

## Chapter 59

I looked at the open window and swept the glass off before placing him on it. His talons dug into the wood, and the glass crunched under his weight. He didn't fly off. I was hoping he would, but he remained. Tobias cursed under his breath, and I looked to Lycus and Kalen, but Kalen had a strange look on his face like he was dazed. 1

"Kalen won't come to your aid, Aleera; he can't. He can speak, but he won't help." Tears brimmed in Kalen's eyes, and that explained why he kind of just moved around wherever Lycus pulled him. Making me wonder what happened to him after the mess hall incident.

"Come here," Darius said, and I rubbed my arms against the draft, trying to cover my exposed skin. I hesitantly moved toward Darius, who smirked.

"You said anything," he chuckled darkly, and my stomach dropped, wondering what he wanted me to do. My eyes roamed over his scratched-up torso. He only had on shorts, and I nervously looked at Tobias, who couldn't even meet my gaze.

I gulped, and Ryze shrieked and stared at me. "You carry on, and that thing attacks," Darius said, and I nodded. I stopped in front of him, and Lycus looked away. Kalen dropped his head in his hands. "Shut it, Kalen," Darius snapped at him, which only made me more nervous when I saw Kalen's shoulder shake as if he was crying. What the fuck have I just agreed to?

"Wasn't earlier fucking punishment enough, Darius?" Lycus snarled.

"I told you earlier I had nothing to do with that," Darius snapped at him. It became clear why Kalen was silent. They must have argued with Darius over the incident in the mess hall. Darius had warned him away again, because the look on his face was helplessness. 1

"On your knees," Darius said, and I looked at him. "What?" I blurted in shock.

"You want your bird to live, get on your knees," he said, slowly, and he pointed at his feet and I looked down before noticing his raging hard-on. I gasped and took a step back. Darius raised his hand and pointed at Ryze.

No matter what he forced me to endure, it was never enough. Tears brimmed in my eyes, and I knew what he wanted, and it sickened me he would ask for that after earlier. Wasn't that enough humiliation for one day? 1

A sob left my lips as I dropped to my knees in front of him. Ryze shrieked, and I looked over at him, trying to shush him. He cawed before tucking his head under his wing and I let out a breath before looking up at Darius. 1

"Suck it," Darius said, looking down at me. I pressed my lips in a line, and I couldn't help the tears that spilled over, but I remained quiet because I knew if I made a noise, Ryze would attack him. I swallowed and looked at him, horrified, and he raised an eyebrow at me. "Darius?" Lycus hissed at him, and Darius growled. 1

"What will it be, Aleera?" Darius asked, and I held back a whimper. My hands shook terribly as I reached for his shorts. My cheeks heated as embarrassment washed over me as I gripped the waistband of his shorts.

"Darius!" Tobias snapped as my tears dripped off my chin and onto my knees. "No teeth," Darius mocked me. 3

I tugged his shorts down to his thighs before dropping my gaze, trying to will myself to put his thing in my mouth. I could barely see through my tears as I looked back at him. There was no denying that he was huge.

"Haven't got all day, Aleera," he said, leaning down and grabbing my hand. I whimpered when he forced my hand to grab his cock. 1

"What's wrong with you? Hurry up. Don't make out you haven't done it before; I know what a fucking whore you are," he snarled, and I shook my head, and he growled, making me flinch. 3

"Three seconds or bye-bye, birdie," Darius taunted when I heard a thump, making me jump and look in Tobias's direction to see his fist through the wall. He hissed, yanking it out, and I noticed Ryze watching him before he fluffed out his feather and tucked his head again, only this time peering into the room like an owl watching. Darius thrust into my hand. I nearly let go at the feel, only he grabbed my hand before I could.

"Choose, Aleera," Darius snapped at me. I'm doing it for Ryze; I had to do this, I reminded myself even though I didn't have the slightest clue as to what to do besides putting it in my mouth. My gaze went back to his cock and I nearly gagged just at looking at the size of it. I swallowed before leaning forward on my knees and opening my mouth. Cringing at what I about to do.

"She's a fucking virgin, you fucking prick," Kalen snapped and blurted out, and I froze.

"Yeah, right, she is 24, for fuck's sake?" Darius laughed, and I looked up at him.

"Darius, I swear to you she is. She giggled like a fucking school girl when she saw my dick; she wouldn't make that up," Kalen said, and I dropped my eyes to the floor, my cheeks flaming hot. Darius gripped my chin, forcing me to look up at him. He tilted his head to the side.

"Is he lying? Are you a virgin, Aleera?" My cheeks burned even hotter all down my neck and my chest became hot as well. I nodded, and he looked at Tobias while keeping his grip on my chin.

"Say it, I swear if you're lying, Aleera," Darius didn't finish, but the warning was clear.

"Ask her, and remember, I can tell if you are lying, Tobias; you can't lie for shit," Darius told him. Darius turned his gaze back to me.

"Are you a virgin?" Darius asked.

"Yes," I blurted, closing my eyes, feeling humiliated.

"She is telling the truth, Darius," Tobias said, and Darius jerked away from me, his cock slipping out of my hand. My eyes opened to see Darius had pulled his pants up and was looking at me, horrified. 1

"But you've done things with guys before?" he demanded to know. I could feel all their eyes on me. Every single one of them had their attention on me.

"No, I never even kissed anyone until I kissed Kalen if you call that a kiss," I tell him, remembering the night I took his darkness.

"Wait, I was your first kiss, like an actual kiss?" Darius asked, though he sounded appalled. I looked up at him and nodded.

"And when I," He gulped and Kalen snarled.

"When you fucking what, Darius?" Kalen snarled, and Lycus growled loudly, glaring at Darius. 2

"I didn't think she was fucking virgin, or I wouldn't have," Darius said, and he pinched the bridge of his nose and puffed out his cheeks while shaking his head. 2

"Please tell me that wasn't the first time anyone fingered you," Darius mumbled, and Kalen jumped up furious, and I dropped my gaze, mortified that he just said that out loud. Lycus grabbed Kalen, pulling him down.

"You fucking jerk," Kalen spat and his entire body trembled as Lycus wrapped his arms around Kalen tightly.

"I have done nothing with anyone. I was saving myself for my fucking mate until I found it was you lot," I breathed while covering my face with my hands. 2

"You saved yourself," Tobias and Lycus asked simultaneously, clearly shocked by my words. I nodded.

"I have done nothing besides kissing Kalen, and Darius kissed me and did what he did," I mumbled out that last part. "And I kissed Tobias," I said, hoping they would stop their embarrassing line of questioning.

"Wait, you have all kissed her?" Lycus asked, and I looked at him as he looked between the three of them. "Well, nice for someone to fucking tell me," Lycus snapped before sitting on the edge of the bed and folding his arms across his chest. It almost looked like he was pouting. 1

"To be fair, I wasn't really with it when she kissed me," Kalen told him, nudging him. Darius ran both hands through his hair and breathed out loudly. "Get up," he said, and I got to my feet, trying to cover myself. I looked at Ryze, and Darius followed my gaze and sighed.

"Just sleep in the bed with us. No one will touch you," Darius said.

"Darius?" Tobias said, shaking his head. 1

"I said no one will touch her; she wants to keep her bloody... Ryze, she sleeps in the bed," he

says before worrying his lip between his teeth. I nodded as long as I didn't have to suck anyone's cock; I could live with that.

"Can I have a shirt, please?" I asked, and Darius's eyes ran the length of me, and he motioned toward their cupboard. I rushed in and grabbed a shirt before grabbing an extra for Ryze. When I turned around, Darius stood in the doorway. I took a step back from him and tugged the shirt on, not liking how his eyes lingered on my breasts. When he didn't move, I went to step past him, but he grabbed my arm. 2

"I... I wouldn't... if I had known, I wouldn't have done it... I.." He stops, and he looks away before nodding and letting me go. I was pretty sure that was his version of an apology. He stared at me, and I could see the guilt on his face. He let out a breath before stepping aside so I could pass him. I rushed past him, going to the couch and making a mini nest out of Kalen's shirt. 3

I whistled, and Ryze flew over before burrowing down in it. Darius stared before shaking his head like he couldn't believe I was touching it like it was a puppy and not something that could tear us apart. Turning around, Darius wiped the blood off his chest with a wet cloth Tobias handed him, and I stared at the bed, wondering where I was supposed to lie.

"Lay where you want," Darius said, climbing into bed. I looked to Kalen, who patted the spot between him and Lycus. Darius was on his other side, and I figured I was safest with him and Lycus. So I crawled in between them. Kalen tugged the blanket up, and Lycus lay stiffly beside me like he was afraid of touching me. Only to be squished against me when Tobias climbed in beside him. I sat up, trying to get comfortable, and Kalen wrapped his arm around my waist, tugging me closer while Lycus rolled on his back and placed his arm under the pillow I was using.

"I won't do anything; I can keep my hands to myself," Lycus growled. "And apparently my lips," he added, earning a growl from Tobias. I laid down, tucked between Lycus and Kalen. Lycus tossed his arm over me and onto Kalen, and I sank down between them, enjoying their warmth and relieved my Pheonix was alright. 5

## Chapter 60

The next morning, I woke up to somebody nudging me. With a groan, I rolled to find Lycus stiff as a board next to me and looking at the ceiling. Fingers jabbing in my ribs had me turning to look at Kalen, who was also perfectly still. I yawned and rubbed my eyes, only for him to nudge me again.

"What?" I groan, rolling on my side to face and Lycus whimpers behind me and Kalen lifts his hand, jabbing it in Lycus's direction, and I peer over my shoulder to see Ryze leaning down off the headboard. Ryze's head turned from side to side as he scrutinized Lycus's face. His long snake-like tongue slivers out of his beak and up the side of Lycus's face, who pales considerably as it runs across the shadow of stubble on his cheek. 3

I giggle at how terrified he looked. He didn't even blink like he was too scared to. The corner of his lip opens. "Get it, get it away," he grumbles, and Ryze caws loudly in his face. Lycus's eyes slam shut before he peeks one open to Ryze's beak, nearly touching his nose as he leaned down.

"Ryze, leave him be; you are scaring him." I yawn, and Ryze puffs out his feather and shudders; I sit up only for him to jump off the headboard onto my shoulder. His talons dug painfully into my shoulder.

"We really need to cut your nails," I hissed at him.

"There is no we about it. I ain't holding that thing down while you go at him with scissors," Lycus hisses, now able to move without being stared down by Ryze. I roll my eyes at their fear while Ryze snaps his beak at him, making him flinch and jump off the bed and away from him.

Kalen rolls away from me, not even willing to sit up with him sitting on my shoulder. A soft thud reaches my ears as he hits the carpeted floor. 2

"And you're supposed to be the big scary Wraith's, scared of my baby phoenix," I chuckle before blowing kiss faces at Ryze, who immediately drops his head, pressing his beak to my lips so I could kiss it. 1

"I have seen them pluck the eyes out of a demon, and I mean pluck it out! With its tongue! Like a scoop of ice cream, you are bloody nuts even touching it," Lycus shivered just as the bathroom door opened up and Tobias stepped out. Ryze flew off my shoulder and over to him, making Kalen duck and drop to the floor, a shriek leaving him as he covered his head with his hands. Tobias grunts as his talons dig into his shoulder, and Ryze bangs his beak on top of Tobias's head.

"In a minute, let me get dressed," Tobias groans, moving around the room and finding his clothes, with Ryze perched on his shoulder. Ryze had gotten so big his tail nearly reached the floor even while perched on Tobias, who was easily 6 feet tall. Looking around the room, I noticed Darius wasn't in the room, only for him to step out of the bathroom a few seconds later with a towel wrapped around his waist also.

"Good, you're awake," he says, walking out only for Ryze to nip him when he walks past. My heart leaped into my throat, but Darius waved his hand at him, shooing him.

"Control it, Aleera. I don't like them, and that is the second time this morning it has taken a chunk out of me," Darius hissed, wiping his shoulder where Ryze got him.

"He picks up on her. He knows you scare her. What do you expect?" Tobias says before opening the window that I noticed was now fixed.

"You fixed it already?" I asked.

"Magic!" Kalen said, wiggling his fingers, and I frowned before sighing and moving to the end of the bed, only for Ryze to fly over to me. This time Lycus dropped to the floor as Ryze swooped past. Darius growls, stepping over him.

"Get a grip of yourself; it's a bloody bird," Darius snapped at him.

"Eyeballs, they eat eyeballs," Lycus growls at him.

"Nope, they eat mice mainly," Tobias says, turning around with one in his hands from the cage. I didn't even notice that he had brought here. He tossed the mouse, and like a cobra, Ryze struck and chomped it.

"I think I am going to be sick," Kalen murmured, turning a little green. Ryze licked his beak clean before flying toward the open window, and I shrieked, knowing there were probably demons downstairs out and about.

Usually, he went out late afternoon. Rushing to the window, I peered out to see a few jogging the perimeter, but he flew up onto the roof. I sighed, a breath of relief leaving me, and I pulled my head back in the window.

"Can we swap classes this morning?" Darius asks Lycus while looking over at him. Lycus's shoulders sag, but he nods.

"Why, where are you going?" Tobias asked him.

"In town.. Aleera," Darius says, turning his finger in the air, wanting me to turn around. My brows furrow when I see him grip his towel, and I turn my back on him. Lycus smirks at me, folding his arms across his chest.

"What class has Aleera got this morning?" Lycus asks.

"Mine," Tobias says.

"Swap?" Lycus asks, and Tobias growls at him.

"Why, what class is Darius got this morning?" I asked while taking some clothes; Kalen went and retrieved for me. Tugging the shirt off over my head, I tossed it on the bed before pulling the tank top on over my sports bra, only to look up to find them all staring at me. Lycus clears his throat as I pull the shorts on.

"Um, what were we talking about?" Lycus asks, and I huff.

"What class do you have of Darius?" I ask, shaking my head.

## Chapter 61

"A practice one," Lycus answers.

"Then definitely not going to leave a theory class, only to have my ass set on fire for a few hours," I tell him.

Tobias smiles triumphantly like he just won some prize, and Lycus groans, stalking off into the closet to get changed. Darius wanders in after him, and I get ready to head down to the mess hall when Darius comes out chucking me a shoebox; I caught it. My eyes lit up. Finally, shoes again. I pulled the joggers out, only for him to hand me some socks.

"You go to Lycus's class this morning," Darius says.

"But?" Tobias whines and I snatched the socks off him.

"Shut it," Darius snaps at Tobias. I slip the shoes on before standing up and moving toward the door, pissed off I was going to spend the next two hours getting burned.

"Where are you going?" Darius asked as I moved past him.

"Breakfast, where else?" I ask him.

"You eat with us from now on,"

"And join your morning fuck-fest, no thanks," I tell him.

"No one is fucking; I have to leave for a couple of hours. You eat with us from now on. All meals are with us. I don't want you in the mess hall," Darius said, pulling a jacket on before pecking Lycus's lips as he walked out of the closet dressed in blue faded jeans and a blacktop. Darius then left.

After breakfast, I sulked the entire way down to the training fields. Glaring at Lycus's back, everyone murmured and watched me cautiously as I followed him, not willing to leave his side. Tears burned my eyes at the memory of all these men seeing me nearly wholly naked.

Lycus moved to the center and told everyone to partner up. Nobody stepped forward to partner up with me, and I thought for sure I was going to be able to sit this one out.

"Aleera, you're with," Lycus' eyes scanned around before he called Gerald over.

"Gerald with Aleera," I pressed my lips in a line, and he looked over at me before looking at Lycus. This fucker refused to let me serve myself. He was always on kitchen duty.

"But?" Gerald whined.

"You're with Aleera," Lycus told him, and he dropped his head and stormed over.

Everyone moved into their circles, the ones we weren't supposed to step out of, or it was instant point deduction. Too many point deductions, and it was a fail. I obviously was failing



miserably in all practice classes.

"This is bullshit, Lycus. We hurt her Darius will fucking kill us. I can't spar with her?" Gerald said, motioning to me.

"You can, and you will, no repercussions, fry her," Lycus said, and I took a step back as Gerald's eyes sparkled at me. My back hit a wall of muscle, and I glanced over my shoulder to see Lycus. He ran his hands down my arms, and I felt his magic zapping against my skin.

"You're a Pyro," I murmured, feeling my skin warm.

"Hmm, and electro," He murmured before I felt the urge to pull on it. I had to stamp down the desire to take it. I had tasted his power before, but wasn't sure of what he could do with it.

"Take it," Lycus whispered below my ear before pressing his face into my neck. His hands moved to my wrist before his fingers locked between mine.

"But Darius?" I worried.

"I wouldn't be able to give it to you without him saying so," Lycus murmured against my shoulder.

I looked at Gerald, and he tilted his head to the side. In fact, I noticed everyone staring in our direction at Lycus's closeness to me and the way his arms wrapped around me, his hands holding mine.

My only issue was trying not to let my white magic show, which wasn't a major issue. I only used my dark while masking my lighter side throughout school, but it had also been six years of not using magic. Yet as I felt it caress over my skin, I gasped before squeezing his fingers slightly, and his magic bled into my skin, making me gasp and warm all over; my toes curled in my shoes at the sensation as it rushed through me.

My entire body shivered from my toes to my head, and Gerald smirked at the challenge; his smirk dropped when I smiled back at him like a Cheshire cat, and I let go of Lycus's hands. Lycus stepped back and out of the circle. He stood on the side between us, and I flexed my fingers when Gerald spoke.

"Ready, Aleera?" He laughed, and I turned my palm up, creating a fireball in my hand, molding it into the shape of an arrow. I giggled as it heated my skin, and I looked over at him to see his eyes grow wide when I felt the jolt of a zap and looked over at Lycus as electricity zapped through the flames in my hand sizzling around the arrow flame I created. He nodded to me before I turned to face Gerald, letting the fire morph back into a ball, tossing my fireball in my hand.

"Oh scary, let's see what you got then, sneaky Lycus," Gerald taunted, yet I couldn't get the smile off my lips, much too excited to play this game now. I laughed at his words and challenge, which he seemed amused about. In school, I had to mask how good with fire I truly was, making sure my grades were mediocre and didn't draw attention to the fact I had more power than most before I manifested. Here I didn't have to mask my strength, just my lighter

side. As I turned the fireball into a lava one, my eyes gleamed with that knowledge. Gerald gulped and took a step back.

"What's your highest heat record again?" I asked him, and he folded his arms cockily because he held the highest record in the class at 2200 degrees Celsius.

"2200," he laughed.

"You're so fucked," I giggled, and his laughter stopped.

"What's your then?" he demanded.

"You're about to find out," I smiled before setting the ring surrounding us on fire. 7

## Chapter 62

Gerald jumped as the ring around us set on fire, the heat warming us while my eyes glowed with excitement. How I had missed having magic. "That's the best you got," Gerald taunted. I smirked before feeling the tether to my power strengthen, morphing it before I lifted my hands out to the sides above my head before tossing them down.

The flames exploded in a cylinder-shaped wall around us. The fire flew towards the sky, higher than the castle's tallest point, and I chuckled while Gerald's mouth fell open. I couldn't see those standing outside of our circle, but the murmurs at my reach with the flames had them gasping in shock.

"Pretty sure, I just broke the record for highest," I giggled.

"Not the hottest," Gerald said with a cocky grin.

"How hot is cutting fire again?" I asked him.

"Yeah, right 3700, pfft?" he murmured, admiring my towering wall of flames.

"I burn hotter," I whispered, and his smile fell as he looked over at me. Moving my hand, he watched as I turned my palm up before the flames burned brightly, turning purple and blue burning so bright I watched as he squinted from the harsh rays of light it emanated. Clenching my fist, the wall of fire plunged toward the earth, burrowing deep into the surface of the rock. However, maintaining it to remain on the ring's outer edge took some concentration as I cut the circle out, burning a hole through the ground turning the rock to molten lava. It bubbled up, spewing out of the gaps as I cut a ring around us, leaving us in the center.

In contrast, lava bubbled and bled from the earth. Everyone jumped back and Gerald too, before nearly tumbling into the gap behind him before jumping toward me.

It stopped with a twist of my wrist as I felt myself growing weaker from not having used that much power in so long. Gerald noticed my exhaustion as the lava darkened as it cooled, and he smirked.

"What's wrong, Aleera? Can't hold it long?" he chirped before he shrieked as I flicked my fingers toward him and engulfed him in flames. He danced, trying to extinguish the flames covering him as I controlled the fire enough not to touch his skin, only burning his clothes from his entire body and hair. Still, the shriek of terror from him had everyone laughing as he jumped around like his ass was on fire. My own giggles as he shrieked, patting himself down before rolling on the ground made the flames cut out. Momentarily distracting me.

He stopped thrashing, only to see he wasn't burned, just very naked and looking like a hairless cat. Even his eyebrows were gone. I snickered, and Gerald glared at me.

"Pretty sure I just broke your record. Do you want another demonstration, Gerald? I'm pretty sure I can melt you down. Shall we see what you're really made of?" I challenged. Gerald

growled and jumped to his feet, rushing toward me like an enraged rhino. Lycus stepped over the gap. I cut into the ground and into his path. He halted instantly, nearly tripping over himself in his effort to not run into Lycus's wall of muscle.

Gerald growled, glaring at me over Lycus's shoulder. "Issue Gerald?" Lycus asked, and Gerald looked between Lycus and me before sneering and turning on his heel. He stalked off while cursing under his breath. Lycus then turned to face me, a grin on his face. "So you're a fire element," he said, eyes sparkling with the knowledge. That made me a little nervous because they may start questioning if I showed any ability in any other element. Lycus held his hand out, and I sighed, knowing he wanted me to give it back, or what's left of it anyway.

"I would let you keep it, but,"

"But Darius," I answered for him, and he nodded. I rolled my eyes before brushing my fingertips over his palm and giving his magic back to him. Turning around to follow him back inside, I stopped when I noticed Darius standing by the edge of the field with Tobias and Kalen. Looking over at Lycus, he shrugged. "They came to see if you were indeed a fire element like all of us," Lycus shrugged.

"You're all fire?" I asked.

"Yes, we all have a low ability in all elements. Fire is our strongest manifestation, except Darius. He is a dark elemental. Tobias has a few other gifts, the compulsion and his ability to tell if someone is lying. He can also manipulate a person's emotions," Lycus explained as we walked toward them.

"What about Kalen?" I asked, already knowing he could read auras.

"Fire, but he is a lot weaker, being that he is just a pure dark Fae; he can also read auras better than anyone I have ever met. Tobias twin was almost as good as Kalen at reading auras,"

"Tobias's twin? The one that died?" I asked.

"What makes you think he is dead?" Lycus asked, and I shrugged.

"The way Tobias acted when I asked about him, but also, I think I have seen him before," I murmured, trying to remember why I felt that way. Lycus said nothing, or maybe he wasn't allowed to answer the underlying question for that one.

"So, Kalen, besides the auras?" I asked, and he shrugged.

"He has a low manifestation in all; he seemed like he had never manifested; maybe it was his upbringing? Although he's a strong empath which is unusual for dark Fae makes him a better observer of emotions," Lycus said, and my brows furrowed. We stopped by Darius and the others when Darius spoke.

"I looked through all of your records. I didn't find anything that indicated you were strong with this element or any actually," I shrugged, and Darius studied my face intently for a moment.

"Do you have any other gifts besides being able to harness the fire element?" Lycus asked curiously. I cleared my throat, especially knowing Tobias was right there, and I wouldn't be able to lie without him noticing straight away. I couldn't risk questions that would lead them to know I was a harmony elemental. That would really grind Darius's gears if he knew I would be as strong as him with magic, possibly stronger, seeing as I still wasn't aware of the limits of my magic I have if given the chance to use them.