

## Chapter 46

"Ready?" Lycus asks me and I sigh, and I nod my head.

"I don't see why you can't wait," Tobias snaps at him.

"Chill, you can have your way with me when I return," Lycus laughed, going over and pecking his lips. His way with him? Is that why Tobias was pouting like a child?

"I just need to get my tablet," I tell Lycus wanting to escape their doting affections. It was not that it bothered me, but I felt like I was intruding or some strange bystander gawking.

"I already grabbed it for you, come on," Lycus said before pecking Kalen's lips as he was walking to the door. I quickly followed after him, and I could feel Darius glaring at him at us as we left.

"Didn't think Tobias would pout over not getting laid," I admitted as we went down the stairs. Lycus shrugs.

"He can be whinier than Kalen. Darius is the worst. He becomes a real fucking asshole when his power gets low, and he is horny," Lycus says, and I stop.

"Huh?"

"How do you think we power share, Aleera? We have to fuck each other. It's easier for Darius. He can siphon easier being demonic-fae, but now we are all bonded, we actually like

fucking each other,"

"Wait, so you don't just fuck to power share?"

"Ah, no. We are bonded, Aleera. We do love each other, too; we don't just fuck out of necessity. We used to. Well, except Kalen and I. But now," He shrugs. And I race after him trying to catch up.

"So what, you have an orgy during breakfast?" I chuckle.

"No, but mealtimes are the only times we really get to be in place besides at night, and Tobias fed off you, which makes him horny," Lycus said.

"Makes him horny?"

"What, you haven't noticed he gets a raging hard-on every time he feeds on you,"

"Well, I don't usually look at his dick when he feeds on me," I tell him as we line up in the cafeteria. He fills two trays full of food and walks over to a table. I stare at him when he sits down because I expect him to dump it and leave me.

"Sit and eat," Lycus says, pulling out the chair beside him.

"You're going to eat with me?" I ask, glancing around at all the faces watching us.

"I said I was, didn't I?" With another glance around, I sit down. Everyone watched us, and I watched them back, waiting for one of them to do something, but none approached us.

"Aleera, eat," Lycus said, nudging my plate closer. I looked down at it to find it piled with more than what was on his plate. Grabbing my fork, I started to eat while watching everyone.

It wasn't until I was nearly finished that Zac wandered over to the table, and I tensed, wondering what he would do.

"Eating with the traitor, boss man,"

"And what's it to you, Zac?" Lycus asked, and I got the impression Lycus didn't particularly like Zac.

"Just curious as to why you're down here," Zac shrugs, and Lycus leans back in his chair and looks at him.

"And why is that?"

"Because we rarely see Aleera in here, so it's interesting she came in with you," Zac said, eyeing me.

"I noticed she was losing weight, wanted to make sure she was eating and not missing any meals. Now that you just confirmed she is, I may just need to eat with her every meal. Darius would be pissed if she starved to death," Lycus snapped. My brows furrowed at this weird topic of conversation, and I wondered why he cared if I ate or not.

"Hmm, suppose your right, anyway have you seen Deacon he never returned last night after he went into town?"

"Probably at one of his hoes places," Lycus shrugged.

"Yeah, I will keep trying to ring him," Zac said before wandering off. I looked at Lycus, who was glaring at Zac. "Can't fucking stand him," Lycus growls before getting up. I quickly start picking up my plate and tray when Lycus stops and looks at me.

"No, stay, finish eating," Lycus says, and I shake my head.

"I'm done," I tell him even though my belly started rumbling hungrily. He looked around at everyone who was watching us.

"Are they not letting eat?" Lycus asks me, and I look around at all the men in the room glaring daggers at me. I shake my head. "No, I am just full," I lie, and my stupid belly growls in protest. Lycus raises an eyebrow at me before turning to everyone in the room. My stomach sank when he growled. Was he trying to get me killed?

"No one messes with her at meals. She needs to fucking eat. I hear one word about you tampering with her food or preventing her from eating. You will answer to me,"

"But she is a traitor," Zac protested.

"I don't give a fuck what Darius told you she is. Mess with her while she is eating, and you fucking answer to me. Is that clear?" Lycus snarled.

"Yes, sir," a few said while some dropped their heads and others nodded. Lycus turns to me and points to the table. "Sit, finish eating. They mess with you, fucking tell me," He says,

and I shrink back down in my seat. Lycus walks out, and I prepare to run the moment he leaves. Zac gets up, and I tense, grabbing my fork to use as a weapon if needed.

"Fucking bullshit," Zac sneers before leaving.

"Where are you going?" Satish asks him.

"To look for Deacon," Zac calls out over his shoulder. It took me a good five minutes of glancing around only to realize no one approached me; they stared but didn't come over. I ate cautiously while looking around until the bell rang, too scared to move until they were gone, and I was sure no one was coming to hurt me. Carefully wrapping up my leftovers, I stuck my head out the door before rushing into the cells to give Ryze some food.

## Chapter 47

Tobias POV

Something was going on with Lycus because he never missed breakfast, and where did he have to go that was more important than our morning ritual? I waited for around 5 minutes before leaving myself and looking for him.

Yet the bond led me to the mess hall. Walking to the door, I noticed he was actually eating with Aleera. Now that was new. Lycus hated being around her. Moving away from the entry, I waited for him to come out. Great, he was eating with Aleera when he should be sucking my dick.

I growled, annoyed because this hard-on was becoming annoying, and Darius wanted to check the wards so he couldn't help me out with it. Not only that, I preferred Lycus's warm mouth. The man was like a vacuum. Kalen was in a damn mood from the time Aleera walked out the door, so he was out of the question unless I wanted my dick bitten off. So I had no choice but to wait for Lycus.

I sat on the stairs waiting, bored out of my fucking mind, when I heard him become angry and scold all the men in the mess hall. Eventually, he stormed out while muttering under his breath, and I stood up. "Finally," I whined, and he stopped looking over at me.

"What are you doing here?" he asked, turning away from the

doors leading outside and turning to face me.

"More like what were you doing eating with Aleera? I thought you said you were just grabbing something, not actually eating with her," I growled at him.

"She has been starving. They haven't been letting her eat," Lycus growled, and I looked toward the door. My brows furrowed.

"What do you mean?" I asked, though I had seen she was dropping weight and her iron was low, plus many other minerals and vitamin levels. <sup>3</sup>

"Do you ever bother to open the damn chat link?" Lycus snapped. I shook my head, wondering what he was talking about.

"I deleted it before Kalen saw, but they have been forcing her to starve. That is just plain cruel," Lycus snarls. <sup>3</sup>

"Who has?" Lycus tosses his arms in the air, frustrated, and storms off.

"Wait, I came looking for you for a reason," I called after him.

"Suck your own dick," Lycus calls, and I growl, annoyed. What is it with everyone today? With a sigh, I pulled my phone out as the siren blasts signaling classes started, but since I was not walking around with this all day, I was canceling mine until I found a hot mouth to put it in or an ass, I wasn't picky. With a sigh, I started walking up the steps when Zac stopped me

when I reached the top of the stairs. "Have you seen Deacon?"

"Nah, buddy, I haven't," I tell him, and he looks down, he smirks.

"That explains why you canceled class, I just got the notification," Zac teased, and I shoved him.

"Bugger off, unless your willing to suck it,"

"Hard pass," He laughs, moving off with the rest of the men. I shake my head at him. He could be an idiot. Just as I was about to climb the next set of stairs, I stopped because I noticed Aleera come out of the mess hall with a plastic bowl.

She looked around suspiciously, and I watched her moving back as she went to look up the stairs. Now, what was she up to? The creaking of a door had me glancing back over the railing to where she was, but she was gone, and I just looked over in time to see the door of the cells shut. Now, why would she be going down there? Tempted to ring Darius, I pulled my phone out when I heard the door before watching her sneak back out, only this time she wasn't holding the bowl. My brows furrowed and I waited for her to leave.

Glancing in both directions, I race down the steps before stopping by the cell door. Making sure she was indeed gone, I opened it and slipped inside. Trudging down the steps, I flick the light on only to hear a screech and hissing. My eyes open wide when I see a phoenix get to its feet and fall forward in the makeshift nest. Letting out a breath, I realize it couldn't fly.



I glance at the steps leading up. How did she get it down here without it ripping her to pieces? The bloody thing couldn't fly but looked like it was tempted to attack me as it continued to hiss. I noticed bloody bandages wrapping its body, and my mind went to Aleera's words last night.

"I wasn't running," she said, and I chewed my lip, wondering if she was telling the truth. Darius came out before I could get her to answer again. But then why would she be trying to open the door. Darius said he caught her tampering with the wards. With one last glance, I rushed back upstairs, wanting away from the creepy-ass bird. I hated Pheonix's bloody vicious bastards.

Tugging my phone back out, I went to call Darius to let him know when I stopped. He would kill it; I had no doubt that he would. He hated them, his father was a right prick, and when he was a boy, his father used to lock him in cages with the damn things and let them attack him. Why he idolized that man was beyond me.

Though he was a good father as long as he did as he was told, his punishments were just cruel and uncalled for. I would never understand how he idolized his father the way he did. Darius always thought he was a great father when I could think of plenty of things his father had done that was either just cruel or outright wrong. I put my phone away and glanced at the door.

I could set it free, but someone else would kill it, and I also had

**the issue of it trying to attack me if I grabbed it. I pondered what to do when I decided to open up this chat thing Kalen had with Aleera.**

## Chapter 48

### Aleera POV

The classes droned on, and I wasn't looking forward to being in the sun for the rest of the day. Although, for once, I actually made it around the obstacle course. I was pretty proud of myself, yet the cramping was becoming ridiculous.

Lycus sang out to me and waved me over; moving off the course, I made my way over to him. For some reason, he decided to run the obstacle course.

"Did they give you any shit after I left?" Lycus asked me.

"No," I tell him. He nods. "Good, go to lunch then, after you can take the rest of the day off,"

"Really?" I ask excitedly, and he nods.

"Just stay out of trouble and away from Darius and watch Kalen for me," he asks, and I nod before realizing he wanted me to go back to their room.

Sulking, I headed back inside and to the mess hall. I felt queasy lining up for lunch, yet no one said anything to me, and I moved to a table closest to the door up the back, so I had a quick escape if needed. One thing became apparent, though. They all feared Lycus because not one of them approached me, and they let me eat. It wasn't until I went to get up that one of them spoke.

"She is getting up," Satish smiled while also getting up, and I recognized Lycus's error. He said not to mess with me while I was eating. That wasn't going to stop them when I wasn't. Satish leering smile made me gulp. The man was huge and just as intimidating as Zac and Deacon in his black ops uniform. How they all wore those uniforms in this heat was beyond me.

Cursing, I sat back down and nibbled the corner of the other half of my sandwich. Satish and Zac growled, sitting back down and glaring at me. Once again, I waited for the siren and for the voices to leave before getting up. I was expecting them to be waiting outside to torture me but clearly, being late for Darius's class scared them from wanting to get revenge.

Quickly looking around before I ducked down to the cells, excited that I could give Ryze some extra food today, and hoped I could keep this up because he would be fully healed in no time if he was getting the proper amount of food he required.

I was scratching his belly as he leaned on his good wing when I heard the door open. Ryze hissed, and I grabbed his beak to quiet him.

Fear wrapped around my throat, and my skin itched as I listened to the footsteps come down the steps, and I got to my feet trying to hide Ryze with my body when Tobias appeared.

"I thought I would find you here, interesting pet you keep, Aleera," Tobias says, sauntering closer, and I step back, and Ryze hisses.

"Darius will kill your pet if he finds it," Tobias says, looking around me, and I step in front of his gaze, blocking his view of Ryze. Tobias clicks his tongue.

"I saw you come down here this morning," Tears welled in my eyes because Ryze was all I had, and I knew he would hurt him. Tobias stepped down the last step with his hand behind his back.

"Please don't hurt him," I whispered.

"Him? How do you know it's a male?" Tobias asked, tilting his head as he watched me.

"It's the beak; females have red beaks; his is black," I answer, which seems to shock him that I knew that.

"You like birds?" he asks, stepping closer, and I turned quickly, plucking Ryze off his nest and tucking him under my arm. Tobias stared at Ryze, and Ryze hissed at him. I grabbed his beak, trying to quiet him, and moved further back into the cell when I noticed that Tobias still had his hand behind his back.

"I will put him in the forest. You don't have to hurt him," I tell Tobias. Ryze hisses, and I glance down at him. "Shh, Ryze," I whisper.

"You named him?" I nod while watching him warily and the hand he has behind his back.

"What I want to know is how you got close to it and why it's

letting you touch it. Those things are vicious and hate dark-fae?" Tobias says.

"They were torturing him, so I saved him. Once he figured out I wasn't going to hurt him, he got used to me," I tell him, which was the truth technically. He tilted his head to the side, and I could tell he was making sure I wasn't lying.

"Very well, but you need to keep him hidden if you want to keep him," Tobias says with a shrug while still eyeing Ryze.

"You will let me keep him?" Tobias nods before pulling his arm out from behind his back, and I notice he has a cage full of mice. Ryze hisses and squirms, wanting the mice when he spots them.

"What's the catch?" I ask him.

"No catch, you answer honestly," I chew my lip, debating whether or not to believe him.

"What do you want to know?" I ask.

"Last night, did you try to escape?" I look down at Ryze. "No," I answer.

"You were with your.... Ryze," He says, testing out its name while he reaches into the cage. He grabs a mouse out by its tail. It squirms and squeaks.

"Sit and hold onto that thing. It bites me; I won't be happy," Tobias tells me. I sat down, hugging Ryze to my chest, careful of his wing. Ryze's eyes follow the mouse hanging by its tail,

and Tobias steps closer, and Ryze hisses at him and then growls.

"You bite me fucker, I will scorch your ass," Tobias tells him.

"Shh, Ryze, he said he won't hurt you," I whisper to him, and his snake-like tongue slivers out of his beak, and he licks my chin. Tobias watched him curiously.

"You know they are bonding birds, right?" I nod, patting his feathers and calming Ryze down, and Tobias brings the mouse closer, holding it out to him. Ryze struck like a cobra, and Tobias jumped, nearly losing his fingers when Ryze plucked the mouse from his hands.

## Chapter 49

I gag at the crunching sounds Ryze makes, which suddenly has me feeling sick.

"You want to keep him. You got to feed him properly, they are carnivorous birds Aleera," I nod, but I don't think I could force a mouse to die after seeing how viciously he killed it. Tobias tries to pass me one, and I shake my head, feeling my stomach grow queasy.

"How do you expect to look after him if you won't feed him?"

"You couldn't bring dead ones," I asked and Tobias looked down at the cage, not watching his hand, and Ryze struck again, plucking the squeaking mouse.

"Fucker," Tobias hissed, sucking his fingers where Ryze got him.

Tobias sits on the ground next to his mouse cage and pulls another one out.

"So if you weren't trying to escape, why were you touching the wards?" he says, this time chucking a mouse to Ryze, who swallows it whole.

"His wing is broken; I wanted to try siphon some of the power from the ward to heal it," I explain.

"So you weren't going to try use against us or use it to escape,"



"No, I wanted to heal him so I could let him go, I didn't want him trapped here."

"You aren't letting the bird go, Aleera," Tobias said, staring at him.

"I have no choice, you said yourself Darius will kill him,"

"Good luck because the way he is with you, he has bonded to you, you can try, but he will keep coming back," Tobias said, and I looked down at him.

"And you just saved him, and he got used to you?" I nod, and he sighs. "So peculiar," He mutters, shaking his head before tossing him another mouse. Tobias chews his lip thoughtfully.

"If given a chance, would you escape?" Tobias asked me.

"You know I would, so why ask questions you already know?"

"Maybe because I hope your answer would change Aleera," Tobias says. <sup>2</sup>

"It's okay, I won't tell them you have him here, but you will have to figure out something. Maybe the basement might be better, there is a hole in the roof, and he can get out and fly around when he wants. You can't keep him locked down here," Tobias says.

"And how would I get him up there?"

"I could portal you up, but tell me something else first," I nod, wondering what else he wanted to know. <sup>1</sup>

"Did Darius force himself on you?" I look away, and he curses before shocking me with his next question. "Are you okay?" My head whipped toward him, and he seemed genuine. I raise my eyebrows at him.

"I mean with what he did, Aleera, I don't mean in general," I nod, my face heating with embarrassment.

"Are you embarrassed because he did it or because he made you come?" Why would he ask that? He puts his hand up in mock surrender. "Just a question, I could smell how aroused you were?"

"Both," I mumble.

"I'm sorry for defending him; I thought you tried to run and was mad,"

"Is that why you are helping me?" I asked him.

"No, I hate Pheonix's, but when I found him down here, I was going to tell Darius, but I knew he would kill him. Just because I hate something doesn't mean I believe it should be killed,"

"But torture is alright? Yeah, and abuse?" I scoffed. Tobias observes me for a few seconds and hangs his head. "I don't hate you, I used to, but after seeing you with Kalen, I realize we need you," Tobias says.

"But not enough to stop Darius," I ask. He sighs,

"he is our mate; it will get better. You just have to earn his

trust, Aleera," tears well in my eyes, and I look down at Ryze.

"If you hold him and don't let him bite me, I will give you some magic to heal him," Tobias says, and I gasp, shocked.

"You will give me magic?" Tobias nods, staring at Ryze.

"Just enough to heal him, but there is a catch."

"What?"

"Take it, kiss me," I shake my head, not falling for this shit again.

"Forget it," I tell him.

"Wow, rejected pretty fast," Tobias laughs and I glare at him.

"I have already fucking had Darius tear into my bond by telling me to kiss him and then laughing in my face; I don't need it from you,"

"He toyed with your bond?" Tobias asked, not seeming to like that. I nod, remembering how painful that was and degrading.

"I don't want to toy with your bond, Aleera. Just want a kiss, that is all,"

"Why?"

"Because all day I have been fucking horny from drinking your blood and I need something, since none of my mates will touch me, your blood plays havoc with my bond to you. Just come satisfy it for a second until one of them can help me out,

" I chewed my lip, remembering Lycus saying Tobias got horny from drinking my blood.

"Just a kiss?"

"Just a kiss," Tobias repeats. "Then you can heal your plucked dodo-looking phoenix," Tobias says. I glanced down at Ryze, who watched me back like he had been listening to our conversation.

"Just one?" I asked. If it meant helping Ryze, I would do it.

"One, but I want a proper one," he laughs.

"A proper one?"

"Using tongue," Tobias said, winking at me.

"Wouldn't they be pissed off?" I asked him, and he shrugged.

"Kalen wouldn't care, the other two," He shrugged. "Well, they should have sucked my dick this morning. Neither did, so I will take my vices anyway I can get them," Tobias said.

"I am not sucking dick," I tell him.

"Never said you have to, just a kiss, so put your demonic pigeon down and come here," Tobias said, opening his arms.

"I don't trust you, and if you were so horny, why not just have a wank?"

"Doesn't work like that; I have drank your blood, it makes me crave magic, and since you have none and only they do, I have t

o take it from them. But you can make the ache hurt less since your blood caused it by letting my bond have what it wants."

"Your bond wants me to kiss you?" I asked. It sounded ridiculous.

"My bond wants me to fuck you, but I know you won't give me that, so it will have to settle for a kiss, so come here," Tobias said.

"And that is all?" I ask again, not trusting him, and he nods. I look at Ryze before placing him in his nest I made and hesitantly got to my feet. Tobias looked up at me from where he sat, not moving, and I stopped in front of him. <sup>2</sup>

Deja-Vu washed over me with Darius, and my stomach sank as the bond became excited again. Only this time, Tobias gripped my wrist and yanked me on his lap. Ryze hissed loudly behind me and screeched.

"Quiet bird, I won't hurt her," Tobias snapped as I straddled his waist. I swallowed, and Tobias rolled his eyes before gripping the back of my neck and pulling me closer. His lips were warm and soft as he kissed me when I felt his tongue trace across my bottom, Tobias groaned and his other arm wrapped around my waist, tugging me flush against him, which made me gasp.

Tobias took advantage of my parted lips and delved his tongue into my mouth. His groan was lewd as his tongue played with mine, wanting me to kiss him back. The bond answered his kiss longingly, and I kissed him back hungrily. His tongue

tasted every inch of my mouth when he pulled me closer, deepening the kiss, which made my stomach tighten as arousal coiled within me when he pulled away.

"Like I don't mind if you want to keep kissing me, but you are supposed to be taking my magic," Tobias laughed. My cheeks heated, having completely forgotten as I was too busy enjoying the kiss. Tobias smirked and raised an eyebrow at me when I kissed him again. He groaned, kissing me back, and I moved my hand to his neck, feeling his pulse under my palm and his energy before stealing some of it when I kissed him deeper. <sup>2</sup>

Pulling away, I gasped at the feel of his magic writhing within me, cold and sweet. I shivered when I felt his hands slide up my thighs to my hips, and I thought he was going to demand something more, but instead, he lifted me off him.

"Heal your Pheonix, then I will help you get him to the basement," Tobias says. "And don't let him bite me,"

"And you won't tell Darius?"

"Be our little secret," Tobias says, and I turn back to Ryze, excited that I could heal him. <sup>2</sup>

## Chapter 50

Every night, I had spent the night in their room, unable to return to mine. Darius still believed wholeheartedly that I was trying to escape. I wasn't willing to tell him different for the sake of Ryze, who now lived in the attic. Tobias was right, however, because, even healed, he never left. I noticed, though, with each passing day when Tobias would sneak me up to see him and feed him, that he grew larger, which was concerning because soon he would not fit through the hole in the roof.

I still couldn't bring myself to feed him the mice; I tried to give frozen ones, even thawed out ones, but he liked them live. So I was thankful that Tobias had no such issues sacrificing the mice for me. Ryze even let him pat him. He nearly lost a finger, and Ryze only tolerated his touch for a few seconds before snapping at him. Tobias was thrilled that he had touched a live Pheonix like it was some sort of acceptance, and he was suddenly a Pheonix whisperer.

Tobias opened a portal back to the room, and the moment I stepped through it, Darius was waiting, his arms folded across his chest. His temper had gotten worse over the last few days. The more time Tobias and Kalen spent with me, the more furious he seemed to get.

"Where have you both been?" he demanded, and Tobias quickly closed the portal behind us before he could see into the

dark attic.

"The library," I lied.

"I checked the library," Darius said, and I knew we would have to come up with a better place.

"Must have just missed us then," Tobias shrugged before pulling a book from his pocket. He tossed it to Kalen, who caught it and smiled. I had no idea when Tobias got time to grab it unless he got it before he went up, but it seemed to placate Darius for now. He muttered under his breath before storming out.

Kalen looked the cover over before flipping it and reading the back. I realized Kalen spent most of his time reading because Darius had pulled him from the classes he taught, so I couldn't spend more time than necessary with him. Moving toward the couch, I sat next to him when Lycus came over and rolled his eyes before walking off.

"I'm going for a run," Lycus growled, also leaving. Tobias sighed before sitting at my feet on the floor. "They're just jealous," Tobias said, resting his head on my knees.

"Of what?" I asked incredulously. What could they possibly have to be jealous about? They weren't a prisoner?

"That Tobias and I don't hate you and we spend more time with you than them?" Kalen said while opening the book. I sighed.



"And why do they hate me, exactly?" Neither answer, and I know it was to do with Darius, forbidding them from telling me.

"Okay then, why did you hate me?" I ask Tobias. He shifts uncomfortably, leaning forward before also getting up and leaving. Was I a repellent? What was up with them all today? Tobias had been fine all week, and I asked one question, and he too stormed off and into the bathroom.

"Well, can you tell me?" I asked Kalen and he sighs. "Nope, because unless Darius agrees for you to know, we are bound by his stupid bond," Kalen growls.

"Huh?" first I heard of them being sworn to secrecy.

"He has been our replacement keeper for years. We are bonded to him most, even Lycus and I,"

"I still don't understand?" I tell him.

"Keeper is the glue; Darius is our glue. We draw off him the most, for our bond to him is stronger. He controls the bonds, therefore, controls us in a sense, like a blood tie, or another way to put it is, we can't betray him even if we wanted to,"

"So you have no say at all?" I ask, wondering how that works.

"We do, but only when powerful emotion is behind it can we overpower it, like the few times we have gone against him,"

"What do you mean?"

"Lycus guilt, when he healed you. Tobias giving you magic the other day," I looked at him wondering how he knew.

"Don't tell me, in case you haven't noticed, I am the weakest link. If Darius asks, I will tell him why, I won't be able to lie to him. Therefore, some things are best for me not knowing," Kalen tells me, and I nod. I would have to remember that.

"Wait, how did you know?" I asked.

"Your aura changed. It glowed, for a few hours, like you were recharged,"

"And now?" he glances at me.

"Same as ours, though fainter, since you have no magic," I nodded, relieved.

"What can you tell me, then?"

"Ask, and we will find out, see what I can say," Kalen tells me. I thought for a second, choosing my questions.

"Why does Lycus hate me?"

"He doesn't; he just hates what you did to me,"

"What did I do to you?"

"Can't answer, but you already know," he says, and I nod, saving that for later to ponder.

"What about Darius?" He opens his mouth before humming, "interesting, that is one I think I can speak about."

"He killed his father for you, for all of us,"

"Can you elaborate more?"

"Ah," he tries to speak when his mouth shuts. "I guess that is all I may say on that one," Kalen says.

"Fine, um, Tobias then?" I ask slightly annoyed.

"His brother, and again all I can say," he says, frustrated.

"Was that the man in the picture I saw on the bedside table?"

"Yes, it was his twin,"

"Was?"

"He is dead now,"

"Let me guess because of me?" Kalen's brows furrow, but he says nothing else.

"Okay, well, can you tell me why everyone calls me a traitor?"

"Because of conspiracy theories surrounding the plague,"

"Excuse me?"

"I can't; that is all you get," Kalen growled, resting his head back on the couch. "This is so stupid, believe me, if I could, I would tell you everything,"

"I know," I tell him, gripping his knee.

"Okay, your turn. How about you answer some of my

questions?" Kalen asks, and I chew my lip.

"Might help get you some answers," Kalen says.

"You're going to see if I can answer my own questions?" I ask, and he nods. I shrug. What could it hurt if it means learning more about them? Why not? The door opened, and I almost sighed when Darius entered the room, knowing how strange game would be over.