Chapter 580

Violet

I stood in front of Kylan's mirror, fixing my training gear. We were back at Starlight, and Elite practice started soon.

I was still a bit tired from Bloodstone Haven, and from everything that had been going on, but unfortunately that was not a reason to run from telling everyone the truth. Besides, we needed the training more than anything now.

Thoughts went through me as I gathered my hair and started twisting it into a bun. Would both Rochwall and Jorn be present today? How about Sterling?

What if I would tell them, ask for their help, and they would all run out?

I caught Kylan walking in the reflection of the mirror, straightening out his own gear, and smiled at him. He smiled back, lifting a brow at me.

The walk back to Starlight had been eventful. Trinity, Nate and even Dylan had a lot to say. It seemed the villagers had really taken a liking to them, and just knowing they were willing to share their knowledge and prepare them to lead others into the battle meant a lot to me.

"I never asked what you did," I said, turning the thought over.

He let out a questioning hum. "Today's training with Varius." I turned away from the mirror and turned to walk to him before looking into his brown eyes.

"Nothing, really." Kylan cupped my cheek in his hand and chuckled. " Just meditating, mostly."

My brows knitted. "Meditating?"

Kylan nodded. "I think I might've freaked Varius out a little after yesterday." His thumb brushed my cheekbone. "He wanted me to rest my eyes for the day."

A frown appeared on my face. If it wasn't Aelius, it was Varius, and so on...

"You can't rest!" I blurted. We didn't have time to rest. Not when my parents were in danger, and it was his eyes we depended on. Not when I could lose him because of that very reason. I couldn't lose him.

Kylan gave me a questioning look and slowly dropped his hands from my face. Only when he had done that did I realize how it might've sounded. It was a selfish thing to say.

My eyes fluttered, heat crawled up my neck. "I m-mean—" I stammered. "That's not, I didn't mean it like—"

Kylan chuckled and slung his arm over my shoulders. He pulled me into his side. "Relax, Pup," he said. "I know what you meant."

He glanced down at me. "Do you want to head out now?"

I let out a sigh, awkwardly gesturing to the door. There was no getting myself out of that one. We had promised to meet Sora, Lian and Kaelis in the cafeteria first.

They'd join us for Elite Training, where I could finally bring everyone up to speed. And just like the Elite Team, poor Kaelis would have twice as much news to take in.

"As we left the dorm and headed down, that heavy feeling sitting in my chest would not disappear. I hated the words I had said to Kylan just now, and it wasn't only that. Training went great. Amazing.

But the plan, the days ticking down, having people depend on me...I was starting to feel it now.

By the time we reached the bottom of the stairs, I finally worked up the nerve to say it properly. "For the record," I said, "I do think you need rest. Obviously. I don't want you to—"

"Don't worry, Pup. I get it." Kylan pressed a kiss to my temple. "I agree with you. We don't have much time, and I don't even want to rest."

At least some bit of that tightness disappeared, hearing the sincerity in his voice. We left the building and stepped out into the mostly empty courtyard. The sky had already started dimming like it usually would during late night training.

"Aelius was really good to me today," I said as we crossed it.

"Really?" Kylan glanced down at me.

"Yes." I hummed a nod. "I was surprised too, but he was so gentle today. Smiled a lot...said things he doesn't usually say."

I smiled a little at the memory of Grandpa Aelius's gentleness. "It caught me off guard, but I hope he can be like this more often," I said. "He talked about a lot today. And Kaelis..." I started, then stopped.

Kylan took a few more steps before he stopped in his tracks and turned to me in the middle of the courtyard. "What about my sister?" he asked.

That's when it hit me that I hadn't told him yet, and it wasn't exactly something small. "So, about that," I said, jumping right into it. I decided to leave out the part about the realm so as not to worry him.

"I had been thinking of ways to make sure the portal would stay open long enough for us to do what we have to do," I said. "I don't know if I ever told you, but my mom told me once, inside the Veil, about the Moon Oracle, but I didn't know it was about Kaelis back then."

"Yes?" Kylan urged me to keep going.

"She said her howl can reach through a portal, which means she could probably help us keep the realm open—"

"That's ridiculous. She's staying out of this."

Kylan chuckled, shaking his head. Yet every word that came out left no room to argue. It was final. He gave me a look when he noticed I wasn't laughing with him.

"Sure," he began. "She should know what's going on. She should know who you really are...but actually help us? Keep the realm open? Never. Not while I'm breathing." His eyes narrowed. "We're on the same page, right?"

We were not. The sign of the Moon Goddess, the howl that could prevent our five minutes from becoming five seconds, from Baelor draining his energy before he could even get to the caves. All of it

told me that she might be the missing piece in this plan.

But she was also his sister, and if Cecilia would go that far to protect her, and Kylan didn't even want to hear about it, what else could I do but let it go?

So I said nothing... Kylan let out an uneasy chuckle.

"Pup?" he pressed. I looked up into his eyes, and I took a breath.

"Yes," I said quickly. "Of course. That's what I was thinking too."

Kylan let out a sigh of relief, and the worry slipped from his face. He looked so relieved that I couldn't bring myself to feel bad about the lie. Or maybe it wasn't one...but just a conversation for another day.

He pulled me back into his side, and we started walking again, making our way toward the main building.

"Are you nervous?" he asked.

"Yes and no," I exhaled. "It's a strange feeling, so I don't really know what it is. It could go either way, could it not?"

In a while, I would either be standing in front of a team that accepted me or one that looked at me and saw a stranger. Witches weren't that popular, so there was really no telling how this would end.

Kylan's eyes went sharp. "They're going to accept you," he stated. "All of them...and if any of them don't want to accept you, or help you, then I'll—"

"No," I cut in. "You are not going to kill anyone."

He pressed his lips together, and I couldn't help but laugh. Because knowing Kylan, he had meant every word of it.

Before we had even reached the cafeteria, I already heard laughter. Sora and Kaelis especially were loud enough to count for ten extra people. As we walked in, we spotted the group.

Sora and Lian stood together, while Kaelis was with Nate. She clung to his arm like she was afraid he might run if she let go.

When she spotted us, she threw her hand up in the air and started waving enthusiastically.

"There you two are!" Kaelis called out.

The rest of them noticed us and started making their way over too. Lian and Sora followed her gaze, both smiling as their eyes landed on us.

"I was just asking Nate how intense he thinks Elite training is going to be tonight!" Kaelis called out.

Too intense...

She had no idea.