

Chapter 280

Violet

A glimpse into our futures...

That's what Varius had promised.

What was that man thinking?

Maybe I was starting to become like Kylan, but the only thing I wanted to do was stand up and yell at everyone.

'No, don't do it! Don't ask him. Don't let him tell you. It would only drive you insane.'

After all the prophecies, I could finally understand why Adelaide had originally turned it off. It must have driven her insane, the way it was driving her right now inside that Veil.

Sometimes it was indeed just better not to know things. Especially if the message wasn't any good.

My eyes traveled to Thorne. If the glimpse into the future were to come from him, I didn't want to hear it at all. His pearl-like eyes were fixed on mine, and it felt like he was staring right through me.

The raven still looked so familiar, but I just couldn't put my finger on it. Knowing what I knew, I was supposed to scream in fear at the sight of that thing, but for some reason, I didn't.

For some reason, all my innocent mind could only wonder was what kind of harm a raven could do. Kylan seemed to be thinking otherwise. He suddenly began shifting on the log, looking around him. His eyes were



worried as they found mine. "Where is Jump—"

Before he could finish, Jumpie appeared from behind the log and climbed her way up to Kylan's leg. She had been doing her own thing for a while, but the second Thorne appeared, she was back to clinging to Kylan again.

Sora, who had promised Varius a marshmallow, made her way over to him with two sticks. She blew gently on one and held it out with a proud grin. "Here you go!"

Varius smiled as he accepted. "Thank you."

"You're welcome," Sora sang. She pointed the second stick at Kayden. "For you, Your Highness," she offered.

Crazily enough, Kayden seemed moved by her gesture. His eyes widened in surprise, like he hadn't expected anyone to actually give a damn, let alone address him as Your Highness. He slowly reached out and took it. "Thank you."

Varius hummed as the marshmallow melted in his mouth. Then he studied it in his hand. "Is this what you children have been eating inside the palace...marshmallows?"

I couldn't help but chuckle at the way he said it, like the word itself was strange. He had most likely been alive for longer than I could imagine, but he didn't know a simple thing like a marshmallow.

Nate laughed softly. "I'm pretty sure you can also get them outside of the palace."

"I see," Varius mumbled, genuinely interested. He softly snapped his fingers to one of the witches. "Bring these children some water—"



"That won't be necessary," Dylan cut in quickly. "We brought our own."

I hid the smile threatening to break through. That was exactly the kind of thing Kylan would've said, and if Dylan wouldn't, then he surely would.

Kayden made a noise in his throat and rolled his eyes.

"What?" Dylan spat.

His tone made Kayden roll his eyes once more. "It's the water we've brought them, stupid," Kayden said. "He's not going to poison you."

Dylan went quiet, but the look in his eyes was cold. It was the word stupid that had triggered something inside of him. He was holding back because it was Kayden, which to him would not be a fair fight, but had it been anyone else...

"Wait," Trinity suddenly spoke up, sitting straighter. "Who are you calling stupid?"

Kayden mumbled something under his breath. I knew he wouldn't challenge Trinity because in his own crazy way, I guess he sort of respected her.

Still, at this rate, anyone could end up dead.

Varius laughed lightly at the situation and waved his hand for the witches to continue with the water. "If I wanted to hurt anyone around this circle, Dylan Hastings, you would be at the very bottom of my list."

He chuckled at his own words, then looked at the fire before letting his gaze sweep over the group. "Which brings me to your futures..." he said. "Who wants to go first?"



There was an absolute silence that followed. Even Sora, who was normally the first to say something, kept her mouth shut.

I suppose it wasn't just me who didn't want to know their time of death.

"Well?" Varius pressed.

Still nothing...

The only sound was the fire crackling in the middle of us.

"How about you?" Kylan said suddenly, looking in Kayden's direction. His chin lifted slightly, but his eyes weren't on his brother. They were on Camille.

But the girl didn't notice because her head was lowered as always.

"Camille," Kylan called out this time, his voice loud and clear.

Her head snapped up so fast I thought her neck might crack. "Yes, Your Highness!"

It was the first time I was able to really look at her. She had long, dark hair framing her face, and bright eyes that could probably light up the sky, though I couldn't see it.

She looked small and unsure, like speaking in front of people was hard for her.

How had she become one of the king's people?

Kayden grinned, tilting his head. "I see you bothered to remember her name this time," he commented. It was probably the first thing he had said to Kylan since their fight in the cavern.



"Yes," Kylan's eyes locked onto his. "And I will never forget it again."

The two brothers stared each other down, hatred burning in their eyes. Everyone seemed to be waiting for one of them to make a move. In the end, it was Kylan who spoke first. "So, is she allowed to join us, or are you still keeping her to yourself?"

Kayden let out a slow breath. "The crown prince wants you to sit," he said, still looking at Kylan. "So you can sit with them, Camille."

"But I—" she started.

"Sit!"

Kayden's voice was rough and left no room for argument. Camille didn't hesitate again and quickly moved until she had reached the log beside Nate.

Kylan chuckled before turning back to Varius.

"You can start now."

Kayden's expression was confused, but it wasn't only him. I couldn't understand why Kylan had dragged Camille into this. I guessed that he couldn't stand the thought of her fooling everyone. It felt less about humiliating Kayden and more about that.

Varius ate the last bite of his marshmallow, then lifted his hand to pat Thorne. The raven blinked as Varius's face shifted into focus. Varius closed his eyes. It went quiet again, and then he opened them.

They were white, and glowing...

I glanced around the fire as I couldn't help but want to see everyone's



reaction to Varius's eyes. My eyes.

It was so easy to forget what I was or what I was even doing here, but it was moments like these that made me remember my position. Those glowing eyes? It wasn't natural.

And as I took in everyone's faces, they all looked drained. Sora stared at him with wide eyes, Lian froze, Nate paled, Dylan and Trinity looked away ...

I felt a lump in my throat. Dylan and Trinity already knew what my eyes could do, but what if they ever saw them? Would their faces twist with the same horror?

Varius released a low chuckle, and then his eyes dimmed back to normal. "I have seen enough," he announced.

It had only lasted seconds, but that was all it took him. Although he couldn't heal the witches, he was still very powerful. Would I be like that someday?

Varius turned to Camille, and he gave her a small nod.

"What did you see?" Kylan asked in a hurry.

Camille looked like she wanted to sink into the log. She shook her head quickly, as if she didn't even want to hear it, but it was already too late. Varius had already taken a breath.

"A cold is coming for you," Varius whispered. "And it's a cold you will want to cover your neck for."

I waited for more, but that was all he said. Even Camille blinked her eyes in surprise.



That was it?

"That's it?" Kyran furrowed.

"That's it," Varius said calmly.

Camille immediately tried to get up, but Kyran stopped her. "Sit!"

She dropped back down fast and clenched her hands in her lap. What was Kyran's problem?

His eyes narrowed on her. "From my understanding, we're all sharing our secrets later," he said. "And I want to hear everyone's secret."

Was he testing her?

Varius shifted his eyes to Nate this time. Nate also shook his head, even with the gentlest smile on his lips. "I don't—"

"The hand you refuse," Varius interrupted, raising his voice, "shall be the hand you must take."

Nate also fluttered his eyes like he had expected worse. The things Varius was saying weren't that bad...

This time his eyes locked onto Dylan.

Dylan seemed less nervous than the others. He looked Varius straight in the eyes, ready for what was coming.

"The shield will not block every arrow," Varius delivered. "You will throw yourself in front of it."

I looked at my brother, who could only shrug at his words like none of it mattered to him. Maybe he truly didn't care, perhaps didn't believe in

these kinds of things, but if it was the latter, it was time for him to seriously open his eyes because these prophecies were not nothing.

Kylan was next.

Varius's gaze settled on him, and he tilted his head. I watched as his expression changed multiple times, and he released a few breaths. Kylan didn't flinch. Just like Dylan, he was waiting for whatever.

Thorne made a soft sound, and Varius released a chuckle. "Brace."

My brows creased. Brace? That was all? That was strange, too simple. What was he really saying?

Then his eyes landed on me. My heart stopped beating for a second as I wondered what he would say about me.

Varius inhaled deeply. "Brace."

Again?

"For what?" I whispered, my voice hoarse. I was sure Varius must've heard, but he wasn't looking at me anymore. He looked at Trinity.

"They overlook you, but it will be your hands that shift the stones others believe cannot move."

Varius didn't even bother waiting for a reaction anymore, just moved to the next one like he was reading through a book. He focused on Lian.

"You will not be the loudest voice, but yours will be the one that steadies the storm...and a new journey is about to begin." His mouth curled with a small hint of amusement. "How exciting!"



Next was Sora. "Your gentle heart shall be treasured by the one who has been quietly guarding it all along. And a new journey awaits you as well."

Sora gasped so loudly that half the circle jumped. "Lian, do you hear that!" She tapped her shoulder. "Do you think it could be that guard from earlier?"

She kept rambling, but I was already gone from her excitement, because Varius's eyes had shifted again, and this time it was his turn.

Kayden...

Something about it was different.

Varius didn't rush this time. He had made it very obvious that he had rushed through everyone because he couldn't wait to get to him. Varius pierced his eyes through Kayden, who held his gaze.

Kayden's lips curled into a smirk as he leaned back in his chair, but I could still see it. The nerves behind his eyes.

It didn't take long before the smirk dropped. "What is it?" he asked, his voice cold.

When Varius didn't answer, his tone only grew harsher. "What did you see?"

Varius took the longest breath I had ever seen. His hand lifted, fingers brushing over Thorne's beak before he squeezed it. He was trying to keep the raven quiet.

"You shall lift from the ground," Varius began, "but the earth shall not answer. You shall lead armies that march only in your mind, and you are bound to lo—"



Varius had barely finished before a sharp cry rang out. Thorne suddenly snapped his beak down hard on Varius's finger, and he groaned out in pain, clutching his hand as Thorne's wings flapped wildly.

Kylan and I turned to each other at the same time, both in shock.

Whatever Varius was about to say, Thorne didn't let him finish.

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