

Chapter 379

Violet

A shiver ran down my spine.

It wasn't just what Kayden said. It was his voice. He was really standing in front of us, but it didn't sound like him at all.

We all knew he was unstable, but there was just this coldness to his voice that he hadn't even had when he had killed Chrystal.

Could it be...

Kian?

I felt like throwing up and tried to pull away for some space, but Kylan wouldn't let me. He tightened his arm around me and held me there.

"Oh, I want to see you do it," Kylan said calmly to Kayden. "Do it."

Kayden scoffed loudly, and the two put some distance between them, though it was not much. Kylan pulled me back by my arm and pushed me behind him in a smooth motion. His body blocked mine completely, and I stepped a bit to the side, terrified but curious.

I knew Kayden wasn't lying. When he said he would do something, he meant it. Even though we had a plan, I was afraid he would leave us no choice but to give the raven back.

Kylan faced the king and Lady Mona with a sarcastic grin. "This is great news for you, Lady Mona!" he called out. "For all of us!"

Lady Mona's face lit up, and it was hard to believe she was the same woman who had not only lost sleep guarding her son's bedside, but also accused Kylan only hours earlier.

Kylan gestured toward the king with an open hand. "For you too, Your

Majesty!"

The king chuckled, clearly enjoying himself. Though I wasn't quite sure what it was, there was something sketchy about him. He wore an expression as if this were all part of some grand performance, and with him, you could never know.

Kylan tapped his foot once, then began pacing with his hands behind his back. "I do wonder," he said suspiciously, eyeing his siblings, "how our brother suddenly regained the ability to walk again."

He stopped and snapped his head to Kayden. "And picked up a new hair color to go with it."

No wonder Kylan had noticed the red streaks in his hair. They were kind of hard to miss.

"What do you think, Your Majesty?" Kylan let out a soft laugh. "Witchcraft?"

"Witchcraft?" Lady Mona spat, her brows drawing together. "Don't be ridiculous!"

What was he doing? He was well aware that there was a good chance I was the reason for all of this. So yes, witchcraft.

My palms turned sweaty as the king pursed his lips. He sucked in a breath, then shook his head. "As far as I'm concerned, there are no witches inside this palace," he said, a hint of amusement in his voice. His eyes landed on me for a split second, and I quickly diverted my gaze.

Kylan never did anything without reason, so this must have been one of his ways to keep control of the situation. We knew the king knew, but Kayden didn't know, and for some strange reason Kayden wasn't all that keen on exposing my identity either.

Kayden rolled his eyes and let out a mocking huff through his nose.

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Kayden rolled his eyes and let out a mocking huff through his nose.

"I would still really love to hear how this miracle came about," Kylan continued. "Care to explain?"

Kayden shot him a disgusted, cold look. He was studying Kylan, and goddess knows what was going through his mind.

Before I could think about it too much, the door flew open and heels clicked against the floor. Everyone spun to see who dared walk in. It was Queen Cecilia.

The door slammed behind her, as hard as the expression on her face. She still managed to look as elegant as ever as her eyes swept over the room and locked onto Kayden.

She didn't flinch, didn't look surprised, didn't smile...

"Oh," Kayden said, pulling a face of mock surprise. "Good morning to you too, Your Majesty."

Cecilia forced a smile. "I would like to hear a few things as well," she said, her eyes never leaving him.

"I assume you want to know why you haven't heard yet. I would've loved to tell you the news myself. I would never want to disrespect the mother of Lyperia." Kayden spoke with a smile. "I really wanted to tell you first, Your Majesty, but rumors spread so fast around this place. You should know how it goes."

"Hmm, no, not that," Cecilia said. "I want to know how you're suddenly walking again."

Kayden hummed, giving himself a moment to think. "The queen is indeed Kylan's mother," he bowed. "Just as curious."

The king and Lady Mona looked at each other and laughed while Kayden prepared himself to speak.

"Well," he began, "after I collapsed, I thought I wouldn't wake up again. It felt so strange because I couldn't do anything, but I could hear everything," he said, stretching the word. We all knew he was referring to the queen's response to Lady Mona's disrespect toward Kylan.

I also knew the slap was more than justified.

Kayden sighed and rolled his shoulders. "I couldn't believe it when I woke up early this morning, but I immediately knew something was strange."

He looked down at his feet as if he were remembering something. Kylan crossed his arms, probably just as tired of his bullshit as I was.

"At first, I thought I was dreaming," he continued. "But then I felt it. A strange sensation in my legs." A smile tugged at his mouth. "I can't quite explain it, but it felt like pins and needles. Absolutely terrifying."

Lady Mona let out a sigh and pressed her hand to her heart as if she were the one hurting. "I moved one toe," Kayden went on, lifting his foot slightly as if to demonstrate. "Then another...and another."

He laughed softly, his gaze shifting to the floor. "I was shaking and thought I would collapse again."

Then his eyes lifted, full of passion. "I don't know what pushed me, but I just...sat up and then I stood."

The room was dead silent as everyone listened to Kayden's story.

"I walked," he nodded. "All the way across the room because I was searching for my maid, but I couldn't find her...and then I tripped."

"Oh," he turned his head slightly, pointing a finger at his brother, "I fell so hard it woke Khaedric, who was on watch actually."

All eyes snapped to Khaedric. The boy gulped and nodded. Kayden looked at his brother, his eyes forcing him to continue the story for him.

"Y-Yes," Khaedric confirmed. "He...he stood on his own, a-and I ran to Mom and Dad right away—"

"Don't give out too much information," Kayden stopped him. "Just a simple yes was enough, Khaedric."

His brother lowered his head. "And now," Kayden spread his hands, "here we are."

His story sounded so off that I genuinely couldn't believe a single word he'd said. Something odd crawled up my spine, and I had to fight the urge to step closer to Kylan just to feel calm again.

"That's pretty much how it happened," Kayden continued, shrugging lightly. "As for why it happened..."

I was frightened to hear his next words, and so was Kylan, because our eyes locked.

Kayden rubbed his chin, exaggerating as if he were truly thinking it over.

I hated how peaceful and comfortable he looked. Everything with him seemed so rehearsed.

He glanced at me and shot me a wink. That was when my thoughts began to race. This hadn't just happened randomly in the morning. Whatever it was, it must have happened around midnight, and he knew it was us. Everything lined up.

The timing. The battle with Baelor. Me losing control after Aelius had warned me, time and time again, to be careful. The way his eyes kept drifting back to me and, last but not least, that disgusting wink.

He knew, and he wanted us to know that he knew.

"Maybe the Moon Goddess blessed me," he said, squeezing his eyes shut. "Or maybe the Lyperian stone in the mountain caves has already healed and had something to do with it. I almost forgot that was a thing too, right?"

He reached up and tugged at one of the red streaks in his hair, pulling a strange face.

"By the way, please don't ask what happened to my hair because I have no idea," he chuckled. "I sure hope it wasn't something like the devil."

He laughed a little too loudly, and so did Lady Mona and the king.

The queen didn't laugh. Her face stayed perfectly still, but I could see through her facade as Kayden shared his story. I could see the way her lips pressed together for half a second each time he said something that didn't make much sense to her.

"Isn't this great news, my love?" the king smiled at Cecilia.

"Truly a miracle," the queen replied. She met Lady Mona's eyes with a controlled smile. "Congratulations," she said. "Has he already been examined by a doctor?"

Lady Mona shifted her eyes across the room. "He hasn't," she admitted. "Kayden didn't want to yet—"

"That won't do," the queen cut in gently. Her hands clasped together in front of her. "I insist he must see the doctor immediately," she stated. "And he must rest for the remainder of the day."

Her gaze returned to Kayden. "I will make sure you won't collapse again," she said. "At least not during Kaelis' howl."

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