Dear Literary Agent,

Duke Amaury once refused to marry the king's sister. Years later, he tells his aunt's new secretary why he chose someone else. Princess Cecily would like to hear the rest. Besides, introducing herself properly would mean explaining the forged references and what she's doing in his house.

Cecily works for her brother. A dealer has lost the magic that once let him draw heat from a stove, and now someone has tried to take a gift from Amaury's aunt. The king has no authority in Rochevaux, but his sister can answer letters there as Miss Sutton. When a young woman who eased his aunt's aching hands loses her own gift, Amaury wants answers too. Their search takes them to a mill where the wheel starts with both of them beside it. He shields Cecily from a falling beam. To get him out alive, she has to show him what she can do.

Once Amaury knows she works for the Crown, Cecily thinks the worst of the lying is over. Then she discovers he has kept back the names of men who could have rebuilt his family's experiments. By now she knows which shoulder hurts him when he turns to her in bed. She also knows what it costs somebody to lose a gift. If she asks Amaury what else he's kept from her, he has every right to ask her the same question.

AN AFFINITY FOR LIES is an adult fantasy of manners with a central romance, complete at 84,000 words. It will appeal to readers who enjoyed two wary investigators falling for each other amid the magical conspiracy in Freya Marske's *A Marvellous Light*.

I live in Melbourne, Australia, where I work in IT. I write fantasy under the name Naria Khan. Thank you for considering my work.

Kind regards,
Naria Khan