

Chapter 85

"Are you finally going to mark her?" Everest joked with Brent, nudging him slightly. We all seemed to have relaxed now that our most immediate threat was eliminated.

"Well, she would have been marked yesterday but with my i***t brother, we couldn't risk her in her most vulnerable state. We postponed it." Brent had an arm now loosely around Miranda.

"Ah, yes. I remember you saying something about a ceremony now that I think of it. Apologies, a lot has been going on." Everest sighed.

"We will be there for you both. I am sure transitioning will be painful, or so I have read." I told Miranda and offered her a comforting smile.

"Thanks." She smiled. "I am a bit worried about it, if I am being honest."

We all made our way back to the human town where Dexter was hiding out. Thanks to a new identity he made, we were able to track down his house pretty easily. When we walked inside it was nice. Modern and had all kinds of decent things. The walls were black with a white couch, a white coffee table that had matching side tables. Both tables had gray lamps that sat upon them. The kitchen was two-toned with white cabinets on top and dark gray cabinets on the bottom. The counter tops were white granite that had black streaming through them. It wasn't a bad hide out and honestly made me think that maybe he was leaving his old life behind him.

We searched through all of his things for any clue as to if anyone was there or close by to assist him.

I was going through one of his desks, this one located in his room, when I found some contracts. When I touched them, the strangest thing happened. My eyes rolled back into my head and I collapsed. When I woke, everything seemed to be very hazy and objects blurred around me.

I sat up and looked around me. Nothing. No one was here. "That's odd" Charlotte commented, and I couldn't help but to agree with her.

"I don't think we are in the same reality. I don't know why but this seems, well, different. A lot different really." I told her.

"Well, let's use this time to look around. Who knows how much time we truly have," Charlotte suggested.

"Sounds like a plan." I agreed and stood. When I did, it was like the world suddenly began to spin around me. My arm outstretched in front of me, as I desperately tried to grab onto something, anything to stable myself. When the world around me finally stopped spinning, I let go of the desk. I took a step and the ground under my feet was soft.

"This place is giving me the creeps," Charlotte said. I could feel her looking through my eyes, looking at the world around us.

I walked down the steps slowly and a bright flash of white light greeted me at the bottom of the steps. I moved to cover my eyes from the unpleasant vivid light shining in front of me.

When it was gone, I moved my arms down to my side. "What the hell was that?" I thought and felt Charlotte shrug but also very curious herself.

We walked around the house, looking for any sort of clue as to where we were. I picked up the papers that I had read earlier and frowned. "These are the same papers I looked at earlier." I whispered. I walked around some more, exploring the house. When the entire house was finally searched, I stepped outside. The ground still felt as if I was walking on a trampoline, but I got used to it fairly quickly.

"What if this is witch's magic?" Charlotte purposed.

"I am starting to think that you're right. Which is concerning because we are here by ourselves." I let out a sigh.

"Maybe we shouldn't stray too far away. What if you have to be close to where you began to go back? Well, maybe not. Maybe the key to coming back is in town." Charlotte sighed.

"We will figure it out. Let's just stay within the property for now. Maybe we will find something."

We walked around the property, looking around and being nosey. It was quite impressive, honestly. So much land and the neighbors were pretty far away. I wasn't really watching where I was going when I walked onto something hard. I stopped and turned around to find an old steel door on the ground.

"Well, that's not normal Ava.. We... Well, I think, we should go back." Charlotte was agitated and scared. The energy around us was different here. I almost felt like we were not supposed to be here. Like it was some forbidden land.

Truth be told, I was nervous as well. Something here didn't really add up. I now wondered what it was that was on those papers I picked up. I leaned down and brushed the dirt away from the door.

"Maybe this is why the world felt like I was on a trampoline?" I went to open it and fell into it. When I hit the floor, I sat straight up and was now back in the house.

"Easy Avalynn, the letters you opened up had some form of magic in them. Be still baby." I looked around with a confused look on my face. Everest was looking down at me with a worried look. His fear was crashing into me like waves on a beach.

"I am okay. I know where we have to go." I began to stand up.

"Easy." Everest said, standing quickly and helping me up.

"Do we know where the keys are?" I turned and looked at Brent and Miranda.

"Well, yeah. I have found a few sets already, why?" Brent said, pointing over to the table.

"Because what we are looking for isn't here. It is, but it isn't I mean. Just, ugh. Just follow me." I stood, picking up the three sets of keys and walked down the steps in a hurry without any real explanation. I walked out to the shed and opened it, grabbing a shovel. The ground in the alternate reality was soft and mushy, but upon further inspection of the ground I was currently walking on, it was hard as a rock. When I walked out of the shed with a shovel in my hand, everyone had a confused look on their faces.

"Just come one. Trust me on this, please." I told them and walked in the direction of the steel door.

I walked around as they all followed me and I used the shovel from time to time. The closer I got, the more I slammed it into the ground.

"Hey, babe. What are you doing?" Everest asked, looking at me with a worried expression on his face.

"Looking for a steel door," I responded and sighed.

"A steel door?" Miranda was confused.

"Yep. There was only one shovel in the shed and the door is around here somewhere." I told them as I slammed the shovel into the ground again. I would take two steps and slam the tip end of the shovel on the ground, moving around in a circle, making sure I got everything around me.

"I think I saw something that could help us find what you're looking for in one of my brother's closets. I'll be right-" Brent started to say before he was interrupted.

He was interrupted by the sound of my shovel connecting with the door. "Aha!" I exclaimed.

"Okay, thank the goddess above you found that because I was beginning to question both of our sanities." Charlotte laughed.

"Look, I know that it seems crazy but whatever papers I opened up obviously had some spell on them. It sent me to an alternate dimension of some sort, which is how I know that this door was out here. When I was out walking around the world, it felt like I was walking on a trampoline. I feel like it was like that, so when I stepped onto this piece of steel, it would have stood out from everything else around me. When I opened the door, I fell or it sucked me inside. Because when I hit the floor, I was back in our world again. So I feel like whoever gave Dexter those papers, wanted us to find this secret area. I feel like someone who works for the witches council may actually be working against them. I don't know if I am making any sense or not. Maybe I sound crazy. And well, that is okay because I can't explain why I feel this way other than, why would everything that has happened happen the way that it did?" I looked at the three of them.

"I believe you. Come on, let us have a look and see what is inside?" Everest smiled at me.

"Here." I handed him a set of keys.

He took them and smiled. He went through every key and none were lucky enough to match the lock that was on the door. We went through the second set of keys. Finally, the very last key on the second key ring was the lucky winner. When it made a clicking sound and he pulled the lock off the door, I yelled at him to make him stop.

"Wait!" I called out, and he turned to look at me.

"What is it, Avalynn?" He looked around and back at me.

"What if this is bad?" I bit my bottom lip. "Like we are releasing some awful monster that will kill everything except witches?" I frowned at that. I definitely was reaching for it now.

"Well, if that's the case, it's a good thing we both know magic," Miranda commented and Brent nodded his head.

"Of course, of course. Okay. Go ahead and open it up. Let's get it over with." I told Everest and he opened the door.

I found myself closing both of my eyes, leaving one to squint, my curiosity not allowing me to completely close them both.

"Wow, you have got to see this you guys." Everest called out.

"What? What is it?" I asked, walking over to him. I had to see exactly what he was looking at and talking about.

All three of us gathered behind him looking down below and I couldn't believe my eyes at what I was seeing. Absolutely unreal, no wonder those papers led me here. It made sense.

