

Chapter 452

Violet

We sat in the cafeteria, at our usual table. I sat beside Kylan, Trinity across from me with Dylan, and Nate beside him.

A few students fluttered their eyes at the table, trying to get the attention of one specific person. Nate.

And Nate, being Nate, gave it to them. He shot them a wink, and they practically melted, giggling and whispering to each other.

Trinity and I shared a look as Nate gave himself a pleased chuckle. Both of us shook our heads in disbelief. Nate didn't mean anything by it. He was very much into Kaelis, obsessed even, but this was just who he was.

Someone who entertained others, charmed without trying, and possibly couldn't help it even if he wanted to. He didn't want to hurt anyone's feelings and was just the nice guy.

"So," Trinity said, leaning forward. "Are you excited?"

Nate blinked. "Excited for what?"

Trinity rolled her eyes, then curled her lips into a smirk. "For Kaelis, who will be here soon," she said. "Your mate? The love of your life, remember?"

A bright smile spread across Nate's face. It was like he had become a completely different person. It always was whenever we asked him about Kaelis. "How can I not be excited when I finally get to hold my mate again?" he said, looking across the table. "I'm already counting the days _"



Kylan gave him a look that made him stop talking. "Piece of advice," he began. "Kaelis...I love my sister, but we all know she's got some serious issues. If you so much as smile at anyone else once she gets here, she will kill you, and the other person..."

He made a gesture with his finger in the air. "Well, you know. She will kill all of you."

Nate laughed awkwardly, scratching the back of his neck. "Those are just my friends. I met them at the library yesterday," he said. "I don't mean any harm. You know what your sister means to me."

She did mean a lot to him. If anything, she was the reason why he had been so happy lately. He hadn't even breathed near Lunaris and had been so proud to share the news with us.

"Mark my words," Kylan spoke just above a whisper. "There will be so many misunderstandings, and these two will get on each other's nerves once she gets here, and guess who'll get to fix it?"

"You?" I guessed.

He showed his teeth. "Me!"

"You literally just winked at three girls," Dylan coughed under his breath.

"I was being friendly!"

I laughed at the situation. The news about those two had also spread quickly, but it was safe to say not a single girl gave a damn. Nate remained Starlight's golden retriever. Attention followed him wherever he breathed, and because good-hearted Nate actually entertained it, unlike Kylan, his crowd had basically doubled since we got back.



"You've got a few more weeks to learn how not to be overly friendly," Dylan said, leaning back in his chair. "I can teach you. I've been like that my whole life."

Trinity leaned closer to peck his cheek. "You are friendly!"

My thoughts wandered back to my other friends. Just a few more weeks before we would all be together again. Sora, Lian, and Kaelis would be joining us. They had passed their entrance exam, of course.

Lian had chosen Combat, Strategy, and Leadership. Kaelis went for Diplomacy, Strategy, and Leadership, and Sora would be joining Trinity and me as a healer.

"Okay, everyone. I'm sorry for being nice," Nate snarled, though the smile on his face remained. "From now on, I'll just be a cold and rude asshole like Kylan. Good?"

"No!" Trinity and Dylan said in unison. "You don't have to be like him," Trinity added.

Kylan folded his arms with a scoff. "Glad to know where I stand in this group."

I rubbed Kylan's arm to comfort him. "I think you're the kindest out of all of us."

Kylan's eyes softened, and he rubbed his head against my hand before kissing it. "I know. I even allowed you to sit at my table."

"What?"

Dylan extended his hand to prevent us from bickering and focused on Nate. "We don't want you to stop being Nate," he said. "All we're trying



to say is that you should be a bit more...aware.”

Nate looked at him. “I don’t get it.”

“Looking at the statistics,” Dylan began. As he was about to explain, the bell rang, cutting through the noise of the cafeteria. Just like that, it was time to part ways.

“Good news, Pup,” Kylan whispered. “This means we don’t have to listen to your brother.”

A laugh came out. That was good news.

We all got up, Kylan’s hand reaching for mine to help me up.

“I’ll see you later?”

I nodded my head. He leaned in, pressing a quick kiss to my forehead. “I still think you should’ve skipped,” he said. “Just don’t try to fall asleep in class, and if it’s too much, please just go to your room and don’t push yourself.”

“I won’t.”

He squeezed my hand once before letting go. His eyes were soft enough to make me feel like the only person in the room, but that was only until Dylan and Nate dragged him along.

He looked over his shoulder to shoot me one last glance before the three disappeared into the crowd. I turned to Trinity. Another good change was that we had a lot of our classes together.

“Ready for Advanced Healing?” she asked.



“As I’ll ever be.”

~

We sat near the back of the classroom. Trinity pulled out her makeup and started applying it like we weren’t in the middle of a class.

I watched her for a moment before turning my attention to the front, where our new professor was setting up. Professor Jill.

She was a woman in her thirties with beautiful dark hair, flawless skin, and a soul too kind for Starlight, and she had been our replacement since we returned.

Esther had left. Not completely, but she was supposedly on leave. Coincidentally, the same day, Kian appeared.

The day none of us talked about. Not even within our group, and certainly not in private. It was just easier to pretend it didn’t happen. Those red eyes, that glowing hair, the way his voice had changed into something darker, and not to forget, the threat he had left with.

We didn’t talk about it. Lyperia hadn’t found him yet, the other kingdoms weren’t aware of the situation, so the problem didn’t exist. As simple as that.

I exhaled slowly, trying to push down the feelings rising in my chest. Part of me was glad Esther was gone because I would’ve really killed that woman.

There was no way I would ever forget her hand in my parents’ deaths or what she had done. And one day, when the time was right, I would make her pay for it. That was the promise I made to myself, and I intended to keep it.



Another part of me hated that she slipped away so easily, right when Kian was nowhere to be found. Would she be with him?

It felt like I had control over nothing. People came and went, and I was just supposed to keep going like everything was fine.

I hadn't even seen Aelius yet.

When we first got back, I was so excited to return to the caves. To see my grandfather again, even if he wasn't exactly clear about how he felt about present-day me. I wanted to continue our training, learn how to properly control my eyes, my powers, everything Adelaide had given me. I had even thought of asking him for advice on how to connect with Adelaide and Alaric without touching anything I shouldn't.

So I could finally get behind the meanings of those strange dreams...

My jaw clenched. Everything fell apart after I received his message. It was just like him. Cold, simple, and distant.

'Child of Blood. Do not show your face until I call upon you.'

I had been away for weeks, been through hell and back, and he didn't even miss me. He didn't ask how I was doing, nothing. Didn't even refer to me as Violet, but Child of Blood.

I was just met with cold silence again, like I was an inconvenience rather than his granddaughter.

Trinity looked into her mirror and smacked her lips together, satisfied with the shine. I couldn't help but admire how beautiful she looked. She always looked well-rested, unbothered, and enjoyed life to the fullest.

A smile appeared as she caught me staring.



"Want some?" She held out the lip gloss. "The shade might hit your lips differently, but I have another one if you'd like to try!"

I shook my head. "I'm good. Thanks."

She tucked it back into her bag and turned to me, her gaze sharpening. "Do you know what's been bothering me?"

"Enlighten me."

"It bothers me that you've been nineteen for almost two months now and we have yet to celebrate."

Had it really been two months already?

"I celebrated," I shrugged.

Trinity raised a brow. "When I say celebrate, I don't mean Kylan eating the birthday cake between your thighs," she said. "I mean a real celebration. A party!"

I burst out laughing at her creative choice of words. A few people turned to look at us, and I ducked my head in embarrassment.

"What? Am I wrong?" Trinity argued.

Well, she wasn't. My birthday had been quiet. It had just been Kylan and me alone in his room, doing things that definitely involved more than the actual cake. It wasn't just that, but we had talked, he gave me presents, a beautiful handwritten letter, we had played games, and enjoyed each other's presence.

It was perfect in its own way, but she had a point. I hadn't done anything with friends. No party or celebration.



How could we have, when everything back then had still been so fresh?

Trinity's eyes sparkled with something I didn't quite trust. "I'm not sure when it's coming, but it is coming," she warned. "And when it does, you'd better be ready."

I sighed, just letting it go. When Trinity had a plan, there was no talking her out of it. "Sure. Whatever you say."

"Attention please!" Professor Jill's voice cut through the chatter. "We have a lot to cover today."

Trinity shot me one last look before turning to face the front, and then class started.

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The rest of the day was filled with lectures, assignments, and, of course, me trying not to fall asleep at my desk. I sat through history, science, and herbal medicine, and by the time the final bell rang, all my energy had returned.

Because that meant I could finally go see him.

Kylan.

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