

The Price of Peace

Von chelle76

Kapitel 5: The Student and the Teacher

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Chapter 4: The Student and the Teacher

The door opens and Elaine enters the room, "Oh, I see you decided to sleep here again last night." She comes over and nudges him, "Ms. Kelly shall be arriving soon, Saber, I suggest you get up and be more alert."

"What time is it?" he asks groggily.

"It's nearly nine. You should have eaten a while ago, but I decided you could use the rest. I was just on my way to wake you when I found you here. Now you need to get up and changed into fresh clothes," Elaine replies, nudging him up off of the couch.

"Okay, I'm up. I'll find my way to my room," he grumbles and heads towards the door cautiously.

"Now, Saber, come on. I'll take you up and help you get some clothes together. I know you can take care of changing for yourself." She leads him by the arm to his room, then after picking out his clothes and laying them on the bed, she leaves him to change, closing the door behind her.

He's in the process of changing when he hears the doorbell and sighs. He finishes dressing and heads downstairs, towards the voices in the sitting room.

"Ah, Captain Rider, I'm glad to see that you are able to get around here without too much trouble," Amanda says brightly.

Saber nods slightly and goes and sits down, "It's taken some time, but I have figured my way around most of the house, Ms. Kelly."

"If you don't mind, Captain Rider, I would prefer that you call me Amanda."

"Fair enough, Ms. Amanda." he corrects himself. "If I am to address you by your first name, then you should address me as 'Saber'." he states.

"Saber? I thought your name was Richard." Amanda says.

"Richard is my given name, no one actually calls me that," he replies quietly.

"Ah. Okay, then Saber, it is."

He stands up and turns towards her, "Have you eaten yet?" he asks.

"I ate a few hours ago," she replies.

"Well, I haven't eaten, would you care for some tea or something while I eat?" he asks politely.

"Sure. Perhaps then we can just talk and become better acquainted." she says brightly.

"All right. The kitchen is this direction," he turns towards the kitchen, almost tripping on a stool, but manages to catch himself.

They enter the kitchen and Elaine is there, cooking up breakfast for herself. "Are you ready to eat now, Saber?" she asks, a hint of amusement in her voice.

"Yes, please, if it's not too much trouble," he replies.

"Not at all. I figured you'd be coming, so I made extra. Would you like something too, Ms. Kelly?" Elaine asks.

"No thank you, Ma'am. I've had breakfast," Amanda replies.

"We would both like some tea if you can manage, Elaine." Saber adds.

"Of course. Sit down, I'll have it up in a couple of minutes." Elaine says as she finishes cooking the meal.

They eat and chat for a while before heading to the study. He is sitting in a chair, with Amanda across from him. "So, tell me the type of things you like to do normally." she says.

He thinks for a bit and shrugs, "I enjoy riding, I know I was once good at fencing, and I was an excellent marksman. I would like to have some of those skill back to some degree. I'm sure I'll never be as good as I once was."

Amanda nods, "Okay, we have goals. Now we have to figure a way to attain them. Suggestions?"

Saber sits for several minutes, not sure what to say. Finally, he sighs and shakes his head, "Not a clue to be quite honest."

"You're not exactly being very helpful, you know?" Amanda says amused.

"I wasn't aware I was supposed to be," he quips.

"I've never fenced before in my life, and I've only touched a gun once, so I suppose you will be teaching me, as much as I will be you," Amanda says.

"Have you ever been on a horse?" he asks quietly.

"I think so...once. I was like five or six," she replies, trying not to laugh.

He smiles and shakes his head, "Then let's head out and ride," he says standing up.

She looks up startled, then nods, "Okay. Um, I'm not sure if I'm appropriately dressed for such an activity."

"What are you wearing?" he asks seriously.

"A long skirt and a tunic top," she replies, watching his expression.

He laughs, "No, that would not be comfortable for riding. Could you possibly go and change into jeans? The top should be fine."

"I can do that," she replies standing up.

"All right then, I'll wait here until you return," he says as she leaves.

A short time later, they are out back with Steed. "I thought you meant a real horse. What kind of horse is this?" Amanda asks confused.

"This is my mechanical horse. His name is evidently 'Steed' I'm not sure if it's something I came up with or if whoever made him programmed into him. Some parts of my memory are still a bit muddled," he replies. "Would you like to ride your own horse, or do you want to ride with me?"

"Well, would you mind if I rode with you?" She asks hesitantly.

He notices her nervousness but shakes his head, "It's fine. Do you want to sit in front or behind me?" he asks quietly, trying to calm her.

"Um, in front, I guess. I'm the one that can see, so wouldn't that make the most sense?" she asks.

He nods, "Up front you go then." He offers her a hand up, then after she's on, he gets on behind her, reaching around her to grab the reins. "I'm sorry if this is awkward, I

can't think of another way to do this."

"It's fine," she replies, trying to sound confident.

He chuckles, "If you say so. Take the reins. I won't let go of them until I feel like you're doing okay with it." She places her hands on the reins, remaining tense from nervousness. "Good thing we're on a mecha horse, or you'd be on the ground already."

"Why's that?" She asks trying to relax.

"Horses sense fear, Amanda. So do predators," he adds quietly.

"And how would you know this Saber?" Amanda asks warily. "Are you a predator?"

Saber chuckles, "It all depends on the prey," he replies mischievously.

She strains to see his face, but can't quite turn far enough. "I'll try and remember that," she says ruefully.

"Shall we actually move, or are we just working on sitting on a horse?" Saber asks, the amusement evident in his voice.

"Let's go," She replies, and they start moving in a slow trot. She tenses up, gripping the reins tightly.

"You seriously need to try and relax, Amanda. Otherwise you won't be able to move tomorrow," he says, hesitantly placing his hands over hers. "Loosen your grip and then tug gently to the left or the right to turn, pull back if you want to stop. It's fairly strait forward."

She makes an effort to relax and he releases her hands, moving his hands carefully to her shoulders. "Better?" she asks.

"Yes, at least you're relaxing a bit." he replies and she laughs. "What's so funny?" he asks confused.

"I thought I was here to teach you, not the other way around." she retorts.

"Well, perhaps it'll be a little of both. I thought you were supposed to help me become better in this condition, or something like that," he replies.

"At least you don't seem as glum as you did this morning," she says lightly.

"I seemed glum?" he asks.

"Pretty much. I started having second thoughts this morning, but something made me stay," she replies.

"And what exactly did that?" he asks curious.

"I'm a glutton for punishment, I suppose," she replies amused.

Saber laughs, "I'm glad you're not afraid to speak your mind. This whole situation is bad enough as it is."

"I'm sure. I think I'd be pretty pissed, if I were in your shoes. I'm not sure if anyone could stand to be around me," she says.

He chuckles, "Surely you can't be that bad. You don't seem the type to have an attitude."

Amanda laughs as she pulls back on the reins and Steed comes to a halt. "Have you ever pissed off a red-head, Saber?" she asks curiously.

"Not to my knowledge. A brunette, yes, but not a red-head. Why?" he replies amused.

"We tend to have ferocious tempers," she replies ominously while trying to not laugh.

"I'll do my best to remember that, Miss," he says, chuckling.

They continue riding, throughout the afternoon. Around dinner time they return to the house, several people casting glances their way.

"So, Saber, how has the first day been?" April asks curiously.

Saber nods, "Better than I expected, honestly. I was able to teach her something, as opposed to her teaching me though."

"How do you know that that wasn't the goal for the day?" Amanda asks in a mocking tone.

April laughs, "I like you already, Ms. Kelly."

Amanda smiles, "I think we both can learn from one another. I can learn new things, and he can learn to teach them."

"So that's your game, eh?" Saber asks.

"Yes, it's all part of my diabolical plan," Amanda says laughing.

Saber and April laugh, Saber shaking his head. "And just how long has that been your plan, madam?" he asks in a mocking tone.

"About two minutes now," she replies.

"Ah," Saber replies.

"Oh, I was coming to tell you both that dinner is just about ready," April says.

"Thank you, April," Saber says.

They all eat and the next couple of weeks are spent with Saber teaching Amanda to ride. One morning Saber is just leaving his room when Amanda sees him and approaches him, "Good morning," she says brightly.

"Good morning," Saber replies. "To what do I owe this perkiness this morning?"

"You promised me today that we were going to meet your old fencing partner." she responds. "I'm anxious to see you attempt to fence."

"I'm sure it'll be a regular comedy of errors," he replies sarcastically.

"I think you'll do better than you think," She states as they head downstairs.

They eat a quick breakfast, then the doorbell sounds sounds and a minute later Thomas comes in, "Master Sean McCully has arrived Sir."

"Please bring him in here, Thomas." Saber says.

"Right away, Sir," Thomas replies.

Thomas escorts Sean in, "Saber, I'd heard you'd done a lot of good out there, I was a little surprised to hear from you," Sean says.

"Yes, well I'm not sure if you'd heard, but I was injured in the fighting, and I'm working on my rehabilitation. I figured what better way to judge my progress then to test the skills I'd been training with since I was a young child," Saber replies.

"I'm ready when you are," Sean says confidently.

Saber gets up, "Just go easy on me."

"Are you crazy? You never went easy on me, even when I broke my fencing arm, I believe your exact words were 'Learn to use the other hand faster, Sean'" Sean laughs and grins.

The three of them head to the fencing room inside the mansion and get into their fencing garb, and their swords ready "Saber?" Amanda says quietly as he finishing getting ready, "Isn't this dangerous?"

Saber shakes his head, "I asked Thomas to put out the practice swords, they couldn't cut butter, and the masks protect our faces."

"Okay," Amanda says a bit hesitant. Then nodding in acceptance, she steps out of the circle and announces, "Begin!"

Saber stands stock still as Sean comes at him quickly with a thrust, and not sure if it's

instinct, or what he deflects the blow and they start going back and forth, neither landing a blow on each other for several minutes. Then suddenly Sean gains the upper hand and hits Saber. "I won! Finally!" Sean exclaims excitedly.

Amanda goes to Saber and helps him to a bench and hands him some water, "I can't believe you fought like that, it was amazing!"

"I'm not entirely sure how I did that, it was almost like I could see the blade," Saber says astonished as he catches his breath.

"Wait? What do you mean as if you could see the blade?" Sean asks looking up in surprise.

"I told you that I was injured, and you didn't give me a chance to explain how," Saber simply states.

Sean sits down in complete shock. "Are you telling me that you're blind?" he asks. Saber nods. "That... that's impossible. There's no way that you could do that if you were blind."

"As I said, I'm not sure how I did it, I think I heard you move, and somewhere in my mind I knew what you were doing and was able to block, and then once I knew where you were I was able to strike, it felt weird."

"I'd never beaten you before, and I barely beat you this time. I just can't believe you're blind," Sean says still in obvious disbelief.

"I'm hoping it's only temporary, but at least I feel better knowing that I can fence blind," Saber says as he finishes the water he was given.

"If you practiced you'd be the best again, no question." Sean states with a hint of admiration in his voice.

"Shall we go again?" Saber asks.

"No." Amanda says, placing a hand on his arm. "I think that's enough for today. You're clearly exhausted."

"Come on Lady," Sean says agitated. "We can easily go again. He's not a child."

Saber clears his throat, "Her name is Amanda, and you'll do well to remember that Sean. She's been hired to help rehabilitate me, and if she thinks that I've had enough for the day then I've had enough. You are welcome to stay tonight if you like Sean." He turns towards Amanda, "I think I would like a shower. Would you mind helping me to my room? Now that I think about it I am a bit more tired than usual."

Amanda takes Saber's arm as they stand up, "Come on then." They leave and head toward Saber's room.

Thomas comes into the training room, "Will you be staying Master Sean?"

"Sure, why not?" he says with a grin as Thomas walks away. "Might get interesting," he says under his breath.

At dinner time that evening, they all sit around the dinner table. Sean begins telling stories from their youth, "So Saber goes riding off, sword in his hand, looking intent to kill the bas... idiot who hit my sister. He rides up to the guy, he must be 6 ft 4 and pure muscle and Saber says, 'I'm here to defend the honor of Kelly McCully'. The guy laughs at him, and swings one big fist at Saber. He dodges it, and jabs him one time, right where it counts. He goes down crying for his mother not realizing that Saber had sheathed his weapon before he hit him, he thought that Saber had cut off his,"

"I believe they get the idea, Sean," Saber says quickly. " Please remember that there are ladies present." The others chuckle.

"Is that how it went, Saber?" April asks amused.

"I honestly don't remember," Saber replies. "But I wouldn't doubt it."

"Dessert!" Elaine comes in with a large, nicely decorated cake.

"Elaine, you make the best desserts," Sean says.

"I'll have to make sure to make you something extra for your trip home, Mr. McCully," she replies.

"I would appreciate that," he replies.

Later that evening Saber and Amanda are sitting in his room. "So I guess you and Sean grew up together huh?" Amanda asks.

Saber nods, "It's starting to come back to me, and those stories he told are true, or at least mostly true from what I can remember."

"So what, did you have a crush on his sister or something?" she asks curious.

"Maybe, I'm not really sure. I don't remember her all that well, but it wouldn't have mattered anyways," he says with a shrug.

"Why wouldn't it have mattered?" Amanda asks curiously,

"I was betrothed to someone else. I had been my whole life," he replies quietly. "But life moves on around us sometimes," Saber muses.

"Oh," she replies quietly. A long silence follows, "Well, I'd better head onto bed," Amanda says as she stands up.

"Just down the hall if I need you right?" Saber says.

Amanda smiles, "Yes, and as it's your home just come in if you need me. Although knocking first would be polite."

"Very well, just don't blame me if I actually barge into your room sometime then," he says with a chuckle.

Amanda shakes her head, "Good night, Saber." She heads toward her room.

Sean's standing in the hall when she leaves Saber's room and turns towards her room, "Hello there sweetheart. I can't believe Saber hired such a nice young filly such as yourself," he says looking her over seductively.

"I'm not your sweetheart, Mr. McCully, and I'm here to help Saber. He insists on me being reimbursed for my time, but I'd gladly help him for free," she states as she attempts to step around him and continue to her room.

"Especially seeing that you've gotten yourself such a sweet setup here," he states, pointedly blocking her way. "Free room and board, and you get to get close to Saber. Too bad he's engaged. So if you're looking to marry into money I'm available."

"I'll have you know that as soon as Saber no longer needs my services I plan on leaving. I am not as you so eloquently put it, 'looking to marry into money', sir. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to bed. Good night, Mr. McCully." she says curtly and goes into her room, the door shutting behind her with a bang.

Saber is sitting in his room and hears raised voices, then the bang of a door. Thinking it suspicious, he gets up to check out the noise. Out of instinct, he grabs his father's pistol from the desk, which is always loaded. Meanwhile Sean, not use to rejection, pauses for a minute; then lets his temper get the best of him and reaches for Amanda's door, to his surprise it easily opens. With a grin he enters the room.

"Saber, is that you? Just take a seat, I'll be out in a minute." Amanda says from the other room.

Sean grins evilly as he goes into the dressing room, "I'm not Saber." he says menacingly as he grabs Amanda from behind as she's changing.

"Get off me!" she says, trying to pull out of his grip.

"I think not, I'll have you one way or the other," he says against her neck as he drags her into her bedroom and forces her onto the bed. "This is going to be fun."

Amanda resists the best she can, "Help!" she screams as she continues trying to push him off of her.

At that moment Saber bursts into the room, pistol in his hand, "Amanda?"

"Saber!" Amanda cries out, "Sean's tr-"

Sean clamps a hand over her mouth, still pulling off the rest of her clothes.

"Sean" Saber says in a menacing tone, pointing the pistol towards Amanda's voice "Get away from her NOW!"

Sean laughs, "I will do nothing of the sort, you wouldn't dare shoot, you might hit your girlfriend."

Saber fires, the bullet barely missing Sean's head, "Now, get away from her," he growls.

"But you're blind?" Sean says, thrown off by the accuracy of the shot.

"Must be like fencing, a trained reflex," Saber replies, the gun still pointed towards Sean.

Sean lets go of Amanda, shoving her a bit in the process causing her to hit the floor, and backs away, "Fine have it your way."

"Now, I want you to leave my property and never return, do you understand?" Saber says as he steps closer to where Amanda's voice came from, the gun still in his hand.

Sean moves towards the doorway, and then suddenly leaps to attack Saber, and a shot is fired. "Who shot me?" Sean asks, clutching the wound, looking around wildly.

"I did," April says as she comes out of the shadows of Amanda's dressing room.

"April?" Saber asks surprised.

"We heard a commotion and came to investigate. The other's are waiting outside the room, none of them felt comfortable coming into Amanda's room not knowing whether she was dressed or not."

"Thank you for your help, April." Saber says quietly, trying to calm his anger.

"All well and good, now will someone get me a doctor?" Sean groans.

"If you don't shut up, I'm going to shoot you again, and you won't need a doctor afterwards," April says and Sean gets very quiet. She goes over to Amanda and helps her sit up on the bed, "Now, I know you're in shock, but do you think you can get yourself dressed Amanda?"

"I think I'll be okay, I'll have to burn what's left of the clothes he touched," Amanda mutters and Saber blushes and shakes his head, turning towards the door.

"Come on Saber, you and Sean have seen enough," April says taking him by the arm.

"Technically, I haven't seen a thing," Saber begins to protest.

"Only cause you're still blind," April says amused. "Now come on, and help me get him up and out of the room, I shot him in his right leg, so he'll have to lean on you for now."

Saber goes and grabs Sean, a little rougher than he has to, and gets him up and April pushes them out of the room. "Who's the woman that shot me?" Sean asks as they leave the room.

"From what I remember she's my team mate," Saber answers coldly.

"And my fiance," Fireball says, as he grabs Sean from Saber. "Come on, let's get that bullet taken care of." he looks to Colt, "You with me Cowboy?"

"Wouldn't miss it for the world," Colt says with a grin as they head off.