

Chapter 242

Violet

As soon as the door slammed shut behind us, we were back in the cramped space of the tower. For some reason, I felt lighter...better. Maybe it was because I had done what I came here to do, or maybe because it went better than I expected.

Speaking up had always been a hard thing for me, but if I was capable of doing this, drawing a line with Kayden, then that meant I could also speak to the council. I believed I could do it.

"This button is pissing me off!" Trinity snapped, tapping the elevator button repeatedly. She released a loud groan as the doors finally opened, and as soon as we stepped in, I barely waited for them to close before asking the question that had been on my mind.

"And?"

Trinity lifted a brow. "And?"

"Your opinion on him," I pressed. "Kayden."

Trinity hummed, thinking about her next words. "My opinion," she began, "is that deep down, he seems like a very sweet guy. A little lonely. Like he just wants someone to talk to."

That...surprised me.

Because I was so convinced she didn't like him at all.

"But," she continued, eyes hardening just a little, "considering what you've told me, and from what I can see with my very own eyes, he also



seems very unstable," she said. "And after all of this is said and done, I think it would be best for you to make neither an enemy nor a friend of him, unless he makes you an enemy. That's my opinion."

I nodded slowly, taking her words. She wasn't wrong because I felt the same way. I didn't want to start anything with Kayden, but at the same time I kept in mind that he could be planning something sketchy, and if he did, I would have no choice but to stop him.

"What kind of books were in there, anyway?" I asked, curiously.

Trinity flashed a toothy grin. "Just like he said." She lifted her shoulders. "Rectangular, boring books."

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After the talk with Kayden, we headed to the garden for breakfast with Lian and Sora. Since we didn't have anything better to do, Sora somehow convinced us to try embroidery. So now we were all sitting around the table, stitching in silence.

Trinity hated it, and Lian wasn't a fan either. But I actually loved it. It reminded me of home. I needed something, anything, to calm my mind.

I wasn't too nervous, but my thoughts kept drifting back to the council meeting. I hadn't written anything down. I didn't even know what to say or who would be there. I didn't know how they'd look at me. I was sure I would stutter, but at least it would come from the heart.

Every few seconds, my eyes would flick to the big clock in front of me. I just kept counting the minutes until someone came to get me, like Kylan said they would.

"You're pulling the thread too tight," Sora said gently. She leaned over

Lian and guided her hand. Lian blushed, probably embarrassed she couldn't get it right. "It'll mess up the fabric. Look...like this."

"I am doing it like that," Lian muttered. Her eyebrows were pulled together so tightly she looked more angry than focused. "This is stupid."

"I agree," Trinity mumbled. She dropped her embroidery and walked over to a bean bag in the corner. "If I wanted to stab something over and over," she said as she flopped down, "I would rather it be a person, and I already have a list!"

The room filled with laughter, but Trinity's tone made it clear she wasn't entirely joking.

"Remind me not to get on your bad side," Lian commented, nervously smiling in Trinity's direction.

"Don't worry," Trinity pouted. "You're safe...for now."

"Well, I love embroidery!" I said, turning to Sora with a proud expression. I held up the sunflower I had just finished stitching. "I used to do it back home all the time. It looks great, don't you think?"

Sora beamed, clapping her hands full of excitement. "It's beautiful!"

"It actually is," Trinity groaned through her smile. "Is there something you're not good at?"

I arched a brow, trying to figure out if Trinity was actually serious. "Working out? Shifting? Public speeches?"

But even as I joked, the truth wasn't too far off, and there was so much more to add to the list.



Being honest? I wasn't very good at that either, not even with the one person who mattered the most.

Trinity looked at me with a sour expression. "I almost forgot about that one," she said. "Your speech at the council?"

Before I could doubt every life choice again, Sora reached over with a soft smile. "I don't know what this speech is about," she spoke softly,

"since you won't tell us, but whatever it is, we will be there for you tomorrow, help you with anything you need, and we'll be praying to the moon for your luck.

My heart swelled at her kind words. "Thanks," I whispered back. The more time I spent with Lian and Sora, both of them, the more I realized how wrong I had been in assuming the worst.

They weren't Lady Mona's weapons, or monsters. They were just two kindhearted girls who had received the unfortunate task of becoming my ladies-in-waiting.

I didn't tell them much because I was cautious, I was always cautious — but they seemed to be okay for now.

As Sora focused on Lian and her embroidery again, I found myself glancing at the clock over and over. Even though a lump formed in my throat with each passing minute, I was still not nervous.

That was until a loud knock could be heard on the door, and a second later, it opened. I jumped up as if my name was already being called, even before I knew who it was. But when I saw Nate standing there, I didn't need any other confirmation anymore.

He had come to pick me up.



Of course Kylan would send him. He was always a great support, and if anyone had to take me to that meeting, I was glad it was someone who would walk me there like a friend.

I opened my mouth to greet him, but then I looked into his eyes. I scanned his gaze and let out a tiny breath, noticing he had thankfully left the Lunaris aside for today. His eyes were awake, alive, and kind.

"Nate!" Sora brightened as she looked up at him. "Good to see you!"

He gave her a small nod and a polite smile before giving Trinity the same nod as well. Then he turned his attention back to me.

He squeezed his eyes together for a moment. "I've been asked by Kylan to take you to the council meeting," he said. "He told me to ask no further questions, and I don't know if I'm being pranked...but something about a speech?"

A loud groan came from my mouth, and then I slammed my face against my palm. "Yes, please don't ask any questions."

Nate chuckled, but I could see the amusement in his eyes. "Alright," he said, holding up his hands in surrender. "No questions."

I made my way over to him, almost dragging my feet across the room, and gave a quick glance over my shoulder. Lian was too focused on her work, but Sora's eyes were kind and encouraging.

As I turned again, Trinity had already gotten up from her beanbag and walked over to stand in front of me. "You'll be fine," she placed both hands on my shoulders, giving them a firm squeeze. "And if anyone gives you trouble in there, all you have to do is run out of that door, and we'll come back to take care of them together."



I laughed at her promise. "Thanks," I murmured. "But hopefully it won't come to that."

Trinity released her hands from my shoulders. "I know it won't, but if it does, I'm here." She gave me a small push. "You can do this, Violet!"

I'll be just fine...

I have to be...

I closed my eyes and breathed in deeply, then out. When I opened them, I found Nate waiting patiently, a calm and kind smile plastered across his face like he had all the time in the world.

"I'm ready," I said. "Let's go."



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