

THE PRINCE AND THE BOOKWORM

Written by

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INT. BOOKSTORE/ LIBRARY / 1ST FLOOR - MORNING

Bookshelves line every wall. There's a table on one side and a counter in the back that leads to a back room.

KATHRYN is behind the counter sorting some papers and books, humming to herself. She drops a few papers on the floor and bends over to pick them up.

She is preoccupied and doesn't notice that PRINCE HARRISON enters. He walks over to the counter.

HARRISON

Bookworm.

Kathryn hits her head on the counter.

KATHRYN

Oooooooooowwwwwwwww.

Harrison snickers. Rubbing the back of her head, she stands up.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

Oh, hello, Your Majesty.

HARRISON

We've been over this. It's just Harrison.

KATHRYN

It's a force of habit and you'll soon be King. Speaking of that, how are the preparations for the ceremony going? I know this is really important to the kingdom.

HARRISON

Almost complete. It's been a long and strenuous process but I'm excited for tonight. Are you coming?

KATHRYN

I'm unsure. I have so much work to do here at the store. I have books to organize and paperwork to fill out. I just don't know if I'll have the time.

HARRISON

Come on. How many times are you going to see your best friend pick his Queen? Hopefully once.

(MORE)

HARRISON (CONT'D)

We've been through everything together. You can at least come to this one ceremony.

KATHRYN

I know but I think this ceremony is not a place for someone like me to -

HARRISON

Even my mother and father want to see you there. Please come. I don't want to have to deal with suitors. Princess Anastasia is coming and you know I can't stand her.

KATHRYN

I hope I haven't worried the King and Queen. I haven't visited the palace in quite some time. But ceremonies like this are private affairs. Only the people closest to the Royals and suitors attend. I am none of those

Harrison reaches over the counter to grab Kathryn's hand.

HARRISON

Why would you think that doesn't include you?

KATHRYN

Harrison, I have appreciated you coming to visit me and the store more frequently over the past few months, but I know my place.

HARRISON

I am inviting you to join me tonight. You are way more important than any of the suitors to me. I want you there.

KATHRYN

If it really means that much -

Harrison holds Kathryn's hand closer to him.

HARRISON

It does.

KATHRYN

Then I'll come.

Harrison lets go of Kathryn's hand and throws his hands in the air in celebration.

HARRISON

Yes! It will be fantastic, I promise.

Harrison starts walking to the door.

KATHRYN

But.

Harrison stops.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

I don't have anything to wear. I don't have a closet full of clothes like you.

HARRISON

That's ok. I'll send Emma over as soon as possible to take you out to find something.

KATHRYN

You really don't have to do that.

HARRISON

Please. You're coming for me, it's the least I can do. Find something nice.

Harrison exits the store. Tears start to form in Kathryn's eyes as she resumes her work.

KATHRYN

Life can be cruel sometimes.

INT. BOOKSTORE/ LIBRARY / KATHRYN'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

EMMA enters the store and looks around. No one seems to be here.

EMMA

Hello. Anyone here?

Emma walks around looking behind shelves and under tables. She makes her way to the counter and leans over.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Kathryn?

Emma walks behind the counter and enters the back room. There's a staircase leading to a second floor. A loud thump can be heard coming from upstairs.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Woah, Kathryn?

INT. KATHRYN'S HOUSE / 2nd FLOOR - AFTERNOON

Emma walks up the stairs and opens the door at the top. The room is in disarray with Kathryn in the middle of it.

KATHRYN

Oh, Emma, hello!

EMMA

What's going on? Did a dragon run through here?

KATHRYN

Something like that. Lady Diane ordered a book and she is supposed to come by later today but I can't remember where I put it. I'm sorry but I can't go out until I find this book.

Kathryn goes back to searching.

EMMA

I can look for it while you go into town and look for an outfit for tonight.

Emma starts searching for the book.

KATHRYN

No, I can't ask you to fix my mistake.

EMMA

I insist.

Emma walks over to Kathryn and hands her a leather pouch. Kathryn opens it, inside are many gold coins.

KATHRYN

There's no way I can accept this!

EMMA

The Prince knew you would say that. He told me to tell you to think of this as a thank you for agreeing to come tonight.

KATHRYN

This is way too much, I'm not taking this.

EMMA

Tell you what. You don't have to spend all of it. Just find something nice and bring the rest back to me.

KATHRYN

I'm not winning this argument, mm?

EMMA

Nope.

KATHRYN

Fine.

EMMA

Great! Now tell me what that book looks like.

EXT. TOWN - AFTERNOON

The town is packed with people scrambling to get ready for the ceremony. Kathryn tries to walk through the crowd but gets bumped into multiple times.

She makes her way to the one dress shop in town to see that it is packed with people. She opens the door and enters.

INT. DRESS SHOP - AFTERNOON

People are scrambling around the shop with different fabrics and dresses. Kathryn walks up to the counter but no one is there to help her as they are too preoccupied with the other customers.

A couple of minutes passed by when finally the DRESSMAKER breaks free and is able to return behind the counter.

DRESSMAKER

Hello. So sorry about the wait.

KATHRYN

Oh, there's no need to apologize. I can understand why you're so busy with the ball being tonight.

DRESSMAKER

Yes the whole town is excited to see who the prince chooses to become his queen and many of the nobles needed last minute fittings or dresses. Now, what can I help you with?

KATHRYN

I was hoping to find a dress for myself to wear to the ball tonight.

DRESSMAKER

My deepest apologies but I'm afraid that we don't have enough fabric to make another dress nor the time.

KATHRYN

That's all right. I wasn't really keen on going tonight. I hope you have a great rest of your day.

Kathryn turns away from the counter and heads towards the door. She has a little smile on her face.

A woman enters and walks past Kathryn and starts talking to the Dressmaker behind the counter.

EXT. TOWN - AFTERNOON

The town is still filled with people. Kathryn starts making her way back home humming a little tune. The dressmaker opens the door of the shop and calls after her.

DRESSMAKER

MISS!

Kathryn quickly spins around to face her.

DRESSMAKER (CONT'D)

We just had a dress become available as someone is unable to attend. Would you like to come back in and try it on?

KATHRYN

(Whispers to self)  
So close.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

(To DRESSMAKER)  
Sure. I'd love to.

Kathryn walks back into the store.

Time passes when Kathryn exits the store with a box in her hand.

DRESSMAKER

I'm glad we were able to find a dress and adjust it to fit you.

KATHRYN

Yes, lucky me. Thank you again.

DRESSMAKER

Have a great time tonight, and come again!

The Dressmaker waves to Kathryn and closes the door. Kathryn walks home.

INT. KATHRYN'S HOUSE / 2ND FLOOR - AFTERNOON

Kathryn enters. The room is no longer a disaster like it once was. Everything is clean top to bottom. On the table is a note. Kathryn walks over and picks up the note.

The note reads:

Kathryn, don't worry, I found the book and Lady Diane came by to get it like you said. I hope you found something to wear. Before you say anything or make another excuse, YOU HAVE A RIDE! I'm going back to the palace and will return later with James with transportation. Emma.

Kathryn puts the box on the table and sits. She starts to cry.

KATHRYN

You can be so cruel Harrison.

EXT. BOOKSTORE/ LIBRARY / KATHRYN'S HOUSE - SUNSET

A beautiful carriage pulls up to the door. Emma and JAMES step down from the driver's seat. Emma walks up to the door and knocks while James opens the door to the carriage.

Kathryn steps out from the house. She's wearing the dress she received from the Dressmaker. When she passes Emma she hands her the pouch of gold coins.

Emma bows in response.

JAMES

Kathryn!

KATHRYN

James! It's good to see you.

JAMES

You as well. We have missed having you around the palace. You look great.

KATHRYN

Thank you. When we were younger Harrison would make fun of how I dressed. So this is probably the only way he won't be distracted by me during the ceremony.

EMMA

Oh come on, you're beautiful. You must be so excited. I know we all are. Harrison has been preparing for this for months to make sure everything is perfect.

KATHRYN

This is one of the biggest steps he has to take to become King. I'm not surprised, he would accept nothing but the best.

JAMES

Speaking of things being perfect, if we don't get going we won't be on the Prince's perfect schedule. In you go.

Kathryn walks to the carriage. James takes her hand and helps her in and closes the door. James and Emma sit in the driver's seat and are off.

INT. PALACE/ HARRISON'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Harrison is pacing the length of the room.

HARRISON

(To self)

Is she here yet?

A knock at the door.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Enter.

James opens the door and enters the room.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Well? Is she here?

JAMES

Yes. Emma is escorting her to the ballroom where your other guests are waiting.

HARRISON

Is she excited?

JAMES

She-uh. She seems more nervous than excited.

Harrison moves to a mirror to adjust his crown and cape.

HARRISON

To be honest I am as well.

James approaches Harrison and slams his hands down on Harrison's shoulders, and shakes him.

JAMES

You have every right to be, you're asking Kathryn to marry you. This is it!

HARRISON

The minute she stepped foot into this kingdom, she has done nothing but good for all of us.

JAMES

I know. Her library has inspired so many and her research has helped people even beyond your family's rule. I know everyone will be so excited to have her as their Queen.

HARRISON

Yeah. Time to make that bookworm mine.

INT. CASTLE BALLROOM - NIGHT

The ball has begun in full. A ballroom full of people dressed in immaculate outfits stand and watch the royal family, led by the KING and QUEEN then Harrison. They walk to their places at the platform where there are thrones. The king and queen take a seat while Harrison steps forward.

HARRISON

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for joining me here tonight. As you know tonight is a very important night. This is the night that this land will receive their new Queen.

The crowd applauds.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Now let the festivities begin.

The crowd applauds and music starts to play. Harrison scans the crowd and spots Kathryn. Their eyes lock. He smiles. He steps down from the platform and takes his seat at a table where Emma and James join him.

Kathryn glances around to find something to do. Her attention is taken when a steak is set down in front of her. She claps her hands together then starts to eat.

A piece of food is hanging out of her mouth when she notices James waving to her. He motions to the seat beside Harrison. Harrison notices Kathryn's full mouth and lets out a laugh.

Kathryn sends James a look and shakes her head. Harrison and James immediately frown. Kathryn turns back to her food.

PRINCESS ANASTASIA approaches the table where Kathryn is sitting.

PRINCESS ANASTASIA

Hello, is this seat taken?

Kathryn looks up to see her. She tries to clean herself up.

KATHRYN

No. It's all yours.

Princess Anastasia takes a seat.

PRINCESS ANASTASIA

I'm Princess Anastasia and you must be Kathryn. I've heard so many wonderful things about you from your friends and the royal family. I'm so excited to finally meet you.

KATHRYN

The honor is all mine Your Majesty.

PRINCESS ANASTASIA

I heard you were conducting research just outside the kingdom that will lead to some development in herbal based healing methods. Could you tell me more about that?

KATHRYN

Of course!

QUICK CUTS:

- KATHRYN AND PRINCESS ANASTASIA talking.
- Eventually, Princess Anastasia's guard brings them some desserts.
- Harrison glances over at them once in a while
- The three of them continued to talk, laugh, and eat

PRINCESS ANASTASIA

Kathryn, I must thank you for talking with me. It's been wonderful. However, I must confess that I never wanted to come tonight.

KATHRYN

Why is that? I mean Prince Harrison is all any kingdom could desire right? He's a natural leader, has an unbreakable spirit, and a heart more caring than any other I know. (Beat) Oh I'm sorry Princess, that was a little much.

PRINCESS ANASTASIA

There's nothing wrong with talking about something you're passionate about.

KATHRYN

Passionate?

PRINCESS ANASTASIA

You and the Prince are close, correct?

KATHRYN

Yes ma'am. When I was young a war broke out in my homeland. My mom and I escaped. The royal family took us in and we lived in the palace for a long time. The prince and I grew up together.

PRINCESS ANASTASIA

You must really care about him.

KATHRYN

Yes I do. I want nothing but the best for him.

PRINCESS ANASTASIA

Well, to answer your question from earlier, I do not want him as a husband because I am in love with someone else.

KATHRYN

Love?

PRINCESS ANASTASIA

And it's clear that he's in love with someone as well.

Princess Anastasia cast a quick glance towards Harrison's table. Harrison's eyes are trained on them.

KATHRYN

I don't know what you're talking about. Understand that I am here as his friend and nothing more!

PRINCESS ANASTASIA

If you say so. Well it was a delight to get to know you.

Princess Anastasia, her guard, and Kathryn stand.

PRINCESS ANASTASIA (CONT'D)

I wish you luck in all of your future endeavors.

KATHRYN

Thank you Your Majesty. It was lovely to meet you as well.

Both bow to each other. Princess Anastasia and her guard walk into the crowd and disappear.

HARRISON  
Hey bookworm!

Kathryn winces and turns to face Harrison.

KATHRYN  
Harrison. Thank you for inviting me. I've had a wonderful time so far. I hope your night has been as well.

HARRISON  
It's been boring actually. Why haven't you been to the table yet? James has been trying to get your attention. Was Princess Anastasia bothering you?

KATHRYN  
Of course not! Actually we were having a great conversation. I didn't come to the table because I thought it would have been inappropriate because ---Oh!

Harrison grabs Kathryn's hand and pulls her through the crowd. He leads her to the center of the dance floor.

HARRISON  
You're having this dance with me.

KATHRYN  
I can't really back out now.

Harrison pulls Kathryn in until they are chest-to-chest.

HARRISON  
Keep your eyes on me. It's just you and me.

Slow music starts and Harrison begins to spin them around to the music.

HARRISON (CONT'D)  
Why didn't you sit at the seat beside me?

KATHRYN  
Harrison. This is an engagement ceremony. YOUR engagement ceremony.

HARRISON  
Yes, I am well aware of that.

KATHRYN

And so that chair belongs to the person you choose at the end of the night.

HARRISON

(humming in agreement)  
Mmhhh mmhhh. And you know I only choose the best.

KATHRYN

That's why I can't sit there. What would everyone think?

HARRISON

I don't know. Most of them are too smitten with Prince Andrew over there.

Kathryn looks and sees a man surrounded by multiple women. Then she turns back to look at Harrison.

KATHRYN

You're making excuses, Harrison. Everyone here, the guess, your people, are expecting your future wife to sit in that seat, someone important. Not some commoner.

HARRISON

What do you mean by that?

Harrison stops dancing causing Kathryn to stumble a little.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Do you really not know why you're here?

The music stops. Kathryn steps back from Harrison's embrace.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Do you really not know what's happening here? Or do you not like it? I can change anything you want. I'll do anything! Is it the music? The food? What is it?

KATHRYN

I'm here to support you like I always have. I'm here to smile at you and your betrothed by the end of the night no matter (beat) NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WISH IT WAS ME!

The Queen suddenly lets out a laugh.

QUEEN

Did you not tell her? You idiot!

HARRISON

Of course I told her, I invited her! Were my intentions not clear?

JAMES

Harrison. That sounds like you wanted her to come and watch you get engaged.

HARRISON

WHAT?!

EMMA

Well, you know - that's not how you propose to someone.

KATHRYN

I'm afraid I don't follow. Why else would I be here? Why am I here Harrison?

Harrison pulls Kathryn in for a long kiss, causing the crowd to erupt with applause.

HARRISON

Get it now?

KATHRYN

I think I finally do.

HARRISON

Kathryn, will you do me and the kingdom the honor of marrying me?

KATHRYN

I never thought you'd ask me.

Kathryn pulls Harrison into a kiss.

**END**