

LOVESTRUCK

Ever After Academy (Lavinia)

Excerpt 1

Season 2, Episode 5, Scene 1, Location: Cemetary (Day/Sunny)

Ezra splits a cluster of grapes with me while we watch the latest power struggle.

User: If they're at each other's throats like this, what's to stop Darla from spilling our secrets anyway?

Ezra hums, thinking for a moment.

Ezra: Two things: one, Lavinia is a terrible teacher. Two, Darla is a terrible student.

(I don't know about that, Darla's always at the top of her classes.)

User: ...where are you going with this?

Ezra: They both have to know that, but neither of them are giving up.

Ezra: They just need to figure each other out.

Soon enough, both women join our little picnic.

User: Are you done for the day?

Darla: No chance, I've barely learned anything.

Lavinia: I was thinking that we'd be better of changing methods.

Lavinia: On one hand, we can determine her elemental affinity, but that would mean finding a way into the magic library.

(That's easier said than done.)

Lavinia: If she's a specialist in something abstract, it would explain why she's struggling with things that should be simple.

Darla: Ooh, that could be it! I'm basically a wizard when it comes to research.

Darla: I wouldn't be surprised if my ability was cross-referencing or something.

I giggle despite myself when Lavinia gives me a tired look.

User: What's the other option?

Lavinia: I used to hunt magic creatures to train my reflexes. It forced me to use all the spells at my disposal creatively, reaching out with senses outside myself.

Darla: Where are we going to find a magic creature?

Lavinia smirks and turns to Ezra, who's decided to entertain himself by throwing grapes into the air and catching them in his mouth.

Darla follows her eyes a second later, and I do too.

He looks around when he realizes we're staring, his expression cycling from confusion to annoyance in a split second.

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Excerpt 1 (continued)

Ezra: ...what?

Lavinia: Let's go wolf hunting. What do you say, [User_First_Name]?

Ever After Academy (Lavinia)

Excerpt 2

Season 2, Episode 6, Scene 2, Location: Cemetary (Sunset)

Rapunzel: I won't give you another chance, Ice Queen...

Lavinia: Look at her! That's not an option anymore.

Her voice is calm, and I wonder, distantly, if it's the result of her life always being in danger...

Rapunzel: Break the spell and I'll show mercy by killing you quickly.

Rapunzel opens the giant scissors and snips at the air, narrowly missing Lavinia's head. Lavinia manages to pull her away from me, dodging and redirecting Rapunzel's deadly attacks.

Lavinia: Or you could leave now, and I'll pretend this never happened.

The two seem evenly matched, until I realize Lavinia's only using enough magic to defend herself.

(On one hand, bonus points for finally listening to me. But this isn't the time!)

Rapunzel cackles as they fight, reveling in her bloodlust.

She alternates between swinging the giant scissors like a greatsword and flipping it open, catching errant strands of hair as Lavinia dodges just in time.

Every counter Lavinia lands leaves ice on Rapunzel that grows with each breath, slowing her speed.

But Rapunzel powers through, swinging her scissors with enough force to create its own wind.

Lavinia scores some solid hits, but her movements grow sluggish. Cuts appear on her arms, trails of blood visible through torn clothing.

Rapunzel: I thought I felt your magic in the library earlier. That touch of cruelty is just like you.

Rapunzel: So where did all your bravado go? Are you having trouble keeping up without your snow beasts to protect you?

Lavinia: ...Did you always talk this much?

Lavinia tries to sound unaffected, but the air crackles with energy as she pours more effort into the fight.

Lavinia: Maybe I should freeze your tongue next.

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Excerpt 2 (continued)

I realize, with dawning horror, that the magic lessons earlier drained Lavinia more than she let on.
(If this keeps up...!)

I run to the underground entrance and scream for the only person I can think of.

User: Ezra, where the hell are you?!

He doesn't answer. But in the next second, I hear the sickening sound of crunching bone as Lavinia cries out. Turning, I see Rapunzel standing over her, scissors poised to cut her head off.

Ever After Academy (Lavinia) Excerpt 3

Season 2, Episode 9, Scene 3, Location: Living Room (Night/Lights)

A flash of pink above the crowd confirms Lucas is around but I keep pressing in until I find Omar playing "never have I ever."

(Not that I've ever played this version.)

A tipsy student tips the lamp to her head and drinks punch from it.

Drunk Co-Ed: I've never been to France!

In the blink of an eye, she's speaking fluent French.

(I'm a little rusty, but I think she's lecturing the others on their pronunciation of certain words.)

The lamp finally makes its way back to Omar.

Omar: I've never seen a peacock up close before...

And there it is: feathers spread like it was plucked out of time and space until Omar laughs and strokes its head. He jumps onto the table, yelling at the top of his voice.

Omar: This is great! I wish tonight would never--!

(Omar, no!)

[Selection Start]

A. Tackle him!

B. Interrupt the wish!

C. Throw something?

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Excerpt 3 (continued)

[Selection A]

I push through the crowd, but they push me back.
(I'm not going to make it in time!)

The last thing we need is to be stuck in a drunk wish!

[Selection B]

User: I wish tonight was already over!
I scream at the top of my lungs. I can't tell if the lamp heard me, although I get a few weird stares.

[Selection C]

I grab at the first thing my hands close around, sending a cushion sailing through the air at Omar.
(Please at least knock the lamp out of his hands!)

But it misses him completely.

[End Selection]

Through sheer luck, Omar falls backward mid-wish, landing on the floor in a bed of pillows summoned by the lamp. A hush passes over the crowd until he lets out a snore--then the cheering erupts as they continue the game.
(I guess...I should be happy he had a good time?)

Drunk and Dizzy: Can you take a picture of me?

They sling an arm around the unbothered peacock and thrust their phone into my hands.
(Sure, let me just hand you proof that magic exists.)

I take the picture buth crop the peacock out.

Please Drink Water: Thank you!

Ever After Academy (Lavinia)

Excerpt 4

Season 3, Episode 3, Scene 1, Location: Living Room (Night)

User: Everyone, eat up!

(No one can be rude when their mouths are full. But some are better at multitasking than others.)

Lucas: Sometimes I find it hard to believe you were raised by wolves, Ezra.

Ezra pauses, his grip on his knife tightening.

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Excerpt 4 (continued)

Brother: Lucas, I don't think that's...

Lucas: I mean no offense! I'm saying his manners are a perfect imitation of nobility.

Ezra: Behaving like a noble is easy enough.

Ezra: What's harder is forgetting what I learned from my pack in order to put on airs like a mindless creature.

(Oh no...)

Lavinia nearly chokes on her wine, while [Brother] rubs his temples with a pinched expression.

Lucas instinctively reaches for his sword but reins it in when Arin clears their throat.

He gives up on Ezra and tries to appear to Lavinia instead.

Lucas: I'm surprised a comment like that doesn't offend you. As nobility yourself--

Lavinia: Me, a noble? I'm just a peasant raised too far above her station, Prince.

Lucas: Oh, for--!

Nora: Lavinia, has your magic fully recovered?

Nora swiftly steps in, rescuing Lucas.

Rather than answering her, Lavinia levitates a bottle of wine, filling a few glasses--but only the ones on our side.

Nora: That's brilliant! What kind of spell did you use?

Nora: Was it a combination of existing spells or something you developed yourself?

Nora's pure excitement directly contrasts with Lavinia's confusion.

Lavinia: I thought, "my glass is empty" and that I didn't want to get up.

Lavinia: I'd assume any magic user of merit could do the same.

Lucas and [Brother]--even Arin, who had been eating peacefully--come to Nora's defense.

Lavinia ignores them, keeping her eyes on Nora and tapping the mouth of her glass.

Lavinia: Can you defend yourself?

Lucas seems ready to take Lavinia on, but Nora stops him with a grateful look.

Nora: Of course I can--when I feel threatened.