

**Chapter 391**

Kylan

The room went silent, except for a weak sigh from the queen, who rubbed her temples as if she were reconsidering every life decision that led to this moment.

Then the sound came. A loud scream from Kaelis as she yanked one heel off her foot and threw it straight at my head. "Asshole!"

I ducked and chuckled as it flew past.

"Kaelis!" Madam Renata said, rushing to her side before she could take off the other heel. "That is not proper behavior!"

I thought we could joke around like we used to, but this definitely wasn't her day. The queen waved a hand at me to get out, but I caught the smallest smile from her and Kiora, one they tried very hard to hide.

I raised both hands in surrender and backed away, still laughing. Once the door closed behind me, I leaned against it. My head lowered as another guilty chuckle slipped out.

It would be wise to apologize to her later.

"What's funny? Why are we laughing?"

The sweet voice that filled my ears made my heart kick hard against my ribs. I didn't waste time before lifting my head and looking at her.

Violet.

My Violet.

My brain stopped working for a moment as I looked at the most beautiful person my eyes had ever known. I took her in from head to toe until I was certain my eyes were not deceiving me. She was real. She was real, and she was mine.

Her hair was pulled up, with soft pieces falling along her beautiful face, and her dress...

The dress was dark green and hugged her body enough for me to remind myself for the thousandth time today just how blessed I was by the Moon Goddess, and it traveled all the way to the bottom.

She looked ethereal.

I smirked before I could stop myself.

"Pup...Fuck."

Her lips curved. "I'm hoping that means I look good?"

She squinted her eyes as if I was ever able to tell her otherwise. I didn't answer. I took her hand instead and spun her gently, slow enough to take an even better look.

"Green is now my favorite color."

A sound of warm laughter spilled from her lips, warming my chest. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Sora and Lian slip past us into the room.

No Trinity. She was probably already with the Bloodroses.

"You look handsome," Violet said softly. "As always."

I smiled and laced my fingers with hers before dropping my eyes to her hand. She wore the ring today. I lifted her hand and kissed her knuckles,

then her wrist, lingering there before I finally found her lips and pressed a soft kiss against them.

"Perfect," I admired. "Shall we?"

She hesitated. "But Kaelis—"

"I don't think she wants to see me right now."

"Why?" She frowned, confused. "I thought the two of you had made up."

"Short but awful story. You don't want to hear it," I laughed, tugging her along.

We headed down the hall toward the palace's largest ballroom, where the first part of the celebration would take place. Later, everything would move outside into the gardens, where the moon would be at its brightest and Kaelis would shift and go for a run.

That's how long we had to go until it would be time to seal Baelor...

"Will you still be able to seal in that dress?" I asked, my voice serious.

"Unless I'll be sealing while doing the splits," Violet chuckled. "Yes, I think I can manage, Kylan."

I rolled my eyes at her, and she just shrugged, smiling. "I just can't wait for all of this to be over," she said. "So we can focus on other things."

"Other things?"

"Yes."

She bumped her shoulder into mine. "There's just this...strange and hot feeling building up inside me, and I don't know what it is," she sighed.

before pursing her lips. "I think it might be the moon? I don't know."

"Ah right," I nodded. "You mean that feeling you had when you ran to my room during the full moon and was all like, Kylan please, I need you."

I bit back a smile as she stared at me with a look somewhere between anger and embarrassment. "I never said that!" she argued. "Also, you are the one who had been begging me not to reject you!"

My head snapped toward her. "I never begged you," I said immediately.

She rolled her eyes. "Okay, maybe not begged. But you also never let me reject you."

I pressed my tongue to the roof of my mouth and looked up at the high ceiling. That one I couldn't argue with.

"And while we're at it, don't forget your mouth has literally been at my neck since day one," she added.

"I'm sorry," I said, sounding oblivious. "I don't recall."

She scoffed. "Why do you always have to be that stubborn?" Her lips curled. "Just admit it. I'm right."

I dropped my head with a quiet sigh. "Pup," I muttered, "if you want me to mark you, just say it—"

"Fine. I want you to mark me."

I knew to expect the unexpected tonight, but this was something I hadn't seen coming. Not the part where she wanted me to mark her, but the part where she would actually say it out loud.

There was an unexplainable feeling in my chest, both good and bad. I had

been joking around, teasing, but the words that had just left her mouth had come from her heart.

She meant it.

We looked at each other, and she instantly let out a shy little laugh, like she wasn't sure what to do with the weight of what she had just admitted. My cheeks were definitely burning as well, and I didn't need to see my reflection to confirm that.

I waited, thinking she would explain, take it back maybe, but she didn't. Despite all she had experienced in her kingdom, despite Kayden, despite the way the king treated her, she was still all in.

All in, while she clearly deserved better...

Violet stepped closer and pressed her side against mine. Her shoulder brushed my arm, and she bit her bottom lip as if she was slowly preparing herself for another question.

What could it be?

Would she say it again?

Then her lips parted, and her voice dropped. "Is he still...?"

Kayden.

"Oh, yes," I nodded awkwardly. "By the way, the queen saw him in the pantry."

We stopped walking as we reached the two massive doors leading to the ballroom. Well, I stopped walking, but Violet's body had stiffened.

"She what?"

Commented [Ma1]:

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I nodded to the guards, and one of them ran inside in a hurry.

"Long story, but it's all good now."

"Are you sure?" she asked, uncertain.

"Positive."

At least, I hoped so.

The cards were falling into place perfectly, and unless the Moon Goddess was against us, there wasn't much that could go wrong tonight.

The sound of a trumpet tore all the way from the ballroom to the halls, and I already knew what came next.

Here we go again. Another announcement, same crap as always.

My lips moved close to Violet's ear. "Smile."

It didn't take long for her lips to curl into a fake but beautiful smile as she looked ahead and held onto me like she did not want to let go. After the feast last time, I understood that perfectly. I did not want to let go of her either.

"The Crown Prince and the Royal Mate!" the announcer called loudly.

Then the doors swung open.

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