

A lot of things mattered to Steiner; Garnet sometimes wondered if there was anything he could overlook. But then, she reflected, she had been the same before her flight from the palace. There was something about being part of the royal household that meant every tiny detail was of the utmost importance: she remembered fretting over the smallest hitch in a dress or half a minute's lateness to an appointment. Being on the road, subjected to the influence of certain companions, had forced it out of her; and, she concluded, the same would happen to Steiner, even if he hadn't quite given in yet.