

Chapter 28

It was enough. I had catered to her tantrums enough. I'd been gentle toward her scarred soul enough.

"Shut up now," I growled, opening the portal. "You—"

"Wait, my phone!" she screamed near my ear, making me glare at her. "There—"

It morphed into her hand.

"One word and I'll drop you," I ground out each word.

She pressed her finger to her lips and nodded meekly.

I crossed the portal to her room.

"Sleep." My tolerance was at its limit.

"I can't." She pointed to herself. "Change into PJs, brush my teeth, wash my face, and I need to put drops in my eyes." She counted on her fingers.

"Get down," I snapped.

"It's spinning." Her head rolled back. "I can't."

I groaned loudly and carried her to the bathroom.

"The PJs!" she screamed in my ear, making me inch. "The closet first, dummy."

"Be glad you are drunk." I carried her to the closet.

She took out her nightdress without getting out of my arms.

I put her back to her feet outside the bathroom.

"Don't leave," she warned. "I will get angry if you do."

I couldn't even if I wanted to. She would end up injured one way or another.

Worse... she could go out.

I leaned against the wall and waited.

She emerged after some time, water dripping down her neck. She rolled her hair in a rough bun and changed into green silk shorts.

My carnal urges tugged at the reins as I watched her.

"The eye drops!" Anastasia whined. "They are in the dressing's drawer."

I grabbed the medicine and dragged her to the bed.

She didn't take the bottle when I extended it toward her.

"Here." She raised her face. "Hurry!"

I palmed her head with one hand and positioned the bottle over her right eye.

"Only one drop, okay?" she tugged my shirt when the medicine stung her eye. "Ow!"

I put the medicine in her left eye and cradled her face to keep her still.

My gaze moved from her closed eyes to her slightly parted lips, her flushed cheeks.

I felt thorns in my throat when my gaze lowered to her neck and rested on her slightly heaving chest.

"Cain?" Anastasia whispered. "Can I confess something?"

She didn't wait for my reply.

"I lied. I didn't call Angie and Nat. They are not even here. They have gone home."

"I didn't know the good girl Anastasia lied," I rasped. My Adam's apple bobbed at her pout. "What prompted you?"

"I didn't want to be alone," she mumbled. "Loneliness isn't that great."

"Why call me?" I asked, glaring at her closed eyes.

"I don't know," Anastasia admitted truthfully. "I just thought of you."

Her hands rested on my chest. "Are you angry?"

I put my index finger on her lips.

I leaned in close. "Don't open your eyes, *Anastasia*," I whispered in her ear, turning her breaths uneven.

I dragged my finger down her lips and traced the length of her neck slowly.

My control snapped.

"Cain!" Anastasia whispered hoarsely when my fingers teased her cleavage.

I undid her hair and angled her head back.

She was beautiful without a doubt and so pure.

Her scent—those water lilies—always stirred me.

She was right.

Her essence and touch weren't like Omisha's. I never got to touch her in the past. There was no urge.

The same was not true with *Anastasia*.

She affected me in inexplicable ways. I couldn't control my lust whenever she was alone with me.

Her mere sight aroused me toward every vile and wicked thing I wanted to do to her.

I wanted to do to her.

I tugged her hair and brought her face closer to mine.

Her nails dug into my chest when I showered her with featherlight kisses.

Anastasia moaned my name when I kissed the length of her neck and behind her ear. "Stop."

"And if I don't?" I pulled down the strap of her left shoulder with my teeth. My lips and tongue were not ready to leave her skin.

I wanted to mark it.

"What will you do?" My eyes feasted on her semi-naked breast. "Will you scream for help?"

She arched into me when I attacked her soft mound with my tongue and teeth.

"Or will you scream my name?" I kissed her nipple feverishly.

"Wait!" Anastasia tugged at my hair.

She writhed in my arms when I fondled and teased her sensitive nerves mercilessly.

"Please, Cain," she gasped when I grabbed her hips to keep her in place.

Her body convulsed with pleasure when my hand went inside her shorts.

No panties!

I smirked, fondling her warm, moist folds. She was sly without knowing.

She might not remember, but her body won't forget.

"You should have known better before calling me," I said as I pinned her on the mattress.

I cupped her jaw and forced her eyes on me. "I am no angel."

I kissed her full on the mouth.

"What made you think I wouldn't take advantage?"

"I don't care," she said, winding her arm around my neck and pulling me close.

Her lips touched mine chastely.

"It's not hurting, Cain. You are not hurting me." I tried getting up, but she didn't let me.

"Want to make a bet?"

I glared at her cheeky smile.

"I will prove to you that I am not Omisha."

"Good luck."

Our noses collided when she pulled me back.

"I'm not tricking you. I'm only going to try and make you see."

Her eyes closed when I leaned closer. Her innocent anticipation made me smirk.

"And if you fail to turn your desperate lie into truth?" I murmured in her ear.

"Then you can plunge your blade into me like you claimed," she spoke without hesitation. "I won't complain."

I refused to believe the sincerity in her eyes.

"Only if you remember this night." I tugged her top and removed her arms from my neck. "Your life won't be the only thing I will take, Anastasia."

She pushed herself up on her elbows when I moved back.

"I will take everything, your heart to your body."

"Pervert," she squeaked in embarrassment.

"Who seduced me first?" I chuckled.

She averted her eyes shyly when I kissed her forehead.

"I won't pull back next time. Think carefully before calling me in such a vulnerable state."

She grabbed my arm when I got up to leave.

"Don't leave me alone," she begged.

I looked at her window.

"Did you feel something uncanny these past days?" I asked.

Anastasia thought carefully. I highly doubted her mind could conjure anything in this state.

"Did you come across someone else after that night in the park?"

"No," she replied. "Shae was always with me. Why?" She tilted her head. "Am I going to be attacked again?"

"If you didn't leave my side." I nudged her to lie down and climbed next to her. "I wouldn't have to deal with this extra mess."

"Why aren't you taking me back?" Her tone was accusatory. "You were so forceful before."

I cocked one brow when she got on top of me.

"I don't trust you. You will leave once I fall asleep."

"Get o . ." I grunted when she whined in response. "Anastasia, get o me."

She shook her head furiously.

"Anal"

"What?" She looked at me, surprised. "You called me Ana?" Her eyes lit up. "You called me Ana." She squealed and buried her head in the crook of my neck. "That's the first step."

She was stubborn. I hated her.

"What did you like about her?" she asked suddenly. "What made you love her?"

"I didn't love her. She was just a convenience," I said. My response was clipped.

Anastasia giggled.

"What's so funny?"

"I know what made you fall in love with her," she said proudly.

The dent between my brows deepened when she tapped over my heart. "This."

She sat and forced me to sit up as well.

"What now?" I asked when she got behind me.

I clenched my jaw when she pulled the shirt o my shoulder and traced the scar on my left shoulder blade.

"She didn't deserve you," Anastasia murmured before kissing the length of my scar.

My body tensed under her touch. I pressed my lips in a thin line.

I looked over my shoulder when she fell limp against my back. She was fast asleep.

"Talk about guilelessness," I muttered, making her lie down. "And gullible."

I looked toward her window again. They disappeared right when I made my presence visible.

Serra's minions. She didn't concern me. Her madness did.

I lay next to Anastasia and pulled her over me after covering her with a blanket.

The water lilies had me in their chokehold.

"You are coming back," I whispered, brushing her nose softly. "Even if I have to break heaven to make it happen."