

Chapter Six_Branthor

In Chapter Six of the story, Branthor finds himself at his own birthday celebration, which has turned into a funeral-like atmosphere for him. As his brothers cut the cake and the festivities continue with music and dancing, Branthor feels detached and unwilling to participate, feeling as if his birthday has been overshadowed by an unwanted matrimony arranged by his family. He observes Teal, his newly chosen bride, who appears uncomfortable and shy amid the lively celebration. Despite attempts from others to engage both of them in dancing, Branthor remains withdrawn.

Teal confides in Branthor that she's never attended a party before, revealing a sad childhood marked by a lack of celebrations. His concern for her transitions into a realization that he doesn't want to be responsible for her fragile nature, an internal conflict growing within him as he battles with his reluctance to accept the situation. After unrest with his brothers about his forced arrangement, Branthor takes them aside, expressing his displeasure. They believe he is being unreasonable and encourage him to accept his match, citing it as part of him evolving into a settled family life.

Branthor adamantly refutes their attempts to persuade him to embrace marriage, citing Teal's delicate nature as a key reason for his refusal. His brothers express confusion about his avoidance of love and companionship as they reveal their happiness with their own partners. Underneath, Branthor grapples with considerations about Teal's presence and how it makes him uncomfortable yet intrigued.

Eventually, Branthor brings Teal to his home, where he prepares her a separate room, emphasizing his reluctance to cohabit as a couple. She expresses surprise at his home's size, unable to fathom its normalcy from her perspective. Teal reveals she has nothing to bring with her, leading Branthor to fetch her an oversized shirt for comfort. He finally makes it clear that he doesn't want a bride, clarifying the arranged aspect of their pairing. Although disappointed, Teal remains calm, and they share wine together, creating an unexpected moment of connection amidst Branthor's turmoil regarding their future.