

Chapter 567

Violet

"Hey, you!"

A sweet voice filled my ear before two strong arms wrapped around my neck and squeezed me tightly. I coughed, completely caught off guard, and knew it could only be Sora.

She had an absolute brutal grip when it came to affection. Lian appeared from behind her, glowing in a way she hadn't done when I had last seen her. If anyone couldn't wait to get here, it was probably her. She had always been eager to learn.

Sora moved on, and out of the corner of my eye, I caught her throw her arms around Kylan. She jumped up and down, her bob moving as she did so, while Kylan's whole body went as stiff as a board.

His wide eyes darted around like he had no idea what was happening to him or why she was even touching him.

I chuckled at the sight, then turned back to Lian just in time to see the small bow she had reserved for Kylan. "Your Highness—"

"Kylan..." he corrected, Sora still hanging off his shoulder.

"Kylan." She smiled.

I looked into Lian's brown eyes. "You're here!"

"Yes." Lian let out a breath. "Definitely not without Kaelis screaming in our ears the entire way, but we made it in one piece. So I'll take it."



I let out a sigh, already imagining it. But when I turned to look for her, she was nowhere to be seen.

"Where's Kaelis?"

"Left with Nate," Kylan said. I shifted my gaze to his and noticed a tightness in his jaw after he had said it. I giggled, remembering how she had bolted straight through the gap between us without so much as a glance at her own brother.

"What?" An anxious feeling spread through my body as Lian narrowed her eyes and started looking between the two of us like she was trying to work something out. It was only day one...

A relieved sigh escaped me as Dylan and Trinity joined us again. As expected, Sora threw herself at both of them and greeted them warmly.

Meanwhile, Lian's eyes were still fixed on us.

"So," Lian said, glancing around. "Were you all heading somewhere?"

Though it probably wasn't that fair, I burst out laughing right in her face. Lian just stared at me, completely lost. Her brows pulled together.

The question was so simple, but the honest answer to it was so ridiculous that I genuinely didn't know where I'd even begin to explain.

"Sorry," I managed, wiping at my eye. "Sorry. It's just...a lot." I shook my head. "A lot can happen. You can join me tomorrow when I talk to the Elite Team. I'll get you both fully up to date then."

Kylan's face pulled. "Elite..." he said slowly.

I looked at him, and the expression on his face told me everything I



needed to know. He hadn't quite caught that part during my speech. Which, honestly, I hadn't really been that clear about.

"So how's back home?" Kylan asked, turning to Sora. "Lyperia."

"Really good!" Sora said brightly. "The Queen's doing well, and she's been so kind to us, honestly. Everyone's good. It's all just...good—"

"Even the King?" Kylan cut her off, chuckling. That one made Sora's mouth fall right open.

Luckily, Kylan was quick to give her a chuckle and a dismissive wave of his hand. Sora began stuttering, her brows knitting. "T—the king..."

"He doesn't care." Dylan sighed out, shaking his head. "He doesn't want you to answer that."

"Right." Sora bobbed her head slowly.

"You should probably get to your dorms," I said. "Get settled, unpack, all of that. I wish I could stay and help you." A pout formed on my lips.

Sora pouted back. "I know!"

"But Dylan would love to help you," Trinity said sweetly, patting his arm.

"He'll show you the way and get you all settled in. Won't you, Dylan?"

He scratched his head and let out a laugh that said he hadn't exactly volunteered for this. But because it was Trinity, I knew he'd gladly do it. She would be joining us to Bloodstone Haven either way.

"So what majors did you pick?" Trinity asked, looking between Sora and Lian. "Vi and I were guessing this morning."



"Combat, Strategy, and Leadership," Lian said.

Trinity mumbled under her breath. "Obviously."

Then we both turned to Sora.

"Me too!" Sora chirped.

Well...that was unexpected.

Sora? Combat?

Trinity and I both hummed, gave each other one look, and left it right there. Some things you just didn't question out loud. If that's what she wanted to do, then who were we to tell her she shouldn't?

"A lot's happened with me, too," Sora added, catching the look. A wide smile was plastered across her face. "More than you would think."

There was a moment of silence before Lian cleared her throat. "We should get going," she said. "And I probably shouldn't forget Kaelis's suitcase, or I'll never hear the end of it."

She looked behind her, and I followed her gaze to a single sparkly blue suitcase sitting off by itself at the back. It had gotten abandoned the second she had spotted Nate.

Lian walked over without a single complaint and grabbed the handle.

"She brought just one?" Kylan asked, furrowing. "That's surprising."

"She did," Lian called back. "Though I'm pretty sure she said something about going shopping for more later."

He cracked a laugh. "That sounds more like her."



Lian pulled the sparkly suitcase behind her and glanced at Sora. "We should really go now before Kaelis suddenly realizes she's missing something and starts screaming."

We all let out a sound in unison, imagining exactly what that would sound like. We said our goodbyes then. Dylan leaned down to press a kiss to Trinity's head, then he was off with Lian and Sora.

My eyes were still on them as he took all three suitcases, including Lian's, who had refused his help at first but eventually gave in anyway.

Trinity cooed, watching him go with a warm, proud little smile on her face. "He's so sweet," she said. "Whenever he feels like being it."

Kylan gave a light shrug. He took my hand in his, then reached over and gave Trinity's back a light tap to get her moving. She tore her gaze away from Dylan, and the three of us started moving.

"So," he said. "Car or walking?"

"Walking," I said.

"Car," Trinity said at the exact same time.

We both leaned forward to look at each other with a smile. "Fine, we'll walk," Trinity gave in without even putting up a fight. "But if I cannot manage it anymore, you'll have to carry me the rest of the way," she told Kylan, who was left flustered.

He pulled several faces before he just decided to ignore it. "I'm wondering when we finally get to run through those caves?" he said instead. "It would make things a whole lot easier."

"Eventually," I said as we walked out the gates. A small smile curled my



lips. They were still very cautious with wolves inside Bloodstone Haven. Even yesterday, while training the others, they hadn't shifted.

But I had seen Lumen around the cave and even inside it through Mom's eyes, and everyone seemed to accept him. They loved him.

We walked a little further, past the gates and into the trees. Kylan was in the middle, with me on one side and Trinity on the other. After a while, I felt his eyes settle on me and stay there.

"Yes?" I said, glancing up at him.

A soft chuckle escaped him. "Are you really planning to tell the whole Elite Team?" he asked. "About who you are and what you can do?"

I hummed and nodded. There was no doubt about it. It had already been decided.

"In a few days," I began, "I won't have anything left to hide anymore...so there's no point keeping it locked up when the whole world's about to find out anyway."

Kylan gave a slow nod of approval. My thoughts suddenly drifted ahead to what the day would actually have in store for us.

Of course, there was still the apology to Baelor. We hadn't forgotten about that. Kylan would stay with Varius and work on reaching the shadow the right way, while I went with Aelius to finally start training my eyes properly.

And somewhere in all of it, I needed to find a moment to tell Aelius about the nightmare and hope he could tell me what it meant...

