Ash turned to Red and was about to get up before Red pulled him down. "Stay, you're so persistent on staying after all," He protested. Ash tried pushing Red away softly but after a while just stopped and laid down with him feeling Red's breath on his cheek. He leaned closer and pulled him into a kiss wrapping his arms around his neck. He felt Red's hands push onto his back holding him closer as the kiss was deepened before they both let go smiling.

Ash let out a small breath of air and kissed Red again except shorter this time and leaning into his touch.

He found his happy ending after all.

End Notes

This was meant to be only 2000 words lol.

It was no where near that-

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