

Chapter 195

Violet

I needed to know. Was he like them too?

I couldn't forget that smirk of his, and I had yet to figure out whether it was a good smirk or a bad smirk. If anyone knew about Kayden, it had to be his siblings.

My gaze flicked around until it landed on Cecilia. I knew all too well that the topic of Kayden was even more sensitive than that of the mistresses because it was one Kylan avoided as well. I noticed the uncomfortable shift in her eyes.

It was silent for a moment too long, until Kiora let out a long sigh. "Kayden?" She tapped her finger against the table. "He's a weirdo. A total airhead. Lives in his own world, and so irrelevant we don't even have an opinion on him."

I had expected Cecilia to call out her daughter's name, but there was nothing...

"Why so?" Trinity wondered. "He seemed so nice when he came to visit Starlight."

And those were my thoughts too. Kind, quiet, almost too soft for anything malicious or violent.

Kiora scrunched her nose. "Trust me. He's weird. He looks approachable, but nobody really talks to him, and he doesn't talk to anyone either. Only our daddy cares. It's like he's just...there."

I didn't know what to think. Kayden never struck me as weird, and even if

he was weird, weird didn't always mean bad, right?

"By the way," Kaelis began. "There were some rumors going around from a few of the girls... they said Chrystal tried to kill you. Is that true?"

I nearly choked on my sandwich.

Cecilia gasped. "Kaelis!"

Trinity opened her mouth like she was about to go off, but I quickly reached for her wrist and gave it a squeeze. I didn't even know how to respond to that or if I was allowed to. However, I felt like my silence had spoken for me.

"I guess you told Kylan to let it go, since we all know how crazy he can get. But he didn't do anything, so we weren't sure what to believe." Kiora tilted her head. "If it is true, though, you should've just strangled her first. We all hate her. Especially Morn."

My jaw dropped a little, and even Trinity froze beside me. Cecilia let out a long sigh and turned her head away, like she didn't want anything to do with the conversation. I knew why I hated Chrystal, but why did she?

"Maybe I'll do that next time," I chuckled. Only it wasn't a joke. Assembling a team to give Chrystal the same treatment she had given me sounded like a wonderful plan. The only thing stopping me was her being the least of my problems at the moment.

Trinity smirked. "Great. Count me in."

"Me too," Kaelis said, raising her hand.

"And me," Kiora added.

Kaelis gave me a playful glare, shifting in her seat. "I think we like you, Violet," she decided for everyone else. "But I do think you must've seriously wronged the Moon Goddess in your past life."

"Why?"

Kiora giggled. "Why? Because she gave you Kylan."

"Hey, don't talk about him like that!" I snapped, harder than intended. It wasn't loud, but it was enough to make them flutter their eyes at me. Kaelis raised her brow, Kiora tilted her head, and even Queen Cecilia paused mid-sip.

I really liked his sisters, and I hadn't planned to defend him, not like that, but hearing them speak as if this bond was some kind of punishment didn't sit right with me.

"Kylan's not perfect, but neither am I. He has made mistakes, but I'm sure all of us did as well, and he's trying to make up for it," I stated. "He has never spoken a bad word about any of you, and he cares about his people. About doing what's right. If the Moon Goddess gave me Kylan, it's because she knew I would understand him. That I would see him for who he really is."

Okay, perhaps a bit too deep, but it all came from the bottom of my heart.

The table had gone quiet. I looked down for a second, then back up, at least hoping their faces had changed, but they hadn't. It had become clear to me at that point that no one had ever stuck up for Kylan before.

Cecilia finally spoke, her voice soft.

"Why are you defending him?"

The question shouldn't have surprised me, but it did. A better question should've been why she was not defending him.

"Because I know he carries things he wished he hadn't, but he's trying to do better," I told her. "And he's my mate."

"Mate..." Cecilia whispered. I could only imagine what kind of pain that word brought to her, but it was the truth.

Kaelis leaned back in her chair and gave a small nod, her lips pressed together. Kiora twirled a piece of her hair. "Okay..." she sang. "That's sweet, I guess."

Cecilia squinted her eyes like she was trying to make sense of every word I had said. Then a silence followed.

The uncomfortable silence lasted just a few more seconds. It was ended by the sound of Trinity's phone buzzing on the table.

"I'm sorry!" she spoke, picking it up. A dramatic exhale escaped as she tapped on the screen.

"Is it Dylan?"

Everyone was aware the two couldn't spend even more than an hour apart. "Because if it is, you should go."

Trinity's eyes softened with guilt. "He asked to see me, but—"

"Then you should go!"

"Really?"

"Yes, really," I glanced around the table, making my final decision. The

words felt strange coming out, but I enjoyed sitting with Cecilia. I bopped my head. "I'll be fine!"

"Then I promise I'll find you later?" Trinity spoke with a nod. She pushed herself up from her chair. "Don't do anything crazy."

"When have I ever?"

Except that time I used my eyes in public...

"Can I come?" Kiora's eyes sparkled. Trinity had yet to say a word before the girl had already gotten up and ran toward her, connecting their arms.

Kaelis crossed her arms. "You're coming off as too desperate, Kiora."

Kiora's mouth dropped open. "No I'm not!"

A laugh came from Trinity as she shook her head in disbelief. "I'll just say hi to Dylan and Nate real quick. I won't be long, okay?"

"Yes, we won't be long!" Kiora dragged Trinity with her. She looked back and waved her hand. "Bye!"

As the two began walking, a sudden sound of a loud scrape filled the garden. It was Kaelis, who had scooted her chair back and was suddenly standing. She smoothed down her dress and kept her head held high while clearing her throat.

"I think it's best if I join them...to keep Kiora in check," she said, though it was obvious she had only moved after hearing Nate would be there. It had nothing to do with Kiora.

I bit back a smile. Nate had been popular back at Starlight, so it was no surprise he was getting the same attention here, possibly even more.

"It was really nice to meet you, Violet," Kaelis spoke. She walked at a fast pace and had quickly caught up with Trinity, slipping her arm into hers like they had known each other for years.

"Just give up already. Nate doesn't want you!" Kiora snarled at her sister.

Kaelis replied, but their voices faded as the three of them disappeared down the garden path. And just like that, Kylan's sisters had walked off with my best friend.

A smile appeared on my lips. At Starlight, I would've gotten jealous, but for some reason, the thought of Kylan's sisters getting along with her so well did not bother me. They could've been like Chrystal, but they weren't, and it was a big relief.

"It looks like it's just you and me, little flower."

I swallowed hard through the smile that was still stuck on my face, and slowly turned back to the woman across the table. There were more people at the other tables, but where we sat it was just me and Cecilia and a plate of crispy chicken sandwiches between us.

"I want to sit a bit closer to you," she said softly.

My stomach tightened as I stared down at the half-eaten sandwich on my plate. For some reason, Cecilia felt ten times scarier without her daughters around. Maybe it was the silence. Or the way her attention wasn't split anymore. It was just me and her, and her focus was fully on me.

Of all the seats she could've taken, she chose the one right beside me. Whatever she had to say, it wasn't meant for anyone else. Her eyes stayed on me, calm and unreadable, like she was waiting for the right moment

to speak.

"You know."

Know what?

She gently took my hand into hers.

"About Kyran and Kayden," she said. "I could hear it in the way you spoke about him. You know."



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