

Chapter 14

Taliyah's P.O.V.

Someone is nudging my shoulder and I growl at the idiot who is intruding my sleep.

I hear someone chuckle and then a voice says "Taliyah, we are at our destination." I slowly open my eyes and I notice that the SUV is parked in front of a tall building.

I recognize it from a picture Elder Matthew showed me once and I remember he told me Humans used to live in it. According to the archives it was one of the tallest buildings in the world and the second tallest in a city called New York.

Looking up, I feel like an ant standing in front of this huge structure and I hear Kaelan chuckle next to me. He tells me it is one of the buildings from Humankind that are still standing, in the States. And that most of the buildings are owned by the Council.

Amand and Camden are already at the massive door and I gulp as I realize that behind that door awaits my future. Kaelan puts his hand on my lower back and tells me to relax, that everything will be fine.

For some reason I actually believe him and I let him guide me towards Amand and Camden. The four of us walk in and a Guard walks up to us, he greets the Deltas and he nods his head at me.

"The Council is already waiting for you." He says looking at Amand, then he turns to face me and says "Miss, don't worry, you will be fine." After that he walks away and I just stare at his back.

Kaelan leads me to a few metal doors and one of them slides open, I look in to what looks like a box and I take a step back. The three of them stare at me and for a moment I want to run.

Amand explains that it is an elevator, I tell him that Elder Matthew had explained its purpose in a building to me, but that I had never been in one.

Kaelan tells me not to worry, so we step in and Camden presses the top button. Butterflies appear in my stomach as the elevator rides up, higher and higher.

My head snaps up as I hear a "ding" and it sends Amand in to a fit of laughter. Camden puts his hand in front of his mouth and Kaelan starts to hiccup.

The door slides open and I quickly step out of the elevator. During the ride up, Kaelan told me that there were stairs and he told me how tall the building was. Well it seemed I had to ride that deathtrap at least one more time.

Kaelan's P.O.V.

Being one of the Council's Deltas I went through a rough and extensive training and I hated every second of it. One of the things we were taught was how to keep a straight face, under all circumstances and I had never felt comfortable with it.

But standing behind Camden as Taliyah walked down the stairs, I quietly thanked the Council for my training. Because I was glad that no one could see what was going through my mind, back then.

"What the Fuck." Amand said through the mind-link and I knew that he had seen it too. We didn't show anything to the people around us, but I knew that we all had questions.

She asked me why she should say goodbye to a man that loathes her and I wanted to rip his head off, but Camden's words made me reconsider. "They don't have a clue who or what she is. Let's get her out of here."

I opened the door to the SUV for Taliyah and I saw her Lycan pushing forward, the words she muttered made me wonder what the hell happened there.

She steps out of the elevator and I know that she hates the thing. I guide her to the door that will lead us to the Council.

"Let's hope they were able to reach Council-member Armas. Besides the King, he is the only one that can tell for sure if she is who we think she is." Camden says as we approach the door.

Without knocking Amand opens the door and I hear Taliyah gasp at the sight in front of her. The room is huge and has floor to ceiling high windows.

I push her back softly to make her step forward in to the room. As soon as we step inside, the room falls silent and all eyes are on Taliyah. However she doesn't realize it because she is too busy gawking at her surroundings.

Armas gets out of his seat, slowly and starts walking towards us, his expression reveals nothing. He keeps his eyes on Taliyah, but she is still unaware of the attention directed at her.

Suddenly she snaps her head in Armas' direction and asks him if she can help him with something.

Then it happens, something I thought I would never see again in my lifetime. Armas gets down on one knee and bows his head to Taliyah as he says "Your Highness."

As one, the rest of us get down on one knee and repeat his words "Your Highness."

I can feel Taliyah stiffen and through the mind-link I ask Armas permission to get back up, so I can try and calm her down. He grants me my request and I don't waste a second.

"Princess Taliyah, everything is fine. Council-member Armas can explain everything to you." I say as I step next to her.

"Kaelan, don't play games. This is not funny. Tell them to stop this." She whispers and we can all tell that she is very uncomfortable with the situation.

Armas gets up and holds out his hand, Taliyah hesitates for a second before she places her hand in his. As they walk towards the armchairs and couches, he tells her that he will tell her everything he knows and that he will answer any question she might have.

Amand, Camden and I follow close behind, because we will protect her at all costs. Like we had done for her Mother until the day she ran away from home. We had been appointed as her personal Guards the day she turned sixteen and we still blame ourselves for not seeing the threat from within