

# BY IMMORTAL HONOR BOUND

by Danielle Ancona

## EXCERPT

### Chapter 12

*Friday, April 22, 1622, York, England*

Over the stone threshold, Esther stepped into the bakery and peered about for the proprietor. Her footsteps creaked on the warped wood floor. The baker looked up while kneading his dough and nodded. He called one of his assistants over and instructed her to take over. With a wipe of his hands on his white cloth apron, he motioned Esther into the back of the bakery.

She went straight to the crux of the matter. “The Guardian and Daphne have eyes only for each other. I witnessed them kissing under the oak last night.”

“Excellent, Miss Esther!” exclaimed the baker. “I am sure Gideon and Apep will both be pleased to hear this news. Not only do we now have them all in the same vicinity, but Malachi’s heart is also becoming wrapped into this.” His eyes sparkled with anticipation. “Revenge shall be sweet for Apep. Indeed, I shall report your news to Gideon and Vicar Matthews. Keep me apprised of any new developments.”

“Thank you,” Esther replied. “I serve the Seraph and look forward to the tide turning for them. Once Apep eliminates Malachi and the oak, Katherine should prove easier to kill.”

“That is our common goal, Esther. Here is the rye you told your cook you would purchase for your household.”

“Thank you,” Esther said with a grin. She pocketed the coins Cook had given her and left the bakery with rye in hand, her stride light and purposeful.