



# BOUND BY THE CROWN

## Sample Scene

### “The Fall”

---

**EXT. DRAVENHOLD PALACE , BALCONY , NIGHT**

The wind howls against the towering walls of the palace.

Eight floors above the stone courtyard, **ELARA (20s)** stands barefoot on the edge of a marble balcony.

Her toes curl against the cold stone.

Her breath trembles.

Below, darkness.

Endless. Waiting.

From within the palace, **MUFFLED LAUGHTER. MUSIC. GLASSES CLINKING.**

Life continues.

Without her.

---

**ELARA (V.O.)**

(quiet, hollow)

They call it destiny...

They call it honor...

They call it sacrifice...

A beat.

Her fingers tighten against the carved railing.

---

**ELARA (V.O.)**

They never call it a cage.

---

A gust of wind SLAMS into her.

Her balance falters, but she steadies herself.

Barely.

Her eyes lift to the stars.

---

**ELARA**

(whispers, breaking)

Mother...

Her voice cracks.

---

**ELARA**

You said royal blood was a blessing.

A tear slips down her cheek.

---

**ELARA**

You lied.

---

Her grip loosens.

Her heel lifts, She leans forward,

---

**FLASH CUTS:**

, A crown placed on her head as a child

, Nobles watching her like prey

, Her father turning away  
, A faceless suitor reaching for her hand

---

BACK TO SCENE:

Elara closes her eyes.

---

**ELARA (V.O.)**

(soft)

Just silence...

---

She steps,

---

**A HAND GRABS HER.**

---

She gasps sharply as she's yanked backward, Her body SLAMS into someone solid.

Strong arms wrap around her waist.

Unyielding.

Alive.

---

She struggles instinctively,

---

**ELARA**

Let go,

---

But the grip tightens.

Controlled. Not violent.

Certain.

---

She twists, Moonlight spills across his face.

**KAEL (20s)**

Raven-dark hair.

Sharp features.

Eyes that miss nothing.

---

For a suspended moment, They stare at each other.

Breathing.

Too close.

---

**ELARA (V.O.)**

Is this death?

---

Her trembling hand lifts, She touches his face.

Slowly.

Carefully.

---

His cheek, Warm.

Her fingers slide along his jaw.

Her thumb brushes his lower lip, Testing.

---

**ELARA (whisper)**

You're... real...

---

Kael's breath catches.

Barely.

But enough.

---

His gaze darkens, not with desire, but with restraint.

---

**KAEL**

(low, controlled)

You shouldn't be here.

---

A bitter laugh escapes her.

---

**ELARA**

And yet... here I am.

---

She sways slightly, The world tilts,

---

**KAEL**

Careful,

---

Too late.

Darkness rushes in.

Her knees give out,

---

Kael catches her instantly.

One arm behind her back.

The other steady at her waist.

---

She collapses against him.

Weightless.

Trusting, Even if she doesn't mean to.

---

He looks down at her, For the first time, His composure cracks.

Just slightly.

---

**KAEL**

(quiet, almost to himself)

Not like this...

---

He adjusts his hold.

Careful.

Precise.

---

From inside the palace, music swells again.

Laughter echoes.

---

Kael glances toward the balcony edge.

Then back at her.

Unconscious in his arms.

---

His jaw tightens.

Decision made.

---

He lifts her fully.

Effortless.

---

**INT. PALACE CORRIDOR , NIGHT**

The doors BURST open.

Kael strides inside.

Silent. Fast. Controlled.

Servants turn, Shock flickers across their faces.

But no one speaks.

---

He doesn't slow.

---

**INT. ELARA'S CHAMBER , NIGHT**

The doors open.

He enters.

Gently lowers her onto the bed.

---

Moonlight spills across her face.

Soft.

Fragile.

---

For a moment, he just stands there.

Watching her.

---

Not as a princess.

Not as a duty.

---

As someone who almost disappeared.

---

His hand lifts, Stops mid-air, He doesn't touch her.

---

Instead, he steps back.

Rebuilding the distance.

The discipline.

---

**KAEL**

(quiet, firm)

I will remain close.

---

He turns, moves toward the shadows near the door.

Becoming part of them.

---

Outside, the wind continues to howl.

But inside, for the first time, she is not alone.

---

**FADE OUT.**



# **BOUND BY THE CROWN**

## **Sample Scene 2**

### **“The Waltz of Control”**

---

#### **INT. PRACTICE BALLROOM – DAY**

Sunlight spills through towering windows, cutting across polished marble floors like blades of gold.

Dust dances in the air.

The room is empty.

Too quiet.

---

The doors CREAK open.

**ELARA (20s)** steps in.

Regal. Controlled. Untouchable.

A deep sapphire gown clings to her frame, flowing behind her like a quiet declaration of power.

She pauses at the center of the room.

Breathes.

---

**ELARA (V.O.)**

If they will watch me...

A beat.

Her chin lifts.

---

**ELARA (V.O.)**

Then let them learn something.

---

Behind her,

FOOTSTEPS.

Measured.

Unhurried.

---

**KAEL (20s)** enters.

Silent as shadow.

He closes the door behind him.

CLICK.

The sound echoes.

Final.

---

**MAERA (O.S.)**

Should I stay?

Elara doesn't turn.

---

**ELARA**

Play.

---

Maera crosses to the grand piano.

Her fingers hover,

Then press.

A slow, dangerous melody fills the room.

---

Elara turns.

Her gaze lands on Kael.

Sharp.

Assessing.

---

**ELARA**

Your name.

---

A beat.

---

**KAEL**

Kael Draven.

---

She steps closer.

Circling him.

Not intimidated.

Studying.

---

**ELARA**

You stand like a man who expects a blade.

---

**KAEL**

I expect many things.

---

**ELARA**

And yet... you were sent to guard me.

A faint smile touches her lips.

---

**ELARA**

How unfortunate for you.

---

Silence.

He doesn't react.

---

She stops in front of him.

Extends her hand.

---

**ELARA**

Dance with me.

---

The music deepens.

Low. Controlled. Dangerous.

---

Kael doesn't move.

---

**KAEL**

It would be improper.

---

Elara's smile sharpens.

---

**ELARA**

I am the future queen.

A step closer.

---

**ELARA**

If I choose impropriety... it becomes law.

---

A beat.

The tension shifts.

---

Slowly,

Kael removes his glove.

Finger by finger.

Deliberate.

---

He takes her hand.

---

**CONTACT.**

Warm.

Firm.

Unavoidable.

---

His other hand settles at her waist.

Not possessive.

Not soft.

Controlled.

---

They begin to move.

---

At first,

Measured steps.

Formal.

Distant.

---

Then,

He leads.

Subtle.

Undeniable.

---

Elara adjusts instantly.

Matching him.

Refusing to be led,

But not resisting either.

---

**ELARA**

You're staring.

---

**KAEL**

I'm ensuring you don't fall.

---

Her breath catches,

Just slightly.

---

**ELARA**

I do not fall.

---

**KAEL**

You did last night.

---

Silence.

Sharp.

Unforgiving.

---

She lifts her chin.

---

**ELARA**

And you caught me.

---

A beat.

---

**KAEL**

Yes.

---

The word lands heavier than it should.

---

The music slows.

---

He draws her closer,

Not enough to scandalize.

Enough to unsettle.

---

Their steps tighten.

Their space narrows.

---

**ELARA**

Tell me something, Ser Kael...

Her voice lowers.

---

**ELARA**

Do you find me impressive?

---

His gaze doesn't waver.

---

**KAEL**

You are radiant.

---

A flicker in her eyes.

---

**KAEL**

But beauty does not sway me.

---

There it is.

The line.

The resistance.

---

Her pride sharpens.

---

**ELARA**

Then what does?

---

A beat.

---

**KAEL**

Truth.

---

The word lands between them.

Heavy.

Uncomfortable.

---

She studies him now.

Not as a knight.

As a problem.

---

**ELARA**

And what truth do you think you see?

---

They turn.

Closer now.

Too close.

---

**KAEL**

That you are not reckless.

---

A pause.

---

**KAEL**

You wanted to be seen.

---

Her breath falters.

---

**KAEL**

Not admired.

---

Silence.

Charged.

---

She steps in,  
Breaking the last inch of distance.

---

**ELARA**  
Careful.

A whisper.

---

**ELARA**  
You speak as though you understand me.

---

His jaw tightens.

---

**KAEL**  
I understand isolation.

---

The music softens.  
Almost disappears.

---

For a moment,  
They stop moving.

---

Just standing.

Too close.

Too aware.

---

Outside,

FIGURES gather near the windows.

Watching.

Whispering.

---

Elara notices.

And smiles.

Slow.

Dangerous.

---

She steps back first.

Breaking it.

---

**ELARA**

Then watch closely, Ser Kael.

---

She turns away.

Composure restored instantly.

---

**ELARA**

You may be the only one here who sees anything clearly.

---

She walks toward the door.

---

Stops.

Without turning,

---

**ELARA**

Try not to disappoint me.

---

She exits.

---

The door closes.

---

Silence.

---

Kael remains in the center of the ballroom.

Still.

Controlled.

---

But his hand,

The one that held hers,

Tightens slightly.

---

Just once.

---

**CUT TO BLACK.**

---