Chapter 172

Kylan

"Because…" I looked at her and instantly regretted it.

The dress hugging her body was short, black, perfect. The neckline dipped just low enough to mess with my focus, and since she had those arms crossed, her breasts, the ones I had the honor of kissing all night long, had been pushed up in a way that had me thinking of things I really shouldn't be thinking about out here.

Shit…

All I wanted to do was throw her over my shoulder, take her to my room, and show her exactly why I cared. Show her that I was the only one who cared.

"Hello?" Puppy sang, stepping closer. "Well?"

I gulped, feeling my chest tighten. Even my heart began beating faster than usual, and that's when I knew I was fucked.

Yeah. It was so over for me.

This was what being hopelessly in love felt like, and there was nothing I could do about it.

Who was I to tell Violet whether she was allowed to have more friends or not?

"I don't care," I sighed. "I'm just looking out for you."

Her mouth had opened to protest, but before she could, I began walking again, anything to prevent her from asking any further. I had barely taken a step before I could already hear her light footsteps, trying to catch up with me.

"I don't care," she spoke in a deep voice, mimicking me. I looked down for a second, hiding the smile that threatened to escape. Puppy was just so unintentionally funny, it made me crack up at times.

"So," I began. "How did it go today with your eyes? I see you haven't laser-beamed anyone, so that's great."

Violet scoffed. "Not funny!" she mumbled right before a small fist connected weakly with my shoulder.

I smirked. It was so easy to get on her nerves.

"How did you feel today?" I asked after a moment. "Were you angry? Happy?"

Violet huffed, finally managing to catch up beside me. "No feeling in particular, Esther."

I snorted. "Oh, you think you're funny now?"

She grinned up at me, all proud of herself like she had just delivered the joke of the year.

"Nothing special happened today," she added quietly. "And even if it did, now I know what to do."

She sounded sure, and not a single doubt could be heard in her voice. Visiting Aelius had been important after all. Lyperia would only be a few days away now, and the better she could control her eyes, the safer she would be.

"Did you ask Trinity about Lyperia?"

"Yes," Violet laughed. "And she said she would personally carry you herself to Lyperia if it meant she could get free leave. She'll come."

I chuckled under my breath. It definitely sounded like something that Trinity, who was somehow even more odd than Violet, would say.

Knowing she would be there eased some of my nerves. Having her by her side, someone who would protect her no matter the cost and wouldn't take bull from anyone, was important.

Although I didn't know what exactly we were walking into, I had a pretty good idea.

I could already imagine it. The king trying to keep us apart, trying to keep her family away so he could control her surroundings, break her to the point she wouldn't even last half of those two weeks.

That man didn't like not getting his way, and he had already decided there would be no place for her in Lyperia. The court probably thought the same.

As far as they were concerned, Violet wasn't a princess. She was from the Bloodrose, although respected, a small pack of wolves which they couldn't control.

And even if they had known she was a princess, they would've thrown her to the stakes. The granddaughter of the Mad King and the mad High Priestess, neither of whom left any land behind. Only hatred.

They would see her as nothing but a ticking time bomb.

Whatever the king had planned, he could forget about it. No one would hurt Puppy, not on my watch. I wouldn't let that happen ever again.

The king, Chrystal, even Mom, all of them.

Not now, not ever.

"So tomorrow is our last Elite training before we leave," Violet spoke after a moment of silence. I watched as her fingers twisted the edge of her sleeve, and I immediately knew she was probably overthinking, as always.

⭐ +5 Bonus

"Are you nervous about seeing Rochwall?"

"Now that I know everything?" Violet exhaled. "Yes. Of course I am."

"Because he betrayed Adelaide?"

"No," she shook her head, looking slightly traumatized. "Because I know what his butt looks like and watched him...screw Adelaide."

She shivered and pulled a face.

I laughed, because how could I not?

"I don't fear Rochwall," Violet said after a while. "I know he has his memories back because he looks regretful. He treats me different from the rest, but it's clear he doesn't have any bad intentions."

I nodded, agreeing. I had known Rochwall for years, and I was surprised when Violet first told me what he had done, but even then, I never thought he was a bad man. He wasn't like the king at all.

"You think he'll say anything?"

"Probably not," Puppy responded, smiling softly. "But that's okay."

Puppy had a good eye. I had noticed Rochwall's soft spot for her as well, and it wasn't just him. Jane too.

Rochwall often looked at Puppy like he was holding back what he really wanted to say. It didn't really bother me much, but now with everything going on, I didn't like the idea of anyone keeping secrets from her. Not when she had enough to deal with already.

Yes, I was a hypocrite and well aware, but that was not the point.

"Maybe if you'd confront him, he'll confess?" I tried.

"Maybe," she answered, her expression doubtful. "But I don't want to

⭐ +5 Bonus

force him. I think it's good this way."

The topic died down as we stopped walking and reached the steps outside my dorm building. I hadn't even noticed the direction we were headed, but now that we were here, different thoughts found their way back inside my mind again.

"So I have no classes for two hours!" Puppy blurted.

Supposedly, hers mind went elsewhere as well. She stood so close she almost stepped on my toes. Her eyes turned big. "I was thinking maybe we could...we could..."

Her lips parted just slightly, and a loose strand of her hair stuck right above her lips. I reached up without thinking, tucking it behind her ear.

"Yes?" I smiled.

Puppy blushed, innocently tilting her head. "Do you really need me to say it out loud?"

"Maybe."

She gasped, her expression slightly changing. This time her smile was a little different. Less nervous. More dangerous, and mischievous, and suddenly not as innocent anymore.

"You and I are going back to your dorm, and you're going to rail me into the mattress," she stated, her eyes sharp.

Fuck, why did she have to say it like that...

My eyes darkened, hand reaching out to wrap around her wrist. "And then?"

"Then you'll do it again, and again, and we'll probably do the same in Lyperia as well. I mean, two weeks is a long time."

⭐ +5 Bonus

"It is," I said, smirking. "I've got the best room in the entire palace. Soundproof walls. Huge bed."

Violet's brows lifted. "Do you?"

I nodded, until she leaned in closer and I almost lost the ability to breathe. "Good. Because I'm loud. But you already know that."

And then she turned and walked away, making me wonder if she even realized what she was doing. I stood there for a full five seconds, absolutely frozen. My brain went numb, so did my body, and somehow, I still hadn't recovered by the time she looked back over her shoulder.

"Kylan," she stretched my name, tapping her finger against her wrist. "I don't got all day. I got two hours." 1

She blinked her eyes like she hadn't just asked me to claim every inch of her, and believe me, I would do just that. The moment I exhaled, that strange sensation returned again. That fluttering feeling of my beating heart.

Violet Hastings, what are you doing to me?

And how am I supposed to survive these four years, let alone these two weeks, without marking you?

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