

Chapter 486

Violet

An uncomfortable sensation pushed up my throat. I felt like throwing up. Sure, I had been wondering lately if my parents were even still alive, but now that I knew they were, I couldn't even think about losing them again.

And Kylan...

I could feel him panicking from the inside, but there was nothing on the outside that revealed it. I glanced at him out of the corner of my eye, but even that wasn't enough for him to look at me.

He had somehow thought from the very beginning that this was his purpose. It will either be you or her. Those were the words Varius had supposedly used to get him to this point, and now Kylan felt compelled to fulfill the duty he had placed upon himself.

"How did you know?" Trinity's voice cut through. She was talking to Aelius. "That Adelaide would reach out to Vi through the nightmares."

"I did not, at first," Aelius stated. "I saw the Veil collapsing, and that was the only thing my sight gave me before Gloria's spell closed in," he explained further. "I know Adelaide, and I trusted that she would reach for her daughter the moment she had even the smallest amount of strength to do it." A short laugh escaped him. "She is her mother. That part I did not need sight for."

If only she could have just told me where she was...

I peeked at Kylan again, and this time he did meet my gaze. His soft, brown eyes pierced through mine as his mouth moved like he was going to say something. "Hey, don't worry," he said, his voice gentle. A smile

curled his lips.

Don't worry?

"You're going to find out where Kian is keeping them. I'm going to learn how to control this thing, and then I'll bring them back to you," he decided. "I promise."

No...

Say no, Violet.

Do not let him talk like this is some small and easy errand.

He looked away from me and back at Aelius.

"What I am about to do...could it kill me?"

The temple went very quiet. My head spun so fast my neck almost cracked, and I felt Lumia grow with unease.

"Kian has become powerful in a very short amount of time, and unlike you, he has fully embraced Baelor," Aelius began. "They have welcomed each other because he has Gloria behind him, who is older and more skilled with this kind of power than either of you—"

"So it could kill me," Kylan concluded. His tone was too casual. "Just tell me."

"Anything could go wrong," Aelius responded. "But that is why you will have to learn to control it."

"So it could kill me, but at least it will bring Violet's parents back to her. Right?"

A small, content smile pulled at the side of Kylan's mouth. This time I had to speak up.

"Kylan—"

"Yes," Aelius interrupted. He shot me a glare, and I looked down.

"Great," Kylan said. "If it will bring them back, then I will do it."

I huffed out a breath. I was so out of it, I couldn't tell if it was the room that was spinning or my head. Kylan had just agreed to it like it was nothing.

"Okay," Dylan said, "not to be completely fucked up about all of this, and no disrespect to you, Violet, but..." He lifted his hands. "Are we seriously saying that Adelaide and Alaric's lives are worth more than Kylan's?"

Trinity sucked in a breath and whispered something to him.

Aelius swallowed and smacked his dry lips.

"I have already sent my own granddaughter into the Veil to keep this world safe from Baelor," he said, raising his voice a little. "So no. That is not what I am saying, and this is not about whose life is worth more than whose."

His gaze landed on me. "This is about the war that is coming, and to win the fight against Kian, we will be needing Adelaide's eyes."

Perhaps Dylan couldn't understand, but I did. I had seen what she could do with them, and I was nowhere near her level.

Aelius continued. "This will be everyone's battle, and we need Alaric on the throne of the Common Lands to lead," he stated. "We need a king who can pull that many people behind him, and Alaric will be that king."

The true Alpha King and the one I saw moving mountains the moment I looked into his eyes the first time—“

“But the Alpha King...” I started. That scum, Eamon, was still very much alive.

“I doubt your father will let that man live for even a second once he is out, Child of Blood.” Aelius scoffed with a short chuckle. “There is too much rage inside that man.”

I held Aelius's gaze. If Dad came back, and sat on that throne, and Mom sat next to him...

Then where did that leave me?

I had been Violet Hastings. The daughter of Alpha Fergus, and the royal mate of Lyperia. How would I even begin to explain everything if the new Alpha King suddenly claimed me as his daughter?

Aelius's eyes turned soft. “Once they are freed, Child of Blood,” he said, “Adelaide's spell will be undone, and the memories that were taken will come back.”

As expected...

“A great deal will change for you too, but by the time it does, Kian will be painting the world with darkness,” Aelius said, his voice steady. “The last thing on anyone's mind will be that you are half witch.”

Paint the world with darkness...

For some reason, the choice of words scared me. The last time Aelius had been so serious about something, my parents disappeared into the Veil. I knew whatever Kian had planned would not be pretty.

I let it sink in for a moment. We all did. Nate was the one to break the silence.

“Okay, just so I get this straight.” He folded his arms. “You need us here so you can prepare us to lead everyone during the battle, and in the meantime Kylan will learn how to control Baelor so we can get Adelaide and Alaric out, put him on the throne, and then go to war with Kian.”

Aelius hummed. “I can imagine this has been a lot to take in,” he said. “But it is late and time for you to return to your school now. You will hear from me again soon, and be prepared when you do.”

This was typically Aelius being Aelius. He had dropped all of this onto us, ended it abruptly, and was now kicking us out.

“How soon?” I asked.

“Soon enough.”

It wasn't an answer. His 'soons' were never really 'soons.'

He must have caught the look on my face, because he let out an exhausted breath. “You do not need to worry, Child of Blood. I have already told you we are running out of time.”

Aelius got up from the mat, and we all followed. I reached for Kylan's hand to steady myself, letting him pull me up. As Aelius's eyes locked onto mine and he walked over, Kylan let go of my hand again and stepped back to give us some space.

Not too far, of course.

I forgot how to breathe as Aelius suddenly stood in front of me, placing both of his hands on my shoulders. His hands were warmer than I expected.

"Violet..."

He gave me a small smile as the back of his finger found my cheek. What was he doing? Since when was he so...affectionate? Chills ran straight down my arms.

His blue eyes settled into mine, and he was so close I had never noticed how blue they were before tonight.

"You are scared."

I held his gaze.

"I am not scared."

He knew I was lying, but he didn't correct me. He just let me say it.

"She will finally see what great has become of her daughter," he said. "Soon."

My throat closed as I lost the ability to speak. Great?

He rubbed both of my shoulders once, gently. Then he stepped past me and walked toward the temple doors. "Come."

My eyes shifted to Kylan, who was still standing at a small distance. He looked at me with a soft and comforting smile. I knew he had heard Aelius's words.

But at the moment, nothing about me was great.

I should be putting a stop to all of this nonsense.

I should not be letting him walk toward Baelor for me...