

Chapter 69

~AUSTIN~

"We've gone through half of the list already," I tell James. "None of them were responsible for Maya's disappearance."

It was killing me inside not knowing who the hell was responsible for taking her away from us.

"I know," James says to me. "But that means that we're closer than ever to finding our sister. We all agree now that there is still a chance that she is alive. We are not going to accept her death until we find the people that took her from us. If it's one good thing that Kane did for our family, it was to remind us of the love we share for our sister. We've fought for her our entire lives; we will not let anything stop us from finding her now."

My brother is right. Nothing will stop us from finding the ones responsible for hurting her and taking her away from us. First, it was Kane; now, someone else had taken her away. Kane would have been dead by now if Maya hadn't stopped us. But everything happens for a reason; because of him, we were reminded of who we were and what we did for Maya. We didn't give up on our family; we kept fighting to keep each other safe.

I stare at a picture of my loving sister and feel a sharp pain in my chest. She's been one of the best things to ever happen to our family. Without her, everything felt so damn incomplete. I wish that I knew if she was still alive, and if she were, I wish I knew if she was okay.

Not knowing anything was driving me close to insanity. The only thing that kept me sane was my mate and my child. Without them, I would be out of my mind with worry for my sister.

"I miss her too," James says as though reading my mind. "Every day, I see her face everywhere that I turn. There are memories throughout the palace of her; she has touched almost every corner of every room. I want to bring her home too Austin. I want her back. I want our sister safe in our arms again."

Every word that he just spoke, I agreed with it all. I haven't been able to sleep with worry and fear of what's happening to her. Knowing how much she trusted us doesn't help with the guilt either. I knew that I had let her down more than once. I wanted no more of that.

I nod, "we will get her back, brother. We will get our sister back. Whoever took her will suffer the worst faith than any of our enemies from the past. I will make sure of it."

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~KANE~

I've left everything in place to ensure that Giselle doesn't bother looking for me at all. I also confirmed that her father would not ask any questions about my whereabouts. I couldn't trust either one of them. The moment they had an idea of what I was up to, they would do everything in their power to make sure that my plan failed.

I was done trying to kiss up to Giselle to protect my people. I didn't want to ask anyone for help, but now I knew that I couldn't escape them without some help. I'm sure that Ermanno would help me once I explained what was happening; he owed me one for something I helped him with in the past. But even he and his brothers would not be enough to free me from Giselle. I remember the woman that tried to protect me in the past from Austin. She was willing to help me in the past, and I'm not even sure why. But hopefully, she was still ready to help me. I would need all of the help I could get to escape Giselle and get my men out of her grasp.

I couldn't wait for the chance to be free of her. For the opportunity to free everyone that she was holding captive. Maybe that's exactly what I needed. If I can let everyone out of the dungeons, they can help me fight her. It will give me enough time to escape while simultaneously burning her castle to the ground.

I can feel my heart pound against my chest as I near the abandoned castle. The girl can either be dead or alive. I wasn't sure if I was ready to face reality.

I muster up all of the strength I could find as I race into the building. I had to find her. And I had to find her alive and healthy. She needed to be okay. If she wasn't, I had a good feeling that I would never be able to recover from this. I didn't understand how I could feel so much for a woman that wasn't my mate. These feelings weren't right. Something had to be terribly wrong. I couldn't be feeling this way for a woman who I barely knew.

I push through door after door, trying to find where she was. I was desperate to find her. I wasn't sure which cell she was in. There were hundreds of these things here. What the hell were they even doing with this amount of cells in one castle? How many innocent people did they trap and kill inside of here?

I tried not to think of that as I barreled into another cell. It couldn't be any of these. I knew it because they weren't cold cells. They were average room temperature. I knew this because I heard Giselle say that the cell she'd kept her maid inside was a cold one, where she could freeze to death.

I held my head in frustration.

"WHERE ARE YOU?" I roar as my voice echoes.

I hear a small cry, and it's enough to have me racing as fast as I've ever moved in my entire f*****g life to get to her.

I pound the door open with my fist, not caring that I'm bleeding from the force. I spot the girl in a corner, curled up in a ball. My heart almost jumps out of my chest from the sight in front of me. For a moment, I can't move, I'm relieved to have found her but I'm also pissed by the condition that she's in. I finally rush to her and pull her into my arms.

"I'm here," I whisper as I walk us out of the freezing cell. "You're safe now. I promise."

