

Chapter 491

Violet

"How are you going to outrun three Lycans tomorrow?"

Trinity covered her mouth with her hand, and turned away like I wouldn't notice. Her shoulders shook as she laughed. I couldn't even blame her because it was hilarious.

"But wait, don't forget you have Lumia!" She pointed out. "Now that I think about it, you might actually end up winning this thing!"

Sure.

We were on the couch in our dorm in the late afternoon. Last night had been another disaster without a nightmare which had marked day two.

Of course Kylan had said the same thing. That it didn't matter, that he would figure it out and I shouldn't stress over it.

Well, I was stressing.

I had even ran extra laps this morning, thinking I hadn't been exhausted enough and now my muscles were aching double for it.

"I'll be there to support you!" Trinity said. "I'll even bribe a few students to cheer you on. We'll use my dad's money."

"Forget the run," I muttered. "I just don't know what to do about the nightmare."

Trinity's laughter faded and turned into a look of surprise. "Vi," she said. "It has only been two. You should not be stressing yourself like this over two days."



I gave her a look. Two days would turn into three, and by the time I would finally get somewhere, Kian would've killed them already.

"I would not be surprised," I breathed, "if Aelius is keeping tabs on me and not reaching out because he knows I'm too useless to be of any use to him right now."

Jason had done his part. Since his visit, we had been practicing the method to extract dark magic every day in Jill's advanced healing class. Everyone was still unsuccessful, but we were trying.

"I might go for another run later," I told her. "Just in case."

Trinity let out a long sigh. "You walked into this dorm with your back even more hunched than that century old grandpa of yours," she said, bothered. "This is getting ridiculous!"

"Perhaps..."

"Look." She tilted her head at me. "I get it. You are doing everything you can think of to save your parents, and I'm not going to sit here and pretend to know how you feel because I have not lived your life," she said. "But I have eyes and I can see when something is starting to take a toll on a person, and you have already been through a lot, Vi."

I didn't answer. I agreed with her...so much I couldn't say anything back. I was still going through a lot.

Trinity studied me. "How are your eyes?"

I blinked to check for myself. The first few days my eyes had been itching, but they were okay now. "Good!" I replied. "After seeing Aelius and patching things up with Kylan...they're good."

Trinity scoffed.



"What?" I asked.

She sat up straighter. "Do you genuinely believe you and Kylan patched things up?"

I pulled a face, unsure of how to answer.

"I've been team Kylet from the start—"

"Kylet?" I raised a brow. "Who is Kylet?"

"You and Kylan," she continued. "And I'm not

trying to start anything, but do you really believe the two of you are fine, just like that? After everything that happened?"

I let out a breath and pressed a pillow to my chest. "Maybe not, but we decided to put it down for now," I admitted. "We don't feel like this is the time to be fighting and agreed to leave it for as it is and focus on what actually matters. Which is finding the cave and getting Mom and Dad back."

Trinity mumbled. "Well, your feelings also matter."

She held my eyes for a second, then leaned back into the couch with a mischievous grin. "So how is it having sex with the devil?" She asked bluntly. "Any dangerous moves, unheard of positions?"

I grabbed the pillow from under my arm and smacked her with it, my cheeks glowing. "Hello?"

She responded with a laugh. "He is literally hosting the devil, and I'm just simply wondering if the devil's got some moves or not."

"I wouldn't know...we haven't gotten to that part yet," I chuckled. Trinity



leaned forward, resting on her elbow. She seemed completely invested. “But if we do, you'd be the first to find out.”

The grin was still on her face. “Thanks.”

I had been trying very hard to think appropriate thoughts ever since that shower, and if it weren't for my mind blocking my nightmares, it would've been another story. We might have finally gotten somewhere with my hesitation about taking things further again.

“Oh!” Trinity snapped her head toward me suddenly and I flinched. “I called Dylan out, by the way!”

“For what?”

“For the way he turned around and praised Kyran in the woods after he heard he had taken Baelor for you as if you'd asked for his help.” She shook her head. “That was unacceptable.”

I hummed a nod. It was, but I had agreed to let Kyran learn how to control Baelor and that was also unacceptable. Even more so.

Trinity's phone buzzed. “Speaking of Dylan,” she said, reading the screen. “They want us in Nate's room. Let's go.”

“Nate's?” I frowned. That was strange. Usually around this time, Kyran would pick me up and we would spend time together.

“Why Nate's?”

She shrugged, standing up. “He didn't say.”

I tried to push myself up off the couch and a small groan ripped out of me before I could. Trinity reached out and grabbed both my hands to pull me up instead.



"I knew it would end like this," she scolded. I was embarrassed already, so I didn't argue.

Even worse was that I had been receiving praises in training for the past two days. Jorn had been pleased, Rochwall was pleased and now I couldn't go back anymore. Even if I wanted to. They wouldn't let me.

We walked to the front, and for a moment, both of us stopped and turned to the right, our eyes falling on the closed bedroom door. It was the biggest room and had once been Chrystal's.

Though the rest of her belongings had been sent back home by Nate, neither of us had opened the door again since. Nowadays, I couldn't help looking at it because it reminded me of what Kayden had been capable of. Not Kian, Kayden...

~

We made our way through the Starlight grounds and entered the CSL dorms. My hands fumbled as we walked the building, and a knot formed in my stomach.

I couldn't shake the feeling that something was off about being called to Nate's room without warning. None of the boys had said anything about meeting up tonight, and Kylan hadn't told me anything.

"I really hope Nate's doing okay," I said. "I haven't really been checking in with him with everything going on."

I had not realized it until I started saying it out loud. It wasn't that long ago that he had left those dungeons. Not to mention, he had returned to Starlight without his sister and had just gotten off the Lumaris.

He had been doing so much better lately, so I hadn't thought that much



about it, but there was still that thought in the back of my mind. What if he wasn't doing okay, and we had all missed something?

"Nate is fine," Trinity reassured as we went up the stairs. "He is more than fine, and has been fully Kaelis'd."

I let out a laugh.

"Yes, really." Trinity looked over her shoulder. "That girl is the only thing on his mind, and he can't stop talking about her. As long as he has Kaelis, I think he'll be fine."

I breathed a sigh of relief and felt some of the tightness in my chest let go. We had arrived at his floor and headed toward the door.

"I am still wondering what this is about," I said curiously.

"So am I."

We reached the door at the top of Nate's hallway. Trinity raised her fist and gave it two knocks.

"Just a second!" Nate called from inside.

We glanced at each other.

"He sounds happy," I noted.

Trinity shrugged. "See!"

Then the door pulled open, and Nate appeared.

"About time," he said, his voice cheerful. "Come in!"

He stepped back to let us through, and we walked in. The first thing I saw was the dark.



The shades were drawn, and the only source of light came from the candles laid out in a circle in the middle of the floor.

"What is this?" I whispered.

Dylan leaned against the windows, his arms crossed as he shook his head. It was as if he wanted to make it clear that this was not his idea and to keep him out of it.

Kylan, on the other hand, seemed to be the ringleader of whatever the hell this was. He stood by Nate's desk as he lit the last candle and placed it in the circle, his eyes glancing at me for a second.

"Is someone going to tell me," I said slowly, "what all of this is for?"

A small chuckle slipped out of him. "I told you I'd find a way," he said, brushing his palms off on his thighs. Then he gestured toward the candles. "This is the way."

Okay?

My mouth opened, but no sound came out. My way definitely seemed a bit more reasonable than his.

"Are we summoning Death?"

"No, of course not." He let out a puff as if I was the one who had lost my mind. "I just want to try something...see if it'll work."

Trinity walked up beside me, staring at the candles with judgmental eyes. Then at Kylan.

"So your way," she said slowly, "is...illegal witchcraft."