

A Date with a Prince and a Late Night Call to a Mage (Pt 2) (MM4F) (F Cameo) (Strangers to Lovers) (Strangers to ???) (Slow Burn) (Mentions of abuse and mistreatment)

Going to a festival with the prince? Are you crazy? Why would he ask you? You're just a maid? Maybe he'll give you some answers. And why is the mage screaming so much? Is he hurt? Can you help?

Approx 1600 words

[...] is sfx

Bold is tone

Italics is thought

Underlined Italic is reading a letter

... is saying the full word that has been cut off.

Underlined is emphasis

T: Prince Tristan

Q: Queen Aranthia *Uh-Ran-Thia

R: High Mage Raven

[Steps on stone and music playing]

“Ahh good morning my lady. I will admit, I wasn’t sure you were going to come.”

{Pause}

“Again, please, there is no need for you to bow.”

{Pause}

“Yes, I am the prince, but please, don’t.”

{Pause}

“You almost didn’t come, but your mistress gave you the day off? Fancy that.”

{Pause}

Thank the gods calling in that favor worked.

{Pause}

“Hmm? Oh, nothing, just thinking. Shall we proceed?”

{Pause}

“Wonderful.”

{Pause}

“So, do you have something you would like to see first? The food stands, there is a joust happening soon, we could...”

{Pause}

“Why did I ask you to come?”

{Pause}

“Well, if I’m being truthful, I really just wanted to spend some time with you. You seem like a very kind person and I want you to enjoy your time here.”

{Pause}

“Yes, that’s all. Now please, can we go have some fun?”

{Pause}

“Thank you. Now, tell me, what would you like to do?”

{Pause}

“The magic pavilion? Oh you like magic?”

{Pause}

“You love it! Well, then the pavilion it is then.”

TIME SKIP

[Magic sounds]

{Pause}

“I’m sorry, am I staring?”

{Pause}

“My apologies, watching you watch the magicians is by far more entertaining. You have such a child-like wonder in your eyes.”

{Pause}

“I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to make you blush. Although the pink dusting on your cheeks does make you even more beautiful.”

{Pause}

Laugh “I did it again. I’m sorry.”

{Pause}

“You’ve never seen markets this crowded or plentiful?”

{Pause}

“Oh yes, this is one of the biggest sale days for the merchants. They will come from every city in the kingdom to sell their wares. It’s one of the few days where the nobles and common people celebrate together with the same activities, foods, dances. It’s actually my favorite day of the whole week. Everyone, for the most part, is treated as equals. My mother may be, a lot at times, but I’m glad she listened to me about this. It really has made her a more popular queen since it started.”

{Pause}

“Yes, well, it was Raven’s and my idea a few years ago. Did you get to come in the past years at all?”

{Pause}

“Oh the woman who would normally come fell ill. I’m sorry to hear that, but I am glad you’re here.”

{Pause}

“I’m sure your family is proud you work for a noble house.”

{Pause}

“You don’t have any family?”

{Pause}

“You ran away as a teenager because they would hur... *Hurt*, oh gods. How could parents be so cruel to their children?”

{Pause}

“Your brothers and sister were all treated well, but not you? Did they ever say why?”

{Pause}

“No? Of course not.”

{Pause}

“I’m so sorry.”

{Pause}

“Oh, darling, no. Don’t apologize.”

{Pause}

“My face?”

{Pause}

“I looked like I was going to be ill? No. I’m fine. Don’t worry.”

{Pause}

Those people were so awful to her. I should, no. Just be better for her.

{Pause}

“Hmm? Do you like the band? I see your foot tapping. Would you like to dance?”

{Pause}

“You’ve never danced. Can I show you?”

{Pause}

“Yes? Come on!”

[Music gets louder]

“There’s nothing to this one. Just move with the beat. Take my hands and follow my lead.

Beautiful! Keep going! The part coming up, just spin in a circle, arms up until the end! You got this!”

{Pause}

“How was that?”

{Pause}

“You haven’t stopped smiling since we started.”

{Pause}

“No, I love it! I loved watching you having fun!”

{Pause}

“Hmm?”

{Pause}

Knowingly “Ha, of course he’s there.”

{Pause}

“Yes, Raven definitely lives up to his name. He loves collecting shiny magic items.”

{Pause}

“Is everything ok?”

{Pause}

“You were making a curious face like you were trying to remember something.”

{Pause}

“Just lost in your thoughts for a moment? I get that. Happens to me from time to time.”

{Pause}

“Shall we continue exploring?”

[Stomach growling]

Amused “Something tells me you are hungry.”

{Pause}

“Please stop apologizing. You have no reason to. I would imagine your mistress had you up quite early and we have been walking around here for hours, so it wouldn’t surprise me if you were. Come, I’ll get us some lunch.”

{Pause}

“No, no. I am your escort for the day and I would love to treat you. There are exotic fruits, savory meats, warm breads, and the sweetest desserts you will ever find here.”

{Pause}

Curious “Of course the common people here get desserts. Please tell me you have had a dessert before.”

{Pause}

“You stuck your finger in some custard that one of the nobles didn’t finish and you tried it, but that’s it? My dear woman, I demand you follow me now.”

[He starts pulling her]

{Pause}

“I am taking you to Miss Meddings cake and pie stand. Her desserts are the best in the kingdom. She only comes to the city 3 times a year for festivals. You will love her.”

{Pause}

Q: “Tristan!”

T: “Oh no. Yes, mother?”

Q: “Where have you been? You were supposed to be in the meeting this morning and... What is that?”

T: “She is a new, friend of mine and I’m sorry about the meeting. With all the festivities for your birthday, it must have slipped my mind.”

Q: “New friend? Who are you girl?”

{Pause}

Q: “Lady Cravendall’s, maid. Surely you must be joking.”

T: **Quietly** “Mother, remember where we are.”

Q: “Right. This is neither the time or place for this conversation. Follow me to the throne room at once. **Pointedly** Just, you.”

T: “Don’t worry, I’ll be back. May I have your hand again for a moment?”

[Kiss]

“Just wanted to see that blush one more time. Goodbye darling.”

[Door opening and closing as she goes to her room for the night. Paper sounds as she finds a note on her bed]

I’m so sorry for not coming back. If you’ll let me, I’ll explain everything tomorrow. Please meet me in the courtyard again. I promise I will be there darling. Good night, sincerely Tristan. PS. I’ve told the kitchen staff that you may come in from time to time during the night for your mistress. Feel free at any time to get something for yourself. If anyone asks, just tell them to talk to me.

[More paper sounds and stomach growls]

[Walking sounds then she hears Raven crying out through a door, nightmares, and she starts continuously knocking]

Sleepily panicked “Huh? What? Shit. Coming! I said I’m coming.”

[Footsteps and knocking then open door]

Shouts “What! Why are you relentlessly pounding on my chamber door?”

{Pause}

“You heard crying out?”

{Pause}

“Little maid, it must have been your imagination. Now leave me.”

{Pause}

“What?”

{Pause}

[Glass clinking]

“What is this?”

{Pause}

“A nightmare remedy? But how did you?”

{Pause}

“Oh I’m sorry. Please tell me you have more. I would hate to take your stock and leave you to deal with them as well.”

{Pause}

“Good. Here hold on, let me get you some coin to...”

{Pause}

“No coin? Please I,”

{Pause}

“Alright. Fine. I won’t argue. . I, I really appreciate this. I’ve tried making something myself, but my sister was always the master of potions.”

{Pause}

“Not a potion? Just medicine. Hmm.”

Feels like strong magic, but she doesn’t seem to be lying.

{Pause}

“Thank you. If it does, I may find you again tomorrow and buy some more off of you.”

{Pause}

“Kind dreams to you as well, miss and thank you and I’m sure my wife will thank you as well.”

{Pause}

“Good night.”

{Pause}

“I do have a wife, does that surprise you?”

{Pause}

“Only that she didn’t wake me. Well, I don’t live in the palace. I am here as a guest, same as you. My home is just outside of the city, but during events, I try to stay here.”

{Pause}

“She minds our shop. I sell magical trinkets and she sells homemade clothes and foods. You should come by someday. I’m sure you’ll find some of the magic items interesting.”

{Pause}

“Oh, you saw me today at the other shops?”

{Pause}

“Tristan said that, did he? I live up to my name? Well, can’t fault me for being drawn to other magic sources.”

{Pause}

“No, I don’t sell the ones I find. If I buy something, it’s because I want it. Granted if I do find something I remember someone was looking for, then I’ll get it for them. I’ve made it part of my job to find things.”

{Pause}

“What are you doing out this late again? You’re not going to be able to do anything during the day if you keep staying up all night.”

{Pause}

“You were hungry and Tristan said you could get something to eat?”

{Pause}

Teasingly suspicious “Were you with Tristan just now, this late?”

{Pause}

Laughs “Just a question! I’m not your father or brother, but I’m just asking a simple question.”

{Pause}

“No, he left you a note. Ok, good, I mean. Look, Tristan is a good man, but he is a prince. In the past, maids who fall for royalty don’t always get treated the best by the nobles. I don’t want you to get hurt. So please, be careful. Plus if he was with you, but didn’t escort you to the kitchens I would have beat his ass. If you’ll pardon the language. Speaking of which, let me put on my boots and shirt and I’ll...”

{Pause}

“No? My lady, I wouldn’t feel right letting my sister walk the castle alone at night and I don’t feel right letting you.”

{Pause}

Panicked “No, not “letting you” as in giving permission, just... don’t do that. I see that smirk, you little... **As if he remembered something** Huh.”

{Pause}

“What? Nothing, it’s nothing. Just something in your smirk. Heh, what am I doing? Let me grab...”

{Pause}

“Little maid, I really don’t feel right about this.”

{Pause}

“You can take care of yourself? I’d like to see that.”

{Pause}

“Whoa! That is actually a very impressive dagger.”

{Pause}

“Lady Cravendall gives them to all servants when she knows they will be around people she hasn’t vetted just in case. And she gives you lessons? Resourceful woman. Allowing your servants to protect themselves around unknown nobles is smart.”

{Pause}

“Alright, if you feel comfortable enough to go alone, I’ll leave you to it then, but if you need me, you know where I am. I’ll protect you.”

{Pause}

“Good night little maid. Stay safe and get some damn rest. Thank you again for the sleep aid.”

{Pause}

“Hey, meet me in the gardens tomorrow after supper. I want to talk to you.”

{Pause}

“Great. I’ll see you then. Good night.”