

Chapter Seven_Teal

In Chapter Seven, titled "Teal," the protagonist grapples with the reality that Branthor, a giant being, has no interest in having her as a bride. Despite this, she is determined to change his mind, hoping to create a connection between them. As they share wine by the fireplace, Teal senses Branthor's gentleness, contrary to his imposing physical presence. This contrast makes her feel safe for the first time.

Teal takes the initiative in their conversation, sharing her love for reading adventure books, a passion cultivated through her mother's influence. Branthor reveals his own interests—gardening and growing fruits—which helps establish a bond, and they both open up about their losses, finding solace in each other's experiences of losing parents. Teal's recounting of her relationship with her mother emphasizes the emotional connection she seeks to foster with Branthor.

Throughout their conversation, Teal struggles to keep Branthor from thinking about the inevitable parting that awaits them the following day. She avoids mentioning her troubling family situation in order to maintain their growing intimacy. Their interaction grows more intimate as they share personal stories, and Branthor's fears about hurting her due to his size and strength surface. Teal reassures him of his gentleness, and they share a kiss, which sends her emotions into turmoil.

As the kiss intensifies and becomes more passionate, Branthor ultimately pulls away, displaying a conflict within him between desire and fear of his own strength. The chapter ends with Branthor tenderly laying Teal in bed and saying goodnight, leaving open the question of what will happen next between them as they face the uncertain future ahead.