

The Last Piece of Her Heart

She gazes at the small mirror standing on the makeshift dresser, guilt gnawing at her stomach. Her reflection seems to mock her, the scar cutting her eye standing as a proud reminder that she may not have learned her lesson after all. She shouldn't be here; coming was a mistake, one that she should right immediately, before it's too late.

Caressing the idea of erasing that last failure, she picks up her dagger, sliding her thumb along its sharp edge. It would be so easy to end things now, put an end to her madness once and for all. He's not wearing any armor, she would be on him in the flash of an eye, and there would be nothing to protect his heart from her blade.

She looks at him through the mirror, calculating her chances. She could do it, plunge her blade in his chest and kill him. Be rid of him just as she gets rid of the last piece of her heart.

— You're welcome to try, Kat, you won't have a better shot at it.

His words snap her out of her dark reverie and she throws him a glance over her shoulder. He's on the other side of the tent, sitting on his cot, not even bothered to look at her while he balances his chest plate on his knees, polishing it.

Maybe he knows what's going on inside her head; perhaps he even shares the same guilt and the same temptation to end it ebbs at the edge of his conscience? Truth be told, it shouldn't even matter to her if he knows or if he feels the same way. They are enemies and they will always be a threat to one another. This is the sole constant in their relationship, back to their very first fight.

Yet, for now, she sheaths her blade and flips to face him, canting her hips just so, passing for the prey when her smile tells the tale of the predator she really is.

— Where would be the fun in that! She says with mock solemnity.

A grin spreads on his lips, genuine amused, one that makes him look more like his age than like the seasoned and serious faced warrior that everybody knows.

- Well then, I guess you'll have to try your best tomorrow.
- You know you can always count on me for that
- And I wouldn't have it any other way, he says, serious once more.

Putting his armor aside, he stands up and picks up her cloak where it lays on his trunk. He walks up to her, delicately puts it around her shoulder and, as he pulls the hood over her fiery raid hair, he slowly lets his fingers brush her cheeks. A tender gesture. One that he cannot help as their stolen moment reaches its inevitable end.

It's impossible to fight the twinge that pulls at her heart as she looks up at him, finding in his eyes the same soul crushing questions.

Why is fate being such a cruel mistress to them? Why did it throw their lives on a colliding path? It's a nerve wracking trail of thoughts that always leads her to that same answer. Fate had nothing to do

with that. Fighting for the truth brought them together. Sharing the same ideals of duty and service make him the one man that is right for her, and at the same time, the one she can never have.

Her duty towards Noxus would ask that she kill him now. She still has a chance, she could grab the knife strapped at her thighs and in one quick move, all of this would be over. If only it wasn't so hard when he gazes upon her with soulful eyes.

— Don't get caught on your way out, he says.

Genuine concern as much as a cautionary advice lies beneath the softness of his tone.

- Not a chance, those sentinels of yours aren't good enough to catch me, maybe whoever trains them should be better at his job, she says, deflecting the heaviness of his warning with a hint of sarcasm.
- Maybe I should, but you know I am a man of justice and taking advantage of our private endeavors to teach the sentinels about your techniques would be, unfair.

As he says these words, he leans down, his lips closing on hers and despite the overwhelming sense of guilt, she kisses him back.

- See you on the battlefield, he tells her as they break apart.
- You better be in one piece when I find you, I want the first dent in that shiny armor of yours, she answers with a grin, walking away from his embrace and towards the exit.
- Why do you think I spent so much time polishing it? I know you like to ruin it.

She shakes her head, unable to stop her grin from turning into a smile.

- See you on the battlefield Crownguard, she says as she exits, the flap of the tent falling behind her as she disappears in the shadow of the night.

She leaves the Demacian encampment, unseen and unnoticed, the last piece of her heart still beating strong.

One day, maybe, she'll find the strength to get rid of it, but for the time being, it remains safe, it remains with him.