

Chapter Fifteen_Branthor

In Chapter Fifteen, Branthor reflects on his feelings for Teal as he watches her sleep. He struggles internally with the reality that Teal is now his bride, which he had previously denied wanting. Despite planning to return her to the Temple, he realizes he cannot let her go. She is his, destined to be with him, and this acceptance brings a sense of fate into their relationship.

As dawn approaches, Branthor carefully rises without waking Teal and prepares breakfast. He notices the marriage contract left by his brother, Kairos, and considers signing it in Teal's presence to mark their commitment more personally. Teal soon awakes, appearing a bit unsteady, which leads to a light-hearted exchange about the effects of the oil they had used. Branthor presents the contract to her, seeking to make their marriage official.

Teal is ecstatic at the notion. However, as Branthor expresses his intent to sign the contract, he inadvertently brings up his fears about her motives, questioning whether she had physical intimacy with him to manipulate his decision. Teal, shocked and offended by the accusation, insists that her feelings were genuine and that she had acted out of love, not manipulation. This confrontation escalates as Branthor's accusations push Teal away from him emotionally.

Teal, feeling hurt and disrespected, storms out of Branthor's home, leaving Branthor in a state of confusion and regret. He realizes that his distrust has driven her away and that he must apologize sincerely. Branthor vows to give her space but understands that he must confront his insecurities to mend their relationship. His inner turmoil heightens as he confronts the possibility of losing Teal forever, realizing his love for her is unwavering, despite the earlier doubts. The chapter ends with Branthor reflecting on his mistake and preparing himself to genuinely apologize when Teal returns.