

PROMPT #1: Write about a god desperately trying to get their chosen hero to follow the path they set out for them.

Mine

by **Sarah Schuster**

I frowned. What the hell is she doing?

“I’ve got you, kitty.” She pulled the thing off of the branch and into her arms. “See. Everything’s okay now. You’re adorable.” She kissed its forehead before climbing back down the tree. *How dare she?* A door opening made her *finally* look up from the cat. A girl walked out, holding a bucket and a can of cat food.

“Hey!” The girl waved, smiling. “Looks like you found the little guy who’s decided to make his home in my apple tree.”

“Oh. Is he yours?” My hero blushed. *Why is she doing that?*

“No. Of course, he likes to act like he is.” She opened the can of cat food and the cat jumped out of my hero’s arms to run to her. A brief flash of anger crossed my hero’s face as the cat left. “I’m...” I tuned out the rest of the girl’s sentence, glaring at her as she set the food down, scratching behind the cat’s ears then walking over to my hero. *Stay the hell away from her.*

“What’s your name, beautiful?”

“Aella.” My hero’s face burned red along with the air around me. “So you...grow apples?”

The bitch laughed. “Yeah. Wanna help me collect them?”

That was how she took my hero from me. For an entire year I had to watch her corrupt my hero with her love. And as I watched their love grow, I vowed to destroy it.

And I’ll start with you. The cat brushed against my leg, flicking me with its tail. I slipped my hands around its body and lifted it, scowling at it when it started purring. *Disgusting*

creature. I stared at it, smirking as its purring slowly came to a stop as its skin started to boil beneath my hands. *You stole her from me*. It yelped and tried to get away from me as it burned. *Now you'll be the first step in getting her back*. It wailed, scratching desperately at my arms. I threw it to the ground beneath the apple tree, peeling its charred skin off of my hands with a smile. *Die*. The ground trembled underneath it as it was forced downwards into the dirt. The cat wailed as its bones snapped in its ruined body. I laughed gleefully as its cries went silent.

The smell was what inevitably drew them out. They ran out of the house, covering their faces as the scent of burnt flesh filled the air. My hero noticed it first. She screamed at the remains of the cat, stepping towards it. The girl stopped her. She twisted her arms around my hero and turned her around to face her. *This isn't right*. She placed a hand on the back of my hero's head and whispered to her before walking them backwards into the house. *Stop*. Before the door could shut, my hero looked back, staring at the cat's body. Her tears had stopped.

Two months later, a new cat entered their lives. It was a gift given under the apple tree. My hero didn't smile. I did.

My hero's rage festered for a week before she let it win. The girl left, pressing a kiss to my hero's cheek. I growled. I waited for my hero to reenter the house, but she never did. She stared at the ground the girl had stood on for a minute before facing the cat in her arms. A moment passed, and her face twisted in rage. She threw the cat to the ground. *Finally*. The cat didn't move when it hit the ground, but she did. She picked it back up and started running. She took it three blocks before throwing it to the ground again, kicking it away from her.

"Stupid, horrible *thing*. She really thought *you* could replace him? *I hate you*. I hope you die just like he did." She slammed her foot down on its leg before taking several frantic steps backwards, fear overtaking the anger in her expression. She blinked rapidly, not noticing the tear forming in her eye. "How could I...?" she whispered. She stared at her work in horror for a moment before she ran from it. *It's finally time*.

I stepped into her path, catching her as she stumbled backwards. "Sorry," she mumbled as she steadied herself.

"*Never apologize*," I responded harshly.

She looked up at me with glazed eyes. "What?"

"I said nev—" I was interrupted when someone hit my arm. I frowned, glaring at them before I felt my hero break out of my grip. She took a step back, her eyes clearing.

"Who are you? And why couldn't they see you?"

"Because I don't want them to."

My hero took another step back. "I asked two questions."

"I want to make you an offer, my hero."

"You still haven't answered me." She took another step away from me. *Stop.*

"I want to destroy it all. And I want you to join me."

"*What?*"

"I want to burn the world to the ground with you at my side as my hero. The muse of my destruction."

Her face twisted. "Leave me alone."

"You're already starting to see what I see, aren't you?" I gestured in the direction of the cat. "You've grown so much already."

"I don't know what you are talking about. *Leave me alone.*"

"You will agree. I've seen the horrors you're capable of. One day I will win."

"Are you following me?"

"One day you will see what I see. And you will join me." *I will have her.* I turned away from her, ignoring her questions and walking a few steps before letting myself fade from her sight. I turned back to her, watching her frantically look around in fear before backing away. She ran, and I closed my eyes.

I spent the next month watching her. Every act of careless cruelty she committed filling my heart with hope. Every pained look sent her way by the girl keeping her from me celebrated. I watched them grow apart, and her walk closer to my path with childish glee.

"I don't know who you are anymore!" I watched them fight, filled with joy from the knowledge that soon I would have my hero.

"It's not my fault I'm not good enough for you! I've tried so hard to do everything you wanted me to do. You expect me to be perfect!"

"Aella, you could've killed her! This isn't about you being good enough!"

"So what? Why should I care if she dies?"

"Why should you care?! What happened to you? We met when you had just saved a cat that was stuck in my apple tree, and now you don't care that you could've killed my best friend?" "I don't care about her. You're the only person that matters. What's wrong with that?"

“I don’t want to be the only thing you care about. I don’t like this version of you. I don’t,” she paused. “I don’t know if I can do this anymore.” I clenched my fists in rage at the expression on my hero’s face.

“What do you mean?” she asked quietly.

“I’m leaving. Come find me when you’ve figured out what’s wrong with that.”

“*What?*” My hero’s voice broke, and I growled.

“I can’t be with you when you don’t care about the world around you. I’m leaving until you understand that. Goodbye, Aella.” The girl hesitated, studying my hero before she started to leave.

“*Wait.*” My hero reached out for the girl as a tear formed in her eye. The girl dodged her hand and left. Fire flooded my veins as I watched the girl walk away from my hero. My hero who was *crying*. The air sizzled around me, burning with my anger. *I will kill her*. The apple tree shook as the girl stepped under it. *That tree is what caused this. And now I will end it*. The tree snapped. My hero ran outside at the noise, her face still wet with tears, and screamed. She ran to her lover, falling to her side and wrapping her in her arms. “No. No no no. *No.*” Her tears multiplied, staining her eyes and face red. The light faded from her lover’s eyes, and her sobs rang out in a symphony.

“*Please*. Don’t leave me,” my hero whispered as she held that girl in her arms. She pulled her body closer to her chest and wiped her tears in her hair. “*I love you.*”

A moment passed, and my hero’s tears slowly stopped as she held her dead lover to her chest. “The world caused this. It pushed her away from you.” I slowly let myself fade into view.

“And I will help you get revenge on it.”

She looked up at me, her face twisting in rage and pain. “You win. I agree.”

I smiled. *And now, it all ends.*