

Chapter 457

Violet

'You shouldn't do anything.'

I scrunched my face, not expecting that answer. She was supposed to be rebellious. She always was. She was supposed to encourage me to get over there and finally demand some answers.

'What do you mean?'

'Your grandfather gave you instructions for a reason,' Lumia said calmly. 'When he calls for you, he will tell you what to do. It's more complicated than you think, Violet. Trust me on this.'

A frown appeared on my face. Why did she want me to trust her on this? 'Do you know a lot? About what's happening?'

'I know what I've experienced myself...The rest is about the same as what you know.'

And what was that supposed to mean?

My thoughts went back to Aelius. If the dreams did mean something, did it mean it would only be a matter of time before he would finally summon me? Was that why Lumia wanted me to sit and do nothing?

Still...

It didn't feel right.

'Since we have an understanding now,' Lumia continued, her voice dropping lower, 'there's something I need to tell you, but you have to stay calm. When you get out of here, do not make a scene that could cost



us the matebond.'

I tickled her fur. 'I'm Violet. Why would I ever make a scene?'

Lumia released a huff.

'You can tell me,' I said. 'Please.'

She didn't wait to raise her head, and her eyes bore into mine. 'I think something is wrong with our mate.'

What?

I let out a short, surprised laugh. 'Ah, the Starlight brat,' I said, shaking my head. 'What complaints has Valerius been whispering to you this time?'

Lumia exhaled slowly, and with it, the laughter died in my throat. No attitude, snarky comeback? Nothing?

'What is it, Lumia...'

'Our mate hasn't been truthful to us,' she said. 'I can feel it.'

I laughed again, but this time it came out forced. Because there could just be no way. If it were like that, I would've sensed it. I had sensed almost every emotion lately, and guilt wasn't any of them.

'Impossible,' I stated. 'Kylan and I tell each other everything. Especially the big things.'

I remembered how angry he had been when I hadn't told him about visiting the mountains with Kayden. How betrayed he felt, and how we made each other a promise after that, that there would be no more secrets between us.



'Lumia?'

She released a heavier sigh this time. 'Do you know why I wanted you to go on that run later?' she asked. 'And every other time you offer?'

Well, obviously.

'Yes,' I said slowly. 'To be with Valerius. Of course.'

'It's not that.'

My stomach tightened. Her tone worried me, and I really didn't like where she was going with this. Not at all.

'Lately I've been noticing something while running with Valerius,' she continued. 'It is him, our mate, but something is different. Something feels...'

'What?' I pressed. 'What is it?'

Lumia lowered her head, a soft growl escaping her chest. 'I am sure of what I feel because energies do not lie,' she said carefully. 'But I want you to notice for yourself. I want you to focus on Kylan, pay attention, and feel and see it with your own eyes.'

'Why can't you just tell me?' I asked, flustered. This would only cause misunderstandings.

'Because if you notice it yourself, you won't have anyone to blame,' Lumia claimed.

That was not true. I had already learned my lesson and was done blaming her. 'I wouldn't do that,' I said softly. 'You know that.'

She responded with a weak hum. 'If my suspicions are right,' Lumia said



gently, 'you might want to find someone to blame. Anyone.'

I sighed deeply, frustration building in my chest. What was she even on about?

I thought about Kylan. About the way he had been lately. Sure, there were moments where he seemed distant, and moments where it seemed like something was bothering him, but that was normal. I would often do the same.

This had to be one big misunderstanding, and that would be the only explanation I could accept. Lumia just felt Valerius a bit stronger than usual, or maybe she was scared of losing him again. I was sure it was something like that.

'Playtime is over,' Lumia announced. 'It's time for you to go back now.'

Absolutely not.

'I don't know how to get back,' I argued. My tone was sharper than I intended. How could she drop something like this on me and then casually tell me to leave?

'But I do.'

'Wait...'

Everything went white again.

I gasped, my eyes flying open as air rushed back into my lungs. My eyes blinked a few times, adjusting to the morning light once more.

Everyone was awake, stretching, and coming back from wherever their wolves had taken them. One thing was certain. They all seemed happier than me at the moment.



I looked in front of me and found Nate also awake. He had a big, excited smile on his face.

“How was it?”

My mouth twitched, and something in my expression must have shifted with it because Nate’s smile faded instantly.

That...that bitch.

Not Nate. Lumia.

‘Lumia!’ I tried to connect again.

My blood was close to boiling when I heard fake snoring in response. She was truly a piece of work. She had really just dropped that bomb on me and then kicked me out before I could ask anything else.

I was going to kill her.

If that was even possible...

I forced a smile back onto my face for Nate. My second attempt. “It went better than expected,” I told him. “She was very...active.”

Before he could respond, I felt hands settle on my shoulders. Familiar arms wrapping around me from behind. But if I had to believe Lumia, not as familiar anymore...

“How did my Pup do?”

Kylan’s voice was warm against my ear. I looked up and turned to face him, stretching my mouth into a wide grin.

I suppose this was the part Lumia was talking about when she had asked



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I chuckled, but it came out more offended than amused. "If you can sense it, why are you asking?"

My tone was a bit harsh, and the words left my mouth before I could stop them. Well, Lumia's words because I had recycled them.

Kylan looked startled. His eyes searched my face like he was trying to figure out what just happened. I reminded myself to calm down. Lumia wasn't even sure, so to sit here and blame him instead of having a normal conversation...That was wrong.

Even if Lumia was right, I had no idea what she could have been talking about. What could Kylan even lie about? There was nothing to lie about.

I softened. "It's not you. It's just some stuff with Lumia," I said. "But it will be okay."

His lips curled into an understanding smile, and he nodded like my words made sense. Kylan slammed his arm around my shoulder, pulling me in for a quick hug. "Whatever it is, we'll figure it out together," he said. "Okay?"

"Okay," I gave him a nod.

Suddenly, a voice boomed across. "My children!"

There was only one person who referred to all of us as his children. I followed the voice and saw Commander Rochwall striding toward us with Commander Jorn at his side.

And with them were two large wooden carts covered with a dark cloth.

Our Elite gear.