

Chapter 473

Violet

I tried to focus on the black apple in front of me. Everyone had received one after Jason's demonstration, and now the room was filled with students attempting to replicate what he had done.

Everyone was failing. Including me.

"This is going to take months to master," Trinity muttered beside me. Her hands hovered over her own apple. "There's no way we're getting this in one class."

Trinity never bragged much, but she had exceptional talent in healing. Yet even she was struggling.

No matter how much I thought about it, it didn't make sense. I knew I wasn't using my eyes, but I had seen what I could do with my hands before. Experienced it. And if a child of blood couldn't do this, then what could I do?

I tried again. My palms hovered above the apple, trying to pull the darkness out. The action only seemed to be draining the energy out of me.

Either I wasn't trying hard enough, or I was too focused on Jason. Every few seconds, my eyes would drift toward him as he moved through the room. He interacted with students, answered their questions, and helped them like he had all the time in the world.

When I heard him laugh again, my gaze drifted back to him. He was leaning over a desk near the front, guiding a girl's hands with patience. She was blushing and giggling so hard I thought she might pass out.



A grunt escaped me as I turned back to my apple. "Have you noticed that we're the only ones he's skipped?" I asked Trinity.

Her brows furrowed. "Maybe he doesn't want to freak us out."

"It's already a bit too late for that."

More giggles came from his direction, and I couldn't help but stare again. I wished he would notice, and maybe he did...but it wasn't enough to make him pay attention.

"I'm sure Aelius sent him here to prepare everyone," I said, my voice dropping. "For the big battle?"

Trinity's hands froze over her apple, and she pulled them back slowly.

"The big what?"

Right...

She didn't know.

I opened my mouth to speak, but quickly closed it again as Jason stepped back from the desk he had been helping and turned to us. His eyes immediately found mine, and a charming smile curled his lips.

My throat bobbed as he started walking straight toward us. "He's coming over here," I whispered.

"Good," Trinity said, flipping her hair over her shoulder. "That means we'll finally get to see him up close."

I released a short, nervous chuckle and sat up straighter as Jason reached us. Instead of standing over us like he had done with the others, he



grabbed an empty chair from the desk in front of us and sat down.

His arms rested on our desk as he faced us, looking back and forth between us. I gulped. Up close, he was even more striking. His brown eyes observed us, and after a while, those dimples appeared again.

"Your apple is still black," he said, finally speaking.

Trinity and I stayed quiet. I had wanted him to come over, and I had so much to ask him, but I didn't know where to begin. I had hoped he would address the obvious, but he didn't seem to bother.

Why was he acting like we were strangers?

"Do you know who we are?" Trinity asked boldly. There was a flicker of surprise in Jason's gaze, and his brows drew together.

"Do you know who I am?"

His eyes flickered to mine for a second. "Do you?"

"We fought together," Trinity said. "You were still a little boy back then... though for us, it wasn't that long ago."

A bright, relieved smile spread across Jason's face. He exhaled. "Good. I wasn't sure if you'd recognize me."

Jason stared at me. He tilted his head slightly, studying my face while I did the same. His eyes moved slowly, inspecting every detail. I blinked back at him, unsure of what to say.

I could either start with how happy I was to see him or perhaps some small talk like Trinity had done, but I wasn't sure if I wanted to. My head was spinning, and if I didn't get some answers, I feared it might explode.



"You grew a lot," Trinity said, breaking the silence yet again.

A chuckle escaped him. "Food is good at Bloodstone Haven." His eyes still hadn't left mine.

"I can see that," Trinity laughed. "You look...good."

"Do I?" Jason lifted a brow. He nudged his chin at me. "Our friend...is she shy now?" he asked. "When she was younger, she wouldn't shut up."

I shook my head quickly. "She isn't," Trinity answered for me. "She just gets like this when she either has too many questions and doesn't know which one to ask first, or when she meets people for the first time."

Jason reached out and nudged my arm with his finger. A jolt went through me.

"But we know each other," he said, his voice softer now. A warm smile reached his lips. "I've known you since you were a baby, Violet."

Not only that, but he was also the same boy who had carried me through Bloodstone Haven to bring me to safety. The one who fought beside me to seal Baelor, and the one Adelaide trusted.

Aelius trusted him...

"Why are we learning about dark magic and apples?" I asked, taking a small breath.

Jason's smile faltered a bit. "I think you know, Violet," he said.

So I was right...

"Jason." My voice dropped lower. "What are you really doing here? Does



Aelius know you're here?"

Please say yes...

That's all that went through my head as I was eager for at least a bit of acknowledgment from my grandfather.

Jason exhaled slowly. "He does," he said. "He's been watching you, Violet," he continued. "He never took his eyes off you, and he knows you need him now...he needs you too," he breathed. "You, and that...thing inside of Kylan?" His jaw twitched. "We all do."

He knew about Kylan...

"Am I missing something here?" Trinity asked, looking between us. "What's inside of Kylan?"

Forget about the acknowledgment...

A knot formed in my stomach. Aelius hadn't forgotten about me, and I didn't know how to feel about it. That's what I wanted, right?

But hearing he knew about Kylan, which shouldn't have come as a surprise, could either be a good thing or a bad thing.

By now, I knew he and Varius, who had encouraged Kylan to do it, didn't share the same opinions.

Either way, he had been watching this whole time, waiting, and now he was reaching out...needing our help.

Jason glanced around the room before turning back to us. "But seeing that you can't extract the darkness from the apple," he whispered softly, "and not just you, but every single one of your classmates, I worry that



there's still a lot of work to be done but barely any time left. You are not ready."

Ready for what?

The battle?

"What does Aelius want from me?" I asked eagerly.

Jason shook his head. "I can't tell you here," he said. "But he wants to talk to you and your friends."

"All of us?" Trinity questioned, still looking puzzled.

He gave her a nod. "Not here. At Bloodstone Haven. Tomorrow night—"

"Professor Jason!"

A voice called from across the room. It came from one of the girls in the front row who was waving her hand eagerly.

Jason started to rise from his chair. "Coming!"

I had this sudden urge to grab it and throw it in that direction. Why now? Why did someone have to interrupt now?

"Is it about my nightmares?" I blurted out.

Trinity muttered beside me. "Hello? Is someone going to tell me something? What nightmares?"

Jason brushed off his shirt and looked at me one last time. The look in his eyes changed, and there was a sudden sadness behind them.

"It's about your parents, Violet."



Then he walked away.



Comments



Support



Share