

She stopped just outside her mother's old music room and listened to the notes as they floated through the small space where the door was cracked open. Whoever was playing was very gifted. The more she listened to the beautiful song, the more she heard the underlying sadness to it. The music flowed around her, telling a story of heartbreaking love and aching loneliness. Tears pricked at her eyes. Aliana had to know who was so hurt, so she peeked through the opening. Her eyes landed on the profile of a raven-haired man with a lean build. He swayed as he played with his face turned away from her. He slowly turned forward. His eyes were closed, his mouth slightly tilted down, his face etched with sorrow and solitude. A single tear slid down his cheek as he started the song again. How could Lancelot be in so much pain without everyone here knowing?

His head snapped up, his pale green eyes burning with uncontrolled anger, rooting Aliana where she stood. "What the bloody hell do you think you're doing?" He shoved the piano bench back as he stood.

"I..." Aliana stammered as he advanced on her. His body moved with the lethal grace of a jungle cat. He crossed the room in a flash, yanking the door open and roughly grabbing Aliana's arm. He viciously yanked her into the room, nearly pulling her off her feet completely.

"Why are you spying on me?" he demanded, still gripping her arm, pulling her so close she could practically feel the rage rolling off him.

"I wasn't... I was... I heard music," Aliana tried to explain, but her words tied themselves on her tongue.

"Answer me *Destined One!* What the bloody hell do you think gives you license to spy on me?"

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