

# The Betrayal

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Prince Stephen of Ace and Princess Scarlett of Adira have been best friends since they were toddlers. They both come from one of the 12 kingdoms. The Kingdom of Adira and the Kingdom of Ace have been allies for centuries and centuries. While many of the 12 kingdoms have gone to war, Adira and Ace, have never been more peaceful. Ever since Stephen and Scarlett met in her father’s favorite place, the Garden of Adira, they have been inseparable. So inseparable, they fell in love.

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Scarlett ran down the palace stairs as fast she could in her poofy, garnet-colored gown and golden heels. “Stephen! I didn’t expect you today,” Scarlett exclaimed.

“Why hello milady,” he replied.

“I say we go to the garden for some tea,” she proposed.

“I would love to.”

From a distance Scarlett saw one of her favorite servants, Bertram, walking towards her with a paper in his hand.

“Princess Scarlett, here is the newspaper you requested,” he said with his usual grin.

“Why thank you, Bertram!” Scarlett said.

Stephen and Scarlett got settled in the garden with some tea and scones. She opened the newspaper and read the most horrific thing she has ever seen.

“How could they? How could you?” Scarlett said furiously.

“What are you talking about Scarlett?” Stephen replied.

The princess handed him the newspaper for him to see for himself. “How could your family steal from mine. I thought we were allies. How could you not even have the decency to tell me? How could you betray me like this?” she accused as tears rolled down her face.

“The Kingdom of Ace would never do such thing. Who would write this nonsense?” Stephen declared, “I must go ask them myself.”

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A long carriage ride later, Stephen was back in the Kingdom of Ace. “Mother. Father. I am back from Adira,” he said in an angry tone.

“Hello, son. I guess you have heard the news. We didn’t expect you to find out like this, but we are going to war with Adira,” Stephen’s father declared.

“WHAT?! Did you just say we’re going to war? I thought you stealing from them was bad enough, but going to war? What were you guys thinking?” Stephen barked.

“We never stole, they owed us,” the king argued.

“Father, they never owed us. Let alone, we owe them. And what about Scarlett?” Stephen said fuming with anger.

“WE NEVER OWED THEM?!” the king barked, “WE DON’T OWE THEM ANYTHING. GO TO YOUR SLEEPING CHAMBERS AT ONCE!”

Prince Stephen had never felt more defeated. He slowly slouched his way up to his palace chambers.

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As soon as Stephen left, Scarlett went searching for the queen and king. “Bertram! Do you know where my mother and father are?” Scarlett asked.

“They’re in the throne room, princess,” Bertram replied.

“Thank you, Bertram.”

Princess Scarlett rushed to the throne room to find the king and queen. “Mother! Father!” Scarlett exclaimed.

“What’s the matter, darling?” the queen asked.

“Is it true that the Kingdom of Ace has been stealing from us?” Scarlett asked nervously.

“Yes, Stephen’s parents want to go to war. We are leaving for a trip to the Kingdom of Ace later today to negotiate,” her father replied in a calm voice, “please, stay in the palace until we’re back.”

Later that day, the king and queen left on a royal carriage and were on their way to the Kingdom of Ace. Scarlett nervously stared out her window. Hoping that her parents will return soon.

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Three weeks later and Scarlett's parents still haven't returned from the Kingdom of Ace. Scarlett got worried and sent a team of guards to search for her parents.

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There then was a knock at her chamber door. The captain of the search team had a worried look on his face. "I have bad news princess," he said, "Your parents' bodies were found in the Enchanted Forest by the Kingdom of Ace."

Scarlett felt numb. Her body collapsed to the floor. No words came out of her mouth when she tried to speak. Princess Scarlett was in tears. "H-how could they do this to me? How could Stephen let this happen?" Scarlett cried.

"I'm sorry, princess."

Scarlett felt like there was nobody left. Her mother and father were killed by the family of the one she loved. She needed vengeance.

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Scarlett was busy in her chambers writing a letter. "Bertram! I need your help," Scarlett yelled.

"Yes, princess?"

"I need you to send a letter to the Kingdom of Ace for me," she said. Scarlett rolled up her letter and sealed it with the official seal of Adira.

"I will send this right away princess," Bertram replied.

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"Princess, the Prince of Ace has gotten your message. He'll be here for your meeting later this week," Bertram informed.

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Later that week, Stephen arrived at the palace of Adira. Stephen and Princess Scarlett headed to the meeting room. "Good evening, I have asked you to come to discuss the current war," Scarlett said in her most confident voice.

"I see nothing to discuss princess. The war is still a war. People get hurt and people get killed," Stephen declared.

"Stephen, how could you?! I thought you were on my side," Scarlett cried.

"Your parents were in our way, so we got rid of them once and for all," Stephen said with a grin on his face.

“How about we go to the garden for old times’ sake?” Scarlett asked. Stephen agreed with a nod of his head. Off they went to the beloved Garden of Adira.

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Once they arrived at the garden, they stood in silence. “Stephen... I loved you,” the princess said as she silently wept, “For mother and father.” Princess Scarlett pulled out a long, gold-plated dagger. She pierced it through the prince’s skin straight to his heart. “I am no longer the only one with a broken heart,” she mutters as Prince Stephen’s body fell onto the rich, emerald grass. Scarlett walked back to the palace and looked in the mirror. “In the end, it wasn’t him that broke me. It was the girl in the mirror that’s staring back at me,” she said as tears raced down her face.

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