

## CHAPTER 130

Winter POV

"Whoa, Whoa, Damien calm down" I say with a whisper, his voice loud inside of my ear, as I hold the cellphone there, my hand trembling. "What did you just say? Repeat it" I order, barely caring that it's way past midnight and very late. After what Kai just did to me, the son of a bitch, I've been way too angry to sleep, let alone even consider trying to rest.

"Mother gave away my twin. I have a twin, Winter."

Shit. I had heard correctly on the phone.

"Did she say why?" I hiss, feeling anger on his behalf. There's such a yearning sound to his voice.

"They owed the wrong people money" he said in a dull tone.

I wince. Sounds like father. But still, for mother to go through with it? Disgusting.

"We'll find your twin, Damien. There's got to be some kind of record for it. Where he went with Drake."

"I'm already looking in the attic. But there's nothing and mother apparently doesn't know" he growls.

I sigh.

"After this is all over and done with, I'll help you" I tell him, pacing back and forth.

"How's it going over there" Damien asks, perhaps sensing something is amiss.

I frown. How much should I tell him? Should I be honest or gloss things over?

"Something's fishy" I tell him finally "I don't know what it is, Damien, but something feels off" I tell him honestly "I don't even know if I want to go through with this ritual or spell. Maybe I'm being stupid" I tell him glumly.

"Winter, if something feels wrong, then there's something going on. I'm heading up there, I should be there in time for that ritual" Damien growls. I hear Langdon agreeing in the background.

"Fine, but drive carefully" I tell him heatedly.

"Get some sleep" Damien tells me "See you soon."

"See you soon" I echo back, hanging up the phone. I fight the urge to throw it against the wall and smash it.

Fuck you Kai, I think angrily, glaring over at the bed. He had pretended I was someone else when having sex with me!

So wrong. We could tell him he has to go fuck himself for the next few months.

Not enough punishment Sabriel. I'm about ready to rip him a new asshole.

Well, that would certainly work. Might be hard to get him to hold still while you do it.

It was a phrasing of speech. I wouldn't really do it.

Figured. What if we buy a chastity device for him? Means he can't sleep with anyone else and we get to embarrass him.

Sabriel, if it comes to that, then we might as well leave his pathetic ass.

We could make him a slave like in the bdsm stuff.

Sabriel, you have a weird kink.

I'm just open minded.

I would call it more than that.

I throw the phone down on the bed and stomp out of the room. There's no sign of Kai anywhere thank goodness. Part of me wants to rip his penis from his body. I decide to explore the castle. I walk absent mindedly, coming across the odd maid or servant who merely bows or curtsseys and then lets me be on my way. My legs carry me through to the private dining room area and I tense when I see that Kai is standing there, looking nonplussed and confused. My hand wants to reach out and grab him, throw him against the wall and scream out my anger.

Instead, I slowly back away, ducking back out to the hallway and am about to walk away when I hear her voice. None other than Queen Vanessa's. I peek back through. She stands there, clad in a tight nightgown, that is white and completely see through. You can see her bare nipples and white underwear through it. There is a smile on her face. Her hand reaches out to touch Kai on the arm. I keep well back out of sight, my eyes wide in disbelief. What the fuck is going on? Had Kai come out here to sleep with her? I can feel myself simmering with anger.

Her mouth opens in a smirk. "Did you do it" she says, running her hand up and down his arm as he stands there, "did you do as I ordered you to and sleep with her?"

"I thought I slept with you?" Kai's voice is hushed, barely above a whisper and he sounds completely confused. He clutches his head and groans.

"That was part of the spell. I made you believe it was me so that you would sleep with your little mate" she explains to him, like he's a small child, even patting him on the head. "Anyone who comes close to me gets hit by the love spell I have surrounding me. It's the only way to keep King Axel from remembering anything."

I suck in a breath. She must be pretty powerful to have a love spell going at all times or she must have some sort of relic or item that her power is attached to. What did she mean by King Axel remembering? Remembering what? I Know they can't be mates, not if she's using a love spell to keep him attracted to her. Something which is illegal by the way. But why did she want Kai to sleep with me? What was the importance of that?

"With the spell I placed on you, your little mate will conceive tonight and become with child. Don't worry, it won't be for long. Everything will fall into place on the night of the spell. All you have to do, is keep doing what I order you to do" she tells him, almost lovingly.

"But I want you" Kai mumbles. His hands reach out to grip her. Vanessa gives a small chuckle and moves away.

"Later, darling. The King would be very suspicious if I don't go back to him in a minute" she explains tiredly. "He's very possessive of me when he wants to be."

I've heard enough. I quickly turn and go down the corridor, rushing back to the bedroom where I slam the door shut. I hadn't been too sure of the ritual before now, but after overhearing Vanessa, I know that I can't go through with it. My hand unconsciously goes to my stomach. According to Vanessa I would conceive tonight. My heart skips a beat. A smile goes to my lips despite myself. I wanted to be a mother. Wanted a child of my own. But Kai had made love to me, under the impression I was Vanessa, which stung. Even now he was under her spell and I didn't know who to turn to.

Damien was coming, I remembered, glancing over at the cellphone. But he was a man too. Would he be under Vanessa's spell if he came into contact with her? Langdon too? A knock on the door had me tentatively walking over and opening it, prepared to fight if need be. It was Kai. I frown at him suspiciously.

"Winter, I know what happened was wrong" Kai begins, walking inside and running a hand through his hair "I just don't know what happened. It was all topsy turvy, I love you, not Vanessa" he says firmly.

I look at him suspiciously. His eyes look clear, not glazed. There's no sign of hesitation with him. But what about the meeting he just had with Vanessa?

"Kai, I just saw you with Vanessa" I exclaim, sitting on the bed and glaring at him "was there a reason you had to go see her so late at night?" I ask my voice rising "especially since you called my her during sex?"

He has the grace to flush. "I didn't go see Vanessa" he protests "I don't know what you're talking about. You threw me out of the room remember? I've been out wandering ever since."

I cock my head. He really doesn't remember. It's only been a few minutes since his meeting with her. I drop my head into my hands and groan out loud.

"You know I'm not letting you sleep in here with me right" I say sarcastically "you're still in the doghouse."

He nods, looking grim. "That's fair" he comments.

You know we could actually make a doghouse for him.

Sabriel, it's a little insulting to Storm to do that, don't you think?

Oh yeah. Poor Storm. I wouldn't feel sorry for Kai though.

Me neither, but I'm still not doing it.

"So why are you here Kai" I push, sensing there's another reason for his presence. "What is it you want?"

He looks tired. "I wanted to make sure that you want to go ahead with the ritual."

I open my mouth and then shut it. Should I tell him the truth? Am I speaking to Kai right now or Vanessa's lackey? But I'm hesitant. I really want to believe that my mate is capable of breaking a love spell. Shouldn't the mate bond be stronger than a spell?

Life isn't a fairytale Winter, remember that.

Oh, I know Sabriel, there's also witches and vampires to contend with as well.

Werewolves are the best species.

I make up my mind. "Kai, I don't think doing this ritual is a good idea. I think we should explore other avenues and ideas instead. It just seems to be dangerous and we don't even know what the ritual involves."

He shrugs his shoulders. "Everything comes with a risk Winter" he says incredulously "we came up here for your sake remember. Now you're telling me it's too dangerous?"

"I just think we need to be more cautious" I argue back "this can't be the only way."

"No, but it's the quickest way" he shoots back, looking miffed. "Other options could take months, I'm not willing to wait that long" he scoffs.

He's not willing to wait that long? I'm the one that's the hybrid! This doesn't affect him at all! What the hell is the problem?

"Kai" I snap "it's not exactly your decision to make, is it? It's not your body, you're not the one being affected" I almost yell, throwing my hands up in the air.

"The ritual is our best bet. What have you got against Vanessa anyway" he demands, shooting me a peeved look "besides me mistakenly using her name earlier. She's been nothing but nice seen she's seen us."

"Why are you defending her so much" I shout, finally snapping. He flinches. His mouth purses in a tight line. He glares at me. His hands go to his hips.

"Winter, please" he snaps "You need to get this hybrid thing taken care of. Why are you being so stubborn?"

"I'm being careful" I say stiffly "not stubborn."

That's when I make a rookie mistake. I stand up and turn around, presenting my back to Kai, lost in my thoughts and my anger. I feel his arm come across my neck, squeezing as I try and push it away, my eyes bulging, my arms flailing around as I hit out at him. I can feel my vampire side coming to the surface, my fangs popping out and go to push, but something sharp pierces my neck before I can. I feel myself becoming out of it, my body dropping harshly to the floor, my eyes staring directly ahead.

Kai comes into view, bending down to pick me up. He places me on the bed, my vision blurred, my limbs refusing to cooperate.

"Didn't want to do this, but Vanessa needs you to do the ritual" he mutters, placing the bed covers over me. "She won't let you escape or leave" he finishes, his whole-body tense. "Don't worry Winter, I'll take care of you, you'll see, once the ritual is done, everything will go back to normal. You just have to wait until then."

My eyes flicker, my vision hazy. Even though I fight it with every ounce of my being, pretty soon I drift into darkness, Kai's hand firmly holding my own, my body uncooperative as I slept with dread rising inside of me.