

Chapter 135

Adelaide

I looked down at Violet, holding her in my arms while lying in bed. She was wide awake, releasing tiny breaths as her big blue eyes scanned the room full of curiosity.

She was just a baby, but so observant—something she must have at least gotten from me. That little girl was my world, but each time I looked at her, I just could not stop worrying.

Would she grow up safe?

Would she have the chance to live a normal life and not feel bear of the consequences of the choices I would have to make?

Usually, I had Alaric to break me out of these thoughts, but now it was just me. This was the first time in weeks that Alaric had left our side. He had been extremely attached to Violet since the second she was born, but as kindhearted as he could be, he was back to helping the villagers.

Violet made a small sound, shifting slightly, and I immediately held her closer. “It’s okay, princess,” I murmured against her head, rocking her gently. “Mommy’s here.”

“Indeed she is,” a voice spoke. “And you are lucky to have her as your mother.”

Gasping, I turned my head and saw Aelius standing in the room. It was not the first time he had done something like this.

“Grandpa, I’ve told you so many times,” I shook my head disapprovingly. “Don’t sneak up on me like that!”

He didn’t respond, just gave me one of his calm smiles, then moved his gaze to Violet in my arms. After all, that’s who he was truly here for—the baby.

“Do you want to hold her?”

Aelius took a sharp breath. “If you insist, then I suppose I must,” he grinned, walking over. He carefully took Violet from my hands, making sure to support her tiny head.

As he looked down at her, his expression was so tender. “A child of blood and a blessing from Alaric’s Moon Goddess…” he spoke. “This child will be very powerful and achieve things beyond imagination.”

My stomach twisted. “Is that a prophecy or…?”

“Just a grandfather uplifting his granddaughter,” Aelius said, winking. However, I wasn’t sure whether to believe him. Still, I watched with a warm smile as Violet grabbed his finger with her tiny hand and let out a squeal, making Aelius chuckle.

Seeing him with Violet brought out something I had never seen in him before. He wanted to connect with her, had visited her every day since she was born—and it was all so strange to me.

Aelius had always been kind, but never openly affectionate. Yet, here he was, holding my daughter like she was the most precious thing in the world.

Honestly, it was supposed to make me feel at ease—but it didn’t, and it was all because of that day at the temple.

I had not forgotten his words…

“Do you love her?” I asked, my voice just above a whisper.

Aelius didn’t hesitate. “She’s my blood. I love her more than anything.”

I took a small breath. “You once said we would all care about the same thing. Did you mean Violet?”

Aelius just hummed, looking the other way. It wasn’t really clear what he meant by that, but it was all it took for a lump to form in my throat. I lowered my gaze.

“If something were to happen to me…will you take care of her?”

Aelius laughed softly. “I would love to,” he said. “But that is not up to me. Each person has their own path…including baby Violet.”

I lifted my gaze, meeting his eyes. “One that will be without us sooner than we think, right?”

I had so hoped for Aelius to deny it, but when he didn’t answer—I already knew enough. A sad smile reached my lips as I looked back down at my hands.

The choice and the sacrifice…

It didn’t take a genius to know it had something to do with my Violet.

“She carries your eyes,” Aelius’ voice pulled me from my thoughts. “The eyes of Adelaide.”

My head shot up, eyes widened in shock.

No…

I stared at her tiny face, searching for any sign of that thing I had never asked for—but there was none. She couldn’t have my eyes, she didn’t deserve any of that. Violet was just a baby. Innocent, pure—harmless…

“She will learn once she’s ready,” Aelius reassured me. “So you don’t need to worry about that right now.”

But how could I not?

My poor baby—on top of being a witch, she would also have my eyes. A curse disguised as a gift.

“Is she…” I hesitated, scrunching my nose, almost afraid to ask. “Is she…”

Aelius chuckled. “She was born a child of blood, but she followed the cycle of her father’s kind. Her fate is sealed—and she will shift,” he said. “That’s what happens when you lay with an Alpha Prince, Adelaide.”

An obvious answer for a stupid question…

My cheeks flushed as I ignored his gaze. I knew he was right, but he didn’t have to say it like that.

“I want you and Alaric to spend all the time you can with Violet.”

Those words…they didn’t sit right with me. It could only mean one thing.

“Grandpa, what did you see?” I asked cautiously.

Aelius shook his head. “You know better than to ask, child.”

Yes, I knew better—but right now, I didn’t care. All I wanted was a sign so I could at least know what to expect or when to expect it.

“Please,” I whispered, begging.

Aelius sniffed for a second, a habit of his when he knew he was about to share something he shouldn’t.

“Old friends will return,” he spoke, still remaining cryptic as ever. “And they will betray you.”

My stomach dropped.

No…

He had to be mistaken. I knew he was rarely wrong, but this—this could not be true.

The only friends I had were the Elite team. The people I trusted with my life, and they would neverbetray me.

“Are you saying they will come here?” I breathed.

Aelius gave a simple nod.

“And you are absolutely sure they will betray me?” My heart pounded as I waited for his answer.

“I only speak the word of nature,” Aelius responded with a shrug. “I am no god. Therefore, I cannot be sure…but I am usually right.”

I felt my heartbeat in my chest, wishing it wouldn’t be true as I thought of the reasons how and why they would ever betray me.

Would it be because I stole away their beloved Alpha Prince?

Would it be because of all the lies?

Just…why?

“And these friends?” I asked. “Will they have to enter the Veil as well?”

“That will be up to you, Adelaide,” Aelius tilted his head. “Good people can make bad choices, and they can either be forgiven or punished.”

I closed my eyes, taking a deep breath.

The old me would’ve found every single way to stop it before it could even happen, but the wiser me—the one Aelius taught me to be—knew better.

What was meant to be was meant to be, and preventing it would only make it worse.

I opened my eyes. “But I will have to open the Veil soon, won’t I?”

Aelius scoffed uncomfortably. “You don’t know anything.”

But I did. I could see it in his face. This had always been Aelius’ typical response whenever I got close to unraveling his cryptic words.

“Can you keep this from Alaric?”

Aelius frowned. “Have I not prepared him enough these past two years?”

“No, you have,” I confirmed, a weak smile plastered on my lips. “Alaric is strong and he’ll know what to do when the time comes, but he’s just so happy with Violet right now, and…”

I absolutely didn’t want to take that away from him…

Aelius nodded. “I won’t tell.”

I exhaled, relieved. “She hasn’t been blessed yet. Will you do it now?”

Aelius glanced down at Violet in his arms, then back at me. The blessing of a child of blood was a tradition among the elders of Bloodstone. They would read one’s fate, guide them, and speak to them about their path.

At first, I didn’t want that for Violet. I didn’t want to rely on Grandpa’s words for her future—but now that I knew I might not be in it, I was desperate to experience at least a small part of it.

Aelius cleared his throat, then stepped forward. He placed Violet back in my arms, and I once again looked down into those sweet, big blue eyes, identical to Alaric’s.

I followed Aelius’ every move as he placed his hand over her blonde hair, and then his eyes began to glow.

“My child,” he said, “you will grow up to be strong, just like your mother. You will be kind, humble, and a bundle of joy. You won’t always have it easy, you will face hardships—and you might not be as thick-skinned as your mother, but you will overcome them.”

His glowing eyes met mine for a brief moment before he continued.

“You will be protected by your ancestors, your parents, your eyes, and the warrior wolf within you—but you will not know the full extent of your true powers until nature allows it.”

My arms tightened around Violet, taking in every word.

“You will be loved by many,” Aelius continued, “and many will fight for your heart. But in the end, you will get to choose—whether it will be the one the Moon Goddess chose to be your fire or the one you deem worthy of your love.”

He looked at me again as his eyes faded back to their normal color.

“Like your mother, you will fight your darkness and let the light shine through. You will change this world, Violet—you will lead, like both of your parents—and many will want to follow in your footsteps.”

So that is who she would be…

My beautiful, powerful Violet…a strong woman.

Only when a tear fell onto her tiny face did I realize I was crying. But they weren’t sad tears—they were happy ones because I knew she would be alright. I didn’t know what the future held for me, but my Violet would have a future—and that was enough for me.

I smiled through my tears. “Thank you, Grandpa. Now I know she will be okay.”