

Chapter 167

Violet

Great sorrow?

I began to worry, and a million thoughts started racing through my mind. It was supposed to be a quick visit to Lyperia. One to supposedly present myself and meet the Lyperian royals.

How could I possibly mess that up so badly to the point that he wouldn't want to teach me?

"W-What will happen in Lyperia?" I asked anxiously.

Aelius rolled his eyes. "What will happen in Lyperia..." he repeated. "You think too much about yourself, instead of others. That's what will happen."

Impossible...

I frowned deeply, my chest suddenly feeling a bit tighter. He had to be mistaken because I had never been that kind of person. I always thought about others first. That was the kind of person I wanted to be—the person I always tried so hard to become.

But now Aelius was trying to make me doubt myself. Maybe I had some self-reflection to do. Had I really been selfish all along?

Aelius got up, and I followed him with my eyes. "Those eyes of yours," he said, shaking his head as he paced back and forth. "They are not a game."

"I know—"



"No," he said, pointing his finger at me. "I'm afraid you do not know."

Aelius scratched the back of his neck, then let out a sigh. This was the most nervous I had ever seen him before. He turned slightly toward me. "Tell me, child. Do you know the story of the first Children of Blood?"

I remembered briefly reading about it, though the details were a bit blurry. "I think so," I told him. "There was a Seer close to dying after a battle with a demon, something about him using the last of his powers to grant a group of orphaned sorcerers his glowing eyes to keep peace and harmony..."

Aelius arched a brow, impressed. "You know your history," he spoke. "We don't have much time, so I will spare you the full story, but I do want you to tell me what you intend to use these powers for, Violet."

I squeezed my eyes, hoping not to screw this one up. "To keep peace and harmony?" I tried again.

"And how do you do that?"

I opened my mouth but stopped. I didn't know what to say.

"You do it by using your eyes only when it's necessary—only when there is no other choice," Aelius answered for me.

Aelius asking me that specific question must have meant he expected me to use it for something else. Something unnecessary.

But then something suddenly hit me. "But you use your eyes for even the smallest things," I pointed out. Ever since I had met him, the man's eyes were glowing about half of the time.

Aelius released an offended chuckle. "I have more knowledge than you



do, little girl, and I never said we can't use them for small things," he countered. "I only said you shouldn't use them when it's not necessary."

I sighed in frustration. Aelius was a man of many words, yet a man of only a few, if that made sense. He told me to worry, and now he wouldn't tell me what to worry about.

To be honest, I wished he hadn't told me anything, because now I knew I would spend every moment worrying about making the wrong choice.

"Master Aelius, please," I said softly. "What will I do in Lyperia? I know you're not supposed to tell, but if you tell me...maybe I can prevent it from happening."

He went quiet, looking at me with those big eyes. It was that same gaze he used to give Adelaide when he would consider telling her the truth. The one I had seen through her eyes.

He shook his head like he was trying to convince himself that it would go against everything he stood for. "What's the point of preventing you from making a mistake, child, if you're just going to continue making them?"

A sharp pain reached my heart as I flinched at his words. That man really had it out for me. No matter what Kylan had told me, no matter how he tried to give me hope that that man might love me, I could feel the disappointment and the hatred.

"If we're not going to do anything, why did you say yes, why did you let me come here, and why did you send Kylan away?" I wondered.

Aelius took his sweet time, sitting back down at the fire. Then he lifted his chin. "Because some things needed to be said, and I didn't want to



hear his mouth or feel another hand on my throat.”

I bit the inside of my cheek, preventing myself from saying something back. Kylan himself had lost his cool, and now thinking back to that moment, I slowly realized just how much patience Aelius did have.

Kylan was strong, but Aelius was stronger. Stronger than he ever showed anyone, and strong enough to handle anyone, including Kylan. Chances are he sent him off because there was only so much he could tolerate.

“Also,” Aelius said, “I needed you to be focused. The prince is a good support for you, but sometimes love can also work against you.”

I felt taken aback by his words. Was this also one of his prophecies? “What—”

“Make your eyes glow for me,” he demanded before I could ask what he meant.

“What? But the portal—”

“Do it!” he snapped. His voice sounded just as sharp as it had been when he had told me to focus.

I reached for the ring on my finger, the ring Kylan had given me. Knowing it protected me from my full potential, I was ready to pull it off, but Aelius’s look made me decide against it.

“No,” he stated. “Do it without removing the ring.”

“But I’m not sure if—”

“Do it!” he said again, louder this time.



I sucked in a breath, not daring to go against him. The only thing I knew was that I had to make my eyes glow before that man would lose his shit. No overthinking, no complaining—just do it!

And just like that, I felt a warm burst of energy flow through my body. Then my eyes glowed.

It was different this time.

I didn't feel out of control. I didn't feel like I couldn't handle the power or like I could pass out any second. I felt fine. Completely fine.

It was supposed to be a good thing, but the situation scared me. Wasn't the ring supposed to protect me from the glow? Did that mean it wasn't working the way I thought it did?

My breath hitched as my mind went to the portal. Had this man lost it? What if I wasn't doing it correctly and had just opened up that thing again?

Aelius responded with a low chuckle. "Congratulations," he spoke. "That's what a little patience can get you."

"But the portal..." I said, still worried.

"It's still intact and closed," he replied calmly.

"I-I don't understand," I stuttered with a shake of my head. "I thought the ring—"

"Now turn it off," he said. "The glow."

I stared at him wide-eyed. "What?"



"Do it!"

I didn't know how I did it, but just like the first time, I had focused on Aelius's task and the glow faded from my eyes.

"I did it," I whispered in disbelief, my gaze dropping to my hands.

"Yes," Aelius confirmed. "The ring protects you from losing control. But when you are in control of your eyes, there is nothing to lose."

That was it...

As long as I had control, I wouldn't need to fear it.

I let out a small laugh, feeling a wave of relief settling over me. It gave me great hope that whatever danger was coming didn't have to do with that portal. The thing I feared the most.

"I can't believe that happened," I gasped, still in awe.

"Controlling the glow will be the most important part of your future lessons," Aelius explained. "We will soon move on to bigger things, but to be able to do that, you need to be fully in control."

I gave an attentive nod, suddenly much more interested.

"Has there been a moment lately where you felt like you might lose that control?"

I thought back, my smile slowly fading. "A few times too often," I admitted.

Aelius didn't look surprised in the slightest. Although there were no more individuals with the glow, as far as I was concerned, he had trained



a lot of Children of Blood and was most likely familiar with the urge to lose control over powers.

"Each time that happens," he began, "I want you to go somewhere private. Make your eyes glow, like you have done just now, then turn it off."

"I can do that."

"That can be your thing," Aelius went on. "At one point, Adelaide forced herself to turn off her eyes and used it to protect herself from danger."

She did...

Back when she had lost her sight after her mother had scolded her. I remembered that vision. It had appeared to me right after I had lost my sight myself. After Adelaide instructed me to turn it off.

"Everyone finds their own way. Adelaide was strong-minded, you are an over-thinker," Aelius shared. "That's why I believe yours can be this. Less harmful, more quiet."

It seemed like he had really thought about it, and it made sense. I had already lost my vision once. I respected Adelaide for having to go through that several times, but I knew my limits, and I knew I wouldn't be able to take that anymore.

"You'll need it in Lyperia," he spoke. "Those Lycans can be exhausting. Even more than that boyfriend of yours."

Aelius laughed at his own joke, and as it was something rare, I had joined him. It wasn't even funny, but hey? He was in one of his rare good moods, and who knew how quickly he would switch again.



"What more do you have to tell me?" I tried asking, noticing he seemed a bit more approachable than before. Maybe now was the time.

Aelius hummed, his smile faltering. "Don't be stubborn. Don't ever try to shift before you can fully control your eyes," he stated. "You will kill people, and you will regret it."



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