

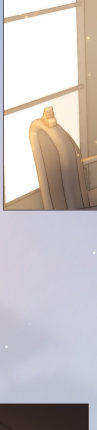
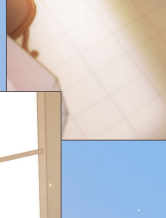
Embers to Inferno

By Shiroyuki

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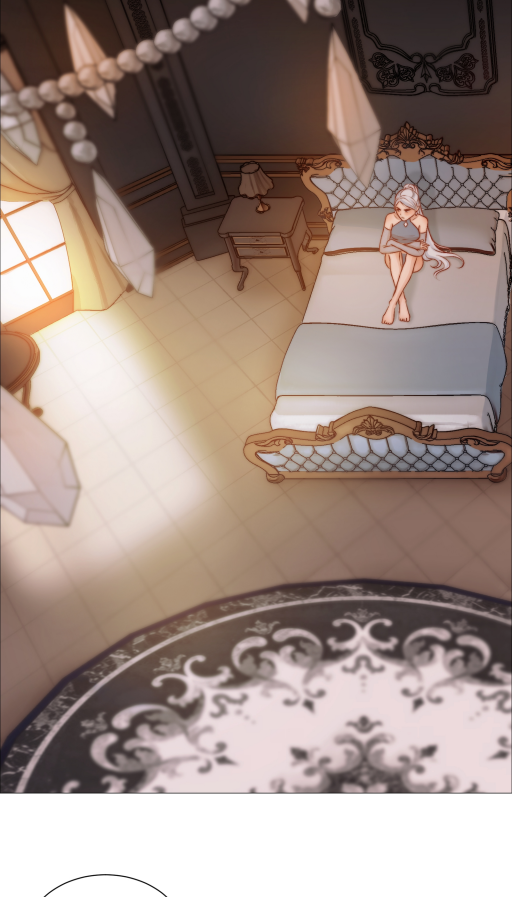
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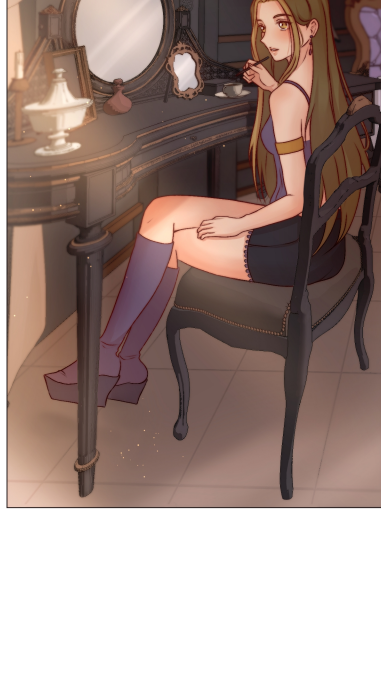
I CAN'T
STAND THIS
ANYMORE!

HOW LONG ARE
WE GOING TO SIT
HERE AND DO
NOTHING?



UNTIL VALTOR'S
DONE DEALING
WITH BLOOM.

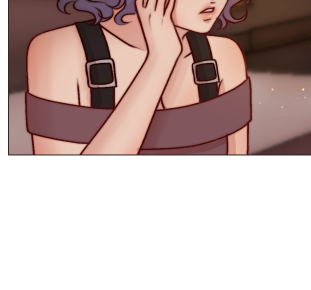
WE ALL KNEW
THIS WOULD TAKE
TIME.



YEAH, BUT I DIDN'T
THINK IT'D TAKE THIS
LONG. I'M ITCHING
TO SET SOMETHING
ON FIRE.



I DON'T GET WHY WE'RE
NOT ALLOWED TO DO
ANYTHING. IT'S NOT LIKE
WE AGREED TO THAT
DEAL THEY MADE.



YOU KNOW MISS GOODY-GOODY WOULDN'T STAND FOR IT.



HER TENDER LITTLE HEART BLEEDS FOR ANYTHING THAT MOVES.



I DON'T LIKE IT. DON'T YOU THINK HE AND BLOOM ARE GETTING A LITTLE TOO CLOSE?

HE CERTAINLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S PLANNING TO KILL HER.



VALTOR'S A MASTER MANIPULATOR. HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING...

I HOPE.



YOU'RE JUST ANNOYED BECAUSE HE REJECTED YOU, ICY.



PFFT

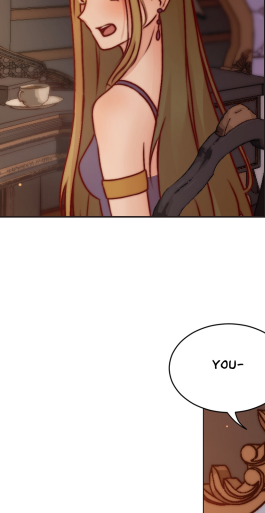


I AM NOT!

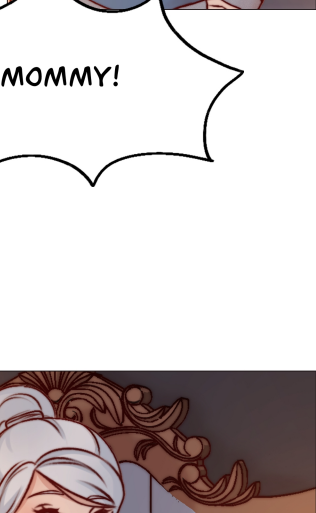
HE'S NOT EVEN THAT HANDSOME! AS IF I'D CARE ABOUT A MAN LIKE HIM.



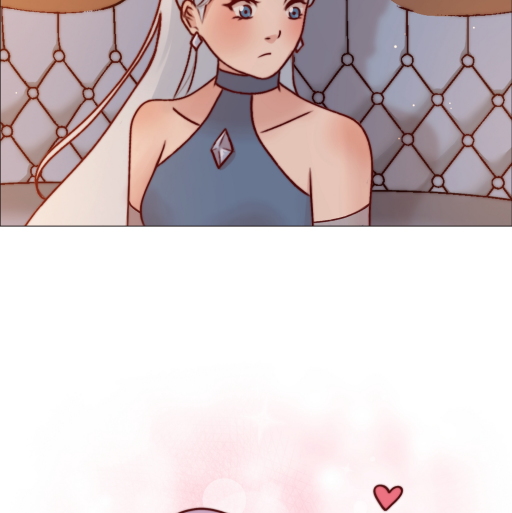
THAT'S JUST A FAT LIE.



YOU-



MOMMY!

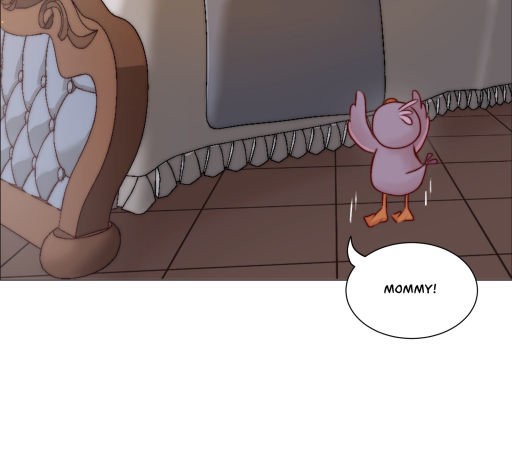


FLAP



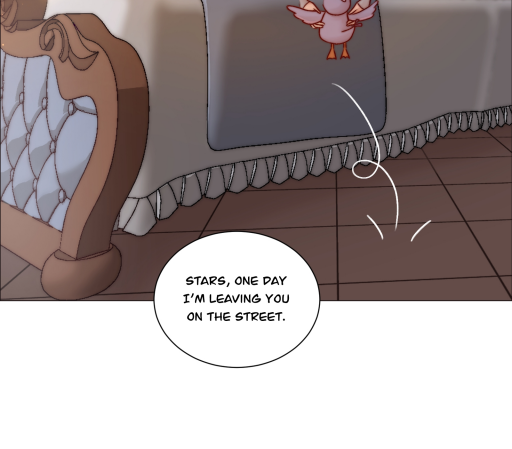
FLAP

UGH. WHAT NOW, YOU ANNOYING LITTLE PEST?!



MOMMY!

FINE. COME HERE.



STARS, ONE DAY I'M LEAVING YOU ON THE STREET.

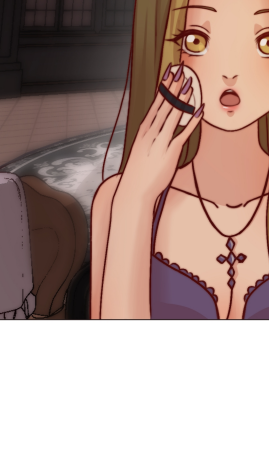
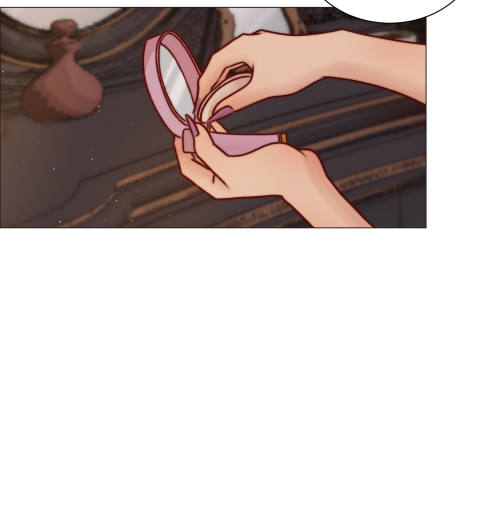
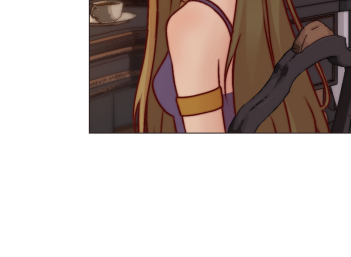
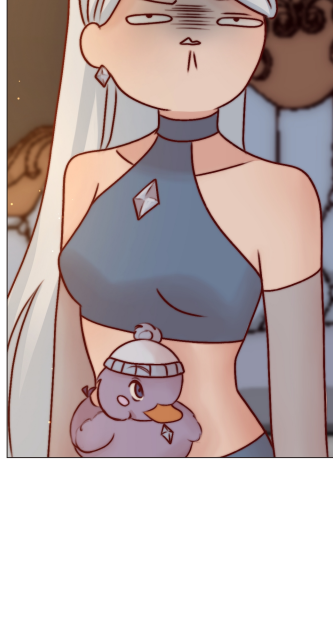
SHIVER

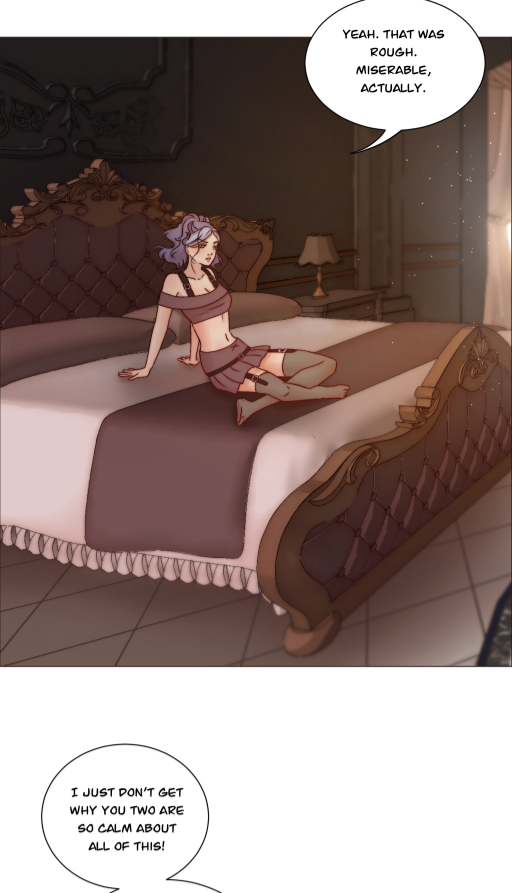
ARE YOU COLD AGAIN?!



YET ANOTHER FAT LIE.







YEAH. THAT WAS ROUGH. MISERABLE, ACTUALLY.

I JUST DON'T GET WHY YOU TWO ARE SO CALM ABOUT ALL OF THIS!

VALTOR'S LOCKED AWAY IN HIS PRIVATE LIBRARY WITH BLOOM EVERY NIGHT!



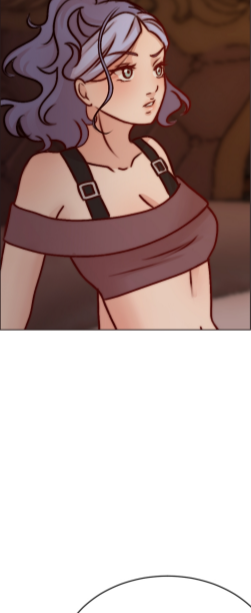
WE ARE NOT EVEN ALLOWED IN THERE, BUT SHE IS?!

LAST TIME I CHECKED, YOU BOTH WERE FIGHTING FOR HIS ATTENTION JUST AS MUCH AS I WAS.

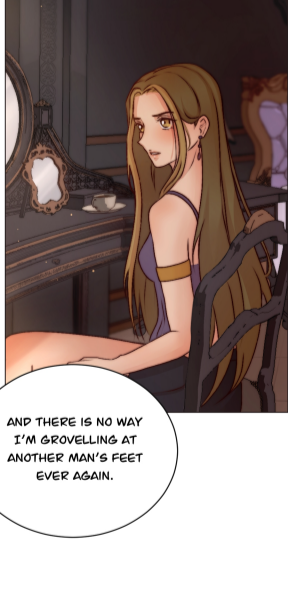


YEAH, AND THEN I SAW HOW HE WENT OFF ON YOU FOR TRYING SOMETHING.

AND, UH... TURNS OUT I QUITE ENJOY HAVING MY HEAD ATTACHED TO MY BODY.



SORRY ICY, BUT IT'S CLEAR HE ISN'T INTERESTED IN EITHER OF US.



AND THERE IS NO WAY I'M GROVELLING AT ANOTHER MAN'S FEET EVER AGAIN.

....

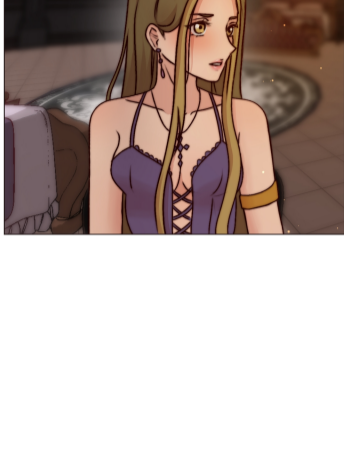


WE'RE IN THIS NICE ROOM, WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT ALL DAY, WE HAVE CLOUD TOWER ALL TO OURSELVES...



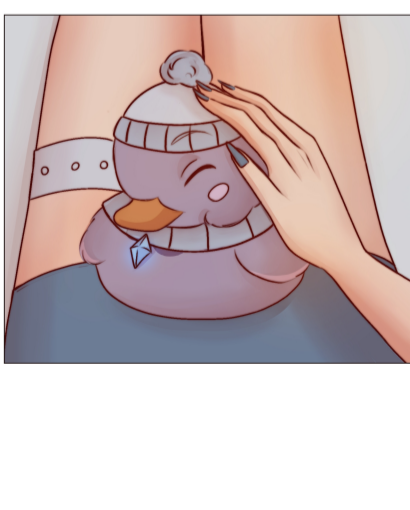
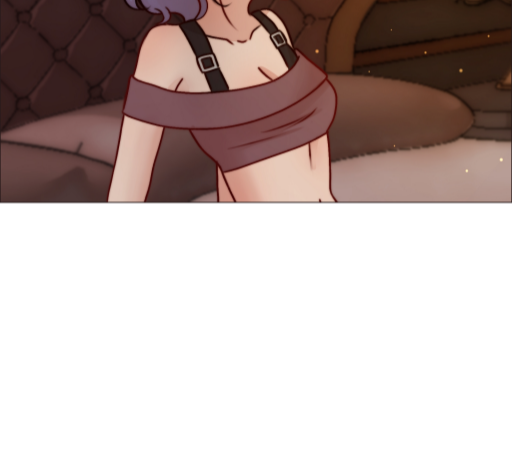
SO FAR, LIVING WITH VALTOR HAS BEEN... NICE.

I SUPPOSE I CAN LIVE WITHOUT 'BURNING DOWN VILLAGES' FOR A WHILE IF IT MEANS I CAN HAVE SOME PEACE AND QUIET.



I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, DARCY. LIFE HASN'T BEEN TOO BAD LATELY.

WORLD DOMINATION CAN WAIT FOR A LITTLE BIT LONGER I SUPPOSE.



SHE'S JUST A DISTRACTION... THAT'S ALL THIS IS. SOON HE'LL GET TIRED OF HER/AND SHE'LL BE DEAD.



End

Episode 22

Story • Art by Shiroyuki