

## Chapter 29

Violet

“What about him?” Trinity nudged me, pointing to some guys as we walked through the halls, to our next class. “He looks nice.”

I shook my head, biting back a laugh. “Nope.”

It had been four days.

Four days since I had last seen Kylan, and four days since I told her I wanted my first time to be with Nate, and she had flat-out called me crazy. Even after I explained what had happened with Kylan, she was convinced that provoking him, especially by going after his best friend, was asking for trouble. She’d said it wasn’t just him I’d be messing with—it was the beast inside him and Lumia, my own wolf, too.

Since then, she’d been pointing out guy after guy, hoping I’d change my mind. But my mind was already set.

Kylan had hurt me, and now I wanted to hurt him.

If he thought he could control me, like I was just some toy to mess with, pushing my buttons because of the mate bond—he was dead wrong. That clingy virgin speech he gave, like he held some power over me? I was going to take that away from him.

But it wasn’t just about him. Sure, he’d pushed me over the edge, but this was also about me.

It was about time anyway.

“It’s not that I don’t agree with what you’re doing,” Trinity said with a thoughtful look. “Because I would’ve done the same—but I don’t think it should be Nate.”

I sighed, shaking my head. “I want it to be with someone I trust, and I trust Nate. He’s normal enough.”

Trinity lifted her brow. “What does normal even mean?”

“Hmm,” I glanced at the guy walking past us, wearing way too much cologne as he strutted like he owned the place. “Not that guy.”

We both burst into laughter.

“Well, Nate isn’t exactly a sweetheart either,” Trinity tried making another point. “All the girls know he’s not that different from Kylan. He sleeps around with anyone willing to throw themselves at him.”

“Perfect!” I pursed my lips. “That means he’s experienced, and I won’t have to tell him which hole to stick it in!”

Trinity chuckled, giving me a playful smack on the back of my head. “Man, you’re annoying.”

To my dismay, we had all our classes together today, which meant five hours of Trinity trying to change my mind. She just wasn’t getting it.

Even as we made our way to the cafeteria during our break, she kept pointing out random guys, suggesting them as possibilities, and I kept shaking my head. It was getting exhausting.

“You’re not going to give up, are you?” I sighed as we sat down.

Trinity hit her head against the table dramatically. “Just trying to save you from making a huge mistake here!”

“Trin, this conversation is making me tired,” I groaned. “Can we please talk about something else? Like...you and Dylan?”

That did the trick. Her eyes lit up instantly, and I could already tell she was about to go on a whole rant about him. Dylan’s name was the one thing that could get her off my back because she could talk about him all day.

“Oh, we’re good,” she beamed. “We’ve been talking about our future and everything. He wants to take me back to the village during our breaks so I can get to know everybody—and we’ll figure out the rest after I graduate.”

“I’m jealous,” I grew a smile on my lips. “Do you realize we’ll be living in the same village after we graduate, and that you’ll be my Luna?”

“We?” Trinity scrunched her nose. “Not we, because you’ll be living in the palace as the queen of Lupyria.”

I scrunched up my nose as well. “Oh please, I’d rather live in a cave with a pack of rogues than step a foot in that kingdom.”

Trinity laughed. “A cave with rogues? You? I give you three hours before you’ll be begging for Wi-Fi and a hot shower.”

Just as I was about to respond, someone walked by and ruffled my hair. I didn’t even need to look to know who it was—only one person did that.

Nate.

“Hey, beautiful,” he greeted, flashing a quick smile as he walked away. He glanced back over his shoulder with a smirk.

Trinity gave me a look that practically screamed, Don’t do it, but I was already set on my decision.

“Should I just ask him now?” I whispered

Nate was popular among students—rarely ever alone, but today he sat down at a table by himself. If I didn’t ask him now, when would I?

I had already thought about texting him before, but that would’ve been even more awkward than asking him face-to-face.

Trinity shook her head. “You really need to think this through. It’s Nate we’re talking about—Chrystal’s brother?”

“I’m sure Chrystal would be thrilled to know I went after her brother instead of Kylan,” I rolled my eyes.

“Does he even know Kylan’s your mate?”

“Of course not,” I said, shaking my head. “Kylan’s embarrassed of me. He made that pretty clear.”

“Right...”

Both of us glanced at Nate. His legs were stretched, and he leaned back in his chair while holding his phone in his hand. Even then, he still carried that nice, and welcoming smile on his face.

Before I could stop myself, I slammed my hands on the table and stood up, determined. “I’m just going to go up there, and if he says no, I’ll tell him I was joking.”

Trinity huffed. “I still think you’re crazy.”

“But you know what? Be crazy,” she stood up too. “In the meantime, I’m going to find Dylan. See you in class later?”

I nodded, feeling an uncomfortable feeling in my stomach as I watched her walk away.

It was just me, Nate, and the half-empty cafeteria. Now there was no excuse left.

This had to be a sign from the Moon Goddess.

Or maybe not. I doubted she would one me to sleep around with my mate’s best friend.

Was I going to hell for this? Maybe.

Would it be worth it? Probably.

I shook off my thoughts and began walking towards him. He instantly glanced up, his eyes meeting mine.

“Vivi,” he lifted his hand, gesturing for me to come over.

I sat down on the empty spot across the table, and matched his smile. “Nate, hey!”

“What’s up?” he asked. “You look nervous.”

“Nervous?” I bit my lip. “Me?”

Nate grinned, putting down his phone. “Yes, you,” he spoke. “What is it?”

He eyed me suspiciously as he grabbed his bottle from the table, twisting off the cap.

Somehow, I had convinced myself that I could just come up here and casually ask him to take my virginity. But now that I was sitting in front of him, it sounded much easier and way less stupid in my head.

I was still going to do it, but I couldn’t just bring it up.

Not yet.

I exhaled, scooting my chair closer to the table.

“So, how are things with you? Everything good?”

“I’m fine!” Nate tilted his head, squinting his eyes. “Why? Do I seem off or something?”

“No, not at all,” I responded. “I just...I guess I’m just checking up on you with you missing the team dinner and that thing you said in the woods?”