

## Chapter 387

Violet

A plan?

There was something deeply wrong and unsettling about how calm he was. He truly believed he had it all figured out, and that look in his eyes said everything I needed to know. He thought he knew how this would end and decided the rest of us were just slow to catch up.

Kylan let out a breath through his nose and glanced back at me. "Do we want to know?"

I lifted one shoulder in a small shrug. Yes, and no. I wasn't sure if I wanted to know, but I knew unless he pushed that gag back into his mouth, we would hear about it anyway.

Kylan turned back to him. "What's this 'big' plan of yours?"

Kayden's eyes lifted slowly, like he'd been waiting for that question. "I made a deal," he said slowly. "A deal with my Lord, and he will be coming to collect after midnight."

His gaze sharpened as it swept over the three of us, like he was trying to read our reactions. "My lord is in desperate need of a vessel," he said, his eyes settling on Kylan again. "And since Violet doesn't want to do it, and the other option isn't exactly promising, it would be best for everyone if that vessel were me."

Kylan chuckled. "And why would that be?"

"Because I know how to handle the power without glowing eyes or a pure heart," he said. "I've been preparing for it for years, ever since I learned

about it."

My thoughts raced. How would one even prepare for this? For letting Baelor inside him?

No one prepared for something like that. You either survived it or you didn't, and Kylan and I had both experienced it.

Behind me, I heard Sora pacing back and forth. She was frightened and didn't bother hiding it. I guess it was okay to say we all were a bit frightened, because this Kayden was something else.

Kayden's eyes locked onto mine, pressing for my attention. "When that traitor Varius took me under his wing," he nodded at me, "he told me about a prophecy Thorne had told him about right before he slipped away."

Before he slipped away...

Was Kayden implying that Thorne still had his memories when Varius held him, after Baelor was sealed?

My throat bobbed in fear of what he would tell us. "Two brothers with pure hearts," Kayden grinned, "and a Violet carrying the eyes of Adelaide who would heal the key."

What?

"That's me!" Kayden stated. "I am the key, and the three of us are supposed to be a team and share the power of Baelor between us."

Something ugly twisted in my stomach. Hearing mom's name come from his mouth made the heat rush straight to my face.

How dare he?

Adelaide was not a name he should speak of, and the eyes bound to my blood were not some piece of his story.

Hunger filled his eyes, and if he could have jumped to his feet, he would have.

"It's not too late," he said, his eyes on Kylan. "The three of us could still coexist and actually fix this world, rotten to its core," he insisted, his teeth clenched. "We could rule under High Priestess Gloria and save the universe from figures like our own father. We could rule everything."

My hands curled into fists. Every word that left his mouth made my skin crawl. He talked about destruction so easily and involved us without a single thought.

"You and I...I'm glad to say we will never get along," Kylan told him, his voice calm. "You're not right in the head."

Kayden laughed, twisting his jaw. "Oh, come on," he said lightly. "Even Lettie wants to get along with me, is that not right, Lettie?" he called out. "You healed me!"

He had said it again.

That I had healed him.

I waited for Kylan's reaction, but he did not even flinch. He had known all along, despite denying it. We both knew something had happened in the past.

"I know Varius gave you the box," Kayden went on. "And I also know you went to the past he had once told me about. I know quite a few things."

I stepped forward, my heart pounding so hard I could feel it in my throat. He was giving us all this information, but there was only one thing I really cared about. "How did I heal you?"

Did Varius know this would happen when he gave me the box?

Kayden's mouth curved into a slow smirk. "Something happened when you used your eyes. It let everyone who was willing to see beyond get a taste, and that's what happened when I collapsed," he explained. "I remember my body lifting into the air, the darkness wrapping around me, and feeling your anger. It was beautiful, and so so strong." He shook his head softly. "And the red in my hair? That's you, Lettie. That's all your anger."

I felt sick.

My stomach turned, and my skin crawled as he told me the one thing I had been so scared of. I had failed to control my powers, and it had led to this.

My pulse quickened as I stared at the red in his hair. He had taken something that wasn't his and wore it proudly.

"I saw the Veil open," Kayden continued. "I saw the forgotten Alpha King trying to push through. There was a crack, a big one, but before it could break any further," he breathed, his eyes darkening again, "a woman appeared. A woman with dark hair, glowing eyes, and a power like a storm. She fought like hell to close it."

I struggled with each breath.

"That must've been her," Kayden chuckled. "Your mother...Adelaide."

It was.

It had to be.

"And she looked furious," he added, grinning. "I don't think she's that happy with you. She was angry, Lettie."

The words settled deep and brought an ache to my chest. I had failed her by risking the one thing she had tried to keep intact for all those years.

I was afraid he might be right. There was no doubt she was angry.

Kylan's eyes softened as he looked back at me for only a split second, and then he turned back again and grabbed Kayden's jaw. His grip seemed even tighter than the first time.

Kayden laughed, lifting his chin. "What?" he said through the pressure. "Are you the only one who's allowed to get angry with her?"

Kylan's fingers tightened. "What do you want with Thorne?"

Kayden let out a low laugh. "Release me," he muttered, "and I'll tell you."

"I'm not going to."

Kayden went on. "Closing the Veil took more out of Adelaide than anyone knows," he said. "Those eyes she carries? They're dangerous."

"Are they?" Kylan said.

"You know that," Kayden hummed. "And you also know that a sealing spell is too strong and way beyond what her body can take. She will—"

Kylan shoved the cloth back into Kayden's mouth, hard enough that Kayden let out a muffled growl. His body jerked against the ropes as

Kylan tightened them.

He worked quickly and differently, like he had done this a hundred times before. Kayden kept struggling, and I kept looking until a warm hand settled on my shoulder. Sora's hand.

"He doesn't know what he's talking about," she said quietly. "I'm sure your mother is proud of you."

My throat burned.

Is she?

From the corner of my eye, I caught Kylan glancing at me as he tightened the final knot. When he finished, he stood and came over to me.

He stopped in front of me, his eyes searching mine as if he were looking for a crack, any sign that I was about to break.

I met his gaze with a sharp glance, letting him see that whatever Kayden had said wouldn't let me back down. I was ready to get it over with, and I meant it.

When he realized that, something in his expression softened.

"I'll make sure no one comes near the kitchen," Kylan said. "In the meantime, we focus on the howl for now. Only that."

I gave him a nod.

Just the howl.

I think I could do that.