

## Chapter 240

Violet

I smiled at him, trying to act casual even though there was a lump in my throat. "Well, that depends," I said. I almost sounded like Kylan for a second—that was his line, not mine. I squinted my eyes at Kayden, tilting my head a little. "What does 'good' mean?"

His eyes flicked to Trinity, and he gave her a curious look. As bold as Kayden usually was, he was probably wondering why he had sent away his maid while I hadn't sent away my 'lady-in-waiting', but Trinity was so much more than that.

She frowned back at him, arms crossed, not even a little bit scared. If anything, her face said go ahead and try me.

I looked back and forth between the two of them before softly clearing my throat. "You can just talk freely," I told him. "I already told her everything there is to know."

For me, that was the first part of drawing a clear line. There would be no secrets between me and Trinity anymore, and I wasn't going to start hiding things with him either. Kayden didn't respond right away. His jaw even tightened as he held Trinity's gaze, but she still didn't look away. Only when he realized he couldn't get to her, he changed his look into a charming smile.

"You have the most beautiful eyes," he told Trinity. "They are full of," he waved his hands in a little swirl. "Fire."

Trinity blinked, visibly caught off guard. "So do you," she simply responded. "There's this danger in your eyes. The kind I've never seen in

anyone."

The way she was direct with him was admirable, but also unexpected. I hated tense moments like this, especially when I was stuck in the middle. Still, I waited for Kayden's answer, curious about how he would respond. Trinity was always the one to say things straight, and this time, she was right. There really was something about that look in Kayden's eyes...

Would he deny it?

Or would confront me, and ask why I told her about 'our' secret?

What was he going to do?

He did something I didn't expect. He let out a deep breath and sank into his chair.

"These are the kind of friends you want, Lettie," he said, like I needed his stamp of approval. "This one's loyal. If she's ready to kill Chrystal for you, she gets an A+ from me."

Trinity and I frowned at each other. We didn't have to say a word as we were clearly thinking the same thing.

"I was on my way to the library tower," Kayden said. "Maybe you can walk with me and tell me your news on the way?" He glanced at Trinity and me. "What do you say?"

Trinity and I exchanged a look for the second time. She gave me a small nod. I knew that, like Kylan, she didn't want me around Kayden. But I could also tell that after spending a little time with him, she was curious too, and possibly wondering what was going on inside that head of his.

"We'll come," I said.



Kayden barely had time to react before Trinity was already behind him. Her hands were firm on the handles of his chair, and it was clear she had no plans to let go. This was just one of her ways of looking out for me.

She knew he would've asked me to do it. So she did it instead.

Kayden looked surprised. He shifted a bit, turning just enough to see her. I felt my cheeks warm up as I silently begged the moon for her not to say anything too bold.

"What's in the library?" Trinity asked as she started pushing him down the hall.

Kayden let out a breath and stared straight ahead. "Books," he said flatly.

A laugh slipped out before I could stop it. I quickly covered my mouth with my hands. It was so clear he was annoyed that she ended up being the one pushing him instead of me.

"I know there are books in the library," Trinity said. "But what kind of books?"

"Rectangular books." 2

She was curious, and I could tell she was trying to figure him out. After everything I had told her, maybe she was looking for something good in him—or maybe something to confirm the bad. Either way, I knew she would tell me later.

"What's in these rectangular books—"

"Your friend asks a lot of questions, Violet!" Kayden snapped, the charm in his voice slipping for just a second. "But I don't mind questions!" he quickly recovered himself.



I bit my lip to keep from smiling. So all it took for him to stop calling me Lettie was asking the kind of questions that made him freeze up. Kayden was always the one in control of the conversation. Every question I had asked him so far had been one he had allowed me to ask. But now, the moment Trinity asked even a small one, it became a problem.

He was mysterious, and private. "She does," I said with a small shrug. "But they're good questions."

Kayden glanced back at me. "I suppose," he said, his lips pulling into a lazy grin. "Elevator's to the left."

Trinity gave him a push in the right direction, and we stopped in front of a door I hadn't even noticed before. Kayden leaned forward to press the button while Trinity and I exchanged a look.

She wrinkled her nose in disgust and flicked her eyes toward him. I had to hold back a laugh. 'Creep,' she mouthed.

There was a soft sound from the elevator, and just before the doors opened, Trinity tilted her head so he could see her. "Are you going to get out of that chair and kill us now?" she asked, calm as ever. "Tell me, can you walk?"

Kayden burst out laughing, the sound loud and clear. He looked back at us, and his eyes lit up with joy. "You're a funny one!" he said with a grin. "The more you talk, the more I start to like you."

"You're both way too beautiful to kill. That would be a real shame. A loss for the world, honestly." He laughed again, shaking his head. "And no, I can't walk. I would never lie about something like that."

Trinity rolled her eyes and let out a scoff, but I saw the tiny smirk pulling



at the corner of her mouth. He continued to laugh even as we stepped into the small elevator, which looked older than the rest of the palace. It looked so old, I started to wonder if we might get stuck halfway up.

Or worse, maybe this ancient looking elevator would fail, the cables would snap and we would die. And if that were to happen, I wasn't going to let it be in vain.

So I looked at him through the mirror, met his eyes in the reflection, and just let it fall out before I could overthink it. "Kylan will address your issue with the council later," I said, my voice steady. "And we're all going up tomorrow."

Kayden's smile disappeared. I could feel the tension filling the small space. I hadn't even said much yet, but something was already getting to him. He fluttered his eyelids. "Who is all?"



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