

1008 SIDE STORY (LOU): IN THE PAST (2)

Lou was scared and he cried for his mother for hours, until his throat was dry. He was very thirsty. His body grew very weak.

He was thinking to break his promise to his mother.

But, on the fourth day, his father finally came. He opened the door and fed him. He put him on his lap and patted his back.

"You are my son. You are indeed my son. You are not tainted by the blood of that magic user. Good. Good."

Little Lou didn't know what kind of feeling he felt right now, but he had this urge to burn this man, just like what his mother did to Paul.

"There, sleep there with your filthy mother."

The beautiful woman in his early forty, threw little Lou into the dungeon, where they kept her before the execution tomorrow. Lou didn't know that yet, but he was happy because he could spend his time with his mother.

Annalise hugged her little son, she didn't cry, she was smiling, because she didn't want to scare her.

"Mama, why are you here? Did you make a mistake that upset father?"

Annalise nodded. "Yes, I think so." She kissed Lou's cheek.

"Why don't you apologize? If you apologize, will he forgive you? Let's go back to our room, it's cold here." Lou didn't like to be here.

"I am sorry, honey. I can't." Annalise shook her head.

Lou looked devastated, his clear black eyes welled with tears and this hurt Annalise physically to see that. "Why, mama?"

"Be strong, Lou." Annalise kissed his forehead and Lou told her that he was strong. He didn't use his power when his father forced him to.

Hearing this, Annalise looked shocked, but when she learned no one knew about it, she looked visibly relaxed.

"You have done a great job, Lou. I am so proud of you." Annalise hugged her little boy and wrapped the blanket around him, even though this dungeon was very cold for her.

"Mama, why are they so cruel to us? What have we done wrong?"

"Nothing, honey." Annalise was silent for a while before she spoke again. "They are cruel because they can. Because they have the power to be cruel."

Lou didn't understand that, but years later, he would get the taste of what power could offer to you.

"Mama, how long will you stay here?"

"Not for long, honey. Not for long."

Later that night, when Annalise thought Lou had fallen asleep, she cried silently, as she whispered to her only son.

"You have to be strong, honey, you have to live. Don't cry, baby. You have to be powerful enough so no one will bully you again. I love you, Lou. Mama loves you."

What Annalise said was right, she didn't stay inside the dungeon for so long, because the next day was her execution.

And to show his kindness, Lou's father let her wear her favorite red dress, where she would be burned with it and also bring Lou along to watch his mother for the last time.

Lou just got back from the execution with his father. He didn't cry, he watched everything. He witnessed the pain in his mother's eyes when the fire burned her alive. He saw how people cursed at her.

And when there was not a single tear that he shed, his father praised him. He told him how a good son he was to not cry over trivial things.

He was a good son because he didn't cry when he watched how his mother died.

Meanwhile, the moment his father left him alone, his other five siblings came and mocked him. His father's wife looked at him with a derisive smile on her lips, they provoked him in hope, he would attack them or having a meltdown, so their father could punish him for bad behavior.

"How was the show? Devil child?" The first brother asked.

"Your mother was so pathetic, I heard her cries. A witch shouldn't cry."

However, it didn't turn out as they expected. Lou actually laughed, he gave them a sweet smile.

"How do you know? You are not even there. We should have watched it together."

Lou was only six when he expertly masked his emotions and laughed with them, until they stopped and called him a freak, who laughed upon hearing the death of his own mother.

Later on, Lou learned so fast about how to do trade, he started following his father around, as a merchant, he would travel a lot.

Meanwhile, his other five siblings were too lazy to move their asses. Lou was nine and the oldest of his half sibling was nineteen, while the others were only a year apart.

Because of his knack of business, Lou would come with his father and was trusted to handle a simple thing. He familiarized himself with everything.

And when he was ten years old, the whole debacle about magic users was lifted. Magic users started to come out and even though the tension was very thick and most of the people afraid of magic users, but after his mother, there was no magic user who was being killed anymore.

The fucking irony of life...

Only if his mother stayed alive for another four years...

That day, as a gift for his ten years old birthday, his father took him to sail for the first time, which made his other half sibling throw a tantrum, but his father stood his ground and only took Lou with him.

It was a big ship and Lou remembered how the land started to move away and gradually became very small as they sailed toward the sea.

On the ship, he met this woman, a beautiful woman with long, curly, black hair, she was sitting on the bench, staring at the sunset.

This huge ship carried a lot of people and crates, most of the people here came from Andelus continent and also a few merchants from Dracons continent.

"Do you want to sit here?" That woman talked to Lou, because she felt his gaze on her for a while now. "Come here, sit here."

She patted the spot next to her. "Let's see the beautiful sunset together."

The woman was no older than twenty, but she carried herself very well, her presence demanded respect, as if she was some kind of princess.

Lou walked toward her and sat next to her.

She took his hand after a little observation and said, "You are a magic user." Lou almost jumped from his seat, but she smiled at him. "Let me tell you a secret. I am also a magic user."

Lou blinked his eyes, he didn't know how to respond to that, but in the end, he stayed.

That woman came from Andelus continent and there was not much they actually talked about, but she said that he was going to be a powerful magic user.

"You are so kind, child."

"I am not a child."

"I am Nera, what's yours?"

Lou furrowed his brows, but he answered her question. "Lou."

When the sky had turned dark and the sea looked as black as ink, Lou walked away, he saw the woman touched her belly, as she stared at the distance, she looked sad and lonely.

That was not the last time Lou saw her, because when they headed toward the Black Market, he saw her there too.

She gave him that warm smile when their eyes met, but Lou immediately followed his father. This memory held no significance for Lou and a week later, he had forgotten about their encounter. The little boy continued with his life and grand scheme.

In this black market too, he met with twin slaves. They were being castrated for a show to entertain little Lou and his father gave them as his first slaves, they were his birthday gifts.

Lou was sick to his stomach when he had to watch them humiliate the twin brothers.

And on the age of twenty, Lou managed to set a foot in the Black Market again, but this time, he had built his own guild. The twin was still with him...

Years later, a few unlucky events happened. The second older child died at the age of twenty five because he fell from the rooftop when he was drunk, the third one followed two years later when he went out to hunt.

The fourth and the fifth died because they were drowned, they went to the other island in a small boat and had never returned.

The only one left of his father's son was Lou and the first eldest one.

Even so, he died because he accidentally burned himself when he wanted to add more fire in the fireplace during winter.

People knew how stupid he was, but it was still unbelievable that he died in that way.

And when Lou was twenty five, his father had given him everything. His business was within his grasp and it was time for him to retire, because he had fallen very sick, until it was hard for him to walk.

"Thank you, Lou. I am glad you are here with me."

Lou just finished giving his father his medicine and put down the empty cup.

"You know what funny father?" Lou said, he was very calm, like usual. A cheerful young man, who used to come to tell a funny story to his sick father. "I have been giving you slow acting poison, but you are very grateful to me."

His father thought he was joking.

"I am not joking father." Lou still kept his smile on his lips. "The only thing that you have right now is your crazy wife."

His wife had fallen into a great depression after the death of her five children.

"Do you think how much she's worth if I sold her in the black market? Do you think I can make a profit out of her?" Lou chuckled.

"Lou! You went too far!"

"Just like when my mother died, I will not cry over your death either."