

## Chapter 12

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We sit in silence. I look up at Lyvah.

"I'm sorry." He says to me. Tears start to fall from his eyes. Tears of my own well out of my eyes.

"Don't be... I should have stopped her..." I look back at the floor.

"No, it's not your fault." He mumbles.

"If it's not mine, then it's not yours either." I smile sadly at him. He tries to smile back, but breaks out in sobs. I pull him into a hug.

Once we get back to base, we all get out of the carriages and go into the building. Me and Lyvah go straight to my room. Avia's stuff still lays around the room. I could never bring myself to clean it out. I expect I'll never be able to clean out Samantha's either... I fall onto my bed and cry into the pillow. Lyvah sits next to me and rubs my back.

"I killed people." I sob.

"I did too. It's not your fault, you were forced to." He tries to comfort me. A guard comes in and gets us for lunch. We sit down at a table just the two of us.

"It's so quiet..." I mumble. It's true, without the loud extraverts, Avia and Samantha, it's super quiet at our table.

"First Avia, then Dante, now Samantha... Who's next? I don't want to lose anyone else." I look down at the table.

"We should escape." His remark makes my head snap up to face him.

"Are you crazy? Don't you remember what happened last time?" I whisper shout at him.

"I know, I just..." He looks away.

"I'm on night shift. I'm going to go sleep." I excuse myself. I go and dump my tray before going back to my room. The room seems so big now... I lay down on what used to be Avia's bed and cry myself to sleep.

I wake up in the forest. Avia sits beside me. I run up to her to hug her, but right before I get to her, she bursts into flames.

"NO!" I scream. Then, Dante hugs me.

"It's okay. I'm sorry." He comforts me.

"But- But sh-" I cut myself off, seeing blood drip on the floor. I spin around and see a stab wound in Dante's stomach.

"It's... Okay..." He falls to the ground. Samantha comes skipping up to me. The buildings around us light up with fire. I step away from her. Then, as if my body's moving on its own, I walk up to her. Once I stand right in front of her, I push her into the fire.

"Samantha!" I cry. I go to run after her, but the building keeps getting farther away.

"Iris..." I hear a familiar voice.

"Huh?" I turn around and see Lyvah. My dagger that he got me is in his chest.

"NO!" I start to sob hard.

"Hey, Iris." I freeze and turn around. Milos.

"Get away!" I turn around and start running. I run and run and run, but I'm not fast enough, he gets me.

Then I wake up. I gasp for air and I'm drenched in sweat.

"Lyvah!" I remind myself of his death in my nightmare. I run out of the room and run down the hallways. I finally find him and sigh in relief. Then I panic.

"What's going on?!" I shout. Lyvah is being held back by two guards. He's struggling to get away.

"Iris!" He shouts for me.

"Oh, Iris, you're right on time. You just gave me an idea." The commander smirks.

"I said, 'what is going on?!'" I scream at him.

"Well, you see, your boyfriend here, he tried to abandon you. He tried to run away.

"Wha...? Lyvah..?" I look at him. He looks away from me.

"For your punishment. You will be sentenced to death, by Iris's hand, but there is a way for you to survive. Kill Iris." The commander smiles at us.

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