

Wishing for You

Book 2 in the *I Wish* Series

By Elizabeth Langston

Bonus Material

In *Wishing for You*, Grant the “genie” writes a status report to his boss each day. The book does not include Boss’s responses, but you can read them here.

Spoiler Alert: Grant’s status reports summarize the story. If you haven’t read *I Wish* or *Wishing for You* yet, this bonus material will reference the major plot points.

Status Report #1

Thursday's Wish: Research on Memory Loss

Dear Boss,

I was revealed today.

It was surprising to learn that my new mistress had been served by a Being before. I was unaware that it was allowed. Why have you not introduced me to Adele? Perhaps I could have benefited from her experiences with Reina.

I found it refreshing to have a human so readily accept me. It has always been quite tiresome to reassure a new assignment that neither of us suffers from insanity.

The research on Reina's type of brain damage yielded discouraging results. There are no earthly cures. I'm torn about the best way to tell her. Indeed, I have never been this tempted to hide the truth.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

I wished to see if Kimberley would make the connection. It gave me insight into her ability to remember. I didn't inform you because I didn't want the possibility that you might have influenced her in some way.

I had another reason for not introducing you to Adele. Kimberley has changed greatly since their visits. I'm not sure how much you would've benefited from Adele's experience.

I am eager for you to discover your goals for this case. Use all of your senses to discern how your skills align with Kimberley's needs.

Your cases have generally involved tasks with tangible results. This case will not be so. Your impact could take years to affect her. It is good that you will be exposed to this attribute.

Resist the temptation to hide the truth. She cannot proceed with confidence if she is waiting for something that will never come. Truth,

delivered with compassion and eloquence, is
never wrong.

Status Report #2

Friday's Wish: Skills Assessment

Dear Boss,

I am greatly intrigued that you wish for me to detect goals of my own. I shall look forward to comparing what I discern to what you have planned.

It makes me wary to learn that some of Reina's requests will have intangible or delayed results. How can I be sure that my efforts were enough? Will I ever learn if the wish succeeded?

As I assessed Reina's skills today, I found myself astounded by her deficits. There's an extraordinary amount to teach her. I cannot understand why her parents have shielded her so much.

They may not like that I've questioned her assumption about attending college. Will my interventions put me at odds with them?

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

You won't know when the wish ends if you've succeeded. You must have such complete faith in your own skills that there is no doubt when you've done your best.

Shielding their daughter has become a habit for Kimberley's parents. It is not ill-intentioned, but it's a habit that must be broken. It will put you at odds with them. Remain strong.

In order to care for Kimberley, you will have to re-educate her mother.

Status Report #3

Saturday's Wish: Mapping a Safe Route to the Town Square

Dear Boss,

The news from Reina's friend Sean is grave. My first glimpse of him alerted me to a problem. His pallor and the change in his muscle tone are slight but distinct. I know humans do not have the acute senses that Beings do, yet it still surprises me how few have noticed. Even my mistress—who should be intimately familiar with the signs—had missed them. Perhaps humans are prone to dismiss information that makes no sense to them.

Is his diagnosis one of the reasons you approved this assignment to Reina? You may trust me to do whatever I can to ease her distress.

Shall I offer my support to Camarin?

I must apologize for jumping to conclusions about her presence in Magnolia Grove. It would seem my tendency to rush to judgment needs refinement.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

Your judgment is not perfect, but neither is it problematic. Refinement is a good word.

Indeed, yes, for Kimberley and Camarin. Kimberley will need your compassion. You will serve as her respite. Camarin will need your insight and steadiness.

Status Report #4

Sunday's Wish: Computer Application Development

Dear Boss,

I experienced two human emotions today that are not on the Beings' required list—disappointment and relief.

When I first learned of Reina's plan to give me away, despair nearly paralyzed me. It was more than the shame of failure. I felt disappointed that I might no longer be part of her life.

After the misunderstanding was cleared up, I was happy to discover that on the far side of disappointment awaits relief.

Reina's wish for today has been satisfying. Writing software, once I've discovered precisely what the customer wants, is a creative activity. There are no bugs, but I cannot be certain the application will please Reina. Consequently, I would like your permission to enhance the software as she requests.

Although we have not spoken of Sean's illness again, it has become a silent partner in our interactions. Underneath her pleasant demeanor, Reina's agitation remains deep. You have encouraged me to provide respite for her. Would it be appropriate to introduce the subject?

Mrs. Rey's reactions concern me. She cannot truly believe I mean her daughter any harm. I shall monitor that situation closely.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

Disappointment and relief may not be on the required list, but they are worth understanding. I am pleased that you have been exposed to them. It will strengthen your empathy.

Sometimes, in order to serve, it is not enough to merely respond. Sometimes you must act preemptively. Use your judgment to discern when and how much.

I think you must do more than monitor. I think you must stand firm with your convictions. Use polite assertiveness with Kim's mother.

Status Report #5

Monday's Wish: Photography Outside

Dear Boss,

The weather cooperated for our first photography lesson. The walk through the town park yielded numerous opportunities to experiment with shadows versus full sun.

After Reina had finished her homework, we spent an enjoyable hour discussing the merits of each photograph and a second hour practicing with her new software.

Reina is charming and guileless. It is a pleasure to work for her.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Kimberley has many dimensions. You have only seen a few. This case will get harder.

Status Report #6

Tuesday's Wish: Relaxation Through Yoga

Dear Boss,

I am unaccustomed to long-term distrust from an assignment's parents. Why does my presence continue to trouble Teresa Rey? I did as you advised and used polite assertiveness with her. I shall admit that it came quite naturally, although I worried at first it might have worsened matters. Fortunately, Mr. Fuentes salvaged the exchange.

Reina's tantrums today were surprising. She is so even-tempered and cheerful that her loss of control was that much more unexpected.

For her wish, Reina wanted to release tension from a day of extraordinary emotion. When I suggested yoga, she approved. Reina especially enjoyed the tree pose. I cannot think why.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Your polite assertiveness was all that I hoped for. Hold that line. Kimberley's mother will come to appreciate you as she recognizes your positive influence on her daughter, but it will take time, perhaps even until after you leave.

Status Report #7

Wednesday's Wish: Photography Inside

Dear Boss,

Camarin and I are both baffled by the pleasure humans find with bowling. The noise is maddening, the equipment unsanitary, and the repetition boring.

The true joy of the afternoon came from observing Camarin's master with my mistress. Sean's efforts to teach Reina were magnificent. His faith in her was so complete she could not evade it. I think that, perhaps, I learned something from him today.

Reina experimented with photography inside her home this evening, both with and without a flash. She started with simple objects in straightforward ways and broadened to isolating details from a new perspective. She shot a ceiling fan in motion, the steam rising from a teakettle, and several compositions of Mrs. Rey sketching in her studio. Reina has a particular fascination with shadows on the wall.

Whether this hobby ever evolves into a possible career, I am delighted she is honing the ability to retain visual "memories."

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

I am glad that you and Camarin have reached a place of camaraderie, for you will shortly find yourself in the role of her cheerleader.

Camarin also outranks you. Therefore, she may feel it necessary to mentor you. Follow her recommendations; she will not abuse the privilege. Observe how she cares for Sean. You're being given a rare opportunity to learn by example and with participation from a Principal.

Status Report #8

Thursday's Wish: Wardrobe Refresh

Dear Boss,

I am quite aware that Camarin outranks me. Did you have a specific reason for reminding me? I would not hesitate to seek her advice, although I am confident it will prove unnecessary.

My mistress wished for a refresh of her wardrobe today. Over time, her mother had purchased items that were adorably young and completely wrong for Reina.

When we arrived at the consignment shop, Sara Tucker assisted us. She had set aside various classic pieces for my mistress to consider. Reina purchased several of those suggestions and discovered three stylish items on her own—a navy pencil skirt, a black denim jacket, and a hand-painted vest with a Salvador Dali quality to it. After tailoring her new clothes to her shape, I added them to her database and left them in her closet.

My mistress has good instincts with her fashion sense. It pleased me to see Reina's trust in her own style grow.

I admit to having inappropriately jumped to a conclusion about the request. Lacey had also wished for a closet cleanup, and it was an entirely different

project. From Reina's wording, I assumed I would be hauling and scrubbing again. I permitted my expression to show my dismay. Can I reflect my way into better judgment?

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

Kim's self-confidence is building slowly. This is as it should be. Your skills improve along with hers.

Status Report #9

Friday's Wish: Conversation with Former Mistress

Dear Boss,

It would be difficult to describe how deeply I resent the wish I had to fulfill today. Could you not have foreseen this request and warned me?

My conversation with Lacey was sweet agony and left me with too many questions.

She claims that love does not end, but must change to thrive. What does she mean?

She says she's reached a place of happiness and hopes that I will, too. How can I?

When pressed, Lacey would not reveal any details of her relationship with Eli. I saw the distress in her eyes but could not understand its source. Will you tell me anything?

I didn't expect her to remain single forever. If she must be with someone else, I have no objections to Eli. He is as worthy of her as a human can be. I trust Henry's opinion, and he heartily approves of Eli. Yet I cannot accept how quickly she has set aside what we had.

I am committed to my aspirations within the League. I acknowledge that dreams require sacrifice, even as I make no apology for mourning what I have lost.

Reina made a mistake by burning a wish in this way. I shall hold out hope it eases the pain long-term, but for now, it has reopened a wound.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

I did foresee this wish, and I applaud it.

Lacey's distress comes from the pain she senses in you. She does not want her current actions to hurt you. But it is not fair to expect her to wait to reach for happiness until she is assured of your departure. Surely you see that.

Lacey cares for Eli—sweetly and truly. Perhaps more maturely than most teens would experience because Lacey and Eli are, themselves, extraordinarily mature. And it may be correct to call it love. However, it is unique to them, just as your relationship was unique to the two of you.

It is correct to mourn what you have lost—as long as you move on. She wants to.

Status Report #10

Saturday's Wish: Playing Poker

Dear Boss,

Reina invited me on an outing today. We visited a college campus that is nearby. Sean and Camarin accompanied us.

As per your recommendation, I have begun to observe how Camarin serves her master. She frets over him often, a level of concern I find unwarranted. Sean seems quite happy. His muscle tone remains strong. His stamina fades, but a period of rest recharges him. Is it truly necessary for Camarin to be so vigilant at this stage in his illness?

I recognize that her skills are superior to mine—that her experience as a principal gives her insights I have yet to acquire. Perhaps, though, she doesn't understand the human male physiology as well as I. My understanding of a man's body, while imperfect, is more immediate than hers. Shall I address this with her?

Reina's wish was to discover the thrill of playing a frivolous game. She chose poker since her father plays it avidly. After a grueling instructional period, she now plays on the poor side of adequate, but well enough to surprise her father when she

challenges him to a game. I have given her a cheat sheet for her phone.

After finally experiencing what it means to “hang out,” I am beginning to understand why humans pursue it with such dedication.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

Indeed, yes, explain what you can about the male physiology to Camarin. She will be open to education. This is an excellent example of how you can support her.

I approve of today's wish. This skill will demonstrate Kimberley's desire to remain relevant to her father. Well done.

This is a good lesson for you. Enjoying what humans enjoy will build your empathy with them.

Status Report #11

Sunday's Wish: Image Editing

Dear Boss,

Reina has talent. I have tried to keep my praise light, for I do not think she is ready to believe fully.

The photographs are quite good, but her editing skills are even better. It takes a keen eye to see the possibilities. She is able to focus on the most intriguing part of an image and edit it into something astonishing.

You have, no doubt, noted that Mrs. Rey asked me to leave her home—a decision that was more unjust to her daughter than me. My residence now sits on the corner of a desk in Sean's room. I shall allow Sean to decide whether to reveal my presence to the rest of his family. Of course, Camarin already knows I am here.

I shall complete the remainder of Reina's wishes, but it has become immeasurably more difficult.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

Keep your praise truthful, compassionate, and clear. That is all you need to strive for.

It is correct that it will become harder, but do not shy away from the challenge. It will be tempting to hide, to remain in the shadows, and to obscure your presence in Kim's life. Do not give into the temptation. Much of your value to Kimberley is your visibility. She trusts you—as well she should. Her mother needs to recognize that Kimberley's intuition is good and that she hasn't made a bad decision regarding you. Support her boldly. Remain steadfast. When Kimberley inches forward in her quest for independence, match your stride to hers.

The world is full of injustice. You must learn to work around it—or find a way to use it to your advantage.

Status Report #12

Monday's Wish: Updates to Voice Recognition Software

Dear Boss,

Another creative day has passed. I am discovering much about writing software. Does this suggest that I may be investigating computer crimes in my future assignments?

I tutored Sean's sister in French. She has lovely fluency for someone who has spent so little time in France. I tried your advice for praise. Honest, compassionate, and clear. Sara received it with grace.

Afterwards, Camarin and I watched movies with the twins. The humans found *Groundhog Day* funnier than the Beings did. We were, however, greatly amused by a film featuring superheroes with ridiculously specific powers.

The physical distance between me and Reina has not been problematic as yet. However, I did prefer it when I was within the call of her voice. Her warmth and cheerfulness enchant me.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

Your future assignments are partially determined by your own interests. I really can't know if they will include computer crimes; that is for you to say.

Status Report #13

Tuesday's Wish: College Campus Visit

Dear Boss,

The community college has a charming and compact campus. The buildings are relatively new, with intriguing architecture and many ecologically sustainable features.

I could not interpret Reina's reaction and chose not to eavesdrop on her thoughts. However, she did seem appreciative and curious. I would guess her initial response was positive.

For her sake, I would like for Reina to begin a frank discussion with her parents about the right fit for her education after high school. Shall I remind her to bring up the topic during the dinner with them this week?

My conversation with Camarin was most enlightening. She has forced me to ponder what I had not considered before, that I must put aside the discomfort I feel for certain emotions. Perhaps my goals should not be about acquiring new skills but rather using more fully the ones I already have.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Precisely. Well done.

Status Report #14

Wednesday's Wish: Flash with Slow Shutter Speed

Dear Boss,

There were numerous opportunities today, both on the helicopter ride and after we returned home, for Reina to experiment with shutter speed. The effects of freezing the action intrigued her greatly.

The tensions and emotions remain high at the Tucker household. While this is to be expected, it must certainly make for a difficult assignment. Now that I can witness it firsthand, I admit to admiration for Camarin's fortitude.

During our outing, she was rather nervous about allowing Sean to ride in the helicopter without her, but common sense prevailed. We would be as adept from the ground at keeping the helicopter safe as she would have been inside it.

When I first learned of Camarin's mission, I failed to understand why the League had assigned her to a task that seemingly begs for compassion and gentleness. She strikes me as entirely too rigid, opinionated, and forthright to be effective. After watching her with Sean, it's clear she is all of those things and yet precisely what he needs.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

It pleases me to see how well you and Camarin have integrated. It provides the appropriate emotional backdrop for the relationship between Sean and Kimberley.

Status Report #15

Thursday's Wish: Dinner Date

Dear Boss,

Serving as Reina's date for this meal was rather awkward. The dynamics in this family perplex me. Her parents obviously want the best for her, yet they've chosen a most unproductive way to compel her to face the reality of their divorce. She hasn't handled the news well, although I cannot fault her behavior.

When Reina asked me to accompany her, I thought this would be a wasted wish, and I would be more of a chauffeur than a date. It didn't turn out that way. She required little from me other than the touch of my hand, yet that proved to be unexpectedly useful. I shall want to reflect on the peculiarity of that truth.

Reina's wishes have steadily stretched my emotions. Now that we've reached the midpoint of my month with her, please tell me if that is one of your goals for my time with Kimberley Rey.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Kim's need of you will only increase. It is good that to have a wish or two that is simple. They will get harder.

Status Report #16

Friday's Wish: Flash Photography Outside

Dear Boss,

Reina and I practiced with flash and lighting outside, experimenting with different effects. The results were varied. She will need this lesson again.

I would like to broach an unorthodox request with you. May I abandon the rules for Kimberley Rey?

When the League initiated the guidelines for wishes, it was to protect the Beings from human greed. I have no concern of exploitation on my current assignment. My mistress is generous and pure. If she doesn't write down what we have done, she doesn't remember.

A cessation of the rules will also permit me to continue coaching her until she develops muscle memory over her photography skills. At present, limiting those wishes to 24 hours is insufficient for her to succeed.

I do not need protection from this human. May I give her whatever she asks?

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

You may use your judgment regarding which rules to follow—and how.

Status Report #17

Saturday's Wish: Care of Clothing

Dear Boss,

Reina didn't like her lessons in caring for her clothes, particularly items that are hand-washable. I wrote the instructions out and coached her efforts. I suspect, however, that she will permit her mother to resume this chore after I'm gone.

I accompanied Reina, Sean, and Camarin on a day trip to a beach on Emerald Isle. It was a lovely, much-needed respite.

Reina's photography skills improve daily.

Per your advice, I have shared some recommendations regarding Sean's health with Camarin. She was receptive, if noncommittal.

I have noticed a pattern that worries me. Camarin accepts Sean's pain into her body far too often. It took her longer to recover today than I have seen before. I know she must be willing, but I don't think it's wise, either for her or Sean. There are excellent human treatments to help him. Therefore, I must register a protest. Why should she, who has no other option but to fully experience pain, take this on?

For my assignment with Lacey, you urged me to focus on generosity, empathy, and judgment. It is that first emotion, generosity, which I've studied in

Camarin's relationship with Sean. Although I believe she is giving too much, I find myself oddly envious of their depth of trust.

Her confidence is admirable. I look forward to a time when I shall approach cases with such certainty.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

Are you criticizing the League's judgment?

Camarin's choices are not open for discussion.

Refrain for raising the issue with us again.

Status Report #18

Sunday's Wish: Cooking Classes

Dear Boss,

I enjoyed teaching Reina how to cook, and the dishes turned out quite well. With the proper appliances, she will have meal choices other than microwaved food.

It is unfortunate the community college is too far for Reina to walk. If she is unable to manage a student apartment, Mrs. Rey will have to provide the transportation.

Forgive me if my concerns for Camarin sounded like criticism. That was not my intent. However, I must politely assert myself on this issue. From my perspective in the human world, she is suffering. My protest stands.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Given Kimberley's affluence, taxis or car rides are another sensible option for her.

I am ignoring your protest. The League has this under control.

Status Report #19

Monday's Wish: Practice for Portraits

Dear Boss,

My mistress is determined to learn the skills necessary for human portraits. We set up lighting equipment in the living room and practiced with dolls and stuffed animals.

The best images were the ones in which the flaws were emphasized. A chipped nose on a porcelain face. Mussed hair. Missing button eye. Perhaps her unconscious created these poses as a metaphor, but the results were captivating.

Reina spent much of her day creating plans for the graduation party. Her early decisions were tentative, but as the afternoon wore on, she quickly learned to apply the art of delegation. I have great hopes that hosting this party will be good for her.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

Acknowledged.

Status Report #20

Tuesday's Wish: Postponed until January 31

Dear Boss,

My mistress's meddling is inappropriate and completely objectionable.

Lacey has moved on. I am glad of that, truly. I have learned from the pain of being near her and not with her. It is possible to be productive even with constant reminders of what might have been. Yet I reject that I must endure putting myself actively and openly in her presence. *Their* presence.

Reina's wish that I attend the party meets the League's guidelines. Despite that, I ask permission to refuse.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

Yes, I endorse Kimberley's efforts to have you in the same space as Lacey. The ability to recover after pain is an important skill. Consider this wish to be one of the goals that I have set for you.

Status Report #21

Wednesday's Wishes: Helping with Portrait Session and Creating Invitations

Dear Boss,

Camarin enjoyed Sean's gentle kiss today. It is sad that she is unfamiliar with human affection. Kissing, embracing, the touching of hands — these number among the loveliest memories of my recent assignments. Perhaps we should encourage Beings to experience affection more often.

Since my protest with the League has been ignored, I voiced my concerns directly with Camarin. She remains firm about intercepting Sean's pain. He wishes to minimize the use of human painkillers, as they might impair his thinking. She claims her service is small. I cannot believe that's true. It creates an emotional bond between her and Sean that is too close. How will she detach when their association ends? Not easily, I fear. Does Sean understand the sacrifice she makes? Perhaps I should make it clear to him.

I am grateful you have granted my request to abandon the wish guidelines for this assignment. I exercised that new freedom today. Reina did not remember asking me this morning for the photo shoot

wish. I completed it as well as creating the party invitations.

Before I came to Magnolia Grove, I had always served my masters from the background. With Lacey, I learned to work at her side. I am changing yet again for Reina. To serve her, I must be willing to take the lead. It is a paradox that humbles me.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

Yes, Grant. *That*.

Now, to the other issue... Sean and Camarin both realize, as much as they can, what is at stake. I exhort you to abandon your interference. There are more factors at play than you have access to.

I do, however, commend your concern for another Being.

Status Report #22

Thursday's Wish: Shoe Production

Dear Boss,

I decorated shoes for Lacey today. It was a delicate operation, to find the balance between adding value and keeping them mature enough to attract adult buyers.

When I arrived, I could sense Lacey's exhaustion. I offered to complete the work entirely on my own. Although her demeanor was studiously polite, it was obvious she was desperate for a break.

Late in the morning, she returned with new designs and watched as I applied them to a few pairs. We worked side by side for a brief time and chatted about frivolous things. She laughed once. I loved hearing her laughter. The fierce need to touch her remained in check.

It was a pleasure to see Crystal again. She has fared well since we last met. Her color has improved. She seems more engaged.

Lacey suggested that I stay long enough to speak to Henry. It was initially uncomfortable. He had questions for me that were difficult to answer. Yet our meeting has cleared the air. I shall doubtless see him at the graduation party, and today's visit has paved the way.

I did not like this wish. It was wrong for Reina to require it of me. However, I shall admit that it was more tolerable than I anticipated.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

You have now achieved another of the goals that I had for you. It is valuable for a Being to allow themselves to experience human emotions deeply. Many emotions have two sides: joy and pain. You have now felt the good and the bad—and moved past them. This is a small step toward skills that will serve you well.

Status Report #23

Friday's Wish: Driving Lessons

Dear Boss,

Today I failed at a wish. That has never occurred to me before.

I spoke honestly with my mistress. I believe it was the wrong choice.

Over the three weeks I have spent with her, I've discerned that, while her brain might not recall the factual details from an event, Reina retains the emotions.

It is true that I was disappointed when she gave up, but I also knew great pride because she had tried. Her fear filled the vehicle like a palpable wind, yet it took many minutes before she yielded to its force.

Compassion should have prevailed. I have finally encountered a circumstance where it would have been more honorable to lie.

I have learned the most unexpected truths with Reina. I believe that you must be preparing me for a unique set of assignments after my promotion — projects that may require me to challenge conventional boundaries in order to succeed.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

This was not a failure for you. You are measured on how well and innovatively you work—and not on the results achieved by the human. Perhaps failing to drive today was the best outcome that Kimberley could have received.

I have developed a great deal of sympathy for Teresa Rey. Her daughter's disability is invisible to other people, yet silently devastating. I wonder if Kimberley will ever be able to live without assistance. It must be terrifying for her parents.

Status Report #24

Saturday's Wish: Video Production

Dear Boss,

Do you truly believe Reina made the correct choice over her driving lesson? It's hard to imagine how quitting can ever be a superior option. I shall reflect on this idea. Although I cannot see its value yet, I accept that you are right.

I filmed a video with Sean. He had scripted a multimedia lesson on probability. He included the option for a pop quiz on his website, complete with 100 possible problems for practice.

I offered to film more—complimentary—but he refused. He seemed confident he could capture other lessons without me.

His verbal attack on Kimberley concerns me greatly, not just for its effect on her but also its effect on him. Is there anything I ought to do?

Camarin cautioned me today. I understand your expectations, yet I cannot stand meekly by and witness what I fear to be a misuse of her generosity. I shall mull over how to respond.

Humbly submitted,

Grant

Message from Boss

You need to let Sean and Kimberley work out their differences. Just support her if she needs you; that is the most that you can do.

Status Report #28

Wednesday's Wish: Photographing Movement

Dear Boss,

I have never been fond of group projects. I prefer to complete tasks on my own, rely on my own skills, and proceed according to my own schedule.

However, this week has shown me the importance of being on a team—if not for myself, then for my teammate. By herself, Reina cannot succeed on the party project, but she needs to participate in a significant capacity. I see that now.

Did you have anything to do with the delay of the electronic invitations? If her breakdown on Monday was partially a heavy-handed message for me, then I strongly object. I did indeed profit from the lesson. However, she didn't deserve to be its victim.

You have not commented on my choice to hold my mistress throughout Monday night. It was an impulsive act which violated the conditions her mother had set for us. Yet I was reminded of an important truth. I serve only Reina. Her well-being must supersede the rules. I am confident my decision was the right one.

I shall admit to experiencing an emotional attachment for Reina I cannot identify. I feel protective, yet it is tempered with great tenderness.

Another ambiguity from this assignment that will require reflection.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

I have not commented about holding Kimberley because it was precisely the correct thing to do. Indeed, you have made extraordinary progress with this case.

The emotion you feel for Kimberley is love.

Status Report #30

Friday's Wish: Party Food Preparation

Dear Boss,

Thank you for the reassurance that my all-night vigil with Reina was the right thing to do. If bold decisions are what have led to my "extraordinary progress," I shall rely more on my instincts. Indeed, they feel more natural than impulsive.

It seems wrong for the word "love" to describe what I feel for Kimberley. It is a wildly different emotion than what I felt for Lacey. Sean uses the same word for his attachment to Sara. Humans must be confused by the variations in its meaning.

The scene at the Tucker home was most unfortunate. I must assume that Sara's caution is excessive.

Sean has been having an exceptionally good week. The anticipation of the party has lifted his spirits. His stamina remains solid, although I did note a change to his skin tone. Camarin frets over him, but I've come to accept that as an intrinsic part of her.

All is ready for the party. The food has been prepared. The guests have been invited. Each detail has been checked and rechecked. I cannot see how anything could go wrong.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

Human language has failed to adequately capture love because it would be peculiarly difficult to do so well. It is foolish to try and, apparently, humans have realized this.

Status Report #31

Saturday's Wish: Execute the Party

Dear Boss,

The evening went well. I must admit to enjoying myself more than I would have predicted.

Sean had to leave early. He was greatly fatigued. Even so, the party was a complete triumph.

I hope the leadership has no plans to discipline Camarin for not stepping in to cancel Sean's participation. She and I had conferred. I assured her that this party was a reasonable idea. There were risks, of course. Sean knew that this evening was his final good-bye to many of these guests. His intensity of emotion and the effort to appear strong before a large group must have depleted his reserves. Yet it was his desire to proceed. Sean's decision should trump all further considerations.

Since Camarin continues to accept his pain, I chose to take a turn. Now that I've felt its effects, I've become more concerned. My sole regret is that I didn't think of the option earlier.

This case has been rich with experiences, even with the simplicity of its tasks. It is curious that, while I assisted my mistress in growing more independent, she taught me how to find connections. Through Kimberley Rey, I learned how to work *with* others—

rather than *for* them. Although I've never seen this skill listed as a requirement, I suspect it will serve me well.

Reina won't have remembered that our month is over, so I shall say my farewells to her in the morning. I would like to give her closure.

I shall always treasure our time together.

There has been silence regarding my promotion. I am left to assume that my protest caused this effect, yet I shall not apologize. You have encouraged me to think for myself even when we disagree. If I do receive the promotion, then this will be my final report as an apprentice. If I do not, then I shall await a new assignment with interest.

Whatever comes next, I have enjoyed our association. Perhaps I shall meet you at the training sessions for new Principals. Please identify yourself to me, if that is permitted.

Humbly submitted,
Grant

Message from Boss

I, too, shall look forward to meeting you at the promotion ceremony.

It has been a pleasure to have served with you.