

Chapter 485

Violet

The sound of my breath was the only sound for a moment. I could only squeeze my hands in my lap, and stare into Aelius's eyes. Meanwhile, my brain tried to catch up to what he had just said.

We could save them.

Mom and dad.

I had been bracing the whole night for him to tell me they were too far gone, that this was bigger than them now and I needed to let go. But now he had given me hope again.

"Can we go now?" I asked eagerly. A laugh slipped out of Aelius before he shook his head.

"I am not going anywhere, Child of Blood," he said.

Right. Because he was needed here to take care of his people. A smile curved my lips as I turned to look at Kylan. He didn't smile back.

His jaw locked, and eyes fixed forward on Aelius.

Seeing him like that, my smile slightly dropped. Did he know something I didn't?

"What are we waiting on, then?" I asked. "Where are they? Tell me where they are and we can—"

"It's not that easy." Aelius breathed through his nose and closed his eyes.

"You don't know where they are," Kylan said, his voice soft. "Because

you can't see."

Aelius's eyes opened again. A sign that Kylan was right about this. What does he mean, he can't see?

He had seen everything I had been through, watched over me at Starlight, even knew Trinity had been thirsty. Aelius's eyes could see everything.

That was his thing. So if he couldn't even see this...

"No..." I breathed.

All the energy I had just felt mere seconds ago had left my body. A long moment passed where neither of us said a word. It was like Aelius was giving me the time to process this, which meant it would only get worse from here.

"Your mother has been trying to warn you, Violet," he said eventually. "Your nightmares...she is using what little she can to reach out to you. It is all she can do from where she is."

I thought back to the last part of my nightmare. Mom and dad...I thought they didn't want me there, but they just didn't want me there alone.

"You are the one with the most valuable eyes now," Aelius told me. "Only you can see where they are."

I can't...

That's what I wanted to say, but the words would not leave my mouth. I couldn't allow it. One wrong thing could be enough for Aelius to doubt me, and that wouldn't let me get my parents back.

"Then...then I-I'll find out where they're keeping them," I stuttered. "

It's a cave, I know that part. I've seen it...I'll find out where it is and I'll go inside and—“

“You cannot go inside.”

Aelius's voice was final.

“Why?”

“There is a spell on that cave, Child of Blood,” he explained. “Gloria's spell, and no magic moves through it except hers and his,” he continued. “No witch will be able to cast inside of it, no shifter will be able to shift, and we cannot use our eyes. Anything you carry will be cut off from the moment you cross through.”

A sad chuckle left me. Inside that cave, I would just be human...that's all it was. A place built to break humans.

Dylan let out a long breath.

“Then why are we even talking about this?” he asked, his voice tired. “If we can't go in, what are we doing?”

“The restrictions do not count for all of you.” Aelius's eyes traveled until they landed on Kylan. “The prince can enter.”

The temple went quiet. I had an awful feeling that I knew where this was headed, and I hated it. I hated everything about it.

“This is the reason why the two of you must learn to be at your strongest together,” Aelius said. He was talking about me and Kylan. He had already said he hadn't called upon us because of the fight.

“Child of Blood...you have the eyes, and he has the power. There is no time for cracks when the two of you have to come together as one.”

I felt the bond push through. Kylan's emotions were all over the place. His feelings were heavy, apologetic...and there was finally that sense of guilt. The one I had been missing before. Though I couldn't make out why.

I couldn't look at him...

But I did it anyway. My eyes slowly shifted until they landed on his, our faces inches away from each other. His eyes were soft, worried, and I felt sick to my stomach.

How could I even respond to this?

"Baelor," I whispered, facing Aelius again. "Kian and Kylan both carry one half of Baelor. Gloria didn't shut off Baelor, and the only one able to match Kian inside that cave is Baelor's other half...Kylan."

I wasn't always the quickest to catch on, but I caught on fast with this one. Aelius didn't say anything, and he didn't have to.

Kylan looked down and let out a breath through his nose. He would be the one who would have to walk into that cave, face his brother alone, and it was because of a decision he had made.

I didn't want anything to do with whatever was sitting inside Kylan's body.

Nothing.

I had been almost grateful, at least, that Valerius had been containing it, hoping it would stay like that for a while. Because as long as Baelor was held back by Valerius, I could pretend he wasn't there. I could pretend Kylan was just Kylan, and learn to lock it away in the back of my mind.

But this was about my parents...

I frowned as my eyes shifted between Aelius and Kylan. This wasn't what I had expected at all. Five minutes ago, I had been sick at the thought of my parents being out there with Kian and Gloria, and now I was sick because we didn't even know where they were, and even if we did, the only person who could walk in and get them was the one sitting next to me.

My mate who had to wake up the thing we had argued over.

"Hey," Nate hissed. We all turned to look at him, though his eyes were on Kylan. "You might be a vessel, but you're also the crown prince of Lyperia and your people need you. You can't let Baelor take over," he said. "You hear me?"

There was no grin or joke behind it. Just Nate, and he was serious. As serious as he had been in the woods after learning what was inside him.

Kylan didn't answer because those clearly weren't his thoughts. I wanted to say something too and at least back Nate up. I had to, but I couldn't.

Because I knew the second I opened my mouth it would come out wrong. I couldn't be the same Violet who had prayed to the Moon Goddess to bring back my parents, and then take it back as soon as she threw this opportunity right at me.

Very selfish, I know.

But what else could I do?

"You will have time," Aelius encouraged. "There is someone on his way to us. A friend who has dealt with Baelor before, and who knows the kind of work it will take to teach Kylan how to hold him," he went on. "He will be here soon."

Then his eyes blinked at me. "While he is teaching Kylan, you will be working on finding Gloria and Kian's hiding spot."

There was no, are we, are we not going to do it. Aelius had already decided for us either way.

"This is not much time, Child of Blood, so we will need to move quickly," Aelius stated. "My eyes have been affected by the spell as well, so I cannot see what Kian and Gloria are plotting or how much longer they plan to keep your parents alive."

My eyes widened.

Keep them alive?

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