Chapter 584

Violet

Kylan's eyes narrowed. "Stay out of this, Nate."

"No. I've stayed out of it long enough." Nate chuckled, his voice exhausted, blue eyes tired like he didn't actually want to do this.

"She's not a kid, and she isn't asking for your permission, Kylan," he told him. "There is nothing you can do to stop her...I won't let you."

Kaelis's lips curled into a smile, and her brow lifted at Kylan. She hadn't said it, but I knew what she was thinking. Say something now.

Kylan's heartbeat was pounding so loud now I didn't even need the Life Sense to know it. I was counting down the seconds for him to speak up, and just when I thought he would, he pushed himself from the bench and walked away.

I was already getting up, ready to follow him. "Vivi?" Nate's voice stopped me.

"Maybe you should let him cool off first."

His words got through to me. I should have, but I didn't. I went anyway, and caught up with him somewhere in the middle. "Kylan, wait!"

He stopped but didn't turn around.

"I'm not doing this with you again," I breathed. "Just talk to me. Tell me what's wrong."

That made him turn. A surprised expression reached his face, half

disgust. "Tell me what's wrong?" he repeated. "What the hell was that just now, Violet?"

"I gave your sister the truth," I said, standing strong. "Something...that should've happened a long time ago."

I was very careful not to mention Cecilia's name, but that was actually what I was going for.

Kylan shook his head. "I specifically asked you to keep her out of this."

"But that isn't your decision to make!"

His nostrils flared. "She's my sister."

"And she's spent her whole life thinking something is wrong with her." My voice cracked a little. "You don't know what that feels like, Kylan. I do. " My palm slammed against my chest. "She looked at me like I was the only person in the world who wouldn't call her crazy. So I couldn't lie to her...and I don't regret it."

Kylan held my gaze for a long moment, as if waiting for me to take it back. When I didn't, something in his eyes softened. "And if something happens to her?" he asked. "Will you regret it then?"

I glanced down for a second, then back into his dark eyes.

"If something happens to her because you gave her a reason to think she is...special, will you regret it?" he continued. "Will you regret it when you have to watch me break, because I failed to protect yet another..."

He dragged a hand through his thick hair and looked away, jaw tight. Whatever came next, he couldn't bring himself to say it out loud.

"Do you think you failed Kian?"

His whole body went still, confirming my suspicions. "Are you afraid to fail Kaelis because you don't want her to be one more sibling you couldn't save?"

He didn't need to answer that. I saw everything I needed to know before he even opened his mouth.

"What's the point of this talk if the two of us can't even respect each other?" he sighed out. "I ask you one thing, and you go and do the exact opposite right in my face."

My heart sank because he wasn't wrong. I just should've told him from the start that I didn't agree with his ways.

"Tell me something and be honest with me, Pup," he went on. I felt a relief in my heart, and it was all because of that one name. Pup.

"Did you tell Kaelis because you actually care about her, or because some part of you knows she's the answer to your problem, and you'll do anything to get your parents back?" The relief I felt was short-lived.

"Because if you really knew my sister, if you really cared about what happens to her...I don't think you'd have said a word."

I sucked in a breath, turning his question over. I did care about Kaelis, and I considered her my sister, but at the same time I couldn't look him in the eyes and tell him he was wrong.

I couldn't tell him that the other thing hadn't been sitting in my mind when I decided to tell her the truth. Maybe both things were true at once, but I did really care about her.

"You're underestimating her." That was the truth I could give him.

Kylan let out a dry chuckle and looked away.

"I walked away just now because I promised myself I'd never fight with you again, and I meant it." His tired eyes found mine.

"But when you follow me out here saying things like that...you're making it really hard to keep that promise."

His words stung. "So..." I swallowed. "Are we fighting again?"

"No." His reply came immediately, a breath escaping through his nose. " I just told you I'm trying to stop us from doing that." He gestured between us. "We will let it be, and we'll be fine tomorrow." A weak smile crossed his lips. "But I need a moment. Can you give me that?"

I wanted to say no. I wanted to grab his arm and make him stay until we fixed it, before we really slipped into the band-aid situation Trinity had warned me about.

I couldn't get any of it out, as Kylan had already stepped over to close the space between us. He grabbed my shoulders, giving them a light squeeze as his brown eyes looked down at me.

"I don't like that look on your face," he murmured.

"Then don't put it there!" I snapped. But my voice softened before I could lose my nerve.

"Look, I can just stay with you tonight. I'll keep my mouth shut, or we can fuck it out and call it even." I shrugged. "I honestly don't care. I just don't think we should end the night like this."

Kylan let out a laugh. He tilted his head, and for a second he actually seemed to consider it. "Tempting, but I don't..." He exhaled, forcing the rest out.

"I don't know if that's a good idea."

Then he let go of my arms. "I'll pick you up in the morning." He turned and started walking away again, heading for the building while I just stood there.

Lumia purred inside me, fighting for my attention.

'Fuck it out and call it even,' she hummed. 'The Moon Goddess truly outdid herself, sticking me with the most embarrassing girl to ever live.'

'Shut up,' I growled.

My eyes were still on Kylan's back, and they went wide with shock when he glanced back over his shoulder. His brow was raised as he called out across the courtyard. "Are you coming or not?"

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