

Destined for Doon Bonus Scene

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~This scene takes place before chapter 11 in *Destined for Doon*~

Addie

I pulled the little leather-bound volume from its hiding place, opened to the back page, and removed the tri-folded parchment. The library of Castle MacCrae contained all kinds of books, but this particular one would be extremely useful. Opening the letter, I read the final words of Queen Lynnette Elizabeth Campbell MacCrae:

On this page I write my last confession. Read it well so that you may be spared from repeating my folly.

I have been grievously tricked—lied to by Adelaide Blackmore Cadell and her sisters. Of my own free will, I made a pact with the witches that besiege the kingdom in the hopes that they would spare the lives of my people. The bargain struck: my crown and that of the king—dominion over Doon, if they would but let us flee unharmed.

I convinced myself that my actions were for the greater good, but in truth, I acted out of weakness. I feared for my life and the life of my infant child. That fear caused me to prostrate

myself before evil, to betray my Lord Husband and King, who is blameless in this devil's bargain.

As soon as I returned from the witches' cottage, I collapsed in the courtyard. My attendant, Glynis Fairshaw, believes the token I gave Adelaide as a symbol of my pledge has been cursed and is now being used to drain the life force from my body. Untimely death, the cost of my sins.

With my final breath I pray mercy for those I leave behind in hopes that my transgressions do not condemn them to my fate.

Queen Lynnette Elizabeth Campbell MacCrae

Fallen Queen of Doon

I reached into the fireplace and let the flames lick the edges of the yellowed paper before placing it on the burning log. A curl of smoke rose from the smoldering corner as fire consumed the young ruler's final missive, turning her warning to ash. Crossing back to the shelves of the alcove, I replaced the book in such a conspicuous manner that one of the Americans would undoubtedly stumble upon it. Veronica Welling and Mackenna Reid were entirely too predictable, which also had its uses.