



Chapter 179

Violet

"Wow."

My face was glued to the tinted window as I looked outside, trying to take it all in. None of this seemed real. Kylan wasn't joking around, everything really was bigger and better in Lyperia. The buildings, the streets, even a simple arrival.

We were now on our way to the palace. I sat beside Kylan in the backseat of the fanciest car I had ever seen in my life. There were more cars in front of us, and behind us, keeping guard.

The road had been cleared, and fences were set up along both sides, with people gathered behind them. There were too many to count. Some were waving flags, while others started whistling at us, looking for acknowledgment.

There were all sorts of people. Old, middle-aged, young...everyone.

With each word of acknowledgment, Kylan's face grew prouder, like he had built the kingdom by hand. Over the past weeks, he had complained a lot about the people, but despite all, one could tell his love for his kingdom was real.

"Does this always happen?"

"What?"

"All these people."

"Only on special occasions," Kylan responded.



"What's the special occasion?" I asked, shifting my eyes to him.

Kylan shot me a flustered look. "You are the special occasion, Pup. What do you think we're doing here?"

I blinked, then scanned the crowd again.

No way...

All these poor people had gotten out of their houses for a glimpse of what they thought would be their future queen. They were all smiling, cheering like I was something special, while that wasn't the case. I had no rank, no power, no true purpose here.

I snapped my head to Kylan, but when it was clear to me he didn't even care that much, I tried to push the thought to the back of my head. The last thing I wanted was to ruin the moment.

All I wanted to focus on was this beautiful kingdom, and the people in it.

Yes, Kylan definitely turned heads back at school, and here and there at the market—but not like this. Starlight was an academy mostly filled with future Alphas, nobles, and so on, all from the most important families. Although most were still in awe, I supposed they had gotten a bit used to it by now.

Here it was different.

They couldn't even see him, and they were calling out his name, some even crying. This was his everyday life.

"Do you sometimes go out and greet them?" I asked, still staring out the window. A smile appeared as a mom softly pulled back her daughter, who screamed her tiny lungs out as she watched the car pass.



"We—"

"An elf!" I suddenly gasped, pointing. I had spotted one behind the fences. A tall man, with those fascinating, long and pointed ears. "What is he doing here? Are there any more?"

"Yes, they often come to v—"

"A fairy!" I squealed, excited.

This time, my eyes landed on someone new. A woman with actual wings coming from her back. They were light and shiny, almost see-through.

"You don't understand!" I told Kylan. "I've never seen one before!"

"Like I said," Kylan tried again. "We've got many outside visitors—"

"Look!"

"A man with...horns?" I tilted my head, still trying to make sense out of it. I wasn't even going to try guessing what he was, but he kind of looked like a goat. "What even is that thing?"

"A Faun."

"Faun?"

"Yes," Kylan muttered with a smile. "I knew you grew up isolated, but I really expected a nerd like you to know what a faun looks like."

I let out a scoff. "Oh, I'm sorry, not all of us grew up with goats in our backyard!"

Kylan laughed and leaned his head back. "This is going to be a long ride ..."



And it was a long ride indeed.

I didn't stop asking questions the entire time, about what to expect, what not to do or say. But mostly about the Lyperians. Who they were, where they came from, and what kind of creatures lived here.

Kylan was nice enough to give me some backstory. He had explained that even though Lyperia was a Lycan kingdom, it was still home to all kinds of creatures. Fae, elves, trolls, so many that if you went far enough, you could even come across some Merfolk. Pretty much everyone was welcome.

Except for vampires.

The king hated those and had forbidden them from entrance, unless they had a valid reason.

"And witches?" I asked carefully. "How do they feel about...witches?"

Well...me.

Kylan smiled warmly and placed his hand on top of mine. "We've actually got a few witches living up in the mountains," he said.

"Do you?" I frowned. "Even though the king hates them?"

Kylan's mouth twitched, like he wasn't quite fond of my words, although they were the truth. If the witches were 'welcome' then why were they living in the mountains?

He slowly pulled his hand back, then focused on Jumper instead, who had fallen asleep on his lap.

Did I say something wrong?



No, I didn't. I was just being realistic.

So far, Lyperia, or its people, didn't look like the dark, terrifying disaster people made it out to be. It was beautiful, the people looked happy, and it felt like I had stepped into another world.

At the same time, I knew that even though I hadn't met these Lyperian 'monsters' yet, many, including Kylan, had warned me about, I would soon meet them.

If the king had enough influence to ban vampires and everyone was just going along with it, just imagine what he would do if I overstepped. Law or not.

"I didn't mean to kill the vibe," I said with a small laugh, nudging Kylan's shoulder a little harder than I meant to.

Jumper, who had been sleeping peacefully on his lap, suddenly woke up with a loud squeak and nearly fell off. I slammed my hand over my mouth, watching Kylan catch her just in time.

"Violet!" he called out, holding her tight against his chest.

The horrified expression on his face made me burst out laughing, and a second later, he started laughing too, although his was a bit more out of embarrassment.

"Your face!" I cackled, leaning my head against his shoulder. "I really hope you'll jump that high for me one day, the way you just did for your little jumpie."

Kylan let out a soft scoff, then pulled my head in closer. "Even higher," he said, pressing a kiss to my temple.



My heart fluttered. I believed him, because lately Kyran had been showing up for me a lot. I didn't know for how long it would last, but it felt nice.

"We're almost there," Kyran muttered.

I lifted my head from his shoulder to look out the window again, and this time I could see it clearly. The Lyperian Palace.

The palace was huge, and as white as snow. It sat on a hill and had four high towers on each side, waving the Lyperian flag from the top.

Guards stood at every wall and gate, and it was clear that this place was made to protect. I strongly doubted anyone could just walk in.

Yet here I was.

And not just as Violet.

But as the one who, aside from everything, had every right to be here as the future queen...



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