



# Chapter 01

## One Last Wish





## THE SIMONE EMPIRE VERSUS THE BERT EMPIRE

DURING THE GREAT WAR THAT RAGED FOR OVER A YEAR AND A HALF,

ZESTER, A COMMON-BORN MERCENARY EMPLOYED BY THE IMPERIAL FAMILY, ACHIEVED INCREDIBLE FEATS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS, THE EMPEROR WISHED TO GRANT HIM A HIGH-RANKING NOBLE TITLE. HOWEVER, DUE TO OPPOSITION FROM THE ARISTOCRACY, THE EMPEROR REWARDED ZESTER ONLY THE TITLE OF BARON AND A PIECE OF LAND.





AND I, CASSIA,  
WAS SOLD OFF AS  
A WAR TROPHY TO  
ZESTER GREZE,

THE INFAMOUS WAR  
HERO WHO WAS  
DISHONORABLY CALLED  
'THE EMPEROR'S DOG'.



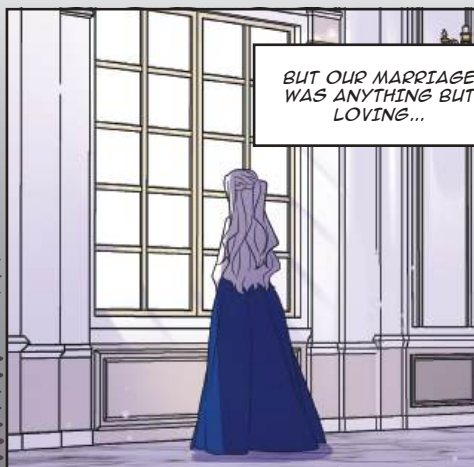
FOR MY BEAUTY AND  
ESTEEMED STATUS AS  
THE COUNT'S FIRST DAUGHTER,  
I ONCE WAS HAILED AS THE  
EMPIRE'S MOST COVETED BRIDE...

YET IN THE END, I WAS  
SOLD TO A COMMONER  
MERCENARY, NEWLY GRANTED  
WITH A NOBLE TITLE.





STILL, I WENT TO  
GREZE WITH THE  
HOPES OF A HAPPY  
MARRIED LIFE...



BUT OUR MARRIAGE  
WAS ANYTHING BUT  
LOVING...



MY HUSBAND WASN'T JUST  
'THE EMPEROR'S DOG'.  
AT THE RIGHT PRICE,  
HE BECAME ANYONE'S  
DOG.

BE IT A SMALL REBELLION,  
A CIVIL WAR, OR EVEN A  
DISTANT TERRITORIAL  
DISPUTE...

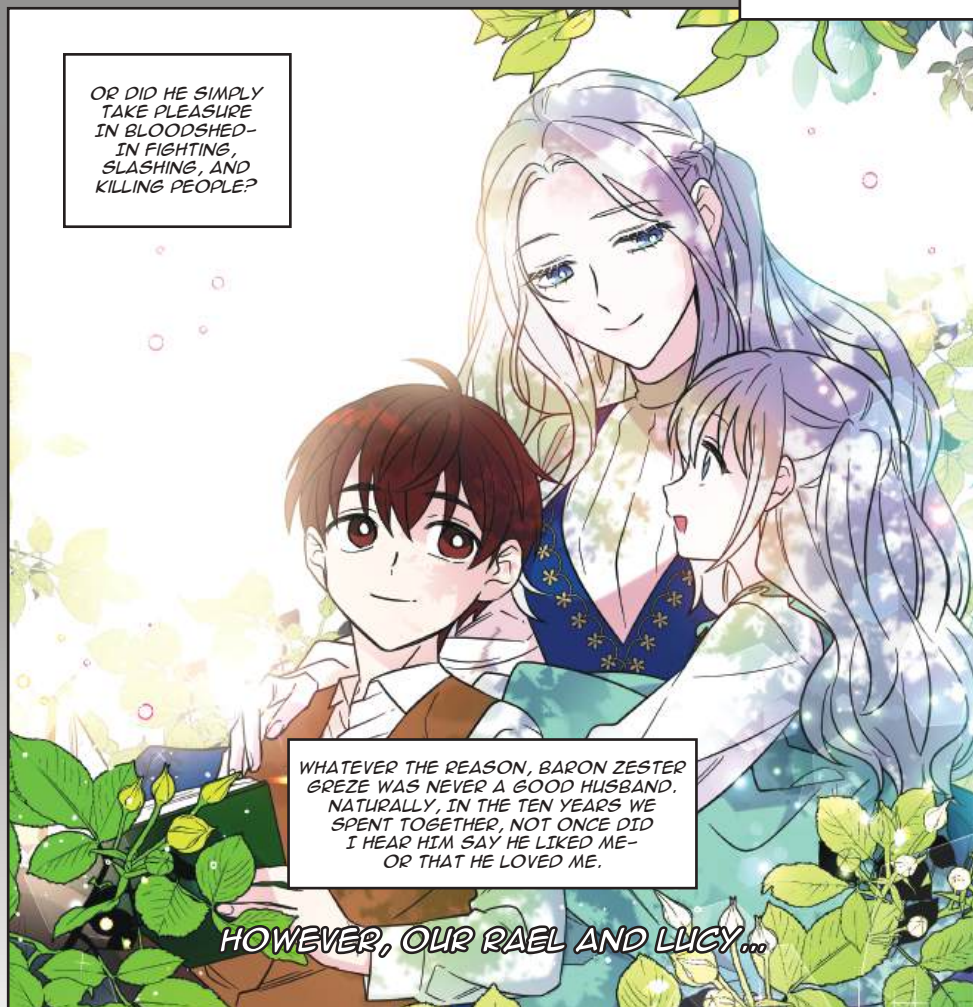


HE TOOK ON ANY JOB  
THAT BROUGHT IN MONEY,  
NEVER STAYING AT THE  
ESTATE FOR TOO LONG.



WAS IT THE HARDSHIP  
OF HIS COMMONER  
PAST THAT MADE  
HIM SO FIXATED  
ON WEALTH?

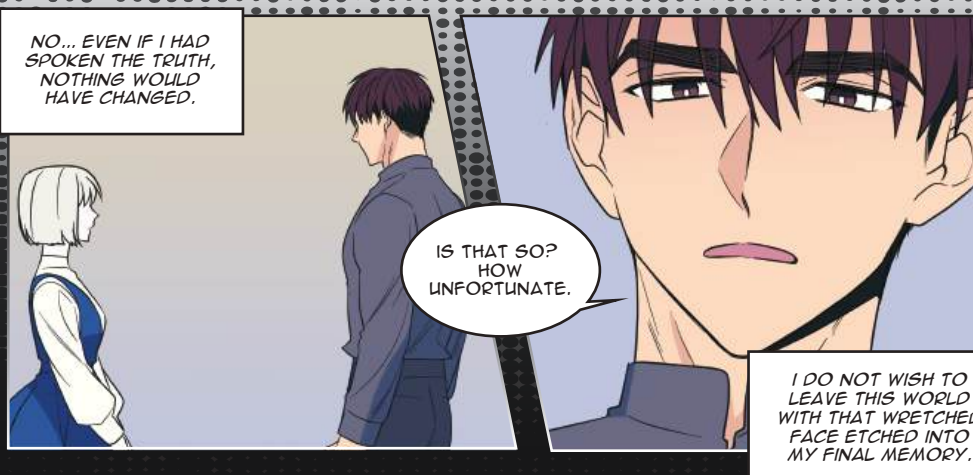
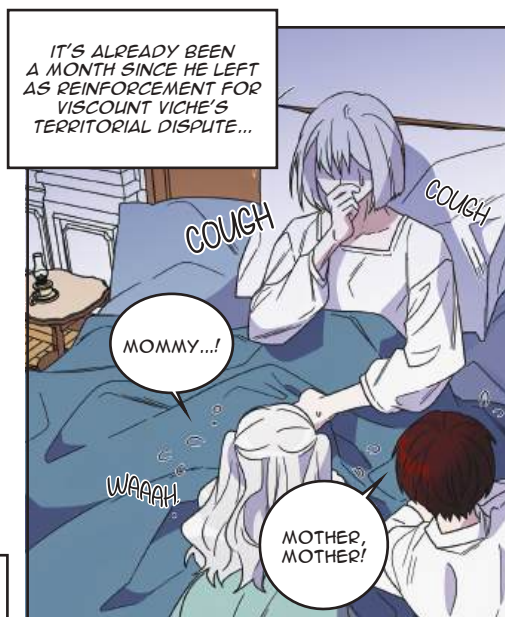
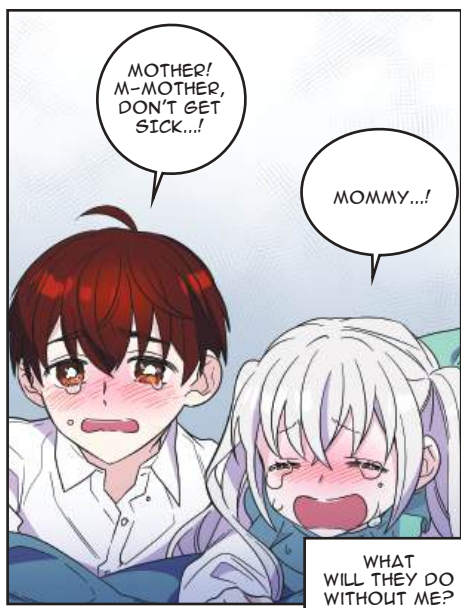
OR DID HE SIMPLY  
TAKE PLEASURE  
IN BLOODSHED-  
IN FIGHTING,  
SLASHING, AND  
KILLING PEOPLE?



WHATEVER THE REASON, BARON ZESTER  
GREZE WAS NEVER A GOOD HUSBAND.  
NATURALLY, IN THE TEN YEARS WE  
SPENT TOGETHER, NOT ONCE DID  
I HEAR HIM SAY HE LIKED ME-  
OR THAT HE LOVED ME.

HOWEVER, OUR RAE AND LUCY...





AT THE VERY LEAST,  
THERE ARE STILL  
THOSE WHO SHED  
TEARS FOR ME.



MADAM,  
YOU MUSTN'T  
LEAVE US  
LIKE THIS...!



MOTHER...!

PLEASE STAY  
STRONG,  
MADAM...!



ONCE I  
DIE...  
GREZE...

*sniff*

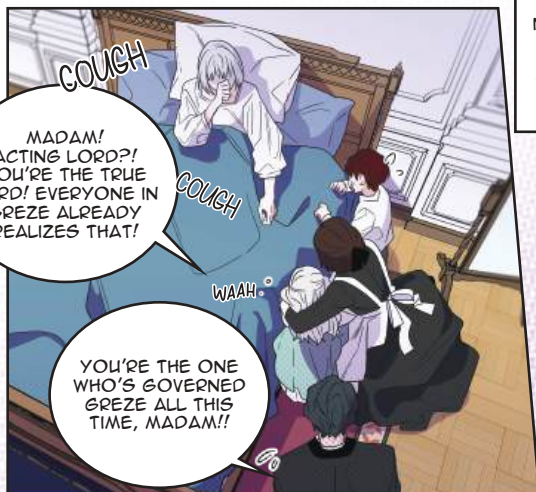
MADAM,  
IF YOU DIE,  
COUNTLESS  
PEOPLE WILL  
LEAVE GREZE.



EVEN I WOULD...  
IF IT WEREN'T FOR  
YOUR WORDS...  
PLEASE...  
DON'T LEAVE US  
BEHIND...!



I-I SHOULD HAVE  
MADE GREZE A  
BETTER PLACE  
TO LIVE...  
AS ITS ACTING  
LORD...



MADAM!  
ACTING LORD?!  
YOU'RE THE TRUE  
LORD! EVERYONE IN  
GREZE ALREADY  
REALIZES THAT!

YOU'RE THE ONE  
WHO'S GOVERNED  
GREZE ALL THIS  
TIME, MADAM!!

NOW THAT I THINK  
ABOUT IT...  
I DON'T RECALL  
EVER LIVING FOR  
MYSELF.



IF I HAD BEEN  
A LITTLE LAZIER,  
A LITTLE MORE  
SELFISH...  
WOULD I HAVE  
BEEN HAPPY?

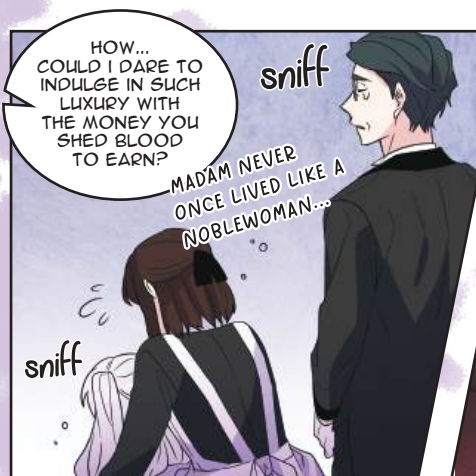


SLAM

-CASSIA!!











AND...  
\*COUGH\* I WANT  
TO VISIT  
THE CAPITAL,  
JUST ONCE....



THEN GO!!

Y-YOU'RE  
ALWAYS AWAY AT  
WAR... \*COUGH\*...  
HOW COULD  
I LEAVE OUR  
TERRITORY  
UNATTENDED?

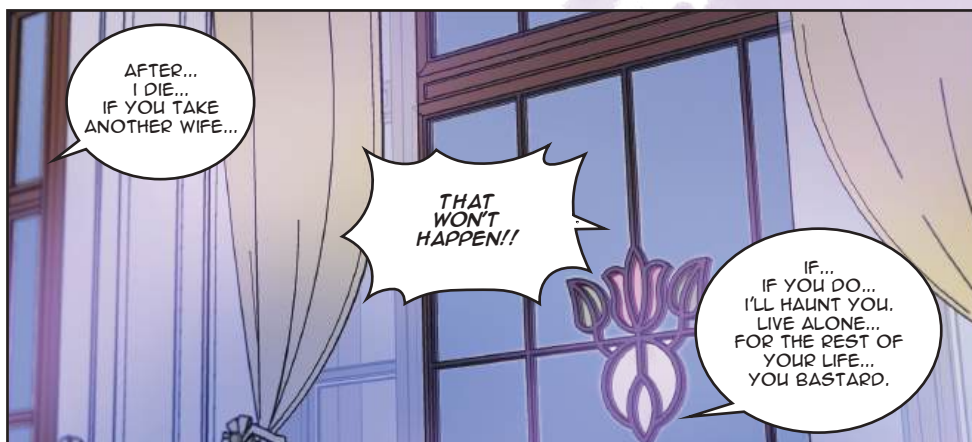


HAAA...



THERE'S...  
THERE'S  
MORE...

TELL ME.



AFTER...  
I DIE...  
IF YOU TAKE  
ANOTHER WIFE...

THAT  
WON'T  
HAPPEN!!

IF...  
IF YOU DO...  
I'LL HAUNT YOU.  
LIVE ALONE...  
FOR THE REST OF  
YOUR LIFE...  
YOU BASTARD.



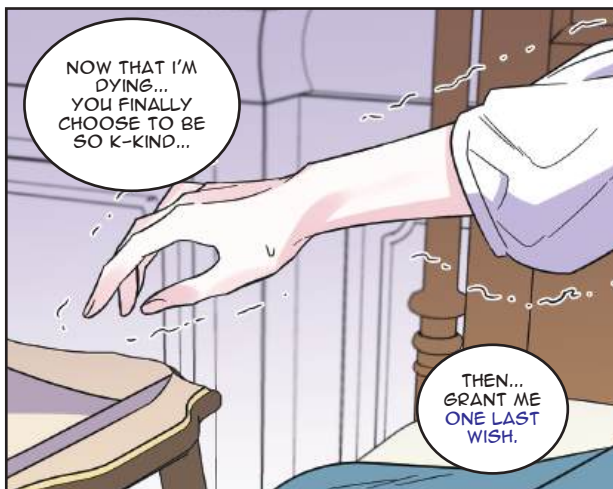


WILL YOU GRANT  
ME ALL OF MY  
WISHES?



OF COURSE!  
I WILL! I'LL BUY  
YOU A HUNDRED  
MORE OF THOSE  
DAMN NECKLACES!  
AND THE CAPITAL-

DAMN IT, I'LL  
TAKE YOU THERE  
MYSELF! I SWEAR  
ON GREZE'S NAME,  
THERE WILL NEVER  
BE ANOTHER  
WOMAN IN MY LIFE  
BUT YOU.



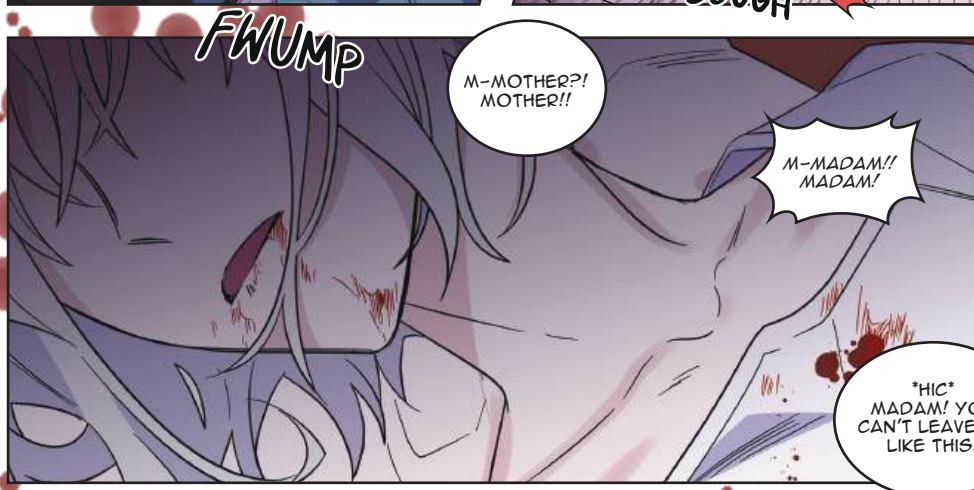
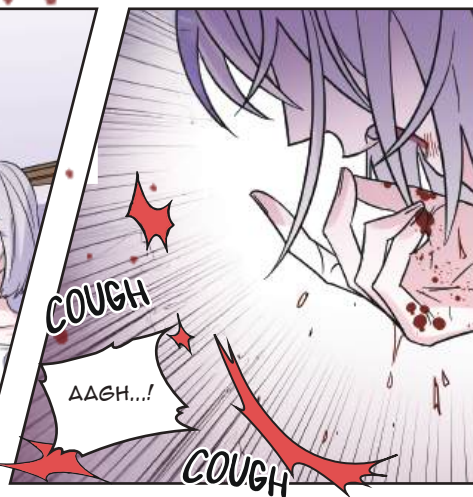
NOW THAT I'M  
DYING...  
YOU FINALLY  
CHOOSE TO BE  
SO K-KIND...

THEN...  
GRANT ME  
ONE LAST  
WISH.



ANYTHING  
AT ALL.









FWIK

THIS WISH...  
I CANNOT  
GRANT!





IS THIS...

HEAVEN?