

12/24/2021 The Climax (Owen & Karina 18)

-KARINA-

“I am in the service of the Faerie Queen, and I’m going to kill you, Huntress.”

As I ducked to avoid the blow, the blade nicked my arm. Blood oozed out, darkening the cornflower of my sleeve. I scrambled past Owen, intent on drawing him away from the Element. When I reached for my crossbow, I grasped air.

“Oh no!” My weapon lay by our entrance, the string popped from our near miss in the hallway. Why hadn’t I packed a dagger?

“Run!” the Element cried, but how could I escape Owen in the small chamber? I dodged as he lunged, his once-sweet eyes like glass. “He has been possessed by the Faerie Queen!”

I placed the pedestal between us, Seren’s Light the only glow in the room. When Owen paced one way, I went the other. When he changed course, I did the same. Owen growled in frustration, perhaps fighting a battle within, and threw the dagger to the floor.

I grabbed the Element in my gloved hands and bolted toward the exit.

“I erased your memories,” he said, freezing my escape. “You weren’t supposed to come.”

“You left me behind!” I whirled on him, then fell on my bum. A terrible gold aura encased my love, his dagger dripping with my blood. He advanced, his voice morphing into a feminine sneer. The Queen.

“Give me the Element. He must not be freed!”

“Who?”

“The boy.”

-OWEN-

I watched helpless as Karina, Element in hand, lay before me. Try as I might, I couldn’t win the fight against my possessor.

My love would die by my hand.

“Hang in there, Owen,” Kili said, fluttering from his hiding place. “My time has come.”

He flew in the shadows as the Queen urged me closer to Karina. In vain, I struggled as the dagger rose, reflecting the fear in my girl’s eyes.

“Enough!”

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FFM is on break! Tune in every Friday until the end of the year. The rest: my Highlights or my website on The Art of Shorts page (link in bio).

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