Chapter 587

Violet

I looked up at the smirk on Kylan's face and couldn't tell what to make of it.

After everything that had happened last night, was he mocking me?

"How did you sleep?" I asked, turning it right back on him.

He let out a sigh, a low chuckle escaping him. Then he reached down and took my hand, pulling me along with him. We fell behind the rest of the group, moving past the gates.

I let him lead me, but couldn't take my eyes off him as I looked at him from the side. I searched for something, anything, that would tell me where we actually stood.

I couldn't help but reach for the one thing I had been so comfortable with these past days. The Life Sense. His heartbeat came first, filling my ears with loud and fast thuds. Then came the glow around his frame. It was a deep red color, showing me exactly how angry he still was underneath that smirk.

As expected...

Even so, his hand stayed wrapped around mine, and his lips stayed curled into that small, calm smile.

"Are we okay?" I asked carefully.

"Yes," Kylan said, glancing down at me. A genuinely confused look was plastered across his face. "Why wouldn't we be?"

I didn't know what to say to that. But I just knew nothing about this was okay. I could literally feel his anger while he held my hand, smiling and acting like everything was completely normal.

And I couldn't tell if that was just him trying to protect what we had, or just him not wanting to give me the satisfaction of seeing how much I had actually gotten to him.

Lumia hummed inside me. 'He really is good at this,' she said, sounding entertained. 'I almost admire it.'

'Yes...me too.'

I pulled in a breath. "Look," I said. "I want to apologize for what I said last ni—"

Kylan shook his head, huffing out a quiet laugh before I could even finish. "If you think you're about to say something that'll make this worse," he breathed, "or that I'm going to say something that'll make it worse, then it's best we just drop it...leave it right here."

His eyes flicked to me, and for a second, the smile faded. "A fight is the last thing either of us needs today. Don't you agree?"

I closed my mouth. He could've said it with an attitude, but even as those words left his mouth, that sweet and gentle tone had never changed.

And as much as I hated it, as much as everything in me wanted to dig in and fix this properly instead of smoothing another 'band-aid' over the obvious crack, I got it.

I understood what he was doing. Today was too important, and we couldn't walk into Bloodstone Haven showing everyone that there was something going on between us. That's why I chose to let it go for now

and squeezed his hand instead.

"Okay," I whispered. "Later, then."

Kylan gave my arm a slight tug, and we picked up the pace. It didn't take long before the two of us had moved up to the front of the group again, leading them.

We had been walking like that for a while, in silence, while the group behind us was very much alive. They were in such good moods, they had yet to ask where we were headed or why it was taking so long.

It brought a smile to my face. A quiet sound left me as I glanced back over my shoulder, smiling at the team. Without really meaning to, I reached for the Life Sense again. It was starting to become a habit.

This time, the whole group lit up in soft, living colors, and I didn't know where to look. Mandy's was a warm gold as she spoke with Wes. I lifted my brow, trying to name the emotion.

Confidence?

I shook my head, searching for someone new to analyze until my gaze fell on Jane. Her arms were locked with Rochwall, her heart beating strong and steady while a soft pink glow surrounded her. It had to be love, and the only type of love one could have for their mate.

Though she had always looked at him in such a way that I didn't even need the Life Sense to confirm how much she cared about him. I had first seen it through Adelaide's eyes every time she had walked past him.

I released a slow breath, my eyes traveling in every direction until they were stuck on Lian and the unique glow surrounding her. She was a deep, quiet blue that looked so calm as she looked at Sora, who was walking

beside her. But her heart...under all that calm, that was the one thing that was anything but steady.

My eyes squinted. What did that mean?

I shifted my focus to Sora instead, noticing her heart was going even faster. Perhaps the fastest I had heard all day. A soft pink glow hovered around her, and underneath it, I could hear her Lycan. Awake and eager, stirring in a way that just couldn't be without a reason.

And that shade...

It was the exact same thing I had felt a second ago when I looked at Jane. That one that could only be for a mate.

I gasped.

Had she finally found hers?

Slowly, I followed Sora's gaze, trying to see who she was looking at. I was almost there when a voice interrupted me, making me look to the front again.

"Spying on everyone with your new little sense?" Kylan asked.

"Sorry," I muttered, mostly to myself.

Kylan hummed. "Is that what you were doing to me just now?" he asked, glancing down at me.

Well, he caught me. I chuckled and closed my eyes. "Sorry," I said again, not even entirely sure what I was apologizing for anymore.

Kylan let out a laugh, and I loved every sound of it. I gave him one back

and nudged his shoulder. When he nudged me right back, relief spread through me. That was his thing. Our thing.

My eyes glanced up at him, my lips instantly curling.

Our moment got cut short by Cassian calling out from somewhere behind us. "Where exactly are we going?" he called out. "And why is it taking so long?"

"Yes," Sienna added. "My legs are starting to hurt. Can we not just shift and get there in half the time?"

After the first few comments, murmurs rippled through the group as a few others picked up on the complaints. We were already well past the halfway point, meaning that if I let them shift now, the villagers definitely wouldn't appreciate that. So I ignored the question entirely and kept walking.

"Are you okay?" Kylan asked, his tone tense. His brows furrowed as if he were seconds away from exploding. I hummed a nod, squeezing his hand.

"You are all weak," Jorn's loud voice cut through the group. "In my day, we would've run this twice over barefoot!"

Several groaned at Jorn's response, and I just let him deal with it.

"Hey," I said, glancing up at Kylan again. "Do you think I should just tell them now? Give them a heads-up so no one loses it when we get inside, or wait until we're actually in there and get it over with all at once?"

I waited for Kylan's answer, knowing he always had an opinion to throw my way. He sucked his teeth, looking down at me before letting out a slow breath through his nose, making me wait for it.

"Can't tell you what to do."

That was it, and I had to admit...I felt that one land. Definitely deserved it, though, because that was the thing I had broken with one stupid, careless sentence. He was just going to let me figure it out on my own, exactly the way I had asked...

He chuckled to himself and looked ahead again. Just then, the path ended, and we stepped into a familiar wide clearing.

In the distance stood the cave leading to Bloodstone Haven. The rest of the team slowed behind us as we came to a stop, and gasps filled the air.

I didn't need to turn to feel the shift, but when I did, I saw it with my own eyes. The whole group had gone still, exchanging glances like they had all just realized the same thing.

Because they knew...

Of course they knew. These were not just regular students, but Elite Team students who knew exactly what they were looking at.

"Hold on," Wes said slowly, his brows pulling together. "This is the location of...you know." He gestured vaguely at the cave in the distance, swallowing. "This is where those people live. Isn't it?"

Every head turned toward me in unison, and I looked down at my feet. My heart hammered as I could feel all those eyes burning into me at once.

"I already told you I'm half witch..." I said quietly. "But there is so much more to it." My chin lifted, my eyes meeting the group. "Those people? They're my people."

I turned around and started walking again.