**Queen’s Last Love**

Queen and Rion run off together, staying within Nithran but under disguise. Queen is presumed dead from the Aura bomb, and the head of the church ascends to the throne. The nation of Nithran sees a marked recession in science and technology. The church grows more powerful over time. Seeing technology as the reason for Queen’s death, the church demands most avenues of research cease.

The duo travel for a few years, researching Dark Elemental Aura. Queen finds a strong connection between it and Nn, but the two seem very differentiated. The Dark Aura must be from some other being, possibly under direct control by Nn. Rion collates all the findings, and is soon bearing dozens of notebooks full of them. He and Queen talk very bluntly together, mostly focused on figuring out where Dark Elemental Aura comes from, and what to do about it. Rion picks up a few clues about Queen’s past, and what she’s lived through, but his curiosity still burns.

Eventually, Queen begins to divulge about her past. She explains her epiphany when Rion stopped her to the best of her ability, why she originally ruled the kingdom--Planning to die--and continued backwards from there. This time, she describes the Dark Age and what she did before. It quickly begins to seem like a story, and she expresses that she understands if Rion thinks her insane. Rion soaks the information up, however. He scribbles quickly, but Queen stops him. Rion gets the message, and puts the pen away.

Eventually, the two form a deep bond. Queen feels a similar love to Rion that she did to Brin, but being able to travel with her partner changes their dynamic. Rion is aging though, and the travel isn’t easy on him. Unwilling to lose another loved one, Queen offers Rion a connection to her Aura. Rion agrees, on the promise that he will be able to log the process. Queen acquiesces, and permits it.

It is a short ceremony, but it feels like a massive step. Outwardly, nothing of import happens. Queen touches her chest with a few fingers, and then touches Rion’s chest. A few moments pass, the air thrums slightly, and it’s done. Queen opens her eyes, then Rion opens his. Queen explains that his aging should cease, and he will have no need for food or water. Her Aura will have enough energy to do most of the work his body needs. Rion asks if it is a drain on her, and she compares it to a pinhole leak in the ocean.

The two continue wandering the land of Nithran, collecting notes on Dark Elementals and attempting to map out the path of whatever being’s Aura they’re connected to.