Chapter 25

Lycus POV

I truly believed Darius would have had to knock her out before she handed my magic back to me. Aleera gripped the front of m y shirt as I leaned over Kalen, trying to make him come back to the room with us. Tobias could usually compel him to follow before we would douse him in our magic to cleanse the darkness away, and he would finally release it to us. The medication helped him, but something had set him off. I hadn't seen him like this since his last suicide attempt.

Darius caught her movement and gripped her throat. We all thought she would attack. Why wouldn't she? This was her chance to escape us again. The furious look on Darius's face as his hand wrapped around her throat told me if she did anything, he wouldn't hesitate to snap her neck.

That would kill Kalen, but I knew Darius wouldn't allow harm t o come to us, especially when we weren't sure exactly what she was capable of. Aleera froze, and my eyes were locked onto her sapphire ones. Her hand trembled as she reached for my face; her fingers barely touched me but it was enough. She was our keeper, keeper of our souls and magic, so that small touch was enough to send my magic hurtling back into me with an alarming speed that stole the breath from my lungs and sent m e backward.

Although when she returned it to me, I felt it was different.

Something about it felt different, but that was soon forgotten when she smacked her lips against Kalen's. A growl tore out of me when I saw her steal his magic. How could she take advantage of him while he was in this state?

Within seconds, Darius tossed her and I moved forward, smacking into Kalen, who gasped. His eyes flew open, stunned before they flashed brighter, recognition returning, and the buzz of energy rippled across his skin and zapped me. She didn't take it. She didn't take his magic. Tobias also, realizing that gripped my shoulder as he stood up. Darius stalked towards Aleera, who was choking, choking on the darkness she had just taken from him.

Horror washed through the bond because she had no power to cleanse it from herself. It usually took all three of us to contain the shadows that tainted Kalen, yet even we struggled because it always came back no matter what.

She crawled to her hands and knees, clutching her throat with one hand as she wheezed. An agonized scream tore out her, and her eyes burned brightly before the color left and they turned white.

"Wait, he still has his magic. She didn't take it, Darius," I screamed as Darius grabbed her hair. Her eyes fluttered, and her face fell slack just as Darius looked over at us. I didn't see Tobias move when Darius was shoved by his magic, forcing him to let her go. Darius smashed against the window before the floor shook as he crashed back to the ground.

Tobias rushed toward her and dropped to his knees at her side, gripping her face. Kalen wailed as he scrambled across the floor to her. He snatched her away from Tobias.

"Don't touch her," Kalen snarled. His entire body rippled as his aura tried to smother Tobias's, but he was no match for the vampiric-fae king. Tobias ignored him. His fingers pried her eyelids open, and all I saw was white as I walked over and kneeled beside her. Darius groaned as he got to his feet and shook off the blast of Tobias's magic. No doubt Tobias would later pay for attacking him.

"Help her, fucking help her," Kalen wailed as he tried to force her to take his magic to cleanse the shadows that writhed beneath her skin. The black veins wiggled under her pale skin as the life drained from her when Tobias leaned down.

"Tobias, no," Darius snarled as he rushed to get to his feet just as Tobias sunk his teeth into her neck below her ear. Darius realizing he wasn't marking her, let out a breath, and Aleera's body jerked as he clutched her, feeding off her and trying to pull the darkness out of her blood.

The dark veins below her skin's surface moved toward his bite mark when he jerked away, unable to absorb any more, and he began to choke, dropping her into Kalen's lap. Still, Aleera didn't wake.

"Darius, please," Kalen begged, and I looked at Darius, who stared at her unmoving.

"Darius!" I snapped when he didn't move to help her. I knew he struggled the most with her. Just as much as Tobias did, I truly believed he would never forgive her. But right now, she was dying; he couldn't let her die for helping our mate.

I understood his hatred toward her, I did. But she was our keeper and even though I hadn't forgiven her for what she did, I didn't feel it was worthy of death. Darius killed his father for her and for us. Doing that turned him cold. He wasn't always so bloodthirsty and emotionless. Darius would never admit it but I knew he loved her just as much as he hated her; he just liked to blame the bond. Honestly, we all did. None of us could deny the pull we had to her. He blamed her because he wouldn't have had to kill his father if she didn't run. His father would still be here with him.

Tobias grips Darius's pant leg, and Darius looks down before growling. Darius was a demon, the shadows affected him, but he could contain them. They just made him murderous when he took them, volatile and his magic would become numb.

"Please," I gasped as Kalen wailed, rocking back and forth with her clutched in his arms. We only had seconds left before she would be lost to us. Darius's eyes softened as he watched Kalen. He knelt beside her, gently taking her from Kalen. He brushed her hair back from her face. Being part incubus, Darius could give and take magic from all of us, but it required emotion.

Darius had been forced to become our keeper, and it was lucky

he was an elemental, or we all would have perished when she left us. Though its consequences cost all of us everything, not that Kalen and I actually had anything before our mates. Tobias and Darius, it cost them the most since they were both straight before she left us. Tobias was also vampiric-King. His entire family shunned him except his twin brother so he gave up his title for us, gave up his family and stuck by us.

His lips covered hers, his thumb on her chin holding her mouth open, but I wasn't sure how it would work when she was pretty much dead in his arms, no emotion for him to feed off to take it. A tear slipped down his cheek, this man never cried, or if he did, it was never in front of us, and that was when I realized he wasn't taking the darkness. He was washing his magic through her and devouring his own power again, removing the taint which would indeed have some consequences.

The color returns to her, and her eyes turn blue again. Darius stumbles back on his hands, gasping before he wipes his hand across his mouth and glares at her, but I saw the flicker of relief cross his features and zap through our bond before he masked it when her eyes fluttered and she sucked in a sharp breath.

"Aleera," Kalen choked, crushing her against him. Her body was all floppy in his arms, and she would probably remain like that for a few hours. We were usually comatose whenever we cleansed Kalen. Although glancing at Darius and Tobias, they appeared alright, even after taking it from her. Yet Aleera

showed no visible signs that she was still holding onto the shadows.

Tobias was breathless but still conscious, Darius however, taken the most, was rippling with anger that usually came from taking the darkness. He rose to his feet before storming off, and I knew it was to stop from hurting us or hurting her in front of Kalen.

"I will check on him. Are you right to get them back?" Tobias asked me, sounding as breathless as he looked, and I nodded. Kalen was peppering her face with kisses while Aleera stared vacantly at the pointed ceiling.

"Kalen, we should get her back to her room," I told him, touching his shoulder gently.

"She could have died, but she still did it"

"But she is alright now,"

"Darius, he was going to kill her," Kalen told me, and I pressed my lips in a line. I hated how much Kalen cared for her, but she did just help Kalen and gave my power back. My brows furrowed, wondering why she would still help after everything we had done. Or maybe it was just a ploy to get us t o trust her so she could make an escape.

"You all hate her. Just get away from us," Kalen snapped, and jealousy flared through me that he would choose her over me after everything we had been through together.

"I don't hate her, Kalen," I told him, and as I spoke the words, I realized it was true. I didn't hate her, but I didn't lose as much as Tobias and Darius did, only Kalen. Although if she had taken him from me, I probably would have told Darius to let her die. Kalen was mine, always has been since my father abandoned me in the orphanage.

Kalen was the only pure dark Fae in the place, the weakest, and he was tormented relentlessly and even abused by the teachers. My parents were both pure dark Fae. I should have been like Kalen, the weakest of the Fae. That was until my mother died and with my grief, I shifted. I was my mother's bastard. My father soon realized I wasn't his and dumped me on the orphanage doorstep. Literally tied a leash around my neck because I didn't know how to shift back yet. He tied me to a chair like a dog until the orphanage opened the following day and found me curled in a ball on the footstep covered in snow.

Looking at Kalen now, I saw the same thing in his eyes that I felt the first time I saw the other kids kicking the crap out of him. The same way my father kicked and punched into me when I shifted. I wanted to protect him. He was so small compared to the other kids. So I did. No one dared touch him when I was near after that, and I made sure to stay by his side until we ran away. Kalen had that same look, he wanted to protect her, but he also knew he couldn't. Not against Darius or Tobias.

"Kalen?"

"No, Lycus. You need to choose a side I won't lose her,"

"And I won't lose you. You know what she has done. They won't just forgive her,"

"She doesn't know. No wonder she hates us. We don't deserve her," Kalen tells me. I look at her limp body in his arms.

"She is cold," I told him, and he looks down at her. Her lips were blue, and her breathing was shallow.

"You don't want her to freeze to death, do you?" I asked him, and he shook his head.

"But Darius," I gritted my teeth. Already hating what I was about to say before I even said it.

"We will stay with her until she comes to," Kalen turned his head to look at me. His eyes scanned mine for any deceit.

"You will help me?" I nod, looking away from her. Darius would be furious about me letting Kalen near her, but she just risked her life for him, and maybe Tobias was right. Perhaps she isn't a threat to him. Until we were positive, I would speak to Darius about letting him near her under supervision.

Chapter 26

Aleera POV

Hushed voices woke me. They sounded angry as I opened my eyes. The last thing I remembered was choking on the shadows and Darius grabbing me; I felt myself dying and, in some ways, I even prayed for death. At least I wouldn't feel like this. I felt hollow. I had tasted only briefly their magic before they took it from me. My bond screamed angrily, writhing within me for it back.

"Darius, just leave him be. I am right here with them."

"Anything happens to him, and it is on you. It will be your fault," Darius growled before I heard the door slam. I jumped a t the sound and my eyes opened to find Kalen beside me asleep. He looked so peaceful, and I gently brushed his cheek with my fingertips. His stubble was rough and scratchy when I felt the bed dip behind me, and I glanced over my shoulder to see Lycus sit next to me.

"You are awake," He states, and I turn back to face Kalen. I tried not to let his emotionless tone upset me. He didn't seem too pleased that I was awake.

"Thank you," Lycus murmured, and I chewed my lip and nodded at his words. It actually sounded like it physically hurt him to say it.

"Why did you give it back?" He asked. I wondered briefly the

same thing. It was clear that even with me helping Kalen, nothing would change and I just tossed my only opportunity of escape out the window. Yet the thought of Kalen being the way he was, I knew I would have done it again.

"Darius is angry," I stated, ignoring his question.

"He always is," Lycus stated before he leaned against the bedhead of my tiny bed.

"Kalen struggles to cope. He hasn't had an episode like that for a while. It has made Darius more anxious,"

"He blames me for it?"

"We all do. He has been fine for almost a year, then you show up, and he backtracks," Lycus growls before he sighs.

"Sorry, I didn't mean to snap at you,"

"How many times," I asked Lycus, rolling onto my back to look at him.

"How many times he had tried to kill himself, or do you mean how many times he successfully did before were brought him back?" I swallowed.

"Brought back, 8 times, lost count of how many suicides attempts he has had," Lycus answers and my heart sank. Kalen was far from alright.

"You did something to my magic," Lycus says, and my heart quickens at his words, making him glance down at me. He

watched me waiting for my answer.

"What do you mean, I did nothing to it,"

"It feels different, stronger," I let out a shaky breath.

"I'm your keeper, of course, it does,"

"Yeah, but I didn't expect it to feel as strong as Darius's and Tobias's power, you may be a keeper, but you are supposed to pass and share our energy amongst us, so we are all the same strength, yet when you handed mine back for a while it wanted to challenge Darius's,"

"Because I never shared it, it is the bond," I tell him, and he nodded.

"Yeah, and I bet it is playing havoc with my magic out of your system and Darius's. Although it makes me wonder what you would be capable of if you shared all our power along with your own,"

"I never touched Darius's magic," I tell him.

"Why do you think you are alive? Tobias fed off you and tried to clean it from your blood. His saliva has magic in it, but he couldn't take it all. Darius flooded you with his power, so I bet you feel pretty uncomfortable now. Once a keeper shares power the first time, your bond will crave it for a bit until it is out of your system, which happens to Darius sometimes,"

"Well, you all seem intent on keeping me defenseless, so of course, I feel like crap,"

"That wasn't the original intention. It didn't need to be this way," Lycus told me. Lycus went to say something else when Tobias walked into the room.

"Where is Darius?" Lycus asked him, but Tobias was too busy staring at me.

"Tobias?" Lycus snapped, and Tobias shook himself before he looked over at Lycus.

"Huh?"

"Darius, where did he go?"

"Where do you think?" Tobias snapped at him. Lycus growled before running his hand through his hair.

"I know it's not you, but I just copped it off, Darius. I don't need you starting on me too,"

"I was just checking on Kalen. I wasn't here to argue," Tobias said.

"He is fine as you can see, I won't leave him alone with her,"

"Oh, for fuck sake, I am not going to hurt him," I snapped as anger rippled through me. They both stared at me, stunned and honestly, I was surprised I voiced those words because I didn't mean to.

"Is that so. Fine, answer me this then," I rolled my eyes, and Tobias was on top of me within seconds, his fingers squeezing my face.

"Tobias, what are you doing?" Lycus snapped at him and gripped his arm.

"She said she won't hurt him. Let's see how true it is," Tobias said, sending a glare at Lycus, who shrugged. Tobias's fingers dug painfully into my cheeks as he stared at me.

"If given the opportunity would you run again?" Tobias asked me, and I felt my heart skip a beat which earned a growl from him.

"Answer," Tobias growled and Lycus sat up more, looking down at me. What kind of question is that? What answer did they expect to get?

"If you were in my place, would you stay?" I asked instead.

"I wouldn't be stupid enough to run from my mates. I wouldn't risk killing them, now answer the question," Tobias growled.

"You already know the answer, or you wouldn't be asking just t o catch me lying, Tobias, now let me go," The noise that left him made goosebumps rise on my skin before he shoved off m e.

"Still think she won't hurt him?" He asked Lycus. Lycus sighed.

"Now get him to bed, make sure you lock her door. I knew she only helped him to regain our trust,"

"That is not true; I like Kalen. It's the rest of you I can't stand,
"

"You don't like him enough to stay for him, though, do you?" Tobias spat at me. He turned on his heel and stalked out of the room.

"You had to ruin it," Lycus snapped when he left. Lycus climbed off my bed before walking around to the other side and scooped Kalen off the bed with one swift movement. My heart hammered in my chest as the bond cried out for him.

My hand gripped Kalen's before I could hold myself back, and Lycus's eyes flickered angrily. "Wait, you don't need to take him, just let him sleep here," I blurted, needing him back where I could feel him and know he is alright.

"Thank you for bringing him back to us, but Tobias proved you only intend on hurting him again. I won't allow that," Lycus said.

He walked out, taking Kalen, who remained unconscious with him, his energy left the room, and I suddenly felt cold without any of them in here.

Time slipped by and the cold set into my bones. I would take their wrath if one would come back and stay, anything to chase the cold of the empty bond away. One taste of their magic and my bond ached for them only now they were gone.

I tugged the blanket up as I shivered, needing their magic or

some of my own. Why was I so cold? Why did it hurt like this ? Being the keeper, I required their magic, but I lived without it for so long, deprived it so long, so I didn't understand how after one encounter, one taste that it felt like they were tearing me apart piece by piece when they took it away.

No matter how close I sat to the fireplace, no matter how many blankets I surrounded myself with, I couldn't warm up. My teeth chattered, and my entire body ached. I hoped it was just an after effect of the shadows, yet I had a nagging feeling it was them, and Lycus was right. I just hoped he was always also right about it wearing off.

The door opened up, and my bond leaped with joy as I turned around to see who had entered. I tried to slow my heart rate as he stepped into the room.

"The effects of you touching our magic will wear off; give it a day or so, and you will be fine," Darius said.

"Maybe you could?"

"Not a chance," Darius said without looking at me.

"We will never give you magic. That was a once-off Aleera. Like I said, it will wear off." I turned my attention back to fire and tried to warm up. He didn't even have to give me much, just enough to settle the bond until the effects left.

This was torture in itself, and I promised myself that I was going to run as soon as I was able. I would rather battle it out there than live with this torment. Kalen would learn to survive

without me, or maybe I could convince him to come? [2]

Darius walked over to me and dropped a box beside me on the floor.

"Shoes, don't be late to class tomorrow,"

"Socks?" I asked, hopeful.

"In the box," He called out over his shoulder as he left. My hands snatched the box up, instantly rummaging through it for the socks to place on my cold feet. I would hardly call them shoes. They were flats, nothing special or even protective for m y feet, and the soles were paper thin but better than nothing. I told myself little victories, and if it was shoes, I would take any triumph right now. [4]

Chapter 27

I hardly slept a wink of sleep throughout the night. Yet as the alarm went off it, it cut out before I could even open my eyes. Fingertips gripped my wrist, and my eyes flew open at the sharp sting of fangs piercing my skin. My heart thumped in my chest, and Tobias growled before euphoria rushed through me as his magic caressed over me, stifling the scream I was sure was about to tear out of me.

His blood-red cat-like eyes watched my face, his finger placed on my lips in warning, and I wondered how long he had been in here and why he was suddenly feeding on me again. My eyelids fluttered, and I was completely frozen with fear. I was prey against the predator using me as his personal juice box. He licked my wrist before healing it, placing it on the bed, and walked out of the room when he was done. I stared after him, but he didn't say so much as a word to me. Instead, just left the room.

I glanced over at the clock and groaned before rushing about the room and skipping the shower. I wanted to get to the mess hall before the others so I could grab something and slip out back to my room. It seemed like the safest option, and I knew I would be skipping lunch.

Retrieving my flats, I slipped them on while pulling my hood up over my head. I felt unsteady on my feet from the blood loss and very shaky after rushing around. I was forced to clutch the

banister on the stairs, feeling slightly lightheaded as I descended. Tobias's actions confused me. Why would he come and feed on me when he had three mates sharing a room with him that he would provide him with blood.

My heart twinged at the thought of them, and my mind wandered to Kalen as I peeked into the mess hall. Relief washed over me when I saw I was the first one here. I rushed over to the display of food and scooped up some bacon and two pieces of toast before voices at the other end reached my ears. I would have to see if I could change the alarm to a little earlier. With my few pieces of bacon and two slices of toast, I escaped when more voices could be heard. Looking around, I glanced at the door of the cell I was kept in and groaned. Eat in peace or try to make it back up to my room without being spotted. I chose the cells.

I pushed the door open, and the cold draft made me shiver before I sat down on the second step listening to the voices slowly filling the mess hall. My stomach growled hungrily, and the loss of blood didn't help. I was starving, and those two slices of toast and bacon didn't even touch the sides, but I was just grateful for anything in my stomach right now.

This morning, my first class was with Tobias and at the stupid obstacle course. I shake my head at the thought. No way would I ever complete that damn course. My mind wandered to Kalen again as I wondered if he was alright. I sighed, thinking about the men the fates decided to bond me to.

Even on the run, I never felt this lonely, and this time I was

surrounded by people. Not good people but still people, I spent so long on my own and thought I was lonely then, but despite being alone, it never felt this cold and unwelcoming. I reminded myself of the aftereffects of the bond and the shadows, trying not to let it get to me.

Yet the ache to go to them, beg them for just a taste of their magic was still intense. Although, at least the agony of last night was over. It made me wonder how they power shared between each other. Being the Keeper, I only had to touch them, but why did I have a feeling it wasn't that straightforward with them.

I didn't even think it was possible but then again, I didn't believe any elemental Fae other than myself existed. That was one thing I pondered while I had gotten dressed. The memory of power I had witnessed Darius use left only one conclusion. Darius was a dark elemental. Demonic- elemental Fae. I had never even heard of it before, but I knew in my gut I was right. Which explained why everyone feared him. But also, Kalen's powers were odd too. I had only met one other person that could read aura the way he did.

We all saw auras to some degree, but they were essentially manifested energy we could get a feel for. Kalen though, could see them, clearly see them and even see the essence and soul that resided in it. That was a dangerous trait for him to have because it meant if I obtained power in any way. Kalen would notice straight away. He would also realize what I am, and now he was stable. I know he would ask questions and possibly tell

the others.

I waited for the siren to go off and then waited some more before I heard the hallways clear of voices before I quickly raced out to join the class. I was determined not to piss them off today because I wanted to see Kalen. I needed to know if he was alright because not knowing was driving me insane.

******

That dreaded fucking climbing wall, I have never despised anything as much as I did that damn wall as I stood staring up at it. Once again, the men all passed me, but I was alive and still kicking. Sore and every muscle ached when the siren blows, signally the recess break.

The others already had finished the course, and I started climbing the stupid wall when arms wrapped around my waist, and I screamed and thrashed.

"Shh, it's me, stop," Tobias growled below my ear, his hand clamped down on my mouth to stifle the scream of fright that threatened to deafen me. I thought it was Zac. Assumed he was the one that would be ensuring I completed the course.

Tobias removed his hand from my mouth, and I glanced at him behind me before he placed me on my feet. "Go eat and get to your next class," he says, straightening his shirt.

"I can go? But the others can't unless they finish it?"

"I fed off you, there is no way you will complete the course,

and I know you are hungry, so go before I change my mind," H
e didn't have to tell me twice. I hated that damn wall. Nodding
my head once, I walked off toward the castle when Tobias
caught up with me quickly.

Chapter 28

He gripped my arm, making me stop, and I almost groaned. Was that some bullshit trick?

"About this morning, it never happened, ok," Tobias said, and my brows furrowed in confusion. Pretty sure it did, but why did he seem so nervous?

"Yeah, whatever," I tell him. I am about to stomp off and try to find my next class, so I am not late. There is no way I was going in that mess hall, and I would just wait until dinner.

Tobias grabs my arm with a growl and yanks me back. "Say it didn't happen," Tobias snapped at me. I thought his behavior was odd, his grip tight when realization dawned on me. He was forbidden to feed on me and the only person I could see him fearing would be Darius.

"Why not compel me to forget?" I asked and he tugged at the neckline of his shirt.

"Forget it," he says, stalking off.

"Fine, it never happened, but I want to see Kalen," I called out to him and he stopped. A growl tore out of him and he moved in blinding speed gripping the front of my shirt. I gasped at how close his face was to mine, and his fangs protruded.

"Don't try to blackmail me," he snarled.

"The way I see it is the only reason you haven't compelled me is that you plan on using me as your blood bag, but by the way, you keep insisting it never happened. You don't want Darius to find out," I snapped at him. He let me go but glared at me.

"If I compel you too much, Darius will sense my magic on you, so will Kalen."

"So you do want to continue feeding on me," I tell him, and he looked away but nodded his head.

"Why not use the others,"

"Does it matter? I will let you see Kalen. Once and that's it," Tobias snapped.

"I see him once while you get to use me as your personal buffet?"

"You aren't in a position to negotiate," Tobias growled.

"And by how worried you are, you aren't in a position to say no to me," Tobias grips my throat, clearly not liking me arguing with him, and my hands clutched his.

"What's going on?" Lycus's voice reached my ears, and Tobias let me go, he stepped away from me, and I glanced at Lycus.

"Your next class is with Darius; I suggest you get going, Aleera," Lycus said, although his eyes remained on Tobias. I nodded my head before I rushed off to the next class.

Thank goodness Darius's class was a theory lesson. Although I

would have preferred being anywhere else and away from Darius's glares, surprisingly, I was left pretty much alone. Maybe because he insisted on putting a table next to his desk like I was the naughty student that needed extra supervision. Everyone worked off tablets, and I looked down at the paper in front of me before scouring the pages on elemental magic while everyone did their pop quiz on the tablet.

How was I supposed to fill it out when I didn't even have a pen? I glanced over at his desk when he suddenly passed me a pencil without even looking over at me. Thankfully, the class was uneventful, not even a murmur while Darius spoke and explained things. Everyone seemed to be nervous around him. Not that I blamed them, he made me nervous too with his explosive temperament.

When the class ended, I waited for everyone to leave before getting out of my seat. Darius watched me for a few seconds while I cleaned my desk and handed him the paper.

"Tobias messaged me earlier and asked for you to see Kalen this afternoon," Darius told me. He took the paper from me and glanced at it before placing it on his desk.

"After dinner, you can come to our room to see him; I don't want you alone with him," I nodded my head and walked out, surprised Tobias even asked. Not that I was keen to go into their room. I was hoping Kalen could come to mine, but I would take what I could get.

I wandered around the campus grounds, bored. I wasn't

supposed to wander off, but I knew their recruits were in the mess hall or recreational rooms, and I didn't feel like sitting in my room. Besides, I wanted to scope the grounds out and see if I could find that road I saw from the castle tower.

I was just about to the corner when I heard voices. A loud squawking noise reached my ears. The sound was terrible, and I peeked around the corner to see four demons laughing before noticing what was on the ground at their feet.

My heart sank. It was a phoenix, and I went to run out to try to save it but stopped myself knowing it would probably only end up with me getting hurt or having to explain myself to Darius. Luckily, they seemed to get distracted before they inflicted more pain on the poor thing. One of them kicked it, and a sob left my lips which made me cover my mouth with my hands. I watched them walk off laughing and chatting amongst themselves. Once they disappeared, I rushed over to the fallen phoenix. It was only a juvenile. My hands were shaking terribly, and it snapped its beak at me, probably thinking I was here to hurt it some more.

"Shh, shh, I won't hurt you," I tell it. The bastards burnt his feathers off, and one of his wings looked broken.

"You have to be quiet. I will help you," I tell it, trying to get close enough to it. Phoenix hated dark Fae, all dark creatures in fact. Phoenix's, however, loved white Fae and also contained magic themselves.

But being a juvenile, he had no such power or healing ability.

Pheonix's also could power share with their bonded. They bonded to their owners, primarily White Fae or other phoenixes. I scooped him up, and he squawked loudly, and I grabbed his beak.

"Shh, they hear you; they will kill you," I tell it while holding its beak closed to stop the noise. Watching my surroundings, I raced back to the castle, making sure to remain unseen. But now what? Where could I hide him until he healed? Phoenix's hunted food, but he wouldn't even be able to fly for god knows how long.

I glanced at the stairs leading to the rooms and the cell door. I could try to hide him down there, but they may hear him if he squawked. However, my room joined my mates, and Darius may sense him. He had no power yet, but he definitely would b e able to be felt once he did.

The cells it was. I rushed to the door escaping inside before being caught. I flicked the light switch on, lighting up the rancid place before descending down the stairs. When I got to the bottom, I looked at the cells. I refused to look at the one I was in. The memory of Darius breaking my leg and hand down here made bile rise in my throat.