

chapter 382

Chapter 182

Violet

Kaelis stood on the small platform in the center of the room, nervously biting her nails as at least six hands worked around her.

Her dress was even more breathtaking than the first time she had tried it on.

The soft blush-pink skirt was puffy and spread out around her in layers, with sparkly details that flashed when she moved. The top fit her nicely, as did the lace over her shoulders and arms, and the tiny crystals that were sewn in completed it.

She truly looked like a princess, maybe even like the Moon Goddess we worshipped.

And yet, she looked absolutely terrified.

I watched from a small distance, standing beside Trinity, Lian, and Sora.

Kiora stayed glued to her sister's side, resting her hand on Kaelis' arm for support.

"He's just trying to ruin my night, isn't he?" Kaelis stressed, chewing on her nail. "I know he absolutely hates our guts, but he has taken it too far this time."

I knew who she was talking about.

Kayden.

The news that had spread like wildfire had also reached her ears, and what was supposed to be an exciting day for her took a turn for the worst.



As expected, Kaelis was Kaelis, and had no problem letting everyone know that this wasn't good timing.

"I just hate everything about him!" Kaelis suddenly spun around. The maids let out quiet yelps as they all turned with her, hands flying to keep the dress from tangling.

Her eyes were wide and wild. "What if he's been lying all this time?" she accused. "What if he has been pretending all this time so he could wait and ruin my day? I know it's a bad thing to say, but Kayden is so sick and twisted, he would actually be capable of doing something like that!"

She stared at us for a second, then released a breath.

"Princess," a maid said gently, "please turn around again."

"Oh right, sorry!" Kaelis gasped. She spun back as she continued biting her nails like it was the only thing calming her nerves.

"Poor thing. I think she will be like this all day," Sora whispered, leaning closer to me. "Even Kiora can't calm the situation."

"Yes, poor thing," I muttered, my eyes shifting to the clock on the wall.

It was twelve, which meant we had twelve more hours to go. I had been waiting, expecting Kayden to walk in and cause a scene to demand back Thorne, but there was still no sign of him.

Perhaps Kylan would be his first target.

Would he be with him right now?

"How is my princess doing?" Madam Renata entered, snapping her fingers. That woman was probably the happiest person inside the room at the moment.



"Not good," Kaelis sulked.

"Why?" Madam Renata questioned. "Today is all about celebrations. It's not only your howl, but the prince Kayden—"

I blocked out her words and shifted my gaze to Trinity, Lian, and Sora. I motioned them toward the corner of the room, and soon after, we all gathered together near the wall. There were quite a few things we hadn't been able to discuss yet.

"How is it possible?" Trinity asked immediately. "Did Kayden really wake up with working legs? What the hell is going on?"

Sora blinked at me with big eyes. "He's going to kill us, isn't he?" she said. "He's going to kill us all, one by one."

"No one is going to kill anyone, Sora," Lian wrapped her arm around her shoulder. "Come on, breathe."

I gave her a nod. "Lian's right. No one is going to kill us," I said, even though it didn't come out as confident. "Kylan has a plan, and we're sticking to it."

A confused frown crossed Trinity's face.

"It's true that Kayden woke up, and has those strange red streaks in his hair," I told them. "And...he has threatened us. He wants Thorne back, who is awake too, by the way."

"Red?" Sora let out a dramatic huff. "Look me in the eye and tell me he is not the devil."

Lian chuckled, giving her back a light slap. "Deep breaths," she said, guiding her through it as her hand moved in slow circles.



"So that means you actually managed to steal the raven," Trinity whispered. There was excitement in her eyes, but worry too. It was clear she wasn't sure whether to be impressed or terrified.

"We did," I said. "Kylan gave it to Nate for now, just to be safe. He'll bring it back tonight so we can carry out the sealing."

Fabric rustled behind me, and before I knew it, Kaelis peeked over her shoulder. "What did you say about Nate?"

She sounded cheerful again, nearly bouncing on the platform. We had whispered so softly we had barely heard each other, but that did not stop her from hearing Nate's name. We all rushed back to our spots.

"It's nothing," I said quickly. "I was just telling them...that I spoke to him this morning. That's all."

"And how was he?" Kaelis asked, grinning, her shoulders lifting with excitement.

"Great!"

Her grin widened even more, and all the nerves seemed to slip away from her face.

"I can't wait to see him tonight."

"Why?"

I didn't even know why I asked. There was no need to. Almost everyone was already aware of her crush.

She tilted her head back and stared at the ceiling. Her eyes were dreamy, and her lips parted in a soft smile. "I don't know," she said. "I just...feel like—"



"Alright, enough talking!" Madam Renata called out. "If you're done melting over boys, it's time to make yourselves useful and check that everything is perfect!"

"Violet and Sora," she said, pointing between us, "you'll stay inside and make sure the maids have left the halls, corridors, and guest chambers absolutely flawless."

"And Trinity and Lian," she continued. "You're outside. Kaelis needs everything to be perfect."

"But—" I started.

"No buts," Madam Renata cut in immediately. "You're no queen yet. There are no buts."

She gestured toward the door, leaving us no choice but to leave. Moments later, we found ourselves in the hallway.

We all looked at each other, a little stunned.

"I'm so sorry, but I'm just going to say it. I really don't like that grumpy woman," Trinity said, shaking her head.

A small chuckle left Lian. "There's no need to apologize."

We all knew Madam Renata had her days. She was indeed as confusing as it could get. I breathed. "Okay," I said, forcing a smile. "We better get to it then."

We split up. Trinity and Lian headed the other way, and I linked my arm through Sora's. She carried a big smile as she clung to me tightly.

"Should we start with the top floor?"



"Sure," I shrugged.

As we walked, Sora glanced at me sideways. "I think this might be the first time it's just the two of us."

"Don't be too happy," I warned. "Bad things tend to happen around me."

"That's not true!"

We turned the corner toward the narrow elevator that led upstairs. Sora reached out to press the button, but there was no need. The door was already opening.

Both of us released startled gasps as we looked down at a pair of long legs. My gaze traveled upward and upward, until...

Kayden.

He leaned against the elevator wall, his expression dark with anger. I swallowed hard as it hit me that he was not in his chair. Wasn't he meant to be with the doctor Cecilia had called for him?

See? Bad things really did happen around me.

"Get in," Kayden demanded. "Now."

I opened my mouth to decline, but Kayden didn't let me. He grabbed Sora by her arm and pulled her inside while she let out a squeal.

My body moved on instinct, just like he knew it would, and I stepped into the elevator.

And when the doors began to close, I knew we had just made a big mistake.