

~Deleted Scene: Final Letter from Liam~

Dear Anwen,

Our seemingly hopeless situation just got worse, for the King and Queen of Lyceria have insisted on a deadline—if we haven't found a loophole by the end of the month, the wedding between Lavena and me will take place. In order to maintain our relations with Lyceria, my parents have unfortunately agreed. The impending deadline feels like a noose.

After hearing the news from my parents, Rhea and Elodie visited me. "We heard about the deadline; we're so sorry for you, Liam." Rhea settled beside me on the bench in the garden. "What are you going to do?"

My mind frantically tried to find a way out before I settled on the most likely escape. "I'm contemplating running away, actually."

"With Anwen?" Elodie sighed wistfully as she sat on my other side. "Broken hearts are both utterly romantic and incredibly tragic."

"My heart isn't broken," I said. "It's missing."

Elodie and Rhea stared wide-eyed at me a moment before Elodie heaved a romantic sigh, pressing her hand to her own heart. "Oh Liam, that has to be the most romantic thing you've ever said."

I rolled my eyes. Sisters. How did I end up with three of them, two of whom were at the moment being extremely pestering?

Rhea rested her hand on my arm, her face radiating with sweet sympathy. "I can see how hard this is for you. Not only do you miss Anwen, but Lavena is being quite..." She frowned, searching for a word.

Elodie tapped her lips with her forefinger. "Annoying doesn't quite summarize all she is, does it?"

I managed a small smile. "No, but it's certainly a start." I rested back on my elbows to stare up at the sky. "She and Anwen are nothing alike, are they? How could I have ever thought Anwen was someone so horrible?" It feels like blasphemy.

"Because the entire idea that Lavena has a lookalike servant is too fantastic to believe. The fact that she does..." Elodie's eyes became starry. "It must be destiny."

If destiny wanted us together, why have I not found the loophole to my engagement contract? I sighed. "I miss her."

"This contract really is a bother," Elodie said. "But I'm sure it'll get sorted out. In the meantime, you need to spend more time with Anwen. That will cheer you up." Her eyes brightened. "I have an idea."

I gave her a skeptical look...until she shared her idea with me, and then I was beaming. To think I used to curse my lot having three younger and rather scheming sisters, never mind I secretly love them to bits (don't tell them I said that), but after they shared their plan, I realized I'm a fortunate brother to have supportive sisters with romantic hearts and mischievous minds.

You shall see why soon. Are you excited for another surprise, love?

Your Liam