

Chapter 26 - The Summoning

Standing in the school car park, I watched as students all lumbered in, some still half asleep while others were loud and bubbly. Those type of people enjoyed school because it welcomed them, whereas others were not. Which is why I was delaying the inevitable for as long as possible. I knew that everyone else knew I was back, birds littered the trees, just sitting there watching me.

When I heard the bell, I knew it was time to go in. I have no friends now, so I was more alone than ever, especially because Luke is not here, not even Mr Melbourne.

I could feel everyone's stares as I walked to my first lesson, Geography. The teacher, Miss Armstrong, was lazy. She just gave out text books then settled behind her desk on the computer. I hated Geography. When I entered the classroom no one was in their correct place, luckily my old seat in the back was empty. I slithered my way around the edge, trying not to be noticed. There were doodles all over the desk, so I read them to keep me busy.

"Look who decided to crawl back." That voice... I'd rather be on a cramped bus with Raphael than hear, let alone see, her again. "And you still ignore me. So rude." Jessica hums whilst sitting in the seat opposite me. What a great start to the day.

"Hello" A cheery voice hollers, I was about to reply, but remembered what she did. Jessica replies with her own bubbly greeting. Seems Fleur found herself a new best friend. I try to convince myself I don't need her, but she was my only friend. It's like being given your first sweet and then being forced to give it away. They chatter about who is dating who, etcetera, but I keep my head down, if I make eye contact it will only make it worse.

"What's she doing here?" I hear Fleur whisper, yet she was not subtle about it.

"She came back today. I thought she was gone for good." Jessica sneers, turning her head to give me an evil glare. Can't I catch a break once in my life?

"That's a shame. It was so nice here without her." Fleur sighs. This is what Luke thought was best for me? Hearing such demoralizing things? He knows nothing! The rest of the lesson went on like this, everyone taking turns to voice their dark opinions about me, gradually making me feel smaller and smaller.

After making some pointless notes and some doodling, the hour finally ends and I make my way to the girl's toilets to compose myself. I'm not sure I can go on the rest of the day. It has gotten worse since I left.

Everyone actually hates me.

I jump when the door opens and slams against the wall. Jessica, Fleur and two other girls walk in whilst two boys wait outside. My gut twisted, something was going to happen. "Where is Luke?" Fleur demands. She pushes me up against the wall, knocking all the breath out of me.

"I... I don't know!" I wince, she was pushing hard on my collar bone and her rings were digging into my skin. She has become one of Jessica's minions; I can hardly see the old Fleur due to all the make-up caked on her face.

"Yes you do! Now tell me you little bitch!" She pulls me and slams me back again. It hurt more the second time.

"I honestly don't know!" I cry. She slaps me; her hand was just a blur in the corner of my eye. My cheek throbbed with every heart beat; she had used her newly manicured nails to add scratches.

"Come on Fleur; bring her outside so we are not seen." Jessica orders like some psycho queen ordering her subordinates. That's when the two boys come in; they each grab an arm each, holding me in a bruising grip. They drag me out of a fire exit into the wooded area behind the school. Cliché I know. My heart was pounding wildly, so much so it felt like it would burst out of my chest.

They took me deeper and deeper, until I could no longer see anything manmade between trees anymore. We stopped when we reached a clearing, Jessica and her minions turn to look at me with smirks on their faces. "This place is apparently blessed by Kale, the angel in charge of summoning people to stand before court in the heavens... and hell." Her smirk twists into a grin. Hell? That actually exists? With the worst possible timing the buzzing in my brain decided to get loud. It pressed against my ear drums like a caged tiger, clawing to get out. I needed to keep calm, if I start setting things on fire then my life is over, I will become even more of a freak.

When people fear something, they destroy it.

Fleur steps forward. "It is said they you can summon anyone you want at this place, and we are going to try it with Luke. All you need is the blood of someone innocent. Are you cuckoo? Emma?" She cackles. They have obviously lost it, gone cuckoo. I knew it was a rhetorical question so I remained silent. I hope this is some sick trick or myth, if they summon Luke I don't think he would be impressed, busy guy that he is, especially with his mean temper.

The girls started pouring something that looked like salt in a circle around us. The two guys shiver, pulling on my arms; I had to bite my lip to hold in the whimper. Yep, I've bruised.

Jessica, the psychotic bitch, pulls out a little baby dagger and approaches me. "All we need to do is make your blood spill on the ground." She pulls up my shirt and drags it across my stomach until the cut is 4 inches long. The boys push me so I fall on my face, my stomach in direct contact with the ground. It stung like hell, and now it's probably infected. God knows where that dagger has been. I watch as she kneels down with Fleur and the others, the two boys follow like obedient puppies. They begin chanting in this strange language, gently rocking back and forth like loyal worshippers.

I tried to stand up, but it was as if I was forced to the ground by an invisible weight, I could only move my head and eyes. The salt starts sizzling, burning the ground; it's then that I notice rings of burnt grass all over the grass. This place is the real deal and apparently frequently used.

First day back at school and I am kidnapped, sliced and paralysed.

When I hear Luke's name in the chanting I look back over to them. They are all smiling, like this is the most fun they have ever had. The weight got heavier, making it difficult to breathe; they eventually stopped chanting and were walking towards me now. Jessica crouches and looks me in the eye. "He will find his way here, it will be compulsive because humans can't help themselves, he won't be able to help himself, and once he gets here, I'll finish you." When she grins I almost piss my pants. Her teeth were all razor sharp, like that of a shark, and her honey coloured eyes had become completely black, even the whites could not be seen. The most important thing was that she thought he was human; she was in for a shock.

And what the heck is she?

She joins Fleur and they talk in whispers, probably deciding on the best way to kill me. The others all look rather dazed, their eyes were glazed and they still gently rocked on the ball of their feet. A vibration causes all eyes to fall on me. My phone was ringing in my pocket. Jessica storms over and rips it out of my pocket, and smashes in on the ground. But the vibrating continues, instead in the earth around me.

"What's happening?" Fleur asks, Jessica just shakes her head in confusion.

"I don't know." Before she could finish her sentence a mass of black knocks her to the ground and pins her there. His magnificent wings spread in a display that showed anyone looking how powerful he is. The blue tips glistened and moved like fire whilst his scythe, which was pressed against Jessica neck, had a blue glow that I remember I had seen the night he fought Raz, and that tight leather... He must have felt me checking him out because he flashes me a wink over his shoulder.

"So... What exactly is it you were intending to do when I got here?" He growls. Damn he sounded angry; he can flash me a wink and within a second become deadly.

"I..." She squeals when he presses his weapon harder. Fleur and the rest of the minions were watching with wide eyes and gaping mouths, all frozen in place.

"Come on, spit it out." He sighs with impatience. I try to stand and did an internal happy dance when I could move again. My stomach protested any moves I made, but I shakily made it to my feet. Luke turns his head and his nostrils flare. I watched, helpless, as his eyes became black, at least I could see the whites, unlike Jessica's. He crouches lower, so his face is millimetres away from her face. "Did you hurt her?" He seethes. Jessica looks away from him to glare at me. "LOOK AT ME!" He roars. The minions flinch back and Jessica's cry was ear piercing. I could see a little trail of blood leak from where the scythe was pressed against her,

"Yes... I did... it." She hisses, suddenly gaining some confidence. Stupid move on her part though. With one flick of his wrist, her head rolled, spraying something hot all over her minions and myself. It was gruesome and I had to press my fist to my mouth to stop the bile that wanted to escape. All I could see was blood, even when I closed my eyes. Fleur screamed and began sobbing, hugging the other girls close to her. One of the boys was doing what I tried so hard not to right on his friend's shoes. A gentle touch on my cheeks causes me to reluctantly reopen my eyes. Luke's familiar blue eyes peer down at me in concern.

"You ok baby?" He whispers, when I shake my head he pulls me to his chest in a bone crushing hug. If only I was strong enough to defend myself. As soon as we get home I am going to pester Sam for some self-defence lessons.

"You were supposed to be a human!" Fleur screams. I feel him glare at her and when I try to step back he tightens his arms.

"Well... I'm not." Was his genius reply. His lips press against my forehead, immediately calming me. I just watched him behold some... thing, and I wasn't in the least bit angry or upset with him. Perhaps it was because she was not human either, or maybe because she was so mean to me... I'm not going to dwell on it, I don't want it happening in my head over and over, I want to forget this ever happened.

"Luke..." I whisper, burying my nose in his chest because he smells so nice. He draws back and looks at me expectantly. "What was she?" His eyebrows scrunch and his head tilts in confusion.

"What do you mean?" I hesitate, what if I was just seeing things? He shakes me, drawing my attention back to him. "What do you mean Emma?" He persists.

"She... had black eyes. Not like the tainted, they were completely black, and she had razor sharp teeth." He lets me go and curses.

"Are you sure?"

"I think so." He curses again. Spinning around, he narrowly misses me with his wings and marches towards the minions. I'm surprised they didn't run.

As he approaches, they cringe back. I guess they know who he is and how much trouble they are in. "Show your true selves, cowards." Luke barks. He was about a head and shoulders taller than all of them, with his wings out, it made him look impossibly bigger. It was no wonder they were literally on their knees. But what he said worried me, true selves?

The sound of cracking bones and ripping of skin will be forever etched in my memory. When angel wings come out of their backs, it was nowhere near as gruesome. What I was seeing right now was something out of a horror movie.

The minions became something I hoped I'd never see.