Chapter 586

Violet

A deep sigh escaped me as I buried my head in my pillow, trying to hide away from the morning light. Today was supposed to be a good day, but now I wasn't that sure anymore.

Even though the night had passed, the memories of last night still remained.

I had said an awful thing, gotten dressed, and left before Kylan could even get out and see. I didn't try to feel his emotions because I knew now was not the time to stress, but that didn't take away from that empty feeling.

He was angry...

Obviously.

Perhaps so angry, he wouldn't even join us today as the Elite Team set off to Bloodstone Haven.

Another huff escaped me, and there was a knock on my door. Then it opened. "Morning!" Trinity said, peeking inside first before coming in all the way.

By the way she was glowing, I assumed she must've come from Dylan's dorm. The smile on her lips faded into a confused frown. "Oh wow," she said. "You look terrible."

I lifted my head for a moment and raised my finger in the air. "Thank you."

So much for not stressing myself...

"I'm surprised to see you here. I thought you'd be with Kylan," she said, crossing over to sit on the edge of my bed. I sat up straight and rubbed my eyes.

"Well," I muttered. "I'm sure you'll be glad to hear you were right," I said. "The band-aid finally snapped."

Trinity tilted her head, confused. Then a gasp came out. "You and Kylan?" She leaned in. "What happened?"

I gave her a blink before it all came spilling out of me. The almost-fight, following him back to his room when I perhaps shouldn't have, and then the thing I said right in the middle of everything that I would give anything to take back.

With each word, Trinity's eyes squeezed together tighter and tighter until they couldn't anymore. A silence stretched between us, and a few huffs escaped her.

She started speaking. "You know I love defending you," she said slowly, shaking her head. "I really do...but I think I might have to give this one to Kylan."

I pouted at her but didn't fight back. "All you had to do," she went on, " was lie back, enjoy the moment, and keep your mouth shut. You had one job, Violet."

Though her words were serious, she couldn't help but slap a hand over her mouth to let out a short laugh. "Sorry, sorry!" She waved her other hand as soon as I gave her a questioning look. "It's just, the thought of him getting up and walking out in the middle of it? I can't!"

My arms folded as I waited while she got it all out of her system. I couldn't blame her. If it had happened to anyone but me, I'd have been laughing too.

After some time, she pulled herself together and drew in a deep breath. " He'll come around, Vi," she said, softer now. "He always does when it comes to you. You know that." She gave my knee a pat.

I groaned into my hands, though her words were enough to calm me for now. He'll come around...

"Now come on." Trinity stood, pulling at my arm. "Get up. Get ready. We've got a long day ahead of us."

~

I took her advice and got myself ready for the day. By the time we finally headed out, the sun still hadn't come up yet. Even in the dark, though, I could make out a few faces in the distance.

The entire Elite Team had already gathered, and it was a large group. Rochwall and Jorn also stood among them, the two of them bickering about something as usual. Jane had also joined them.

A smile tugged at my lips, but wobbled just as quickly as I scanned the crowd for Kylan.

"Relax," Trinity muttered beside me.

"I am relaxed!" I hissed back.

I was...kind of.

Because I knew Kylan was there and could sense him. That wasn't the

problem.

A bright, high-pitched laugh that could only belong to Kaelis came from somewhere near the back, and my eyes darted toward the sound.

She stood clustered off to the side with Lian and Sora. As my eyes searched further, they fell on Nate and Dylan, and not far off...Kylan.

My breath hitched, and my legs stopped moving. He looked completely, perfectly fine. He threw his head back a little, laughing at something Nate said before knocking a fist into his shoulder.

The same Nate who had told him off yesterday.

"Vi." Trinity nudged my shoulder. I fluttered my eyes, realizing I had stopped in the middle of the path. My throat cleared, I forced a smile onto my face, and kept walking.

All while that awful, humiliating moment from last night played on a loop in the back of my head.

When I reached the last part, I rolled my shoulders back, lifted my chin. Then dug up every ounce of fake confidence I had in me.

"Good morning!" I sang out. My voice was too bright. So cheerful that anyone who actually knew me would've been able to tell in a heartbeat that every bit of it was fake.

I was met with a chorus of greetings in return, including a few pats on the shoulder as I made my way into the group. It was the same warmth they had received me with yesterday, and to be honest...if any of them were treating me differently after what I had told them, I couldn't feel it.

If this was what I had been so worried about, it was completely

unnecessary. I looked at Rochwall, and his eyes squeezed into a crinkle as he smiled.

"I figured why not make a little team outing out of it?"

I let out a chuckle that wasn't quite there because the truth was that all I could really think about was Kylan. My eyes kept moving through the group, searching, trying to find a way to get to him. Or perhaps wishing for him to get to me instead.

Suddenly, Mandy was right in front of me with the widest grin. And I really loved Mandy, considered her one of my closest friends, but right now I just wanted her to move.

"I barely slept last night," she announced, loud enough for everyone to hear.

I lifted a brow. "No?"

"That's how excited I was." She bounced a little on her heels. "I couldn't stop thinking about what's actually going to happen today. You've had us all in suspense, you know," she said. "Dragging us out to the middle of nowhere, no explanation?" She shook her head. "The anticipation is killing me."

Still, seeing how excited she was about all of this brought a sincere smile to my face. Though I didn't know how long that excitement would last once they figured out what was truly going on.

"Well," I said, "it's a long walk, and we've got classes later, so we should probably get moving before..."

"You don't," Jorn cut in.

I looked at him. "Principal Sterling wanted you to know that he understands," he said. "However long you need, for however long this takes...he understands."

A warmth spread through my chest.

Principal Sterling...

That incredible man who had fought with everything he had to make sure that scroll would make it past Gloria and Kian. The one who did something so important and never asked for any credit for it.

I still didn't know what to make of all of it, but little moments like this one made me respect him even more.

"Okay." I nodded. "Then let's go."

They all moved, making their way past the gates, but I didn't. I, very deliberately, hung back and waited, wondering if Kylan would notice.

If he would look back for me, the way he always did. Trinity smirked at me over her shoulder, shook her head, and kept walking with the rest of them.

I waited a few more seconds, then let out a slow breath and closed my eyes.

I really might've screwed this one up...

Before I could think any further, something slammed hard into my shoulder. A gasp escaped me as my eyes flew open, and I nearly tripped over my own feet.

"Hey!" I spun around, my face already twisting with anger, but the

second I saw who had pushed me, a lump formed in my throat. It was Kylan, and a smirk was plastered on his face.

My lips parted, but nothing came out as he looked down at me. "Pup," he said. "How did you sleep?"

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