Chapter 578

Violet

"Kaelis," I said carefully, looking into her eyes. "What did you just say?"

She blinked at me, probably thrown by the sudden shift. "That...three girls were flirting with Nate? And I almost—"

"No." I shook my head. "Before that."

"Oh." She waved a hand. "That Vayla was fuming and I nearly let her out—"

"No," I said, losing my patience just a little. I sat up straighter and grabbed both of her hands. "That thing in the sky. What did you say about the sky?"

Kaelis tilted her head back, going into deep thought. She had most likely already forgotten the words that had left her mouth barely seconds ago. But that was just how her head worked, and I was starting to get used to it.

"Oh!" She gasped, remembering. That same energy as before had returned in her voice. "You mean when I completely lost my mind and thought I saw that purple crack in the sky—"

"Yes, that!" I breathed. "Tell me more about it."

And just like that, the smile slid off her face. There was a sudden shift behind her eyes, making it clear that the memory wasn't specifically a great one. She went quiet in a way that was just too

strange for her.

I released her hands, allowing her to sit down onto the bed beside me. "It was nothing," she mumbled.

I couldn't help but study her face. Kaelis, of all people, not wanting to say something while she was known for narrating every little thing, was definitely out of character.

But I understood it...

More than she knew.

I understood that she had seen something, and I had a good idea what it might've been. The only thing I couldn't understand was how something like that could have traveled all the way to Lyperia.

My mind went to Cecilia, and how much she must have kept from her own daughter. I knew it was only to protect her. Because even though Kaelis was the Moon Oracle now, the odds of something this big ever reaching through to her were small.

Aelius had said it himself...

The Oracle only truly woke as the Moon Goddess's very last resort, when everything else had failed.

And if the Goddess was already reaching for Kaelis, already cracking the sky open in front of her for whatever reason...

Were we doomed?

Could my plan, all of this, be for nothing?

No...

I couldn't think like that.

"Hey." Kaelis grabbed my arm, snapping me back. "Please just ignore that part, okay?" she asked. "Forget I said it at all." Her eyes were serious. "Also please, please don't mention it to Nate or anyone... especially not Nate."

I let out a soft chuckle. Though her eyes resembled her brother's, looking into her eyes felt like looking into my own. That fear that wasn't necessary because her mate would embrace her...even the things she experienced as odd.

Kaelis frowned. "What? Why are you laughing?" Her face fell a little. " Do you think I'm weird? You do, don't you? You think I'm losing it—"

I shook my head.

"No," I said. "I don't think that at all." As I stared at her again, something warm settled in me. This need to protect her. "I think you and I..."

My lips curled. "I think we're the same."

Kaelis scooted back, flustered. Her eyes squeezed half shut in confusion. "I'm sorry," she said. "I really don't understand."

"You will," I said softly. "Tomorrow. I promise."

A long breath escaped me. Tomorrow night was going to be something. I was telling the Elite Team who I was. That part was done, decided, no running from it. I wasn't nervous. I just wanted to

know.

What would they think of me...

Say about me...

Feel about me...

I still felt Kaelis's eyes on me. She watched me with that strange, searching look, like she was trying to find out whatever it was that I had been hiding. When she couldn't, she bit her bottom lip and blinked.

"Tomorrow," I said again, laughing.

"And you're really, really not pregnant?" Kaelis pressed, her brow raised. It only made me laugh harder.

When I didn't give her an answer, she studied me for a second longer before a bright smile broke through again. It was like nothing had ever happened.

"Okay, good!" She bounced up off the bed and started walking toward the closet. "Then let's get ready for bed so I can tell you another story," she said. "I've got so many, you have no idea!"

I smiled and pushed myself up to follow her, already mentally preparing myself for a long, long night.

—

I turned my head and gave her the flattest smile I could manage. " Yes, I've learned my lesson," I hummed. Still, it was worth it. If I

hadn't, I wouldn't have known about that crack she had seen.

By the time we reached the Starlight gates, the others were already there. Dylan, Nate and Kylan.

Kylan's eyes found me the second we walked up, and a worried expression formed on his face. "Hey." He extended his hand, and I slipped mine into it without thinking.

"What happened to your eyes?" he asked, studying my face. "You look half dead."

The way he had said it was apparently funny enough to make Dylan and Nate crack a laugh. "I think it was Kaelis," Nate chuckled softly.

"Ah." Kylan nodded slowly, like that explained everything. He tugged my hand before attempting to pull me into his embrace. Before he could, I pulled away a bit and looked up at him. My eyes softened.

"And you?" I asked. "Are you okay? After last night?"

He pressed his lips together, forcing a little smile to the question I already knew the answer to. Elyx had said he wanted to see him in Prison Island. Of course he wasn't doing okay.

I braced myself for him to brush it off the way he always did, but his answer surprised me. "I will be okay." His lips curved into a gentle smile. Then he pressed a kiss to the top of my head, and stayed there. "Because I've got you," he whispered.

Completely shocked, I pulled back a little to look into his eyes. There was no rage, nothing. As a matter of fact, he seemed steady. Settled.

Was this also an effect of yesterday's training?

"Come on," he said, his lips curving into a smile. "We've got a lot to work on today. Don't we?"