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**A FEAR NOT PRODUCTION**

**THE MISTRESS  
OF THE SHRINE**

*written by D. Davis*

*\*Contains characters from Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon by Naoko Takeuchi.*

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# ACT TWO

## SCENE ONE

[At the Sakura, later. Tristian Owens, one of the guardians to the Angel Senshi, walks into the training area as Walter Scott comes in with a struggling prisoner. Felice is sparring with an officer and pauses. Tristian watches the scene unfold but doesn't say anything.]

**FELICE** *(Yelling)* Hold! *(Drops rapier and tears off mask.)* What is going on here?

*(Walter throws the prisoner down to the ground and puts one foot on his back.)*

**WALTER** We found this commoner causing a disturbance on the Eastern Lands, Commander. Apparently, he decided to start a fire to demonstrate his disapproval of the ascension of Queen Angelia. Luckily we got to it in time before it did any harm to anyone.

**PRISONER** *(Bitterly)* I did not—

**WALTER** *(Digging his heel into the Prisoner's back)* Quiet! No one told you to speak.

**FELICE** Lieutenant Scott—back off. *(Gestures him to step back and looks down at the Prisoner.)* Are you guilty of the thing this man has accused you?

**PRISONER** No. I didn't start that fire on purpose. It was an accident.

**WALTER** *(Scoffing)* I find that hard to believe.

**FELICE** *(Sternly)* When I want to know what you believe, Lieutenant, I will let you know. *(to the Prisoner)* Continue.

**PRISONER** I was just outside trying to get rid of some vermin when...

*(Pause.)*

**FELICE** *(Expectantly)* When...?

*(Pause.)*

**PRISONER** *(Looking up at her in earnest)* Fire came out of my eyes.

*(There is silence. Suddenly, the officer with whom Felice was sparring starts to laugh hysterically.)*

**FELICE** *(Turning to him sharply)* There is nothing funny here!

*(The officer clears his throat and goes silent. Tristian, in the background, frowns thoughtfully.)*

**FELICE** Are you telling me that fire came out of your eyes suddenly and set things around you ablaze?

**PRISONER** It's true, I swear. I don't have any other explanation than the truth. I don't know why it happened, or how.

**WALTER** What he's saying is improbable.

**FELICE** Lieutenant, do I have to remind you that most of the court of the Cloud Nine Kingdom are Senshi? Strange occurrences like this one happen on a daily basis.

**PRISONER** *(Relieved)* So you'll let me go.

**FELICE** No.

**PRISONER** (*Outraged*) But I have done no misdeed!

**FELICE** You will remain here in my observation until we can determine what is wrong with you. If another fire starts, I want to know. (*to Walter*) Put him in a cell until I finish my research on this matter. In the meantime, you can return to whatever you were doing before.

(*Walter leans down and hauls the Prisoner to his feet.*)

**FELICE** Do not treat him like a sandbag. He is human, Lieutenant, and not a criminal.

(*Walter grunts but obeys. He leaves with the Prisoner, and the officer walks up to Felice.*)

**OFFICER** That guy is full of it.

**FELICE** Officer Arashi, would you like to digest my rapier sword?

**ARASHI** (*Getting the point*) Shutting up now.

**FELICE** That would be wise.

(*Tristian walks up.*)

**TRISTIAN** I see that our Commander is hard at work as usual.

**FELICE** I do not take my new appointment lightly.

**ARASHI** Damn right she doesn't. (*Felice opens her mouth to speak.*) Sorry. Remaining silent now.

**TRISTIAN** I hope you realize that you are human, Felice. Being Commander doesn't mean that you work yourself to death.

**FELICE** I must be on my guard at all times, Tristian. Since the news of Angelia's ascension, I have heard rumblings of unrest. I will not let my kingdom succumb to the hands of rebels.

**TRISTIAN** Remember what you've been taught, Felice. Remember your limits.

(*Considering this, Felice nods, then bends and picks up her rapier sword. She looks at it a moment before putting it away.*)

**FELICE** I am sure that you would not want to see the kingdom fall before your new son can learn the glory of it.

**TRISTIAN** And when the battle comes, I will be on the front lines with you, Felice, to ensure the life of my wife and son. But

**FELICE** (*Interrupting*) How is Annabelle doing?

**TRISTIAN** (*Sighing, with a mirthless chuckle*) How deftly you change the subject.

**FELICE** (*Looking at him*) I know when a matter is closed for discussion. You still haven't answered my question.

**TRISTIAN** Annabelle is fine. She is worried about her girls, as usual, even as our son fills her days with chaos.

**FELICE** Perhaps you should be there to take some of her burden. Childrearing is a duty for both mother *and* father.

**TRISTIAN** I realize that. I wanted to speak to you, Felice, and congratulate you on your promotion.

**FELICE** And try to scare me into relinquishing my post. You forgot that part.

**TRISTIAN** I didn't want to scare you. I wanted to make sure you were using caution. I know Angelia thinks highly of you, and she has a good understanding of your abilities, but I'm not so sure that you are ready for this.

**FELICE** How dare you question my abilities?

**TRISTIAN** You are younger than most of the officers below you, Felice, no matter how old you are. I just fear...

**FELICE** (*Exhaling*) And I have thought of that. I realize that I have a lot of work in store if the Soldiers of the Night are to remain unified. (*Walks to him.*) I remember everything that you and Annabelle have taught me. I will not become some renegade commander. I will act with caution in every decision I make.

**TRISTIAN** (*Nodding*) I see. I suppose I shouldn't be worried. That young man that was just brought in here, you could have killed him if you weren't so cautious.

**FELICE** (*Frowning*) There is something odd about what happened to him.

**TRISTIAN** I was thinking the same thing. You know, Annabelle and I were talking about Fiore the other day. There is still that void left because of his death.

**FELICE** Isn't it impossible for that sort of thing to happen?

**TRISTIAN** We don't know that for sure, Felice. It's never happened before.

**FELICE** (*Mind racing, distracted*) I need to do my research. This must be cleared up immediately.

## SCENE TWO

[Back at the Shrine of Diamonds. Angelia is alone, finally, in one of the palace's hallways when someone enters the scene. At a window, Angelia pauses and gazes out at her kingdom. The smoke is gone from the Eastern lands.]

**ANGELIA** You have been avoiding me all day. I'm not sure what I should think about that.

(*Silence.*)

**ANGELIA** I would think that the man I loved would be at the forefront of all of the festivities. Was I mistaken in believing such?

(*Logan steps closer to her and stops two feet short of her.*)

**LOGAN** I wanted to give things a chance to die down, Annie. The last thing you need right now is a scandal ruining your day. (*Reaches out to touch her hair.*) The last thing I want to do is ruin your day.

(*Angelia sighs but does not turn around.*)

**ANGELIA** I understand. I have heard enough whispers about scandal and intrigue to last me a lifetime. (*Finally turns around.*) Have you spoken with Brianna?

**LOGAN** (*Lowering head*) I haven't had the guts. Not to mention I know the Duchess of Wilshire will be after my blood if I set one foot on Brianna's land.

**ANGELIA** She is just protecting her cousin. Can you blame her?

**LOGAN** Not in the slightest. (*Brushes some hair from her forehead.*) Whatever the case, Annie, I miss you. I miss our time together.

**ANGELIA** (*Nodding*) I miss you, too. (*Places a hand on his chest, seemingly trying to keep him back.*) But this is not a good time, Logan.

**LOGAN** How about tonight? When everyone is asleep.

(*Angelia pauses to think about it. Unfortunately, footsteps clatter down the hallway. Angelia looks in the direction of the sound abruptly. Annabelle,*

*looking slightly harried, is coming toward them. Alarm overwhelms Angelia.)*

**ANGELIA** Anna...?

**ANNABELLE** *(Ignoring Logan's presence)* Annie. I have been looking all over for you.

**ANGELIA** What's the matter?

**ANNABELLE** I've just seen Tristian. I assume you've heard about the incident in the Eastern lands.

**ANGELIA** Felice notified me immediately after she learned of it.

**ANNABELLE** The Council has decided to hold an emergency meeting on how to handle the matter.

**ANGELIA** When is the meeting—?

**ANNABELLE** Right now.

*(Anger flashes in Angelia's eyes. She stalks past Annabelle, forgetting Logan and any possibility of meeting him at night. Annabelle does not acknowledge Logan either, choosing instead to follow behind Angelia.)*

**ANGELIA** Where are they meeting?

**ANNABELLE** In the Hall of Amethyst, Annie. My sources tell me that they have recently started the gathering.

**ANGELIA** And too soon it will find its end. *(Angrily)* How dare they cross me? And on my coronation day!

*(Having heard the commotion, The Wolfe Triplets and Lina come out of the ballroom to follow their Queen.)*

**ANGELA** What is going on, Annabelle?

**LINA** Why is Annie so mad? It's her coronation day! She should be happy!

**ANNABELLE** The mutiny has already begun.

*(Seeing the triplets and their little sister, Isabella and Usagi come out of the ballroom along with Roseli. They notice Angelia's expression and they follow.)*

**ISABELLA** What's all the commotion?

**USAGI** Has someone attacked the Shrine?

**ANGELA** *(Turning to her)* No, worse. The Council is meeting without the Queen's consent.

**ROSELI** *(Grimly)* That's definitely worse...

**ANGELICA** *(Gleefully)* Finally. Some fireworks!

### **SCENE THREE**

**[In the Hall of Amethyst. The guard on duty at the entrance jumps out of the way when Felice gives him an evil look. Felice leads the group into one of the large conference rooms. They bust into the room. Everyone looks up as Felice steps aside and allows for Angelia to come forward.]**

**MAN AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE** Your Majesty.

*(The room breaks out into murmurs. Angelica smirks, ready for a show.)*

**ANGELIA** *(In a loud, booming voice)* **Silence!**

*(Everyone goes silent. Angelia comes up to the foot of the table. The occupants close to the foot of the table bow their heads, appearing quite subdued.)*

**ANGELIA** Olivier! What is this abomination? How dare you call together the Royal Council of the Cloud Nine Kingdom without the consent of its current Queen?

**OLIVIER** *(With a bit of insolence)* The circumstances warranted swift action, Your Majesty.

**ANGELIA** Swift—and imprudent, Olivier. Do not make the mistake of thinking you are head of this council. Your father still resides in the land of the living.

**OLIVIER** And I reside in the land of reason. My father is on his deathbed, and no amount of medical science—or prayers from the Queen—will change his fate. He is headed for the grave, Your Majesty. And this council does not deserve to buckle under misdirection.

*(Angelia stares at him a moment, then walks around the table. Everyone bows their heads in reverence as she walks by, but her steely blue eyes are on Olivier. She pauses a mere two feet in front of him. She reaches out quite calmly for the medal that he was given for his bravery in a previous war. She touches it almost lovingly.)*

**ANGELIA** *(In a gentle, practically caressing voice)* Such a beautiful and shiny medal for what I assume was swift action in battle. *(Raises her eyes to his.)* Tell me, where does your allegiance lie, Your Grace?

**OLIVIER** *(A little shocked)* My allegiance lies with the people, Your Majesty.

*(In a controlled show of anger, Angelia rips the medal from Olivier's lapel. She closes it in her palm, gripping it until her fingers turn white.)*

**ANGELIA** *(In a low, dangerous tone)* Your allegiance, Your Grace, belongs to me. Never forget that. Or you will find yourself on the receiving end of some different sort of swift action. *(With a flick of her wrist, opens her palm and flings the medal at Olivier's chest.)* Do I make myself clear?

**OLIVIER** *(After catching the medal)* Absolutely, Your Majesty.

*(They hold each other's gaze for one long moment, then Angelia turns to walk away.)*

**OLIVIER** So what, if I may ask Your Majesty, do you plan to do about the prisoner captured for causing the fire in the Eastern Lands?

*(Angelia pauses. During the silence, Felice comes to her side.)*

**FELICE** *(Speaking instead)* He will remain imprisoned until we complete research on the matter.

*(Murmurs of discontent start among the people sitting at the table. Having not heard of anything about the fire in the Eastern Lands, the triplets and Lina look to each other in confusion. Annabelle straightens while Isabella, Roseli, and Usagi stare on grimly.)*

**OLIVIER** Why is he not being punished? He started a fire to show his disgruntled feelings about Queen Angelia's rise to power. Isn't that treason? An offense punishable by death?

**FELICE** *(Succinctly)* He has done no misdeed.

*(The murmurs grow louder and more frenetic.)*

**COUNCILOR ONE** Done no misdeed? That's preposterous!

**COUNCILOR TWO** We saw the smoke rising to the sky! How dare you call that "no misdeed"?

*(Olivier raises a hand and they all go quiet.)*

**OLIVIER** *(With a bit of condescension)* Oh? So you're saying he started the fire on accident?

**FELICE** As I have learned that the incident possibly was beyond his own control, I suppose I am. (*Olivier tries to speak.*) Spare me a convoluted lecture on what is obviously my duty and not yours. Your Grace, I do not think you are in any position to admonish anyone on the concept of treason.

(*Found with logic he cannot refute, Olivier stands there in angry silence. Angelia raises her chin and addresses the room.*)

**ANGELIA** This meeting is adjourned. The next time we have any sort of gathering to talk about matters pertaining to the well-being of *my* kingdom... (*Stares at everyone levelly.*) I will inform you of such action. (*Shifts her eyes to Olivier's.*) You are dismissed.

(*Chairs scrape on the floor as the Royal Councilors get up and leave the room. A few give Angelia dirty looks as they exit; some give small bows as they scurry off. As the crowd thins, Olivier steps up to Angelia and Felice shifts so that she is closer.*)

**ANGELIA** I do not know why you find any and every opportunity to oppose me. Do you want my crown? Is that it?

**OLIVIER** I hardly want your crown. But I'll tell you what I do want: a strong and able ruler. Are you sure you are either one of those, Your Majesty?

(*Without giving Angelia time to respond, Olivier walks away. Angelia stands there for a moment, seething. Usagi runs up and bugs her from the back. The other princesses, the triplets, Annabelle, and Lina come closer as well.*)

**ANNABELLE** That Heath Olivier deserves to be locked away. This only adds to the discontent.

**ROSELI** (*Crossing arms over chest*) He sure has some nerve, calling this meeting under your nose and all. Just who does he think he is anyway?

**ISABELLA** He's an annoying fellow, and quite cocky. I suppose he believes that he can try to win the support of dissenters and stake a claim to the throne.

**ANNABELLE** He certainly wouldn't be the first. Though...something alarms me about him. I can't put my finger on what exactly. Just this feeling I have.

**USAGI** It's not just a feeling, Anna-sama. I heard that Olivier might be part of the Han-Chikara faction.

**ROSELI** Han-Chikara?

**ANNABELLE** Anti-Power. They are against paying allegiance to the powered monarchs—that is, Angelia, Bennett, and the rest of us Senshi. They believe that rulers should not have divine powers like you Senshi have been given. For them, it goes against basic tenants of humility and fairness. Their belief system relies on the misconception that powered rulers become dictators and tyrants.

**ROSELI** That is not true! Just look at all the rulers we have had in the past that have used their powers for the well-being of their people.

**ISABELLA** But there are still those who use them for evil as well. It often appears that one bad seed can sully the whole crop, can it not? What are people most likely to remember? The reign of a bad ruler or the reign of a good one?

**ANNABELLE** Ita-chan has a good point. People are more likely to shake their fists at a bad ruler. I guess I can understand, though. Some feel bitterly about being ruled by another human being.

**ANGELICA** (*Noticing Angelia's silence*) So what do you plan to do about it, huh? You gonna wait till he gets all relaxed and then shoot him down from his pedestal?

(*Everyone watches Angelia carefully for her reaction. Angelia does not speak. Instead, she pushes past them and excuses herself from the room. Head bowed slightly, Felice slips from the room to make sure Angelia doesn't meet with danger on her way back to the Shrine.*)

**USAGI** (*Alarmed*) Annie-chan...?

**ANGELIQUE** Maybe she needs a moment alone. It has been an awfully long day for her, and quite eventful.

**ANGELA** We ought to get back to the Shrine before she does. She might want a long, relaxing bath waiting on her when she returns to her quarters.

**LINA** That's a really good idea. (*Glares at Angelica.*) You better not say anything snide either. Not for the rest of the night.

**ANGELICA** (*With mock innocence*) Who, me? Snide? Surely you jest.

**LINA** Surely I do not. Now keep your big mouth shut or I'll tell Annie just who it really was who broke her favorite vase. You like your status, do you? Well, just shut up and mind your mistress.

(*Angelica buffs and flounces out, muttering about a little kid telling her what to do. Angela, Angelique, and Lina soon follow her. Annabelle, Usagi, Isabella, and Roseli are left in the conference room alone.*)

**ANNABELLE** (*Sighing wearily, slumping into a chair*) What are we going to do?

**ISABELLA** Don't be so alarmed, Annabelle. I'm sure this will pass, and the situation with this mysterious young man will pass. When have we ever not triumphed?

**ROSELI** Ita-chan has a point, though... (*Eyes cloud with sadness.*) I still feel hollow because of...

(*Annabelle reaches out for her hand and pats it.*)

**USAGI** It's okay, Kuru-chan. You don't have to talk about Alfred. We know it hurts.

(*Roseli purses her lips together, waiting for the trembling to stop and the urge to cry to pass. A moment later she speaks.*)

**ROSELI** I loved him so much, and I know he loved me, too. He was going to marry me. And then Penelope<sup>1</sup> came along, and then the war started... (*Swallows hard.*) He gave his life so that I could live. He gave his life so that his people could live in the peace he loved so much. (*Swipes at her tears with the back of her hand.*) I don't want that for Angelia. She shouldn't have to suffer through this. We have to do something.

**ISABELLA** There is nothing we can do right now. Except gather information and be on guard. Felice is probably doing enough of that for all of us.

**ANNABELLE** She is, trust me. (*Shakes head sorrowfully.*) Tristian told me that she thinks the incident with the young man has something to do with us losing Fiore in the war to our adversaries.

**ISABELLA** (*Frowning*) If I'm not mistaken, there is supposed to be a balance, right? I mean, especially with the four core elements. Sunfire, even though it is not Earth-bound, is still sort of part of the core four. Fiona cannot handle that power on her own for much longer.

**ROSELI** So he could be our replacement for Fiore?

**ANNABELLE** Let's not get too hasty here. We don't know much about this. We can't possibly get our hopes up.

**ROSELI** But what if he is? What if he is?

**ANNABELLE** We will handle that when it comes. (*Rises, pauses to listen.*) It sounds like things are breaking up at the Shrine. Perhaps Annie has sent everyone home.

**ISABELLA** Unlikely. It's still early. But in this mood, who knows? It truly has been a trying day for all.

**USAGI** We all need some time to rest. We can approach this when we're rested and fresh tomorrow.

**ROSELI** I agree. (*Thinking*) ***And I know there is someone I need to talk to...***

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<sup>1</sup> Penelope Desmond, Adrian Desmond's twin sister, was betrothed to Alfred Cain, a lesser monarch in the Cloud Nine Kingdom. Penelope mysteriously disappeared one day without leaving any clues to her whereabouts. Alfred met and eventually fell in love with Roseli. Suddenly, after some time Penelope reappeared; not long afterwards, the war Roseli mentions began. Later, they learned that Penelope had been turned evil by the Senshi's adversaries. Penelope kidnapped Roseli, and Alfred had to kill himself to destroy her and save Roseli's life.

## SCENE FOUR

[Later on that night, at the Shrine of Diamonds. The festivities have died down and everyone is sleeping. Angelia, hair unbound wearing a nightgown, sits by her window watching the moon up in the sky. A moment later, a hand brushes back the hair from her shoulder.]

ANGELIA *(Smiling faintly)* I was wondering when I would see you again.

*(Bennett sits down on the floor at her feet and places his head in her lap. She plays with his long dark hair.)*

ANGELIA So to what do I owe the pleasure, Prince Bennett?

BENNETT I couldn't sleep.

ANGELIA *(Incredulous)* No legion of ladies to tire you out tonight? *(Bennett looks up at her.)* What? *(Looks at the moon.)* Well. I suppose you can shock us every once in a while.

BENNETT I just wanted to take a break from my usual routine, that's all.

ANGELIA And tomorrow I suppose you'll be up to your usual shenanigans.

BENNETT Of course! The world of women will be there tomorrow, awaiting the touch of my skillful fingers. *(Angelia smiles to herself, noticing his tone.)* And I will have my pick of any one I want.

ANGELIA *(Not able to hold back her smirk)* This sudden change in your behavior has nothing to do with Brianna Simmons does it?

BENNETT *(Forcing a guffaw)* Oh please. Why would I give up a lovely life of playing the field for one woman?

ANGELIA *(Smirk deepening)* Oh yes! Why would you? It's such a wonderful life, the transient life of a playboy prince.

BENNETT It's certainly better than the life of a Queen. *(Sits up and looks into Angelia's suddenly cloudy eyes.)* I've heard what's going on, Annie.

ANGELIA *(Irritated that he mentioned it)* Well, good for you. Glad to know the good news has reached your ears.

BENNETT *(Rising on his knees)* You know, I've got a great deal of power around here. What do you say you and I and a few of my best buds have dear old Heath Olivier killed off while he's on the toilet?

ANGELIA *(Struggling not to laugh)* Good Grace, Bennett, you're horrible. Incorrigible, even. *(Sighs, looks back at the moon.)* It's getting late. We both should be getting into bed. *(Moves to get out of the chair and into bed but is blocked by her brother.)* Bennett? *(Notices his earnest expression.)* What's the matter?

BENNETT *(Taking her hand)* I...I've been worried about you, Annie. Not just with this ascension thing. I mean, I know deep down that you can do it. You were born ready for this sort of thing, you know? But then there's that other thing.

ANGELIA *(Eyebrows furrowed in confusion)* "That other thing"?

BENNETT That thing with Logan Baylor.

*(Rolling her eyes, Angelia rises from her chair and walks past her brother. Bennett rises to his feet and follows her to her bed where the curtains of the canopy are pulled back. Angelia sits down on her bed and Bennett stands over her.)*

BENNETT Would you just listen to me for one second?

ANGELIA Listen to you? Why in the world should I listen to you? I don't think you have the authority to counsel me, dear brother. After all, you are the poster child for serial polygamy.

**BENNETT** (*Outraged*) I cannot believe this! How dare you be so judgmental?

**ANGELIA** I should ask you the same!

**BENNETT** I was just expressing my worry over you! I don't have a good feeling about that Logan Baylor. And I wanted to tell you so. I don't care what you did with him or what he did to Brianna or what he's done before, after and since. I just want you to be careful. You're Queen now. Logan could ruin your reputation.

**ANGELIA** (*Fluffing pillows*) You worry about your reputation, I'll worry about mine.

**BENNETT** Dammit, it's not that simple, Annie. I know you worry about me as much as I worry about you, no matter how much we try not to. So here are the facts, Annie. You're Queen—and I'm not. You're in charge, and I'm not. So you know what that means?

**ANGELIA** I know damn well what that means, Bennett. You don't have to go and stuff it in my face as if I've been clueless all this time. Like you said, I was born knowing what I could possibly become one day.

**BENNETT** Then act like it! Throw the sonofabitch over, dammit. It wouldn't do for you to have an affair with him.

**ANGELIA** (*Outraged*) "It wouldn't do"?!

**BENNETT** No, it wouldn't.

**ANGELIA** What a huge, gaping double standard, Bennett! So you get to go off and have your dalliances with all the young eligible bachelorettes while I have sit on my throne, chaste and untouched like a bloody nun?

**BENNETT** It keeps you out of trouble and on the throne. If the situations were reversed, you'd be saying the same thing to me.

**ANGELIA** Like hell! You know you'd still be screwing every woman with a pulse. A crown wouldn't stop it. In fact, it would probably make it considerably worse.

**BENNETT** (*Hurt*) That's hardly fair, Angelia. I really am worried about you.

**ANGELIA** And so am I. So where does that leave us then? What do you suppose we do about this?

**BENNETT** (*Sighing, taking a seat on the bed*) We have to start making some concessions for each other, Annie. We can't go back and forth like this forever. You can only argue with someone so much before you lose them. I don't want to lose you.

**ANGELIA** (*Softening*) I don't want to lose you, either.

*(They stare at each other a moment, not knowing what else to say. Bennett reaches out and ruffles her hair, making her smile.)*

**BENNETT** Let's talk about this more tomorrow. It's way past both of our bedtimes. (*Kisses her on the forehead.*) And promise me you'll sleep.

**ANGELIA** I will.

*(They exchange farewells, then Bennett leaves the room. Angelia burrows under the covers and lies there for a long time. After a moment of thought, she leans over and engages her communications link. A face fills the screen of the comm. link.)*

**GUARD** Yes, Your Majesty?

**ANGELIA** I remember you. We discussed the matter of Mr. Baylor earlier this evening, did we not?

**GUARD** (*A little bemused*) Yes, Your Majesty. You told me to let him in if he comes.

**ANGELIA** I know. I have decided that is not necessary anymore.

**GUARD** (*More bemused*) Oh. Is everything alright, Your Majesty?

**ANGELIA** Quite alright, sir. Just do me this one favor. And if the young man decides to drop in, do let your Lieutenant know. I do not want him to have as easy access to my quarters.

**GUARD** Certainly, Your Majesty. Anything for my Queen.

**ANGELIA** Thank you very much. You will be handsomely compensated.

*(Angelia terminates the call and makes a note of her promise. After putting the comm. link away, she burrows back into her bed, wondering if she has done the right thing.)*

## **SCENE FIVE**

**[Outside the Sakura, the next day. A safe distance away from the entrance, Roseli is talking with a hologram of Princess Ivory, who is currently at Selenity Palace.]**

**ROSELI** So that's the situation.

**PRINCESS IVORY** *(Frowning)* Quite interesting. I have to say, I wasn't expecting this news when you contacted me. I thought the biggest issue yesterday would have been the situation with Angelia and Logan Baylor. Or maybe Brianna's sudden appearance.

**ROSELI** All juicy tidbits, but that wasn't keeping the gossip mill cranking till twilight yesterday. Well, according to my sources, he came late and left early. I suppose he wanted to quell the rumors by keeping a safe distance. Though, Annabelle said that he was with Angelia when she told her about the secret Council meeting. I don't know if she saw him after that.

**PRINCESS IVORY** Well, whatever the case, we have a possible situation on our hands.

**ROSELI** Is there anything you can do?

**PRINCESS IVORY** Well, I can alert the others here on the mainland and get my hands on the Mayonaka Volumes. Maybe there is something in those that will tell us what in the world is going on.

**ROSELI** You have fun perusing those. *(Taps finger on chin thoughtfully.)* I think I may go talk to the prisoner.

**PRINCESS IVORY** *(Crossing arms over chest)* And what good would that do? You should really stop meddling and get back to your own kingdom.

**ROSELI** My kingdom will be fine for another few minutes, I think. I'm having a hunch, Ive. Let me run with it, would you?

**PRINCESS IVORY** Don't cause any trouble for the guy, alright? He's already imprisoned, but I'm sure they could think of worse things to do to him than stick him in a cell.

**ROSELI** I'll be a good little princess, I promise.

**PRINCESS IVORY** *(Sighing)* For your sake and his. I'll contact you as soon as I learn of anything new.

*(Princess Ivory and Roseli exchange goodbyes, then the hologram disappears. Roseli puts the communications link away and walks up to the Sakura. With guards nearby, she places her palm, fingers outstretched, on the console. A computer checks her fingerprints and for signs of life. A few moments later, an automated voice speaks.)*

**VOICE** Welcome to the Sakura, Princess Kuruyami. Your presence has been noted. Enjoy your stay here at the Sakura. And have a nice day.

*(The doors automatically open. Roseli gives a nod to the guards and steps inside. As the doors close, Walter Scott comes to intercept her. Behind Walter, Roseli can hear the sounds of new recruits completing their combat training in various rooms.)*

**WALTER** Princess Kuruyami. Quite a surprise to see you here at the Sakura.

**ROSELI** I heard about the prisoner.

**WALTER** *(A bit irritated)* You are certainly not the first one wanting to catch a glimpse of our very own firestarter. We have been turning people away today with digital cameras and things for him to autograph.

**ROSELI** Well, I'm not here out of morbid fascination, Lieutenant Scott. I'm here on Senshi business.

**WALTER** *(Frowning)* Senshi business? *(Eyes widen in uncharacteristic shock.)* You mean...? You think....?

**ROSELI** I want to interview the young man myself. I know Felice has too much on her plate at the moment with her just being promoted and all. Besides, I have a few questions I don't think anyone has thought of asking him.

*(Walter nods absently and gestures her to follow him. They go through several checkpoints before Walter settles her in a visitation room. Roseli waits patiently as Walter leaves to retrieve the Prisoner, taking out an old-fashioned legal pad and a pen on which to take notes. A little while later, Walter returns with the Prisoner, who looks very irritated after a night in a cell.)*

**WALTER** *(to the Prisoner)* Alright, look lively. You have a visitor.

*(The Prisoner looks at Walter, then to Roseli. His eyes soften for a moment when he looks at her but harden again in the next instant.)*

**PRISONER** What does she want?

**ROSELI** I would like to ask you some questions, that's all.

**WALTER** *(Warningly)* And you had better answer them.

**PRISONER** Do I have a choice?

*(Walter says nothing, looking suspiciously at the Prisoner for a few seconds before walking away. Roseli does not speak immediately but allows for the Prisoner to stare at her as if trying to get to know her. Finally he sits down.)*

**ROSELI** *(Politely)* Thank you for seeing me. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Roseli. *(Silence.)* I think this would go more smoothly if you told me your name.

**PRISONER** I have yet to tell anyone here my name. I do not see how you could be any different.

**ROSELI** I'm not here to prosecute you. In fact, I hope sincerely to help you out of this cell and back to your home where you belong.

**PRISONER** And how do I know that you will follow through with this promise of yours?

**ROSELI** *(Stiffly)* Because I am an honorable woman and I never break a promise when I give one. Does that answer suit you, sir?

*(Pause.)*

**PRISONER** My name is Aidan William Channing Bloom. Most call me William for short. Does that suffice or do you need a blood sample?

**ROSELI** *(A bit taken aback)* Yes. Yes, it does. *(Sits up straight.)* So. Tell me, William. Do you have any family?

**WILLIAM** No. My family died during the Great War. I live on my own on a few acres of land that late father left me upon his death. My only company is a few animals and the land we live off of.

**ROSELI** *(Making note of this on her pad, along with his name)* Oh...what a shame. It seems... *(Falters a bit.)* It seems that everyone lost something during that cursed war. *(Blinks furiously, trying to hold back tears.)* I'm sorry. I got a little carried away. *(Clears throat.)* On to the next question. Do you recall any strange feelings coming over you before the incident?

**WILLIAM** Strange feelings?

**ROSELI** I mean a headache or something of that nature.

*(Pause. William shifts in his chair.)*

**WILLIAM** My eyes itched a bit beforehand, I think. I thought it was the pollen in the air at the time, but then everything went white. And...and... *(Sighs and looks at his hands.)* When I got my sight back, everything was on fire.

*(Roseli scribbles on the pad, frowning. She stops writing and looks at him.)*

**WILLIAM** Do you believe me? I'm starting to think that no one does.

*(Pause.)*

**ROSELI** *(Softly)* I believe you, William. I believe you because I know that you wouldn't lie. I know from the look in your eyes that you are very honest.

**WILLIAM** I would like to think that would help me in some way.

**ROSELI** I am a dear friend of the Queen.

**WILLIAM** *(Rolling eyes)* Isn't everyone?

**ROSELI** *(Somberly)* Not everyone is a Senshi, William.

*(William's face goes slack. He sits up straight and leans forward.)*

**WILLIAM** You...are a Senshi? That's... *(Pauses when a thought occurs to him.)* So you could get me out of here, couldn't you? You could talk to the Queen and persuade her to release me.

**ROSELI** I know I can do better than "could," my friend. I *will* get you out of here. You do not deserve to be condemned for a mere mishap, dear William. I expect that you will be completely exonerated shortly.

**WILLIAM** I...I don't know what to say.

**ROSELI** *(Warmly, a little too warmly)* Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

*(A little smitten by the look in Roseli's eyes, William gazes into them for a long time. Then suddenly his irises start to turn orange. Roseli sits up straight.)*

**ROSELI** *(Alarmed)* William...?!

**WILLIAM** *(Starting to rub his eyes furiously)* My eyes! They're—

*(Instinctively, Roseli dives over the table and knocks William out of the chair and into the floor as his eyes start shooting fire. The table is incinerated, and the smoke causes alarms to sound. It doesn't take long before the room is filled with smoke. Roseli and William both go unconscious from inhaling smoke.)*

## SCENE SIX

[An hour later, still at the Sakura. In a room in the medic wing, Felice is sitting in a chair with Usagi at her elbow, rubbing aloe over the red, irritated skin on Felice's arms. Her singed jacket is on the floor, and she is wearing a ribbed tank, her uniform pants, boots, and a grim expression.]

**FELICE** Serenity, you do not need to do this for me. I am more than capable of doing this myself.

**USAGI** *(Warmly)* It is the least I could do, Felice-san. You nearly died!

**FELICE** No. Princess Kuruyami and our prisoner nearly died. *(Eyes downcast.)* And it's all my fault.

**USAGI** I don't see how this could be your fault.

**FELICE** I shouldn't have detained him. He did nothing wrong.

**USAGI** And what if this had happened in a public area? What if it hadn't been a mere room that had been destroyed but a whole building with people inside? *(Felice nods absently.)* I know you understand, Felice-san. I can see it in your eyes. Now tell me that isn't good logic.

**FELICE** *(Sighing)* I cannot refute your logic, Serenity. *(Purses lips together.)* I just hope the Queen thinks along those lines.

*(As if on cue, the door bursts open. Usagi stands, startled. Angelia, led by Walter and trailed by the triplets and Lina, stalks into the room, looking around worriedly. When her eyes rest on Felice in a chair and Usagi near her, she rushes forward and kneels at Felice's feet.)*

**FELICE** *(Shocked)* Your Majesty!

**ANGELIA** *(Taking her hand)* Thank God you're alright! When they told me what happened, I thought...

**FELICE** *(Shaking her head absently, still numb with disbelief)* But Your Majesty... I do not see...

**ANGELIA** You mean a lot to me, Felice. Please do not ever doubt that. Please.

**FELICE** If it means that much to you...

*(Seeing Felice's thick disorientation, Usagi decides to change the subject.)*

**USAGI** Annie-chan, how is Kuru-chan?

*(Angelia sighs and takes a seat. Angela starts to fan her but Angelia waves her away. The triplets and Lina hover, watching Angelia carefully.)*

**ANGELIA** Roseli sustained minor burns to her thighs and legs. There's also smoke inhalation to consider so they want to monitor her lungs. The doctors are mostly worried about her head injury. She hit her head and sustained a minor concussion.

**USAGI** And the prisoner?

**WALTER** The prisoner has a name it turns out: William. Princess Kuruyami murmured it over and over in her state of shock while they transported her to the hospital.

**ANGELIA** She learned his name?

**WALTER** The emergency technicians also informed me that she also learned that he lives alone. The notes she was taking were destroyed by the flames.

*(Angelia looks even sadder.)*

**USAGI** Will he live?

**WALTER** The doctors say he should be fine. Princess Kuruyami took the brunt of the injuries.

**ANGELIA** *(Sorrowfully)* Poor Roseli...

*(The door bursts open again. This time, Annabelle and Tristian come through the door. Annabelle is holding their son, and she looks harried.)*

**ANNABELLE** My God... Felice...

**FELICE** Settle down, Annabelle. My skin is a little irritated from the fire. But I assure you I am fine.

**ANNABELLE** What do we know?

**ANGELIA** The prisoner's name is William and he lives alone. He will be alright. Roseli is injured, but not badly so.

**TRISTIAN** Felice, have you completed your research?

**FELICE** The only thing I can tell you right now is that young man has a gift. A gift he has no idea how to control.

**TRISTIAN** But is he who we think he is?

**FELICE** The tests on his blood should arrive shortly. You know that takes twelve hours.

**ANGELICA** Test? What test?

*(Before Felice can reply, a tall woman with red hair so dark it is almost black steps into the room, making everyone turn to look at her. Her violet eyes are fiery but subdued at the same time. She is wearing her black regalia with the orange-red Crest of Nova over her left breast.)*

**ANGELIA** *(In awe)* Princess Fiona.

**FIONA** *(With a nod)* Queen Angelia. I am sorry to drop in so unexpectedly, but I heard about what happened to Princess Kuruyami and your mysterious prisoner. I just had to come.

**ANGELIA** *(Still in awe, perplexed)* Had to come?

**USAGI** Fiona-san, do you know the identity of the young man that was captured for starting the fire?

**FIONA** Yes, I do.

*(Everyone is crowding around Fiona, except Felice.)*

**ANGELIA** Then please tell us, Fiona. We really would like to know who he is.

*(Fiona takes a moment to look at everyone's faces. After exhaling, she speaks.)*

**FIONA** The young man's name is Aidan William Channing Bloom.

**ANNABELLE** *(Suddenly distracted)* That name sounds familiar...

**FIONA** I figured it would, because it should sound familiar.

**ANGELICA** *(Eyebrow cocked)* It should?

**ANGELA** Really?

**ANGELIQUE** From where?

**FIONA** If you've read the history books thoroughly like young women of your caliber should, you should have no problem remembering who he is.

**ANGELICA** *(Scoffing)* History is so uninteresting.

**FIONA** You are an insult to Fire Children.

*(Suddenly Annabelle gasps before Angelica can fire back with a smart remark.)*

**ANGELIA** Annabelle? What is the matter?

**ANNABELLE** *(Looking at Angelia, wide-eyed)* I know who he is. I remember now. The story of the House of Nova. Don't you remember?

**ANGELIA** *(Remembering slowly)* Oh my God, are you saying...?

**ANNABELLE** *(Looking at Fiona, still wide-eyed)* He's Fiona's big brother and the true Crown Prince of Nova.