

CHAPTER 16: HOME

The two fumbled a bit as the kiss began, Xavion scared and hesitant while Malach was merely inexperienced, but eventually it grew more comfortable. Malach kissed him tenderly, trying to convey his affection for the demon through his touch. He carefully caressed Xav's face and hip as their lips moved together in sync.

The angel pulled back for a second or two, grinning fondly at Xavion before initiating another kiss. Xav's heart was pounding in his chest and the way Malach had gazed at him so intently wasn't making it any better. Mal was looking at him like he was something worth looking at. That had led the brunette but also filled him with a particular emotion he didn't know how to describe.

Xavion's arms slowly ventured around the angel's neck, wrapping around him while deepening the kiss. He could tell Malach was a little unsure of himself but he was too caught up in the moment to care whatsoever. The blonde's hands sunk down to hold Xav's waist with a sturdy grip as they got lost in the act.

Out of instinct and lust, the demon gently tugged on Malach's lower lip with his teeth before parting a few inches. The action made Mal's pupils dilate as their eyes once again connected. Malach's began to shine a rich gold color, Xavion's dark black with a little bit of gold shimmering in the irises.

"Wow," the angel murmured, running his thumb over Xav's bottom lip again with admiring his sharp features that the moonlight peaking through the window highlighted.

Xavion gulped, helplessly watching how intimately Malach was looking at him. He felt special, but exposed and vulnerable at the same time. He wasn't used to anyone looking at him the way Mal kept doing. In fact, he didn't think anyone ever had at all.

His hatred for the angel was quickly deteriorating. The more Malach looked at him like that, the harder it became to want to stay away. He began to wonder what was so bad about the two being together. Temporarily, he forgot about all the outside factors and dismissed the inside ones. But then, as Malach leaned in at a slow pace to press a delicate kiss to his forehead, the strong emotion yanked him back to his senses.

This was the man he despised. The man who made him feel like second place his whole childhood and thought he was better than Xav. This was his destined from birth enemy. Imagining the fury in Lucifer's eyes if he found out what was going on was the final factor that caused Xavion to shove Mal away.

"I forgot that Cyfrin needs me to help him with um... something. I'll see you later," he spoke all of a sudden, leaving the blonde clueless as Xav practically sprinted out the door.

Instead of being hurt or angry due to the abrupt exit, Malach smiled. He smiled so widely his cheeks hurt.

Maybe it didn't end perfectly, but this confirmed his thoughts. Xavion did have feelings for him. The passion that sizzled between them was too intense to be mistaken for anything else.

"Night, Xav," he murmured softly. He knew the demon must've been able to hear him despite the large distance.

Then, for the first night in a week, Malach slept soundly. But for Xavion, he didn't manage to catch even a wink of sleep. He was up all night stressing over what would happen if Lucifer found out about his feelings. Even though the odds of him finding out when no one else knew were extremely low, he couldn't save himself from the overwhelming fear sinking into his bones.

Fortunately, Xavion didn't have to actively avoid Malach as yet. The school was giving all the students a week long break so most people were going back home for a few days. Though, on the other hand, it was also unfortunate since that meant Xavion would have to face Lucifer.

He stepped onto the shuttle with a bag full of his belongings draped over his shoulder. The contraption was the equivalent to a large vehicle, minus that its purpose was to transfer the students underground and into the portal that led to Hell. There were two people to each seat, all of them facing another singular booth like a typical dining room table would. The material on them were slightly worn down from age.

The demon went to take a seat alone in the back but stopped when he felt Cyfrin tug his sleeve like a child trying to get their parents' attention. "Come with us," Cy said, pointing to the seat across from him.

Xavion nodded and moved to set his bag down before he paused, noticing Zisa sitting on the inside of the booth beside him, icily glaring at Cy for inviting the brunette over.

"What? Don't tell me you're still mad!" Cyfrin said in exasperation, groaning when Zisa's glare only hardened. "Come on, that was legit weeks ago!"

Her jaw dropped before she whacked the side of his head. "He almost killed us. I don't give a shit what the damn timeframe is!"

"That hurt," Cyfrin grumbled under his breath as he rubbed his new injury. "But it was an accident! He didn't do it on purpose!"

"How do you accidentally almost strangle and burn your best friends to death?" she sassily retorted, now glaring at Xavion who was glancing around to find another open seat.

"Everyone settle down and your behinds in your seats!" the driver yelled from the front of the vehicle, raising his brows at Xav when he didn't move.

"Dammit. Just sit," Zisa exhaled. "The faster we leave the sooner we can go home."

Guiltily, Xavion sat across from Cyfrin and unsurely looked at Zisa to determine how angry she still was. The answer was very, seeing as her arms were tightly crossed while she stared at the wall with her nostrils flared.

Their seats began to lowly buzz as the bus moved forward. There weren't any windows, but he could feel the contraption moving as it carried them underground. The trip to the portal was a fairly quick one, so it wouldn't be too much longer until Xavion would be have to see Lucifer. His stomach churned at the reminder.

"In my defense, I was in a bad mood because of Malach. You know how demons can be," Xav tried, feeling exhausted when her eyes snapped towards his, ignited with fury.

"That's bullshit and you know it. If you gave a damn about me or Cy, you wouldn't have done it in the first place. Or at the very least you would've fucking apologized."

Xavion almost flinched at her harsh words, shifting in his seat. He had no idea what to say.

"Zisa," Cyfrin said in a hushed voice, clutching her arm. Her eyes met his, fury simmering down a few notches. It was like they were telepathically communicating as her anger came to an abrupt halt.

"Fine," she mumbled, focusing back on Xavion. "You're forgiven. Just don't do it again."

The brunette watched their interaction in confusion. He went to question it, but the vehicle rolled to a stop.

"Let's go!" the driver shouted as he stood to open the door. "One row at a time, keep it going!"

The students stepped one by one, most of them excited to have a break from school and to see their families. There weren't many opportunities to visit since schooling was so vigorous and constant, so it was a rare occasion.

"You okay?" Cyfrin nudged Xavion's shoulder as they exited the vehicle and headed toward the portal with their belongings. He could tell Xav was nervous from his fidgeting and the grim look on his face.

The demon lied with a nod. Both of them knew the real answer, but Xavion was too nauseous to speak. Every nerve was lined up before the portal, happily transferring through. Each step forward made the brunette more and more uneasy. He began to wish he made up an excuse to stay at school. Anything would be better than this.

Zisa and Cyfrin exchanged worried glances as Xavion approached the portal with them. Every fiber in his body was screaming for him to turn around so that he wouldn't have to see Lucifer, but he knew he ultimately had no choice. The two of them were immortal. They'd have to face each other at some point no matter what.

So, despite dreading what he'd find on the other side, Xavion entered the portal and was forced to imagine the last place in the entire universe he wanted to be.

Home.



A/N

I now have a monthly newsletter! Click the link in my bio then hit

"newsletter" to get updates once a month via your choice of email or

text regarding my books, updating schedule, new projects, paperback

publishing, and cute pics of my cat :)