

Chapter 314

Violet

One minute I had been spending the whole day locked away in Madam Renata's room, and the next Kylan had suddenly dragged me down the hall.

His grip was firm, and our fingers tangled as he walked with a purpose. I stared down at his hands, still trying to figure out what was going on. We were obviously headed somewhere, and wherever that was, he seemed serious about it.

"Where are we going?" I asked after a while.

"Library," Kylan responded. "We need to find out more about the box so we'll know what to do at midnight."

I blinked up at him, surprised. This wasn't the same Kylan I had been dealing with these past few days. The one who had been quiet, distant... not fully present. Something had changed from this morning, and he had a focus I hadn't seen in a while.

I couldn't help but wonder what it might've been.

"How did it go this morning?" he asked suddenly.

"With...Nate?" I whispered his name. I watched Kylan's expression slowly, worried I would somehow ruin whatever peace he had found.

"No," he shook his head. "With you."

I smiled a little. "I'm good, actually."

"Good," he said simply. "I gave back the necklace."

His tone was calm. I gave him a hum, unsure of what to say. Part of me wanted to ask how that went, if the King had said something cruel or provoking again.

But then there was just something about the way Kylan said it that made me think there was no need to ask.

We first stopped by our room to retrieve the box, still hidden away in the woven bag. Then Kylan led me to a library I had never seen before. It wasn't like the one in the East Wing, but bigger. Much bigger.

As we fully stepped inside, my breath caught. The shelves stretched higher than at Starlight, and there were too many ladders to count. I just stood there like an idiot, turning in slow circles, trying to take it all in.

"Wow," I whispered. It almost felt like heaven.

"This library is only open to the queen and her children," Kylan explained. "The queen barely comes here, but my late grandmother was into...ancient stuff, so it holds some of the oldest texts in Lyperia."

"Like?"

Kylan turned to me. "Books even the other kingdom doesn't have access to."

By that, I figured he meant books about witches, curses, and other mysterious things. I looked around again, my curiosity growing. "And you think we'll actually find something about the box here?"

He shrugged lightly, his eyes already scanning the endless rows of shelves as we walked further. "I'm not sure," he admitted. "But I don't

like to act without knowing what exactly we're messing with, so it's worth a try."

There was just something steady in not only his voice, but his gaze as well which made me want to follow him. "You're right."

Kylan shot me a reassuring smile, then placed his hand behind my back and led me toward a long spiral staircase that led down to a lower floor. I clutched the bag around my shoulder, to my chest, fearing the box might fall if I didn't.

The deeper we went, the older everything looked. "When Varius gave you the box," Kylan began as we reached the bottom, "he told you that if you ever crossed paths again, he wanted it to happen in a way that wouldn't be invasive for you."

I frowned a little, trying to remember Varius's exact words. "He did say that, didn't he?"

He nodded. "And after what you told me about the memory you saw, I've been thinking," he continued, dragging his fingers across a shelf. "What if you've traveled to the past? What if you were there for a reason because you either need to see or hear something important that has to do with the Veil?"

I bit my lip, uncertain. "I don't know," I murmured. "It didn't seem like Dad or Dylan could even see me."

"But what if he did?" Kylan said, pulling a few thick books from a shelf. He dropped them into my arms without warning, and I let out a small groan as I tried to hold them.

"What if your dad was smart enough to know not to look a ghost in the

eyes?"

"Ghost?" I repeated, raising a brow.

He looked at me with a faint smile. "Yes. That's what he might've seen you as, and that might also be the reason why he pretended not to have seen you."

I tried to make sense of Kylan's words, and strangely enough, I could. All of it inside that box just felt so real. I could even hear the sounds of my own breathing. I was also not ashamed to admit that that would be one of the greatest gifts...

Being able to communicate with mom and dad... I could only imagine.

Kylan picked up another small stack of books and motioned for me to follow him to the table. We sat across from each other, all the books he had found between us. He wasted no time flipping through the first one, but I couldn't help but smile at him.

Something about this moment reminded me of Starlight and the time we spent searching through dusty pages, trying to piece together who I was and where I came from.

My smile faded as my mind went to Kayden. He seemed to be spending quite some time in the library as well, and it made me wonder about what he had been reading.

What were his intentions?

"You're sharper than you were this morning," I spoke with a breath, still watching him flip through the book. Kylan chuckled under his breath, but didn't look up, he just kept going.

I leaned forward a little, resting my chin on my hand. "So...what did the King say when you gave back the necklace?" I ended up asking.

It wasn't even that I cared because I really didn't, but it just felt nice to talk to him.

"There wasn't much to say," he replied, his eyes still scanning the text. "I gave it back, and he had no choice but to accept it."

I let out a small scoff that turned into a laugh. My gaze drifted down to my bare hand. I had been doing better without it, yet I hated that it was gone. The reason I hated it the most was because of where it came from. From him...

And yes, the Lyperian stone was healing now, which meant I could eventually have more rings than I would ever need, but that wasn't the point.

It wouldn't be that ring. The one that carried that much meaning.

I sighed softly, my mind wandering to the things Kylan had to do to fix the stone. The deal with the king, the mistress ceremony he hadn't told me anything about...and just thinking about all of it made my chest tighten.

"So...now that you're finally Kylan again," I said, breaking the silence, "will you finally tell me how that royal ceremony of yours is going?"