

## ***Dancers Kidnapped***

"We're almost there." It has been a long trip for Dorothea and Shez. Dorothea will give a concert in a village east of the Adrestian Empire.

The town was small. It could inhabit at least about a hundred or two hundred people. There were a few small businesses, and people seemed humble.

"Villages like this have suffered more from the war," Dorothea commented. "Many people have lost their businesses and had to do every possible thing to survive. That is why I decided to give these concerts to help them. "

"These people must have suffered." Shez watched around her, feeling her heart oppressed. "Why did I come, Dorothea? I can't sing nor dance."

On their way, people observed Dorothea, and little by little, they began to gather around her. "It's her! Dorothea! " People began to shout. "She is so beautiful. Her voice seems to be of an angel." Some people began to notice Shez. "Who is she? She is pretty." Several men commented among them. Shez's face began to blush; she tried to avoid people.

"Hehe. It seems that I will not be the only one who conquered hearts today, " Dorothea told her, causing Shez to start pushing her. "We will be late on stage! Let's go!" Shez told her, feeling her face as if it was melting.

The scenario was nothing impressive; it was simple, unlike other places where Dorothea had sung. Shez seemed disappointed, but Dorothea didn't care. She was happy just singing in that place.

"Miss Dorothea?" A voice sounded near them, and a man approached them. "My name is Joel, the owner of the place. It is a pleasure to meet you." Dorothea greets Joel kindly.

"Pleasure is all mine. We were checking the stage for tomorrow." Joel's face was overshadowed. He didn't seem to be excited for tomorrow.

"I'm afraid we have bad news. We will have to cancel the concert." This surprised Shez and Dorothea. "Cancel? Why? " Shez asked. Joel began to tell them what had happened.

The village was known by her dancers. They were all hoping to be able to dance next to Dorothea. Unfortunately, many dancers have been disappearing these days. No one has been able to discover what happened.

"They must also know that you would come to sing here: That is why we decided to cancel the concert," Joel warned her. "Please, you have to leave now."

"No." Dorothea's response surprised Joel. "We can't leave now. We need to know where the dancers are."

"But ..." Joel wanted to oppose, but Shez stopped him. "Don't even try it. Dorothea has already taken her decision, and I'm with her. We will bring the dancers back. "

Later, in the room where they stayed, Dorothea and Shez began to think about what to do. "First, we have to find out how they have disappeared." Shez commented.

"Joel said they have disappeared in different circumstances," said Dorothea. "Some disappeared while practicing and others while living their normal life."

"If we knew how the first disappeared." Shez started thinking. Nobody knows how the first dancer disappeared exactly.

"If I remember well, it was finishing a show that she did," Anna affirmed, trying to remember the event.

"Very risky." Shez answered. "Kidnap a dancer with many people nearby? It should... ANNA?!" Shez realized they had an uninvited guest sitting between her and Dorothea as if nothing.

"Sorry to enter without your permission," Anna said. "I heard you two talking about the kidnappings, and maybe you needed a little help with that." Anna started to tell them everything she had heard. She told them a rumor about a group of kidnappers that had taken the dancers to sell them on the black market.

Shez watches Dorothea thinking. "I think I have an idea of how to find the dancers," Dorothea commented. "It is a risky idea, but it can work.", No matter what it was, Shez wanted to help; she would accept anything to save the dancers.

Anna got up from her chair and began to withdraw from the room. "Well, my work is already done. Good luck with the rescue. " Shez was surprised that Anna didn't want to help them with work.

"It's a shame that you have to go," Dorothea said, smiling. "I was thinking of giving you the money we would gather in exchange for your help." The latter stopped Anna; her eyes shone by hearing the word money. "Let's help those poor little dancers."

"Don't you know the shame?" Shez said. "So what's the plan?"

In the morning, a show was being performed. Shez was dying of shame wearing a dancer's suit that showed most of her body. "Why did I accept this?" She wondered. Anna was practicing her dance steps, wearing the same clothes as Shez. "Come on. You look so cute," she said. Dorothea approached, just like them, wearing dancer clothes. "Are you ready? Let's start."

The music started to play, and the crowd was gathering. An angelic voice was heard on stage. Dorothea appeared, dancing fluidly like the wind. The public was amazed; their eyes shone before such a figure. The song made many of them fall to the ground.

Anna and Shez were so surprised that they had forgotten their entrance. Dorothea invited them to dance. Shez's movements looked like a princess, elegant and beautiful. Anna gave her best but seeing Shez left her even more surprised.

"Wow. Shez, I didn't know that you dance so beautifully." Anna flattered her, making Shez's face increasingly red.

"Don't talk. This is quite embarrassing." Shez begged. Dorothea continued to sing. The public was amazed to see them. They heard someone say it was as if some angels fell to the ground and danced.

Suddenly, an immense fog began to cover the stage. Dorothea stopped singing when she realized this. "Where did this fog come out?" she asked. "It must be them," Shez shouts. The fog was so thick that the public disappeared in it. Shez couldn't see Anna or Dorothea.

"Dorothea! Shez! Where ... mph?! " Anna felt something enter her mouth. Her hands were pulled back. She felt some ropes on her wrists. Suddenly, everything got black. Someone blindfolded her.

Shez kept cautious; she watched her around in case of seeing a kidnapper. She felt someone behind her and turned around. There, she saw Dorothea in front of her. The two girls put back to back. "Where is Anna?" Dorothea asked. With the fog, it was impossible to find her. "I'm ready to end them." Shez said with a knife in her hand. Dorothea grabbed her. "No! Remember the plan. We can't attack them." Shez growled and hid her knife again.

At that moment, a hand covered Dorothea's mouth, pulling her towards the ground. Shez managed to listen to Dorothea's groan, but a cloth was put on her mouth. Her hands were tied behind her, and her eyes were blindfolded. She managed to hear some voices near her. "We already have them. Teleport us now". Shez felt like her body vanished as if she were ash and returned again.

She felt some people start pushing her, and they put her in a carriage. Someone started to tie up her feet together. Shez could listen to other girls near her. "Are they Dorothea and Anna?" She wonders herself. She began to make noise to get her attention. The other girls started to answer. Apparently, they were.

It had been a while, and the carriage was still moving. "How far are we going?"

Finally, the carriage stopped. The girls heard someone climbing with them. Shez felt that the ropes on her feet began to loosen up and was taken down from the carriage.

After walking for a moment, Shez heard the sound of a door opening. The kidnappers forced her to sit and tied her feet again. They took off the blindfold, and her vision began to accommodate. She saw the kidnapped dancers. They were scared, tied up, and gagged, just like her. Anna and Dorothea were not with her. Perhaps they were in another room.

Shez tried to move her hands to test the bonds and noticed how tight they were. She tried her feet, but the knots were tight as her hands. She tried to think of a solution. In the room,

there were only the dancers and a guard. "I could take care of the guard easily if I wasn't tied up." Shez thought.

At that moment, Shez remembered something; the kidnappers didn't take away her knife. She began to move slowly so that the guard didn't notice her. After a while, she managed to grab her knife and began to cut the rope off her hands.

After cutting her bonds, Shez began to make noise to get the guard's attention. "What do you want, beautiful?" The guard said. Shez didn't like to be called like that. She started to point out behind her with her head. The guard crouched down to see her back. Shez took advantage of the moment and released a punch to the guard, knocking him immediately. Shez took off her gag. "Never call me beautiful again." She said.

Shez cut the ropes off her feet, got up, and headed to the door. The dancers began to make noise to release them. "Don't worry," Shez told them. "I will return to free you. I must find my friends first." Shez left despite the protests of the dancers.

"Not here. Not here." In every room Shez looked at, there was a group of dancers, but no one was Anna or Dorothea. She fought many guards and was able to knock them out. She took one of their swords and kept looking for Anna and Dorothea.

"Hey, you! Come back here!". Shez ran to hide down and looked out to see who was coming. Shez couldn't believe it. The soldiers did not yell at her; they shouted at ...

"Anna?!"

Anna was escaping from some guards. But instead of running, she was jumping. She was still tied and gagged. Anna was looking for a place to hide, and at that moment, Shez grabbed her arm. Anna was so scared that she released a scream, so Shez covered her mouth with her hand and calmed her.

Anna calmed down after seeing Shez. They heard steps approaching them. Shez took the sword she grabbed and hit the guard with the handle in the neck, leaving him unconscious. After cutting Anna's ropes, Shez asked her how she escaped from the room?

"The guard who watched us left the door open," Anna explained. "I took the opportunity to escape, but other guards got to see me."

"The guard just left the door open?" Shez couldn't believe it. "It does not matter. We have to find Dorothea fast." Anna nodded and started looking in more rooms.

Meanwhile, Dorothea was in a room guarded by three guards. She was sitting in a chair with her hands tied behind her back. Her body was bound to the chair, and her feet were tied together. Finally, she had a gag in her mouth, preventing her from casting a spell on the guards.

"Dorothea? The singer?" a guard asked another in the hallways about the new prisoners. "It's true." Another guard replied, "It seems we hit the jackpot this time."

"I have to see her. In what room is she?" The second guard pointed to where Dorothea was, and the other one went to see. Near them, Shez and Anna were hiding from the guards, overhearing the conversation. They decided to follow the guard to a lonely corridor. The guard entered a room, closing the door behind him.

"So it was true." Shez started listening. "The beautiful Dorothea is with us."

"There she is. Let's go." Anna tried to enter the room, but Shez stopped her. "Wait. It could be dangerous." She warned her. The two girls waited a moment outside, trying to think how to save Dorothea. Anna turned to Shez; she had an idea.

Dorothea tried to loosen her ropes, but it was useless. As much as she tried, she could not move her hands. She watched the kidnappers, trying to hear what they were saying. They had been muttering and turning to see Dorothea. Suddenly, the door began to open, and someone looked out. It was Anna.

"Excuse me. Is this my cell?" Dorothea and her guards were surprised. The latter began to look between them until one got up.

"Oh no. This is not your cell." The guard told her. "But I will take you there if you allow me." Another guard passed him a rope and a gag. "No, thanks. I will keep looking by myself" Anna began to retreat slowly and ran out of the room.

The guard began to chase her, but after leaving the room, he was knocked out by Shez, who hit him in the back of the neck.

"What was that?" The other guards heard the noise outside and went to look out, but Shez rammed them and entered the room. The three guards stood up, and Shez prepared to fight.

While Shez fought, Anna ran to Dorothea. She was surprised to see the amount of rope they used to tie her up. Dorothea made her react and started cutting her binds.

Shez dodged the guards' swords and moved hers to attack them until she finally managed to knock out the three guards. She ran to Dorothea and removed the gag from her mouth. After untying her, Dorothea stood up and thanked her friends for their help. But the celebration had to wait. They began to hear footsteps coming toward the room.

Dozens of bandits arrived and were surprised to see their companions on the ground. "Who wants to be next?" Shez asked. The bandits' legs began to shake, and they all ran out of the room.

Shez and the others entered the rooms and untied all the kidnapped dancers. Finally, they made it out of the lair, and all the dancers were crying with joy. They began to thank Shez, Dorothea, and Anna for rescuing them.

Back in the village, cries of happiness could be heard as all the dancers returned safely. "Thank you very much, Miss Dorothea," Joel told her. "Without you, who knows what would have happened to the dancers..."

"Actually, it was Shez who saved them," Dorothea corrected. "I was tied up at the moment." Joel turned to see Shez. "Thank you very much," Joel told her. "If you wish, we can reward you in any way you want." Shez smiled at him. "No thanks, there's no need-mpf!" a hand covered her mouth. "We wouldn't mind a few coins as a reward," Anna commented, her eyes brighter than ever.

That night, Dorothea held her concert. The dancers, in gratitude, offered to perform with Dorothea, which she happily accepted. Everyone enjoyed the event. All but one... Joel was in the shadows, watching Shez. "A mercenary always does his job, and I will do mine. You'll pay for messing with me."