**Villain and the Beast / 996**

Whispers spread across the village when Belle walked by.

She walks to the library “Belle!” someone calls “Where are you off to?” she asks, “To the library.” Someone enters the gate, Belle can tell who it is by the fawning women, Belle continues on her way through the whispers haunting her, she makes it to the library as the librarian looks smiling “Belle, how are you?” “As well as one is.” She places a book on the shelf, “How was it?” He inquired, “Not one I would read again.” she sighed. “I must be off now, Pere.” She added, turning to the door, “Good day, Belle.” She leaves.

As she walks, “Belle!” She hears, holding the book closely, she tries to get past the crowds, someone tugs on her arm “Gaston how are you…” “Good now seeing you.” “I must off…” Belle declared, tugging her arm “May I see you for dinner?” Gaston asked, “Not tonight.” The whispers softened, noticing her father “Sorry I’m late.” “I’m heading out. Is there anything you want me to bring back?” Belle answers “A rose.” her father grins, as he starts off.

As Belle tended the garden, she hears a horse, her fathers… “Where's father!” she jumps on the horse and rode down a path, Belle ignores strange snow fall, noticing a castle? Belle opens the doors, walking in yelling “Hello!?” She hears whispering. “Who's there!'' She looks behind her, finding nothing, “Belle!?” She follows the voice to see a cell, and her father. “Are you okay?” “You must leave…” Maurice whispers. “I can’t leave-” she's stopped… “Leave NOW!” someone yells, “Not without father!" "He’s a thief!” the voice yells “a rose…” Maurice whispers, “For a rose…” Belle mutters. “Let us trade places!” Belle turns “Belle no!” Maurice says, “He’s a *beast*…” Silence… “Step into the light…” It steps closer, a *monster*… What could she do? Her thoughts raced, that love story… ‘Romeo and Juliet’ Juliet was such a damsel… what she needed to be. “Let me say goodbye.” she pleads. The cell opens, Belle runs to her father pulling him close “I’ll escape, I promise…” she pushes him out the door, being trapped. “Why would you do that!” “He’s my father…” The beast grabs her father, dragging him away.

She hits the wall, whispers haunting her. Her cell opens, she peers her head out, “Hello there!” She looks down to see a candelabra… speaking?! “I am here to escort you to-” Belle kicks it out of shock.

“Who are you?” Belle asks “I am Lumiere!” Belle turns seeing a clock. “Put her back in her cell!” It announces, “Well are you ready, miss?” It ignores the clock. They walk to a bedroom. “We were not expecting guests” “I’ll have this place spotless in no time.” A duster lands on the ground. Belle stops at a wardrobe. “This is your wardrobe!” It looks at Belle “I will find you something beautiful!” The wardrobe puts different gowns on Belle, once Madame De Garderobe was done they all leave.

Belle tore it off. Walking to the window looking over the edge, the whispers start… She ignores them, trying to think on what she can do. She looks around the room, ribbon… She grabs ribbon on the floor, and starts to tie them, making something she’d hoped will be like a rope… as the whispers surround her she hears a knock “Would you join me for dinner?” *the beast*. “No…” The monster knocks louder “You’ll join me for dinner!” “You’ll control your temper!” She yells, she’s never done that. Whispers grow strong, sits on the floor. Every second she wanted peace, it was taken away…

She hears a knock again, “That was a brave thing you did.” The pot says, “Why don't you get dinner?” it rolls on the cart as Belle follows. As they walk down a flight of stairs, it looks like there's stairs leading to *the west wing.*

After dinner she got up knowing where to go. She heads up the stairs, seeing a *rose*, she steps closer, “What are you doing!” a voice yells, Belle starts to run out of the tower and castle, running until she hears *Wolves* as one wolf closes in. The beast jumps at the wolf, wrestling it to the ground scaring them away. The beast falls over, Belle forgets the attack, and finds this moment important… She runs over to the beast with a worried act.

Belle addresses his wounds with hot water, once they got back to the castle “It wouldn’t hurt so much if you stopped moving.” Belle announces, dropping the rag into the bucket and walks out of the room.

The next day she sits down on a chair next to the beast addressing his wounds every once in a while, whispering “There never was a story of more woe, than this of Juilet and Romeo.” the beast said aswell “You know Shakespeare?” she asks. “There's a library full.” Belle stands up at the mention of a library “Where?” Days pass pretending to befriend it. When one night at dinner it asks her for a dance, she says yes. Once she’s ready she sneaks off to the west wing, she brings the glass case off the rose smiling.

She hides the rose. It spins her around, she pulls out the rose, it asks “Belle?” she crushes the rose in her hands having petals fall, the beast falls from the magic that binds them. Opening her hand, she steps closer ripping petal from petal, “You lock away my father… And not expect a consequence?” she yells “Living with whispers haunting my every move…” She steps, “I never did anything to stop the village's whispers, so why should I not live with it?” She steps forward. “I will earn respect.” Walking to the balcony, she drops the rose stepping on it… the last petal falls. She opens the balcony doors, looking down, “Didn’t I tell you I’d escape?” Finally… *the whispers are gone*…