

## Chapter 245

Violet

I found myself standing in the chamber room again, right on the exact spot where I had stood earlier, speaking to the council. The votes were in now, and I was just about to hear the results.

Though, I already had a good feeling that all went well. It wasn't that hard to guess.

King Elyx sat in his seat with his jaw clenched, glaring at me with that same cold look that never quite seemed to leave his face. Kylan, on the other hand, looked far too pleased. His expression was still as calm as it had been when I left the chamber, like he had expected this outcome all along.

He looked at me with steady, reassuring eyes as I took a breath and waited.

"Violet," Beta Jack stepped forward from beside the king's chair. He cleared his throat and straightened the paper in his hands. "The council has listened to your request," he said, "and agreed to approve your proposal for aid."

I sighed slowly, feeling the tension leave my shoulders.

"We will spread the word at court, gather medicine, food, and supplies as discussed, and at six in the morning, a group will depart for the mountains with the first round of assistance," Jack announced. "Your speech was very inspiring, and the council members would also like to talk more while you're here, to figure out our next steps and work on a Lyperia we can all be proud of. This is just the beginning."

My lips curled into a smile. "Thank you."

I hadn't expected it to be so easy, yet it was. Those words Lumia just told me were meant for them.

The Lyperians were capable, just lazy. Maybe if Kayden had been honest from the start and not so sketchy and mysterious, this problem of his could've been handled a long time ago. But for some reason, that thought made him that much more suspicious.

Because why didn't he?

King Flyx rose from his seat with a loud scoff. "That concludes today's council!" he announced coldly. He began walking with Jack following behind him, and his eyes didn't leave mine for a second.

There was a kind of darkness in them that I had never seen in him before, not even through Adelaide's eyes.

Lumia laughed wickedly. 'He wants to kill you,' she purred within. "But if you let me take over, I'll fix it for you. I'll make it quick."

My chest rose, and I held my breath, but my eyes refused to leave Elyx's. 'You have so much anger inside you!' Lumia squealed with excitement. 'It's amazing!'

There was this strange excitement in her tone which terrified me. It was just like she was waiting for me to snap, or maybe trying to make me do just that, and as much as I loved hearing from her again, I also knew what she wanted, but it was not time. Not yet.

I gritted my teeth for a moment and shoved her deeper inside me, trying to lock her out.

Not now, Lumia.

I held my gaze on Elyx as he did mine, all the way to the door and until he left.

He could glare all he wanted, throw a tantrum, want me dead, but that would not change the outcome of what had just happened.

For today, I had won.

As soon as the king left, all the council members stood up and began to move.

I looked around the room and couldn't help but smile when I saw Kylan. He was grinning at me. I raised my eyebrows at him, and he gave a quiet laugh as he stood up.

As the elders walked past, some nodded politely and others gave small smiles. I tried to do the same, but most of my attention was on Kylan as he walked toward me.

My heart fluttered as he came closer, and the moment he was near enough, I reached out and wrapped my arms around him. I had done it so many times before, but the feeling of being tucked into his warm chest never let me down.

He held me tightly around the waist, then pulled back just enough to see my face. A second later, his lips found mine. My fingers gripped the back of his shirt as I kissed him back, not caring who might be watching.

Although the feeling felt too familiar by now, the way he held me close, moved his mouth against mine, still left me weak in the knees.

My breath caught against his mouth as we pulled apart. "Did you rig the

votes?" I asked before I could stop myself.

Kylan shook his head with a fake offended glance, and I immediately regretted my choice of words. "I did not," he stated.

After everything that had happened between him and Kayden, it seemed unlikely he would ever resort to something like that.

"Congratulations," he said, squeezing my waist. "You got what you wanted."

I let my forehead rest against his. "Yes," I whispered. "I got what I wanted."

He pulled back, a smirk tugging at one corner of his lips. "You did so well," he said, brushing a hand over my cheek. "And I'm so proud of you. I knew you could do it."

I beamed at him, my heart feeling full.

I'm so proud of you...

After the disappointment I had caused him yesterday, hearing those words meant more than anyone could imagine. Even if it didn't always seem like it, all I ever wanted was to make people proud. To make him proud.

"It's because of you, Kylan."

"No," he shook his head, smiling softly. His gaze dropped down to me like I was the only thing worth looking at. "It wasn't me speaking, Violet. That was all you."

I didn't know what to say. I didn't feel the need to say anything because

he would never understand that it was, in fact, his reassuring smile that gave me all the strength I needed. So I just held onto him, living in the moment.

"But," he leaned closer, brushing his lips against my ear, "you didn't mention anything about Kayden. Why?"

I lifted my brows, pushing back his shoulders to see his face. A crease formed between his brows, and he looked confused, even a little concerned. "Did he say something—"

"No," I covered it with a smile. "I'm not going to lie, I did talk to him."

Kylan's eyes widened.

"But Trinity was there, and it wasn't anything bad, so you do not need to worry," I told him. Yesterday, I would've lied. One hundred percent. But I knew where I went wrong, and I knew that if I wanted to make this work, I could not hurt him anymore. Lie to him anymore.

Kylan relaxed, nodding his head.

"I figured..." I said softly, brushing my thumb against the edge of his jaw, "you said you would deal with him. So I'll let you deal with him."

Kylan looked at me for a long second before he shrugged with a slight smile. "Thank you, Violet."

Despite the sight of King Elyx being enough to ruin my whole day, I was just so happy. My heart felt full, and I was still floating in the aftermath of everything.

Kylan, the witches finally getting the help they deserved, and the fact that I had stood in front of the Lyperian council without fainting or

forgetting my name...it all felt unreal. I hadn't felt this way in a long time, but for once, I felt proud.

I knew it was only the beginning, the bare minimum even, but it reminded me that maybe I was stronger than I thought. Maybe I could really do this. Become a worthy queen and stand by Kylan's side.

"What are you smiling for?"

I looked up at Kylan with a smirk. Before I could answer, I heard a loud, dramatic throat clear beside us.

I turned my head just as Nate stepped between us. "Vivi!" he said cheerfully. "Come here!"

He gave Kylan a light shove, just enough to make him stumble, then wrapped me into one of his familiar, tight, and friendly hugs. A squeal came from my lips as he ruffled my hair a bit too roughly.

Still, I couldn't help but laugh. "So, what do you say about joining the student council and fighting for the Starlighters?" he asked, his hands on my shoulders.

Kylan let out a laugh behind him, followed by a slight shake of his head. I already knew what he was thinking. One step at a time.

I blinked. "What?"

He grinned. "I'm serious. You've got the whole speech thing down, people actually listen to you, and—"

I laughed awkwardly, cutting him off with a look. "Okay, let's not get carried away now."

Nate tilted his head. "I'm serious, Vivi," he said. "You have an unexpected talent for public speaking, especially when you brought up the whole Baelor thing, and it should not go to waste."

"Oh, really?" I brushed a strand of hair behind my ear. The Baelor thing wasn't even planned, but I had to come up with something on the spot, so I did. Thankfully, it worked out.

Nate tapped his chin as he fell into deep thought. "There's only one thing I couldn't understand."

I hummed. "Yes?"

He looked back at me, his expression turning serious. "I just can't understand why you're so invested in saving those witches."



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