



Chapter 472

Violet

Trinity grabbed my arm. "Tell me I'm not imagining this."

"You're not," I breathed, still trying to process what I was seeing. I could only stare as the guy I recognized too well made his way to the front of the class.

It really was him.

Unmistakably.

And when he smiled at Professor Jill, I finally understood why everyone had been losing their minds.

"When did he get so..." Trinity whispered, her voice trailing off. "So..."

"I know," I breathed. He had grown a lot since I had last seen him, and was basically a giant now. Lean, well-built, and still as confident. His brown skin, as warm as the color of his eyes, caught the light, and his dark curly hair was cut short and neat.

He wore a fitted black button-up shirt, paired with dark trousers and polished shoes. Simple, but it worked on him. Everything about him seemed effortless.

No, Violet...

That's not important right now.

The real question was what he was doing here?

Around us, the reactions were still going strong. Everyone was back in

their seats, but that didn't stop them from fixing their hair, adjusting their clothes, and showing their presence. Some whispered to each other, while others were staring at him like he was the only person in the room.

I was still in shock.

To them, he was just a hot stranger. Which was correct, since it was pretty obvious time hadn't failed him. But to me, he was the one closest to Grandpa Aelius. The one who saved my life as a baby, and the one I fought alongside to seal Baelor just a while ago.

For me, it was just a while ago, but for him, it must've been years ago.

Jason's eyes locked onto mine, and my pulse quickened. A half smile spread across his face, and then he winked.

Murmurs spread around me as half the class gushed over his dimples, and the others giggled like they had never seen a wink before.

Professor Jill clasped her hands together. "I have to say, I didn't know how fast to approve when Jason reached out about teaching a session in my class," she said. "It's not every day we get someone of his expertise—"

"Is it true he's a Sorcerer?" a voice came from the front.

Jason chuckled, but I could feel my chest tighten. It would always happen whenever someone would say those words around me, and it was the same yesterday. Witch, Sorcerer, Soothsayer...

I wasn't embarrassed about what I was anymore, but that didn't take away the fear of feeling like I could get exposed any second.

Professor Jill nodded. "Yes, he is indeed, and not just any sorcerer." She gestured toward him proudly. "Jason is a child of blood, belonging to the

rare and ancient clan of Bloodstone Haven." She eyed him. "Did I get that right?"

Jason gave her a nod, and gasps filled the room. I knew they only reacted like that because he was attractive. The truth was, most shifters were weirded out by Soothsayers, witches, and anything else that lived in those woods.

"I heard they don't come out often. Except to scam people at the markets!" someone called out behind me.

Ah, and there you had it.

This was how they felt about us.

Professor Jill's cheeks went red. "I'm so sorry—"

"That's okay," Jason laughed. The room started squealing again, even Trinity beside me as his dimples deepened.

He took a step forward, sliding his hands into his pockets. "She isn't completely wrong, but it isn't quite scamming though," he said. "It's more like...providing a service. Many shifters are willing to pay good coin to catch a glimpse of their future, and the Soothsayers simply give them what they ask for."

Someone in the middle row raised their hand. "I have a question!"

Jason smiled. "Ask away."

Trinity sighed beside me. "I can't believe a face like that is stuck in those caves," she whispered excitedly. I laughed under my breath, shaking my head. That's something she'd say.

"No, I do not have a partner," Jason answered. I had missed the question.



"And yes, I can light a fire, but I won't be doing that today. I don't want to burn down Starlight."

He flicked his eyes toward me again, just for a split second, and my palms turned sweaty. Was he talking about me? Did he think I was going to burn down Starlight?

"Today," Jason continued, "we'll be focusing on Bloodstone Haven's medicinal practices. Our basics that rarely get shared with outsiders," he said. "But you're lucky."

Trinity's shoulder brushed against mine. "Wow," she whispered. "They don't even have books on that in this library."

She was right. It was a well-known fact that those living in Bloodstone Haven guarded their knowledge with all they had. Everything I had learned somehow came from Adelaide or Aelius directly, and even then, it felt like he was only giving me pieces.

So why would Jason be teaching this? What was the meaning behind it?

I squinted my eyes at him, thinking that all of this was a bit odd. If his intent was just to talk to me about something, he wouldn't have been teaching a class like this.

"I'll be teaching you Shadow Wound Healing," Jason announced. Of course, the room buzzed with excitement.

"It's a technique used to treat wounds caused by ancient dark magic," he went on. "Normal healing doesn't work on these, but...you never know what the future holds. So I figured it would be useful to pass this knowledge on to the best healers in Starlight."

Interesting...

Professor Jill cleared her throat. "I know you're all very excited today, but I want your full focus," she told us. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I am asking you to please do your best."

The class straightened up immediately. At the end of the day, they were still healers. And something that made their mouths water more than the sight of Jason was the chance to learn something like this.

I felt the same. I was excited to learn something new, but there was still something about it all that felt off.

"Shadow wounds look normal at first," Jason began. "But they spread like poison underneath the skin, and regular healing only makes it worse."

He looked around the class. "Once you do that, you feed energy into the darkness. If left untreated, it can affect the heart and the person will die."

The room fell silent, and he had everyone's full attention now. Jason turned to the desk where Professor Jill nudged a wooden box toward him.

He opened it and pulled out an apple. Not a regular apple. It was black, with red veins spreading through it.

A few gasps echoed through the room in response. Trinity let out a curious hum.

"I brought apples corrupted with ancient dark magic," Jason said. He tossed it up and caught it in his hand. The two girls in front of me gasped as if he had performed some magnificent trick.

"If I were to take a bite right now, I'd die."

Jason playfully brought the apple toward his mouth, causing an uproar. "No!" several voices screamed at once.



"You're way too hot to die!" one yelled from the front.

A short laugh slipped from Jason's lips as he placed the apple on the desk in front of him. His smile quickly vanished into a look of focus as he hovered his palm above the apple.

"Normally, when you heal someone, you push energy into the wound and fix it." His eyes were set on the dark apple. "With this technique I'll be teaching you, you don't push anything in. You pull the darkness out."

A soft and steady glow began to form around his fingers. His technique... it was so controlled, like he had done this a thousand times. He must've worked on it for years.

It looked incredible.

He was incredible, and he was Aelius's apprentice.

"You locate, concentrate, and pull out the darkness using only your fingers. That's where your strength comes from," he said, his brows furrowing with focus. "If you use any other source, if you rush, the darkness will fight back. It wants to survive...it always does."

My lips parted in awe as black smoke began to rise from the apple. It swirled in the air like it was alive and fought against the pull, but it didn't faze him.

Jason didn't waver, and his hand stayed steady. His breathing stayed calm.

The black smoke finally broke free from the apple, then disappeared into the air like it had never existed.

The apple...

Commented [Ma1]:



It was red again.

The class started clapping, and Trinity joined in.

"That was incredible!"

"Can we try?"

"Do it again!"

Jason smiled, brushing off his hands as if it hadn't taken him any effort. He seemed pretty pleased with himself, but an uneasy feeling crept up inside me as I finally put two and two together.

Him being here, and teaching them all of this about ancient dark magic. Right now. It wouldn't surprise me if Aelius had sent him.

Those words...

You never know what the future holds.

This was bad news.