

# BROTHER BEWITCHED

## CHAPTER 23



AS A WARRIOR, PRINCE SERREN NEVER HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE SIGHT OF BLOOD, BUT FINDING HIMSELF WITH MENSTRUAL BLOOD ON HIS BODY MAKES HIM FEEL DIRTY. THE SMELL MAKES HIM FEEL SICK, UNCLEAR. IT IS HIS MENSTRUAL FLOW. HIS.



BROOKE ASSURES HIM THE BUBBLY SOAPS IN THE BATH WILL HELP HIDE THE "REVOLTING ODOR" OF HIS MENARCHE. IT FURTHERS HIS SENSE OF SHAME. HIS MENARCHE, SOMETHING SO DIRTY, SHAMEFUL, IT SHOULD BE HIDDEN, YET ALL WILL KNOW THAT HE NOW BLEEDS AS A WOMAN.

ONCE MORE, THE PRINCE'S THOUGHTS TURN TO THE ULTIMATE ESCAPE.

WHAT KIND OF MAN AM I TO SUFFER THIS INDIGNITY?


DEATH. SUICIDE. IT WOULD BE A NOBLE ACT, BUT NO! THE SMALL FAVOR OF FREEDOM FROM THIS LIFE WOULD DOOM ME TO AN ETERNITY AS A WOMAN.






UGH!

THESE BREASTS ACHE. I SUFFER CRAMPS, BLEED. THE FEMALE IS OF AN INFERIOR DESIGN.

A woman with blonde hair in a bun is sitting in a wooden bathtub filled with bubbles. She is in a stone-walled room with three lit candles on a shelf behind her. Two speech bubbles are present: one on the left and one on the right.


WORD WILL  
SPREAD  
THROUGHOUT THE  
KINGDOM THAT I,  
PRINCE SERREN, HAVE  
HAD MY STRAWBERRY  
DAYS. A MAN DANCING  
WITH THE RED QUEEN.  
ALL WILL LAUGH.

IF IT  
WASN'T TRUE  
BEFORE, IT IS  
NOW: NO ONE  
WILL TAKE ME  
SERIOUSLY.

A woman with blonde hair in a bun is sitting in a bathtub filled with bubbles. She is looking upwards and to the right. The background is a stone wall with a warm, yellowish light. Two thought bubbles are present: one on the left and one on the right, both containing pink text. Dotted lines connect the bubbles to the woman's head.

SO, WHAT,  
THEN? ACCEPT MY  
FATE? EMBRACE  
THIS MAIDEN'S LIFE,  
EVEN THOUGH IT  
SHOULD BE A LIFE  
OF SHAME?

"THE MAN  
WHO FACES HIS  
DOOM WITH HONOR  
NEVER KNOWS  
SHAME." SO WROTE  
ELDEROUS. HE  
OBVIOUSLY NEVER  
SPENT A DAY AS A  
WOMAN.

A woman with blonde hair is sitting in a bathtub filled with bubbles. She has a thoughtful expression. Two thought bubbles are present: one on the left and one on the right. The background is a stone wall.

SHALL I ACCEPT  
THAT I AM  
SERRENINA? BUT  
FOR A WOMAN THERE  
IS BUT ONE FUTURE:  
MARRIAGE.

I WISH I HAD  
FATHOMED  
PATTENIA'S PLANS,  
THAT THIS HAD  
NEVER HAPPENED!



HOW CAN  
PATTENIA HATE  
ME SO MUCH?  
FOR HER TO DO IT  
THE WAY SHE DID--  
IN FRONT OF  
EVERYONE! I HAD  
NO INKLING OF  
HER MALICE.



JUST BEFORE I  
WAS TO BE  
CROWNED KING, I  
MET EYES WITH  
MY BELOVED.



WE WERE SO IN LOVE,  
SO HAPPY, SO EXCITED  
ABOUT OUR FUTURE  
TOGETHER.

I HEARD PATTENIA  
CHANTING SOMETHING  
UNDER HER BREATH. I  
DIDN'T UNDERSTAND  
WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

MY... VOICE?







WHAT'S  
HAPPENING TO  
ME?


EVERYTHING CHANGED  
SO FAST.





ONE MOMENT, I WAS ME, SERREN, THE MAN, THE PRINCE, READY TO ACCEPT THE CROWN. MY CROWN.

THEN, SUDDENLY, IMPOSSIBLY, I FOUND MYSELF A WEEPING GIRL, EVERYTHING STRIPPED FROM AWAY FROM ME.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white lace gown with a corset-style bodice and a gold crown, stands on a dark staircase. She is adjusting the crown with both hands. She wears a necklace and bracelets. The scene is lit with dramatic, low-key lighting, highlighting her face and the details of her dress and crown. In the background, a candelabra with lit candles is visible on the right.

SERREN IS NOW A  
GIRL AND MY LITTLE  
SISTER. AS THE ELDEST,  
THE THRONE IS MINE.  
ALL HAIL KING  
PATTENIA!



NO!

I FOUND MYSELF  
DRAGGED FROM THE  
THRONE ROOM WHILE  
MY SISTER STOLE MY  
CROWN.





HER LIFE IN DRESSES  
ENDED. MINE BEGAN.

IT  
STILL SEEMS  
IMPOSSIBLE  
THAT I FIND  
MYSELF A  
MAIDEN.





I MUST SAY, THIS  
BATH IS A MIRACLE.  
THE SOAPS DIVINE.....

THEY LIFT THE  
TENSION FROM  
MY BONES AND  
SOOTHE THE  
SYMPTOMS OF  
MY--  
AFFLICATION.



.....

I SEE NOW  
WHY MOTHER  
WAS SO FOND OF  
HER BATHS.



<GIGGLE>

BUT, OF COURSE, OUR BRAVE PRINCE CAN NOT HIDE IN THE TUB ALL DAY.

I WISH I COULD JUST SOAK HERE ALL DAY.

TIME TO GET OUT OF THE TUB, MILADY. THE KING WISHES TO SEE YOU.



A woman with blonde hair in a bun is sitting in a wooden bathtub filled with bubbles. She is looking towards the camera. The background is a stone wall with a candle on a ledge. A speech bubble is next to her head.

PATTENIA!

**TO BE CONTINUED**

