



Chapter 456

Violet

Everything went white all at once. A sharp pulse of pain hit behind my eyes, making me wince. I pressed a hand to my temple even though I knew I wasn't really there because this was technically my mind.

None of this was really there. Or was it?

I was somewhere in between, that middle ground Jane talked about.

The white flickered twice, and then she was there. Standing in front of me like she had been waiting all along.

Lumia...

Her fur was dark as night, streaked with silver and white. She stood tall, confident, head held high, and everything about her felt calculated. The small growl she let out after every breath, the way her ears twitched, everything.

Her eyes found mine, white and glowing. The same glow I would have if I actively used my special eyes. She revealed her fangs, a low growl rumbling from her chest.

It was as if she were trying to test me. Scare me. But I didn't step back.

I was finally getting it.

Why would I?

Looking at her felt like looking at myself. Not a simple copy or someone completely else, but the other half of something whole.



This was me. She was inside of me, and we were one. Lumia stopped growling, and her head tilted slightly as her glowing eyes narrowed before fading back to a pale blue.

'Well, hello,' I heard her voice within me.

Her voice echoed through me the same way it always did. Inside my head.

She started walking slow circles around me, her paws silent against the ground that wasn't really ground. Her tail swayed behind her.

'Took you long enough.'

I turned with her, refusing to let her out of my sight. My heart was pounding, even though I knew there was nothing to fear. This was Lumia. My wolf.

But watching her circle me like this, those pale eyes tracking my every move, I couldn't help but wonder.

Was she trying to intimidate me?

I stopped turning and stepped back, forcing her to face me. 'That thing you said earlier,' I said...Or thought? It was hard to really tell the difference here.

'Threatening to take over.' I held her gaze. 'Don't ever do that again, Lumia. I won't stand for it.'

Did I overstep?

I worried for a split second, but then Lumia slowly lowered her head. A soft growl rumbled in her chest, but it wasn't aggressive. It was an acknowledgment.



Submission...

She stepped closer and brushed her head against my thighs, her fur warm and soft.

A short, amazed laugh escaped me. What was the meaning of this? Was she serious?

I carefully stuck out my hand, letting it hover in the air first to ask for permission. When she finally granted it by pressing herself closer, I let my fingers sink into her thick fur.

'Is this real?'

'I'm asking myself the same thing,' she said, her voice quieter than usual. 'I don't know why I did what I did...'

I smiled and looked down at her, letting my hand travel up to scratch gently near her ear. She leaned into the touch, her eyes closing halfway.

'Because you are me,' I said softly. 'And I am you...but there's no need to fight over control because I'm in charge. I'm always in charge.'

Lumia's ears twitched in disagreement.

'We're both in charge,' she corrected. 'And this is my zone.'

Yes...

Inside my body.

I shook my head, a small smile tugging at my lips.

'Being here, I just realized something.'

'What is it?'



I looked at her, tilting my head the same way she did to me. 'If I walk into a pack of rogues and get demolished, you die too,' I said. 'Therefore, I'm always in charge.'

I was met with silence before she laughed. A low, rumbling sound vibrated through. 'You're starting to sound like our mate.'

I chuckled. She was right. That was exactly the kind of thing Kylan would say. Smug logic that was supposed to make sense, and somehow did.

Moving to the ground, I lowered myself and crossed my legs. Lumia followed, settling beside me. She tucked her paws beneath her chest and rested her head near my knee, close enough to touch.

Her eyes bored into mine, and we looked at each other for a long moment. I let my hand drift back to her fur, running my fingers through it. We stayed like that for quite some time. Every now and then, I scratched behind her ear or along her neck, and she leaned into it each time. She was enjoying this too.

It was strange being here with her like this. There was no awkwardness, no bickering...just us existing together.

'I have questions,' I spoke after a while.

'Ask away, and I'll decide if I want to answer.'

I took a breath. 'You've mentioned a few times that you've been here longer than any of us have been alive. You and Valerius both?' I asked. 'Can you explain that more?'

Lumia made a low sound in her throat. Like she was considering it. I hoped she would, because that would help me understand her even better. Wasn't it weird that it was my other half, the part I couldn't



function without, yet she knew everything about me because she had grown alongside me? But I didn't know much about her.

'For how long have you been here?' I pressed.

Her head lifted slightly.

'I am reborn each time. A new body, a new human, and no memories at first. But when the wolf awakens, so do I.'

'What does that mean?'

'It means that everything comes back, every lifetime, and every battle. It has been this way for millennia.' Her ears twitched. 'I complete whoever the Moon Goddess deems worthy of fighting Baelor's battle and lead them to greatness. That's my purpose.'

'Millennia?' I blinked down at her. 'I thought it was centuries.'

She shifted her large head, her pale blue eyes unimpressed. 'Then why did you ask?'

I pressed my lips together. 'I'm sorry.'

So for Valerius it was the same...

Two ancient wolves, traveling through time, always finding their way back to each other to fight against the devil. It was like it was written in the moon itself.

'If you and Valerius always reunite,' I asked further, 'does that mean you were made for him?'

A scoff came from Lumia, and I watched her ears perk up. Her eyes sharpened. 'The Moon Goddess created Valerius specifically for me,' she



said, a hint of pride in her voice. 'Not the other way around.'

I laughed. Of course, she would correct me. But it was also wrong of me to assume that it would be the other way around.

'We travel from bloodline to bloodline through time,' she continued. 'The moment one of my predecessors took place inside a body within your family line, it was already written that I would end up with you,' she explained. 'Lumen was inside your father, another light inside his father, and so on.'

I let that sink in. Lumia and Valerius must have missed each other a lot. I could only imagine how long it took for those two to be reunited again.

'Is it the same for Kylan and Valerius?'

Lumia nodded her heavy head, but something in her blue eyes shifted. I couldn't tell what it was, and before I could ask, it was gone.

My fingers still buried in her fur. 'I assume you've never been inside a hybrid before?'

'You are the first.'

She sighed, her large body sinking deeper against the ground.

I was the first...

She had lived inside many bodies. Most likely strong warriors, individuals she didn't have to worry about, and then there was me...an adopted Bloodrose girl.

I chose my next words carefully. 'When I lost control,' I started, 'I blamed you for it, and you let me. You let me badmouth you, protected my feelings, even though you knew it had always been the eyes I carry,' I



said. 'Was that also part of that greatness you wanted to lead me to? Because I think it might have affected our...bond.'

Lumia went quiet. She leaned forward and rubbed her snout against my leg.

'The bond between us runs deeper than you know,' she said. 'Nothing could affect it. Not your anger, not your fear, not your blame.' She pulled back slightly, her eyes meeting mine. 'What I did was to protect you. If you believed it was me, you wouldn't have dared shift again until you were truly ready...and that kept you safe.'

I let her words settle over me. There was only truth in what she said. I had feared her so much that I refused to shift, and that was what had ultimately protected me.

'Do you think I'm ready now?'

'Yes.'

She said it without hesitation.

I exhaled slowly, not realizing I had been holding my breath.

'Can I ask you something else?' I asked. 'Advice?'

'You can try.'

I ran my fingers through her fur one more time, calming myself. 'You're aware of what I've been dreaming about,' I said. 'I know you see it too. The Veil, the darkness...mom's voice.'

She hummed, and I looked at her. 'What should we do about it?'