



## Chapter 455

Violet

Try...

That word alone was huge coming from Lumia.

'You just want to go for that run later,' I concluded.

'We would have gone for that run with or without your permission,' she said.

I let out an awkward laugh, and Nate gave me a look. 'Was that a threat?'

'A promise.'

Nate tilted his head as if he was trying to see through me. "Lumia left quite the impression, you know," he said. "I can't tell you it's good, but Evander still talks about her."

I laughed again, thinking about that day on the battlefield. Lumia taking charge like she had every right to. Ordering wolves around like they were her personal army, and she did it well. They had actually listened to her, probably to shut her up, but still.

"She has a way of doing that," I agreed.

The two of us laughed at each other for a moment. "Evander must be pleased with you," I said. "That you accepted Kaelis."

The moment her name left my mouth, Nate's whole face changed. His eyes softened, and this dreamy look washed over him. It was like someone had flipped a switch.



"Pleased is an understatement," he breathed. "He's been difficult about it. He keeps asking me every second when she's coming, why she isn't here yet, why I didn't stay to be with her." He ran a hand through his hair. "I agree with him...Two months feels like two years. I know Kaelis is strong. She's amazing, but I can't stop thinking that I shouldn't have left her alone. Not because she needs me, but I need her...I just can't live without her."

I gave him an understanding nod. He kept rambling, but I just listened, letting him go on. He needed it.

"I don't know if you recognize the feeling, but it's like this constant ache that won't go away until I hold her in my arms again, and when I do...I swear I'm not letting her out of my sight. Never again."

When he finally took a breath, I sighed.

"No, I understand," I confirmed. "It's the same for me."

My lips curled into a slight smile as I looked behind me. Kylan was frowning, not looking too impressed by something Dylan had said. I loved everything about him, that angry frown included, and could not spend a day without him. It wasn't just the mark, but much deeper than that.

It was hard to believe that I had already spent about eighteen years of my life without him.

An exhale left me as I looked back at Nate, into his amber eyes. This guy was so in love with his mate. The one he first tried to convince me he didn't have feelings for was also the guy who had almost...

Heavenly Goddess...



"Do you remember when the two of us almost..."

I fake gagged, and Nate broke into an offended laugh, lifting a brow. "Okay, Vivi."

I burst out laughing. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry. It's just weird to think about now."

"Not just for you, but you didn't have to gag about it," he said, playfully rolling his eyes.

"I didn't mean it like that!" I snorted. Jane's voice cut through the chatter, drawing everyone's attention back to the front.

"We will be doing an exercise that is about meeting your wolf halfway," she said. "Most of you talk to your wolves like they're just there to please you, but it's so much deeper than that." She paused. "They're the other half of your soul, and if you want to be truly in sync, you need to go deeper than surface conversation. It's important to check in once in a while, get to know each other, feel each other, make sure you're both on the same line."

I swallowed. "Close your eyes," Jane continued. "Let your mind go quiet, and rather than reaching for your wolf, let them come to you. Allow them in. There's a space between you and them. A meeting point where you will be able to see each other. Nobody's territory, but a middle ground."

She looked around at all of us. "It should be warm, safe, and that's where the real connection happens. That's where you stop being two separate beings and start becoming one."

I felt my nerves spike. I had heard about the other majors doing stuff like this, but not the healing department. We focused on other skills. I wasn't even sure if I would be able to do this.



Everyone around me started settling in. Their eyes closed as they slipped into that stillness Jane described. I suddenly felt out of place.

It was clear it wasn't the first time for them. Nate was already gone, Dylan, and Kylan too. Everyone.

'Why the wait?' Lurnia asked dryly. 'Are you afraid I'll eat you? Take over your body? Control your every move?' She asked. 'You already let me out, so what does it matter at this point?'

I didn't answer.

'Hmm. I thought we almost trusted each other.'

I felt a shadow near me and looked up to meet Jane. She crouched down in front of me, her eyes soft. First, she glanced at Nate, confirming he was deep in his meditation, then looked back at me.

"Something scares you," she said quietly. "You can tell me."

I hesitated, glancing at the others around us.

"They can't hear us," Jane said, reading my thoughts. "When they're that deep, they can only hear their wolf. It's just you and me right now."

I looked at her again, my lips slowly parting. "It's just...I've just never done this before," I explained. "And Lurnia...we don't exactly always get along, and I don't want to make it worse."

She smiled gently and lifted her hand, brushing her thumb against my cheek. "You're being cautious," she murmured. "James was right. You are so much like them...Alaric and Addy."

I fluttered my eyes, unsure of what to say. We hadn't spoken about it. About their memories returning, and what she and Rochwall



remembered after breaking the spell. We had to be careful about these things.

When I had returned, Rochwall had briefly mentioned that we would discuss it later. He had told me to reclaim my birthright before I left for Lyperia, but then never brought it up again. We bonded. He did push me more in practice, always with good intentions, but hadn't said their names ever again.

So Jane acknowledging them like this...

It did something to me.

"You have his hair and his eyes, but you have her gaze," she said softly. "And if you're even half the shifter Alaric was, you have nothing to worry about." A soft smile tugged at her lips. "Lumen was no joke, and Addy... she didn't need a wolf to be terrifying. She was a force all on her own."

My lips curved into a satisfied smile as a warm feeling spread through my chest. I didn't know whether it was pride, longing, or maybe both, but I felt honored to be theirs.

Jane brushed my cheek once more. "I know you have so much potential, and we don't want you to hold yourself back. He already told me he wouldn't allow it anymore."

Who?

Rochwall?

Before I could ask, Jane stood and walked away to give me space. I sat there for a moment, processing.

Lumia stirred within me. 'The specialist might be right,' she said. 'You are still holding yourself back. I didn't want to do this, but you are



making me want to do this, Violet.'

'Do what?'

'Show myself to you,' she explained. 'We have been running together for months now. Fought side by side, almost faced death, and came out stronger.' She grew more impatient. 'And sure, I might complain a bit, but I've earned that right. We both have. So what exactly is the problem here?'

'I don't have a problem...'

'Perfect. You have three seconds to close your eyes and meet me, or I will shift us both right here and give everyone a show they won't forget.'

Panic washed over me, and I immediately closed my eyes and sat in position.

'There will be no need for that!'

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