

1033 SIDE STORY (ROSE): AGONY

Rose was devastated, she had a mental breakdown the moment she heard the news about Ari's death from Xarex. www.novelworld.com

" And you did nothing to stop it?!" Rose screamed to his face, but the young man looked unfazed. He didn't show any emotion whatsoever.

" What can I do? That's beyond my authority." www.novelworld.com

" Rei didn't do anything too!" Rose was hysteric and there was no amount of reasoning that she could accept. She was beyond hurt. Even if she rushed back to the Holy Kingdom, there was nothing much she could do, since it would be too late for her, because it would take her two days and by the time she was there, there would be nothing left of Ari. That forest was so vicious, even without the monster, there were so many wild animals that would love an extra meat for their meal. Rose couldn't imagine that. How could Andreas so cruel toward her and also his own brother? How he could treat him so bad? No matter what, they were still brother, they shared the same blood! But more importantly, how could Ari didn't fight back? He was a great magic user, he could fight back. He could kill Andreas if he wanted, since the future King was not gifted with any magic power. But, Ari chose to give up. He chose to give up on her and their baby. Rose screamed and wailed, but Xarex didn't show anything on his face, he looked unperturbed, as if the woman before him was only throwing a tantrum. However, he was patient enough to wait until Elder Rose was done and then approached her. "I am here not to tell you about this, but I thought you need to know what happened, since you will learn about it sooner or later." Rose looked defeated, her eyes were red and her stomach was hurt, she was afraid something happened to her and the baby. Her baby was the only thing that could tie her with Ari. Her baby was the only thing that she had that could remind her of him. She forced herself to calm down, but it hurt her head and her heart so much. It felt like she was being pulled toward different direction at the same time. Rose sat down on the floor, staring at Xarex. She was a mess and she didn't care about it. www.novelworld.com

" Why are you here?" Her voice was so hoarse and she looked like she had grown very old. If Xarex didn't come to see her to tell her about what happened to Ari, he must have hidden agenda to appear now.

" Rei knew about your pregnancy. The baby is Ari's, right?" Out of instinct, Rose put her arms around her belly to protect her child, as if Xarex was going to attack her, yet the man only stood there. Xarex was hailed from the pure faction, thus whatever reason he was here right now, it must have something to do with them.

"I am here to remind you that if the baby is a girl, Rei will have her for a year, just like he did to Gabriel and the other daughter of the previous Serafim." Rose's eyes turned dark. She snapped at him through her gritted teeth. " This baby is not Andreas! The baby has nothing to do with Rei!" Xarex shook his head." You don't get it, do you?" He talked in clear voice." Rei didn't care, who fathered the baby, neither he cared about your affair. The rule is the daughter of the Serafim." Rose screamed at Xarex, she stood up and grabbed a plate to throw it against him, but Xarex moved faster and wrapped his arms around her neck. He was a magic user, in normal occasion, he wouldn't have stood a chance to fight a Serafim like Rose, since she was a powerful Serafim, but right now, Rose was not in her right mind. Once Xarex wrapped his arms around Rose's neck, she lost her strength, her body fell so heavy and her eyelids were hard to open. Xarex put her to sleep, so she wouldn't do any harm on the baby, because there was a high chance that the baby was a girl and Rei would be so pissed off if something happened to Rose during her pregnancy. That was why Xarex was sent here to monitor her. And the moment Rose returned to the Holy Kingdom, there was nothing left of Ari. She heard a few rumors about him, but she chose to turn deaf ears. She shut herself inside her room for the rest of her pregnancy and prayed her baby would be a son, so Rei wouldn't be able to take him away. It would be a bliss for her to have a son that looked like Ari. The second day Rose returned to the Holy Kingdom, she immediately marched toward Andel kingdom to meet with Andreas. A harsh slap landed across his face the moment the two of them were left alone. www.novelworld.com

" He is your brother!" Rose screamed to his face." How could you kill your own brother?!" Andreas looked very livid, he balled his fists, holding himself back from slapped Rose back. He didn't want to harm a pregnant woman, even when she deserved it.

" He was my brother! How could you have an affair with my own brother out of all people?!" Andreas snapped back at her." How could you do that to me?!" Andreas and Ari were close, but growing up, with different responsibility on their shoulders, they grew apart, but to know your wife was being pregnant with your own brother, it was something that no one could forgive easily.

" Ari knew about this! He agreed with death sentence!" Andreas roared at Rose, whose face had turned red. " He thought with his death it's enough to atone for his sin! Do you think it's enough when I have to admit that baby in your womb is mine?! How much do you have to stomp off my dignity for you to be satisfied?!"

" You only cared about your own dignity." Rose's body was trembling." You only cared about your stupid dignity! You never cared about me! In that case, why don't you leave me and Ari alone?! We can leave separately!" Andreas looked very hurt. " No matter how much I don't like this marriage, I have never disrespected you by sleeping around. My loyalty is to this kingdom and you. I have never touched another woman despite how frustrated I am with you, Rose. Let alone to be with someone that's so close to you." That was their last conversation and after that, they lived separately. During this time, Rose was not active. The Holy Kingdom still stood, but the Serafim was missing in action. And at dawn in the middle of autumn, she gave birth to her baby girl. Like usual, life was so hard on her.

" My baby! My baby!" Rose cried when someone took her baby away. She struggled against the people, who pinned her down, but after losing so much blood during the labor, she had no more strength to fight them back. And the last time she saw her baby was when Rei took her with him. She only saw a glimpse of her face, but it was not enough. She didn't even have a chance to breastfeed her and hold her in her arms. She was hopeless. A useless mother, who couldn't protect her own daughter.

" Rei will give you the baby back in a year. You have gone through this with Gabriel. It will be fine in the end, right?" No! It was not the same! This baby was so precious to Rose, this baby was so dear to her. She was the last thing that Ari left. His flesh and blood, their child.

" Don't worry, you will have your baby back in a year." That was what people around her said, but after a year, Rei didn't return her baby. Two years passed and there was no sign of her baby would be back to her arms. Three years, five years, ten years.... Time went by and Rose knew deep down that she wouldn't see her daughter again. They only said that her baby's name was Nera. That was all. That was the only information that she was privileged of. For the next two decades, Rose and Andreas's relationship gradually became a little bit better, because there was something happened and it was for people's best interest for them to start living together again, they still cordial with one another. However, in her old age, when Rose thought she was done and was actually glad that Gabriel was not the next Serafim, since she didn't want her baby girl to live the life she had, she found out she was pregnant. This was her third pregnancy. This pregnancy brought back all the bad memories that she tried to bury. It gave her anxiety and nightmares, especially when she learned that the baby was a girl, which meant, Rei would take her away. Rose couldn't go through that pain again, she didn't want to be in pain anymore. Therefore, even before she gave birth to the baby, she already detached herself, to the point, where she didn't even cry or protest when they took her baby away. In her mind, she didn't even have a hope that the baby would be returned, just like what happened to Nera, thus she didn't want to yearn for her. And because of that, when Abby was given back to her, she didn't feel anything toward this daughter of hers.