

SOME MEMORIES ARE NOT MEANT TO STAY.
SOME TRUTHS ARE NOT MEANT TO BE KNOWN.

UNBOUND TO REALITY

MAYA



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Chapter 1

As I was walking towards the bakery I work at I noticed a crowd mumbling things while they had formed a circle.

"Excuse me, Did something happen over there?" I asked a passerby who was coming from the same direction as the crowd.

"Go see it yourself" The guy said in a disinterested tone which was very rude but then again it was 8 in the morning and everyone seemed to be rushing to work so I couldn't really blame him.

I was curious but not as much as to go and check it out myself. Well It was Paris so I wouldn't be surprised if it was just some celebrity.

I reached the bakery and apologized to my boss who's name is keirnan if my memories are correct. "It's fine Camille. Just make sure it doesn't happen again" She said with a reassuring smile.

She was in her 30s but looked quite younger and if my memories were correct she is supposedly a friend of my mom's and gave me the job at my Mom's request a few months ago.

I turned around looking at my Reflection. I had blonde hair, somewhat defined cheekbones, pointed nose, hazel green eyes and the height maybe 5'7 at a guess. "This body is much better than the last one" I thought to myself. "Now get to work Camille" My boss called me pulling me out of the daze and Interuppting me while I was admiring myself in the reflection.

I went on with the work as usual and trust me it was a rather boring life but yet again more peaceful than my last one. I wonder how long I'll get to live here.

I was working when a customer called me and asked if I can suggest her something from the menu. She seemed rather indecisive about what to order so I suggested some pastries that tasted best and she seemed happy to consider my suggestions

I turned around to bring the woman's order while also greeting the new customers. The woman seemed content with my suggestions and thanked me for them.

So that's what it was like to work in a bakery. Seeing people happy when their favorite dessert finally arrives and the way their eyes light up everytime. Specially the children. They get over excited when their parents agree to buy their favorite

dessert which is normal ofcourse but not for me. I never got such chances. Well to be exact I did but not with "my" parents.

It was an uneventful life this time and the days were rather peaceful. Everyday was almost the same, Seeing the same people enter the bakery and order their regular stuff and leave. It may sound boring but it was a luxury for me, having such an uneventful life after a constant series of disastrous ones.

I wished I could stay in this one forever but then again there were multiple other times I wished to stay in "other lives" but it never worked out did it? I wonder how long this one is going to last.

I sighed and started walking towards my home while admiring the city of Paris. It was magnificent at night. You'd think I would get used to such things after what I've been through and the things I've seen so far but I can't help but be in awe of the beauty Paris at night.

I'm glad I got this body this time. It's like a vacation after a long series of disastrous events but vacations really don't last long do they?

Fortunately I was wrong because this vacation lasted for months. The days went by and it had been 7 months since I came here but at least Paris was pretty and it was fun to walk around.

I suppose this time it's gonna take longer than I expected. It had been too peaceful for past few months and somehow it's making me anxious. I wonder how long this peace is going to last.

It didn't last long. A few days later it started.....my side effects. I started getting dizzy and my brain was unable to comprehend between reality and dreams. Memories of different people started merging with my own or you could say getting mixed with my own. I couldn't tell at this point. My brain was a mess. It was hard to go on like this.

The fact that the side effects have started means it's about to happen again.

I was in the middle of street at 11 pm when it started happening again. I needed to get to the place I stay at and take some sleeping pills to calm down and let my body rest so it can happen without any issues.

I took a taxi and reached my place in 25 minutes. My mind was a mess and I needed to sleep as soon as possible only then I will have a peaceful-

thud I thought I heard something from inside my apartment but how could it be? There was no one there. Did someone break in? I'm really in no condition for this bullshit right now. I took out a taser from my purse and entered the apartment cautiously my head still in turmoil.

I cautiously turned on the lights ready to fight but to my surprise no one was there. I entered further in the apartment only to find my wooden Cupboard on floor and it's glass window shattered

Panic crept over me. Such minor incident shouldn't surprise me after all I've seen and been through but "this body" which I was occupying at the moment wasn't used to it yet and was in obvious shock. I was in no position to think rationally

or even plan out what to do. I couldn't even open my eyes properly.

I somehow made it to my room and tried to reach for the sleeping pills. I had them prepared since I was expecting this to happen but what I didn't expect was someone to open the drawer for me and handover the pills in my hands with a glass of water.

I tried to look up but I couldn't make out the face of the person or what they looked like at all. I was in no place to notice such things.

"Take them" the person said in a monotone voice. It sounded like a man and of course I wouldn't take the pills which a random man who broke into my house gave me. What if he had messed with them?

"Who are you?" I asked gathering all the energy I had. My vision still blurry and memories getting mixed inside my brain.

He didn't answer just bent down and took out the pills and brought them near my mouth while holding water in other hand.

I refused to take it of course. I wasn't being stubborn. I knew I needed the pills but what if they're something else? Not to mention this person broke into my apartment.

"Just take them Nora" I froze. Nora? Did he just say Nora? How does he know my real name? "How do you-" Before I could finish my sentence, he just shoved the pills in my mouth and made me swallow it with the water.

"You can't just-" I kept retaliating but that didn't seem to affect him at all.

"I'm sorry for my behavior but you need the sleeping pills or you'll get worse." That was the last thing I heard before I was picked up and carried to the bed and laid down.

"But what-" I fell in a deep sleep before I could finish that sentence.

I was here again. This place. Completely white and blank. Not a sign of anything in sight. I looked at myself and I was in my soul's form again. This is where I often end up after taking the sleeping pills.

I wonder if this is some kind of void. It seems endless and there is just white floors and ceiling everywhere. One could easily misinterpret it for a psychic ward. I wish it was that because it'd be so much better than whatever this is.

I once even tried walking.. Well more like floating since I don't have a physical body here, over the "edge" of this place but no matter how far I got it never seemed to end. I think I once spent more than a year in human time exploring this place and yet reached nowhere.

I'm not sure how long I'll stay here this time. I've been to this place so many times that I have lost count. Sometimes my soul is here for months or even years and sometimes just a day or even less than an hour. I have no control over it. There really is no pattern to the amount of time I end up staying here. And the worst thing is I have no control over it. It just happens on it's own and suddenly I'd be back into a physical body again. I

can never predict how long it'll take to get back into a physical body.

I end up here whenever the shift is about to happen. Well I shouldn't be surprised considering how peaceful that life in paris had been. A vacation doesn't last forever indeed. I wonder what kind of life I'll get this time and in what sort of universe. I truly hope it's not something too bizzare or violent.

Hours passed and nothing happened. I was bored and out of my mind ...Figuratively and literally. Can this come to an end please. I'm tired of thi-

As if god heard me, I got that feeling again. The feeling of my soul from being sucked into a vaccum.

I heard someone knock while also hearing some murmers and voices.

"Your highness, it's getting too late" I heard someone say. I still wasn't completely awake and couldn't make sense of what was being said to me. I unconsciously said "late for what exactly". Well to be exact I shouted in sort of an annoyed tone because my sleep was disturbed and no one disturbs my sleep and gets a polite response from me.

There were more murmers now and the person's voice got more firm "The royal brunch your highness. You can't be late to that again or else his majesty will not be pleased"

What the hell was this dude talking about? Did I leave the TV on last night? I tried to get up while slightly opening my eyes and yawning.

What I saw after opening my eyes was not some Television show or any drama series. It was inside of palace. A room with most beautiful decorations.

"your highness forgive my impudence but I'm sending your helpers inside your room to wake you up" I looked at the door from where that voice came from.

Untill the helpers came into my room. I was almost fully awake and my memories had caught up to me.

"Your highness please let us help you get ready as soon as possible since you're already late to the brunch"

One of the maids said to me in a hurried tone while bowing respectfully.

"I'm grateful for your help but I'd like to get ready on my own today"

The maids looked at each other in confusion as if thinking of how to convince me to let them help.

"It's fine really, I just want to spend some time alone today" I said reassuring them but that didn't seem to work either

I sighed and told them to go prepare bath water for me, I just needed sometime alone to wrap up my head around what was going on with this universe.

According to the memories I inherited from this body. I am daughter of one of the king's concubines and apparently I am despised by people for my bratty behavior. Well that's going to change for sure.

I found a mirror and looked at the new body. I had blue-ish hair, my eyes were blue as well complimenting the hair in a

manner. Defined nose. Small lips with pointed chin. In a summary this body looked beautiful even better than the last one I was occupying in Paris.

But the main question is, why am I in this universe.....

Again?

Chapter 2

I have been to this universe before but what is confusing me is that I have never been able to visit a universe more than once so something was definitely wrong here.

Usually when I wake up to different realities or universes while occupying different bodies it's always a new one. I have never repeated being in a universe.

It was Paris last time and I was inside body of some girl called Camille. I also always inherit the memories of the person I'm possessing or taking over.

Before Camille I possessed a girl's body who was in an apocalyptic world and it did not end well. She didn't die but

lost her limbs and it was god damn painful but I've handled worse.

Losing limbs wasn't a big deal for me because I ended up being in a different reality and in a different body in Paris after a few months. Camille's life was the one of the most peaceful lives that I had taken over so far.

When this started happening at first I thought I was dreaming or that I was losing my mind but I eventually wrapped my head around it and understood that I was shifting between timelines of different universes. Sometimes I'd be in normal universes in 20th century or any other historical time but sometimes it'd be a survival games sort of universe and other times apocalyptic ones. I was even in an animated universe once and it was extremely weird but I got used to it.

I do not control when I'm gonna shift through the timelines or where I'm gonna shift or whose body I'll take over. It just all happens on it's own and worse thing is I can do nothing about it. It's not that I didn't try. It's that it was pointless. Whenever I tried understanding what or why it was happening to me or I collected any solid research papers, I'd just end up in a different timeline the next day. So I gave up eventually.

But now the issue is I'm back in this body and timeline again and I have never repeated a timeline before so I'm not sure if it's something bad or good.

"Your highness the bath is ready" one of the maids said pulling me out of my thoughts. "Yeah I'll be there in a minute" I said while trying to remember anything about this timeline from my last visit which isn't easy because I think it was decades ago

or maybe even a century ago. Considering how many realities and timelines I've shifted so far I have lost the track of things like my age and time.

Last time I was in this timeline this body was only 7 years old and since this was body of a princess I was coddled a lot and just had some fun here but now this girl has grown up a lot and by the looks she seems 19 now.

I don't remember anything problematic from this timeline except that this girl who's body I have taken over is a daughter of one of the King's concubines. And there was some politics involved but I didn't bother learning much about that since I was possessing a child at that time and was gonna leave this timeline in few years regardless. What I didn't expect was to be back in this universe again.

I assume I can just have some fun here and be coddled like my last visit or so I thought.

I took the bath and went to the brunch everyone kept nagging me for and apparently Royal people are lunatics which Of course I have realised throughout the multiple timelines I've been in but it's been a while since I encountered some of these lunatics.

"Brigitte you can't keep being disrespectful to all of us. You are a princess, act like one. you have a title to uphold" One of the women with light brown hair and brown eyes said looking towards me with a look of disappointment and disgust. Through the memories I inherited I could tell she was one of the other concubines who didn't like my mother. Her name was Sabine. The King favored her a lot but not more than my

mother, that explains her behaviour towards me. What struck me as odd was for some reason Brigitte's mother wasn't here.

I feel as if some parts are blurry from Brigitte's memories that I've inherited which is common occurrence. It has happened before as well so I'm not surprised.

"She is right, you should learn some manners especially after the recent incident I do not believe you're in any place to be bratty like you always have been" another guy from the table added to the conversation. He was Brigitte's brother....well step-brother. he is the prince who's next in the line for throne. From my inherited memories I could tell he had brief interactions with Brigitte but he has never shown any favorable behavior towards her and that's because Brigitte had caused a lot of trouble over the years and all he ever cared about was reputation of the Royal family causing Brigitte to lose his favor.

"I apologize for my insolence, I promise to be better in the future. " I said trying to sound as convincing as possible. Everyone seemed to be in disbelief. They had one of those "did I hear that correct?" expressions on their faces and well I couldn't blame them after how bratty this Brigitte girl has been.

"Well no need to discuss this further, she apologized and promised to behave in the future so both of you can stop pressuring her now"

It was the King himself this time. It is weird that he is here since most of times the Kings don't have time to attend such Brunches but he's taking my side so I'm glad regardless.

"His majesty is right. We're here for a family brunch so let's just be nice and have a peaceful one" One of the women said in a cheerful tone. It was Brigitte's Step-sister Ursula. She has always been on Brigitte's side and they are close as far as I can tell from my memories.

The Brunch ended rather well. I was on my way to my room until someone called out to me. It was the prince or you can say Brigitte's step-brother Elias.

"Something like that can never happen again, I will not tolerate such behavior anymore. You almost brought shame to the Royal Family" He said looking at me in a disapproving manner.

"I thought we were done with this. I apologized and promised to behave. What more do you want? " I said trying get it over with because I need to be alone in my room and wrap my head around this timeline and whatever is going on here.

"You always do that and then cause a new incident within months. His majesty the king is too soft on you so you've turned out to be spoiled but know this, If you ever get out of line and do anything that brings shame on the Royal family, I will not let it slide. Consider this a final warning."

He said sounding cold and walked away before I could say anything in response to that. Who lacks manners now? God I knew these royal people were lunatics but this guy still tested my patience just now even though Brigitte kind of deserved it.

"Ignore him, you know he's always like that. He just worries about our family and our image. He means well" It was Ursula my sister.

I turned to look at her and gave her a smile. "Thanks for always taking my side" I said and Ursula warmly smiled in response to that and I turned towards my room. Ursula was nice to Brigitte so I had no reason to be mean to her.

I reached my room and was looking at the mirror to finally get a good look at myself without the maids hurrying me for a bath. The Body was alright, good enough to be a side character in a manhwa but the thing is looks have never mattered to me considering I keep changing timelines and taking over different bodies.

One thing I've learned from revisiting this timeline is that when I leave the person who's body I'm possessing they continue living the life normally and think that everything that I did while possessing the body was done by them. Being back in Brigitte's body I can tell she doesn't have any memory of me possessing her. She just thinks she lived all those times when I was possessing her body so in conclusion people I possess never have any memory of me.

"Your highness, Can we come in?" One of the maids said from outside the door. "Yes of course"

She entered the room while holding something in her hands. It was a book. She put out her hand and pointed it to my direction. "Your highness, this is the book you asked us to search for few days ago, it took time but we have found it"

A book? I didn't take Brigitte for a reader but from her memories I can tell she did in fact ask for a book.

"Put it at the table and Thank you" I said eyeing the book with disinterest. "Huh?" The maid's eyes widened. I realised Brigitte is never polite to these people but well I'm not her so I'm gonna be as polite to these people as I can.

"I said you can put it on table and leave. Thank you" I tried to sound as normal as I could.

"Yes your highness" She bowed politely and left the room after putting the book down on the table. I'm not interested in checking some book out. I have other issues that need my attention.

And there's a big one.

That guy last night.

Who was that guy in my room last night? He broke into the apartment but he also gave me the pills. I was suspicious of him because the pills could've been anything but they were in fact just sleeping pills which means he knew I was looking for them, then does that mean he also knew *why* I was looking for them?

And what makes him more suspicious is.....

the fact that he called me Nora.

Chapter 3

It's already been three days since I entered this timeline. The royal life isn't so bad but what I am worried about is-

"Your highness it's time to leave" One of the maids said disturbing my thoughts. I had to go to the market with Ursula, my sister. Apparently there's an upcoming banquet and Ursula wanted to do the shopping with me and I couldn't say no to her remembering how nice she is so I agreed.

"I'll be there in a minute" I told the maids and started gathering some weapons just in case. By weapons I mean a knife I hid it in my pocket. Yeah the clothes I were wearing had pockets and big ones at that. I was wearing a shirt and a pant. It was like one of those cowboy style clothes. I'm

surprised brigitte had something like this in her closet. Not very princess-cy of her but I'm glad she has it.

I know there probably won't be any use of knife but when you live through mutiple universes and witness horrifying things, you become paranoid and always need to feel safe. Having the knives with me makes me feel better.

"I'm ready to go" I came out of the room ready to leave but then I heard gasps "your highness you can't wear those again, you know last time you wore something like this his highness the prince was extremely outraged" I scoffed at that "he can talk to me himself if he has any issue with my dressing sense. No one tells me what to wear. Now enough chitter-chatter. let's get going" They looked at each other feeling unconvinced but I could not care less.

Me and the maids arrived at the main door of the castle. I could see a carriage was waiting for us. "Oh you're here" I turned around to find Ursula. She was wearing a yellow gown which looked extremely magnificent on her or maybe she made it look better. She was extremely gorgeous with her blonde hair and hazel green eyes. She also had the same reaction as the maids after seeing what I was wearing but she smiled again. "The prince will not be happy with this Birgitte" She said and there was a pause for a while "next time let me know in advance so and we can match" She said with a mischievous smile. I laughed and said "sure"

The ride to the market was bumpy. I fogot how uncomfortable these carriages could be. We reached the market in 30 minutes and it was a busy place obviously. "There's the shop" Ursula said cheerfully while pointing towards the shop. The

carriage stopped in front of the shop and we both got out. The shop seemed expensive even from afar but as someone who's been through multiple universes I've lost interest in things like luxury and money. Sure it's nice to have it and it's necessary for survival but when you keep switching your life with random people in random universes, you stop caring about it.

We went inside and there were magnificent dresses everywhere. How was someone supposed to pick one from these? I really couldn't. I'll just let Ursula pick one for me because all of them seemed gorgeous anyway. I was busy looking at the dresses when I noticed something or more like someone. It...

"Hey Brigitte come take a look at this one" Ursula called out to me but I have something else to worry about right now. I rushed to her quickly "Hey , you can do the shopping alone right? I have something to take care of. I'll be back soon" I said to her in a hurry and started walking towards the door "But Brigitte you know our brother- "

"It's fine we won't let him find out" I said while I was already half way to the door. I got out but the guard who came with us was standing outside the shop. I had to trick him and leave without him noticing me which only took a few minutes. As soon as I was out I tried searching for that man. I couldn't see him anywhere but I'm sure it was him.

I went around looking for someone like that but I couldn't find anyone. It was a busy market and there were a lot of people, my chance of finding him were low but when has that ever stopped me?

I saw an alley a few meters away from me and ofcourse I had to check it out despite the danger. I entered the alley hoping to find that guy but as cliché as this could be, there were just some thugs. I tried to leave quietly without making any noise but that wasn't possible because luck has never been on my side has it? I just simply didn't want to get involved with them but now that they have noticed me it's become a problem, not for me, for them. In one of my timelines I went around looking for my pet at night during a zombie apocalypse. I encountered some of the Zombies and it didn't end well, for the zombies. This is nothing as compared to that. I promised to not cause any trouble but it appears the trouble seeks me.

"Who do we have here?" I rolled my eyes at the cliché line. These guys are every single cliché of thugs there ever has been. Thank goodness that I brought a knife with myself, of course I won't kill them. That is out of question but I can wound them enough so that they can't walk. Gosh this is not worth my time.

I didn't respond to them and immediately took out my knife. One of the guys tried to grab me forcefully but I dodged and made a cut on his right leg. he screamed in pain while covering up the wound with his hand. "What the hell you bitch" He cursed out at me but I have no intention of paying any attention to that. I looked towards the other guys. There were three more of them and they were more alert now after seeing the knife in my hand and how I wounded one of them. "You'll pay for this you little bi-" Before he could continue I drove the knife through his right feet.

I suddenly heard a cry somewhere. It was of a child. I turned around to see where that came from and it was a little boy. He

seemed around 8. What the hell were these guys doing to a child?

I immediately wounded the other two guy's legs. All of them were groaning in pain while lying on the ground. They all seemed too weak, maybe I went a little overboard but it's just my instinct to be on high alert during such situations and thankfully it was also Brigitte's body's response so I could take care of this easily. Usually when I changed bodies it's hard to fight but for some reason Brigitte seems a little trained. I suppose it's part of being a princess?

I turned towards the child and asked him what happened.

"These guys said they knew where my mom was so I followed them and when we reached here they started beating me out of nowhere" he was still crying while saying all of this. I could see the bruises on his tiny body. What monsters would do this to a child?so I did infact not go overboard with them. These monsters deserved every bit of it. Perhaps I should be done more damage to them.

"There was a nice man too" The child said between the sobs. That got my attention. "What kind of nice man?" I asked him but ofcourse if he's not in state of answering the question he doesn't have to. "It was a nice tall man with white hair, he was fighting them but then suddenly ran off and you arrived immediately after him"

"Thanks for telling me, let's get you out of here first" I said while smiling at the child and took him out the alley. I can't just leave him I have to find his mother.

"Your highness what are you doing here? We have been looking for you" It was the guard who came with us. Well I

did trick him and ran away before he could notice me coming out of the shop. I feel bad about that but it is what it is. "I'm sorry I won't do it again, I found this child crying in the alley. Would you be able to do something about finding his parents? I think he's lost" I asked the guard hoping he'd be of help. He looked at the child for a few seconds and said "yeah that's not a big task your highness" The guard said politely and we moved towards the shop again. Ursula was done shopping and we were ready to go.

I'm still disappointed I didn't get to catch that man. The child said a man was in that alley but was it really him or just some random person? The odds of that person being him are 50-50 but there was no use in going after him at that point so I didn't bother.

We reached the palace in 30 minutes. As I always say these carriages are so uncomfortable. I miss Cars. There was also a universe where I could fly on a carpet. That was an extremely incredible experience but I suppose I have to be grateful for the carriage here.

As expected my brother had heard about my disappearance from the shop and was ready to provide me an earful. The clothes I was wearing just added fuel to the fire. I was called to his office as soon as I arrived.

My ears could drop from listening to his lectures on manners and etiquette as a princess and how I represent the royal family and so on. I couldn't care less. I'd be out of this universe in probably a few months but that also doesn't mean I can just ruin everything here..... I don't do that. I respect every

universe I shift in and I personally don't think I've done anything wrong today so I really did not care. I apologized and went to my room again.

I let out a tired sigh while lying on my bed. It definitely had been a long day. At least now I have a lead about that guy who handed me the sleeping pills. He is also in this universe and for some reason he knew me in my past one. I wouldn't care if it wasn't something that didn't affect me but he broke into my apartment last time and he knows my birth name. I have to find out why or how he is involved in this. Not to mention he can also change timelines like me. I have to find him soon if I want answers to my questions.

I sighed again and got up to change into my night clothes. I wonder when will this endless cycle of shifting universes end. Killing myself doesn't work either. I tried that numerous times. I simply wake up in a different one once again. So I have to figure out how to end this and maybe that guy can help.

"Don't make any sound" I was suddenly grabbed from behind and there was a hand on my mouth to keep me from screaming. My eyes went wide from the sudden shock. It was a man, I couldn't see him but he seemed to be tall enough that his chin was over my head. My nerves were anything but calm. I tried to find anything near me which I could use for attack. The knife. I remembered the knife I put in my pocket. I slowly tried to move my hand towards the pocket.

"Don't even try, I already took out the knife" What? when did he? I was breathing heavily and couldn't think properly. This is the problem about possessing different bodies. Some of

them aren't trained for these type of situations and go into panic mode which is the most practical response but If I had any of those bodies from my other timelines where I was highly trained, I wouldn't be in this condition.

"Now listen to me, I'm gonna let go and you will not scream if you want answers" I came to an immediate realization that it was the same guy I was looking for but what kind of encounter is this? Does this guy love breaking into people's rooms? I nodded my head in understanding and he slowly let go of me. I turned around to see him. I took a good look at him to finally memorize what he looks like so I know whom to look for next time. I was still breathing heavily and didn't have the energy to talk after such a long day.

"Before we continue, I think you should take a seat Nora"

Chapter 4

He seemed tall and had white hair. He was not dressed appropriately for this universe. He was wearing a 21st century navy blue colored Suit. If anyone saw him like this they'd think he's weird. Did he not have enough time to arrange clothing according to this universe? Hold on, that's not the problem here.

I overcame the shock pretty fast and my nerves calmed soon enough. I didn't want to waste any time so I got straight to the point. "It was you that night, wasn't it?" He gave an expression like I was asking something obvious after hearing that question. Well obvious or not I needed to confirm whether it was him or not. "Yes" He said in a calm tone. "And?" I edged him to talk to more and give me any further explanation

regarding that incident like how does he know me and how can he also travel between timelines wait- my eyes turned wide in realization.

"How did you manage to travel between universes with the same body?" I asked in a bewildered manner but I couldn't care less about how I sounded or seemed at that point. He raised an eyebrow at that "right, you don't know yet" he said and sighed. I gave him a look of "go-on"

"I can travel between universes as you might have guessed" He said looking at me and searching for any sign of agreement. I just nodded my head. "And as far as I know you change bodies everytime you shift between universes and can not control it?" I nodded again at that. "Are you telling me you can control it?" I asked with a suspicious look on my face. "Yes" He said casually. My eyes went wide when he said that despite all the effort of trying to remain calm

"Wait how is that-" I was in middle of finishing the statement until I saw someone arrive at my window.... Again. "You do know we dont have all night for this don't you?" It was a woman's voice sounding like she was in her 20s. First this guy now some woman? I turned around to look at the woman. She had long blonde hair and her facial features were very sharp giving an overall fierce look to her appearance. She was wearing an armour which is weird considering this guy here was wearing a 21st century suit.

"Oh this one is a pretty little thing isn't she?" She walked towards me scanning me from head to toe. What I was not expecting was her lifting my chin and taking a good look at my face. I'm not used to such things so I moved her hand away

with disinterest. I turned around to look at him "is she with you?" I asked him but he seemed rather annoyed by her interference. "Yes, she's one of my companions" He said in an irritated tone. "One of your companions? Does that mean there are more?" I asked again. He opened his mouth to respond but the woman cheerfully wrapped her hand around my shoulder and said "oh yeah we're a bunch and you're gonna fit right in with us" while winking at me. Okay she seems friendly and nice. Whereas this guy....

"Fit right in? Where and for what?" Gosh I have so many questions but will these people answer honestly? She handed me a paper and climbed on the window again as if to leave. "Sorry sweetheart, we don't have time today to explain anything in detail but if you wish to know more you can always visit us there" She pointed towards the paper in my hand and winked at me before leaving.

She is rather....peculiar.

I turned towards the guy expecting some more explanation but of course he was ready to leave as well. "Hey are you really going to leave without answering any of my questions?" I asked now in an irritated tone because who are these people to just barge into my room, make me think I'm going to get my answers and leave without telling me anything? "Well you heard her" He looked at me in a rather disinterested manner actually he has been treating this whole thing like it's a bother since the beginning now that I think about it. I'm not sure I like this guy.

He didn't say anything after that and just left. Wait did these people just jump off 4th floor of the castle? I ran towards the

window to find any sign of them but there was none. So they just vanished into thin air? Of course I'm not even surprised. Sometimes I think my life is a sci-fi or magical fantasy Novel but then the universe shows me it's more of a tragedy. I sighed and lied on my bed thinking about the events today. The shopping, the thugs, the lecture from the prince, then this, it really has been a long day. I rolled to the other side of bed and slept while hugging the pillow.

The next day was calmer than expected, I did the morning routine peacefully and there was no one nagging me around which is strange because I was expecting Elias to take some actions against me after how much of a disappointment he showed towards me yesterday but I assume he has some duties as the crown prince and can't just be bothered with me all the time.

I remembered the events of last night and looked over the paper that woman gave me before leaving. It was an address to a bar, now that's an issue. I already caused some trouble yesterday so I can't be seen in a bar immediately after causing some trouble. I have to lay low for a few days but I neither do I have patience and nor time to lay low. I have to visit them tonight at all costs but how? I'm sure Elias wouldn't allow me a carriage for a few days since he clearly said I'm basically grounded for a month. And I can not afford to wait that long. It's clear as a day then. I need to sneak out tonight without anyone noticing, consequences be damned.

Soon enough it was the night time. I had dinner with Ursula and she talked about some book that she was reading. if I'm being honest having her around is nice. She provides a lot of comfort in this strange place.

For some reason Brigitte had a cloak hidden in her closet. I assume the little princess was sneaky in many ways. "Thank you Brigitte" I whispered while looking at the cloak. It was a little dirty but beggars can't be choosers. I put the cloak on and also used a scarf to cover half of my face just in case. Now from Brigitte's memories I can tell she did use to sneak out time to time but the parts of how and from where are a little blurry in the memory so I can't really tell. I just wish I had that body of a Ninja which I possessed in one of the universes but being realistic I don't have the body right now so I'll have to get past the guards in a more clever manner.

It took an hour to finally make it out of the castle. Although I had to knock out a guard because he got suspicious and almost caught me. I feel bad about that but some things are necessary to be done. I roamed around the streets trying to grab as less attention as I could.

It was late so there were very few people, only some drunkards here and there which can't be good but I did bring my knife and Brigitte's body is trained enough so it should be fine. I was about to turn towards the alley where the bar was located until someone grabbed my cloak from behind. "Hey where do you think you're going" It was a drunkard. I expected something like this to happen but it's such a bother at this point.

I can not seem to have a single uneventful day. I turned to look at the drunkard, it was some man in his 40s drunk out of his mind. Good lord. I reached my pocket to grab the knife and was just about to attack until someone hit him on his

neck and knocked him out. It was the guy from yesterday. "Thank god, I didn't want it to get messy" I mumbled and looked at the knocked out guy on floor with disinterest.

"You can knock out people like you knocked that guard out. Why do you resort to the knife everytime something like this happens outside the castle?" He asked getting straight to the point.

"Well I- hold on.....you saw me knocking out the guard and sneaking out? Did you also see me yesterday dealing with the thugs?" Come to think of it the kid yesterday did mention that he saw a man with white hair.

"Yes I did" He said plainly. "And you couldn't help me out? " I said in an irritated tone because I was angry. "I just had to make sure you're alive that's all. I did not have to interfere as long as you were fine and handling things well" He said in his matter-of-fact tone. This guy just keeps getting insufferable but then again he doesn't owe me anything so I can't really be mad on any solid grounds but I still am.

"Where is the place?" I said keeping my irritation aside. Like that woman said yesterday we don't have all night for this. I have to get back to the castle before morning or before any of the people notice my absence. "Follow me" He said taking the lead.

We arrived at the place within few minutes. It wasn't far from that alley turn afterall.

As soon as I entered the place everyone came to a halt and they all started looking at me like I'm some other species. There was a guy who seemed around 28 and had dark hair, there was also a teenage girl who had light brown hair and her

brown eyes shone with excitement. Another kid who seemed around 12 or 13 looked disinterested. A man in his late 30s seemed to have stopped his drinking and was also looking at me like others.

"Come on guys you all are creeping her out" I turned to my left to the woman I met yesterday. The one with long blonde hair, blue eyes and had firece look to her facial features. She wasn't wearing the armour today. She was wearing a normal shirt and Pant with cowboy boots and her hair was in ponytail. She told everyone to not creep me out and tried create a cheerful environment there and it seemed to work.

She wrapped her one hand around my shoulder and said enthusiastically "let's introduce you to everyone here". She walked towards the bar and made me sit on one of the chairs. Everyone gathered around forming a half circle and looking at me with interest. Well at least some of them were. This felt sort of uncomfortable since I'm not used to social gatherings or meeting people or having any social interactions much. I needed a drink for this.

"Can I have a drink first please?" I asked in a normal tone not wanting to sound too nervous. I didn't expect so many people to be here and definitely didn't expect them to encircle me like this. This is getting too much for me.

It would've been better if they made me fight someone or something. But socialising with so many people at same time is not my thing.

"No" The guy who brought me here said firmly denying my request. I got irritated at him again but I don't have energy to

argue right now so I looked at the blonde woman hoping she'd take my side since she seemed rather friendly.

"Sorry sweetheart but he's right. You're gonna have to be sober for all the information we're about to tell you" She said in an apologetic tone and of course I couldn't say anything to that. I sighed in defeat and said "fine"

"I have some questions as you might know from our yesterday meeting, I didn't get to ask them and didn't get a proper response to anything so I'd like it if we could clarify some things" I said in a monotone voice. "About that.... We'll get to that of course but first we need to talk about something else and introduce you to everyone" The blonde woman said in her friendly tone.

"Introduction can wait, we need to explain the important things to her first, just like us she doesn't have all night for this and judging from how she was struggling to sneak out today, I don't assume she can do it again tomorrow" The white hair guy said cutting the blonde woman off.

I was NOT struggling to sneak out, I handled it pretty well but I don't want to argue so I let it slide and as much as I'm irritated by this guy, he was right we should get straight to the point. The blonde woman seemed like she was about to argue on that part so before she could say anything I opened my mouth and said "he's right, I don't have much time so I'd be grateful if we could get to the main topic. We can always get introduced later, I assume we're all going to be in this universe for a while aren't we?"

The blonde woman sighed in defeat and agreed to talk about the important topic here which is... Just why do we keep shifting universes and how much do they know about it.

Chapter 5

Everyone seemed to suddenly come to a halt and started looking at the white hair guy probably waiting for him to start saying something but someone else spoke first "So where do we begin? It's actually a long story " The blonde woman said looking down while thinking deeply.

"How about I ask my questions first and you can answer accordingly. If there is anything more that I need to know after all my questions are done you can fill me in on that" I said breaking the silence because I'm pretty sure whatever they have to tell me and the questions I have are interrelated to each other. The blonde woman looked up at me and smiled "that sounds great" I looked at the white hair guy to see if he agreed but he didn't say anything just took a seat next to me

while facing the bar whereas I was facing everyone else. I took that as a yes.

"So My first question is since when have you guys been shifting universes?" I looked at the blonde woman for answers because she seemed to be the only one willing to provide it in detail which is better I assume because I had a feeling that the white hair guy would just give me vague answers.

"Well it differs for each one of us. Some of us have been shifting timelines for centuries whereas some of us have only been shifting for a few years. For example it's been 120 years for me and I've been to 33 universes so far whereas Lucian over there have been shifting universes for 70 years now and has been to 14 timelines so far" She said pointing towards the guy with dark hair who seemed to be around 28. I looked towards the guy and nodded in understanding. "And that old man Eugene over there has been shifting timelines for 153 years now and has been to 43 universes so far" She said pointing towards the man who seemed to be in his late 30s.

"You do know that I got this body only in this universe right? I usually look much better in other universes" The man said in his defence to being called old. "It doesn't change the fact that you're still older than most of us" Lucian spoke in response to that in a teasing manner.

"And I have been shifting universes for 30 years now and have been to 18 universes what about you? Have you been to any interesting universes? For me it's all been boring universes so far " The teenage girl with brown hair said in excitement.

She appeared to be rather young in experience... Well at least compared to others she was. "Forgive Iris, she's a bit

enthusiastic and new to this" The blonde woman said apologizing for the teenager's behaviour "What about that kid over there?" I asked pointing towards the kid who seemed around 12 and has been glaring at me since I came here. I assume he doesn't like me much but I'm not even sure what I did to deserve that yet.

"That's Dylan he kind of doesn't like new people joining us. He's just overprotective of us and resistant to change. Please don't mind him. He'll open up to you soon enough. As for universes, he is young even in that manner. He's only been shifting universes for 20 years and been to 4 universes" the blonde woman said trying to cheer me up which wasn't much needed in my opinion but I'm grateful for the effort.

"What about you Nora? How long have you been doing this?" The blonde woman turned to ask me. Well it's fair enough I suppose since they answered my questions so far. "I have been doing this for 170 years give or take. Actually I stopped counting after 150 years because it seemed pointless to me and as for universes I'm pretty sure it's somewhere around 60 or something" I said vaguely guessing while remembering all my experiences and memories.

"183" I heard a voice next to me say that in a calm collected manner. "You've been shifting for 183 years and have been to 73 universes so far" I turned around to look who it was and it was the white hair guy. I almost forgot he was even here. "And how do you even know that?" I asked him suspiciously in a cold tone because how does he know something about me that even I don't remember?

This guy has been nothing but suspicious ever since I met him. "I do a background check of every person before they can join us " He said flatly without taking his eyes off his drink. Join them? Is that what they're expecting from me? We'll come to that later but first I need to know as much as I can from these people.

"Well yeah he does that. He did a check on all of us before giving us the chance of joining the team" It was Lucian who spoke now while giving a light smack to the white hair guy in response to which the the white hair guy shooted a sharp glare towards Lucian but instead of backing off Lucian started smacking his back more which seemed to have irritated the white hair guy further. "Not now you two" The Blonde hair woman said in a firm tone while glaring at both of them. "Alright! My bad" Lucian said pulling his hands up in defeat.

"What about him? How long has he been shifting timelines?" I asked while pointing towards the white hair guy who still didn't bother to look up. "Oh Kael? He's been doing this far longer than all of us" The woman said casually. "how long?" I asked curiously. "More than 500 years" My eyes went wide at the numbers. Well I definitely did not expect that.

"And he's been to over 200 universes" The blonde woman continued. That's just.... Incredible and sad at the same time.

"That's... " I tried saying something in response but I was speechless so nothing came out. "Awesome right?" Iris said enthusiastically certainly not understanding the depth of shifting universes for that long. "Yeah" I said in defeat since I didn't have any words. "And what would your name be?" I asked the blonde woman since I got to know everyone's name

here except for the one who's been providing the most information here.

She got that realization and chuckled "how silly of me. I introduced you to everyone except me. Huh. I'm Irene Romanov, it's nice to meet you" She said formally extending her hand for me to shake which I did.

"One more question, how did you guys meet and figure out that you were all shifters? And I assume the bodies you are possessing right now aren't your real bodies? Except for Kael here? From what I remember he had the same body when he attacked me in my previous timeline not to mention he is wearing a 21st century suit here" I said ponting towards Kael.

"I did not attack you. I was helping you go through the shift smoothly. I knew the sleeping pills help and you didn't seem in position to be able to get to them easily so I intervened and I apologized for my behavior right then if you remember correctly" Kael finally spoke again but he didn't sound sorry at all.

"Oh? And what were you doing breaking into my apartment before I even got there?" I asked daring him to defend that behaviour "I... was also there for the pills" He said taking a sip of his drink. "You couldn't buy?" I asked expressing how ridiculous that is. "He was broke in that timeline and I bet he got nervous seeing you suddenly enter the apartment and knocked the cupboard accidentally" Lucian said laughing at Kael in response to which Kael shot another irritated glare towards Lucian.

But the main question is-

"how did you know it was me when I was in a completely different body?" I asked curiously this time because it is really somewhat unbelievable how he recognised me and others in different bodies.

"He doesn't tell us that either" Irene spoke this time not exactly clearing my confusion. "He recognized all of us the same way and contacted us in different universes and somehow he always knew it was just us in different bodies" Lucian said explaining a bit further but that doesn't really clear up any questions for me. I guess if he is that secretive about it he won't spill it out now so there's no point in asking further.

"nevermind that then, tell me how do you have the same body in this universe. That is impossible in my experience. I have tried understanding or doing something about it but it never worked yet here you are in the same body as our previous universe. Is it your original body? The one you were born with?" I asked Kael again. If it was his original body then he'd be considered immortal since he's been doing this for 500 years now.

"It's not the same body" He said flatly not explaining anything further. Does he love to give vague answers? "It's not his real body but somehow he can change the appearance of the bodies he possesses. His real body must have looked like this but this jerk refuses to give us any further explanation" Lucian said looking towards Kael.

"Perks of shifting universes for 500 years I assume?" Lucian added but it was more like a question. "And if you're thinking about the 21st century suit he's wearing then that was tailored

by Eugene here since he is a tailor in this universe and Kael for some reason feels more comfortable in those 21st century suits so here we are" Irene added which did clear some things up.

"So how did you all end up in the same universe? In my experience it's not possible to control where and when I'm going to shift a timeline so how did you guys do it?" I asked looking towards all of them. Irene smiled at that "

We also used to think it's impossible to control the shift but Kael taught us that's not case, he taught us how to shift to a particular timeline so we all set a destination when we decide to shift and yeah we can also control when to shift" Irene added a further explanation to how it worked but- "do you guys still get the symptoms when you do it intentionally? For example I get dizzy and the memories start getting fuzzier and all mixed up and that sharp pain in the head? Do you guys experience it too? " I asked again to clear my doubts.

"Most of time not really but sometimes a mishap can happen and we can get the symptoms. For example in the previous universe Kael also needed the sleeping pills because he knew he messed up" Lucian added while taunting Kael once again whereas I nodded in understanding

"So why are you guys working together and what is your team's goal here?" I asked the question that's been bugging me since beginning of all this.

"We want to put an end to this"

Chapter 6

"Put an end to what exactly?"

I asked even though I knew what they were talking about.

"You know what we're talking about" Kael said still looking at his drink. So they want to stop shifting universes? Is that even possible? I'd be lying if I said I wasn't amused at all or didn't entertain the idea but-

"Aren't you all able to control the shifts now? So why is there a need to put an end to this?" I asked curiously. "Well the thing is..." Lucien tried saying something but seemed to be at loss of words. "We can control the where and when we shift but can not avoid it completely. We have to shift when our stay in a timeline extends a certain period. We can sometimes predict

when the certain period in a timeline is coming to an end for us with the help of Kael so we prepare and plan everything in advance. We still can not control which body we will possess though. We usually decide a particular city in a particular timeline and all of us shift there. That's how we all decided to come to this universe" Irene explained everything in detail and I processed everything bit by bit.

"So what did you all come to this universe for?" I asked them even though I do have a guess that they came here for me but that would be too egocentric of me to believe and they all seem much smarter than that, I'm sure there is a bigger reason for them to come to this timeline...

"For you"

Or maybe not.

All of them said in unison... Well at least most of them.

"I'm flattered?" I said awkwardly because I don't know how to react in such situations. "So how do you guys plan to put an end to the shifts? I'm sure you guys must have a plan if you're planning something so big" I asked because now I am interested in what they have to say and what their plan is. I myself have tried multiple ways to end all this but it never worked and I am tired of the shifts as well so I understand where they're coming from. Immortality is a curse as they say.

"It may sound a little crazy but we're planning to..." Irene tried to go on with the explanation but Kael interrupted her. "We will find our original bodies" My eyes went wide at that. "Is this a joke?" I looked at him with a serious expression warning him not to joke about stuff like this and he turned to look at me with that indifferent cold expression of his. "Do I look like

someone who jokes around?" he asked me in a serious tone. "But is that even possible now? Most of our real bodies must've died a long time ago since a lot of us have been shifting universes for hundreds of years now." I asked in bewildered manner.

"Did you forget? Time is nothing to us, we can visit the time before we started shifting and stop it from happening. After acquiring our real mortal bodies, we can live out that life like it was meant to be from beginning and die of old age" Kael added further explanation but again I was having hard time believing that it would be possible that easily.

"So you're talking about time travel?" I asked perplexed yet again.

He just looked at me like I was dumb for asking something simple but I don't care, I have to be clear on such things because this is huge and what they're planning to do isn't easy.

"Well if that's what makes you understand it better then yes, we are going to time travel" Kael said going back to focus on his drink again. And to think he was saying I wasn't allowed to drink.

"How are you going to do that? And why have you approached me? I don't think I can offer any assistance in the condition I am in" I asked and he let out a sigh. "You certainly can not offer any assistance here but you can in one of the universes you have been in before" Kael said calmly "that doesn't narrow it down for me, I have been in so many, you have to more specific" I said looking towards him.

"Do you remember the universe where you were child of a priestess?" He asked me whereas I started jogging my

memories of that universe. "I do remember a shift like that but I was only there for a few years as a child and the priestess wasn't my mother she just raised me because the parents of the body I was possessing abandoned it but what about it?"

"In that body You had potential to develop a lot of elemental controlling abilities along with a lot of other abilities like Space and time control but it would still require a lot of time and training" He explained further but how does he even know that?

"So let me get this straight, your plan is getting me to that universe and have me learn the space and time control and then take us all back to our original universes in the time before we started shifting timelines and prevent the shifts from starting so we can live out the lives that were meant to be for us and die of old age like a normal person?"

"Well technically yeah that's what he's saying" Lucien added confirming my statement. "What do you think of the plan?" Irene asked with a little hope in her eyes but- "it's trash" I said flatly while Eugene spit out the water he was drinking. Everyone's eyes went wide and the harsh comment I made but it was true.

"And I'm in for it" I added only too see everyone's expression relaxed again and then start laughing. "You are good at playing jokes Nora" Lucien added while laughing. "I wasn't joking, the plan is trash" I said again making everyone come to halt and look at me as if expecting a further explanation.

"The plan is pure fantasy and there are no proofs that it is even possible. We are talking about preventing something from happening and it's not a small thing, it's timeline shifting we're

talking about here. Many things could go wrong, some of us could even die for good or get lost in the eternity or be stuck in a time loop.... the possibilities of horrible things happening are endless. We don't know many aspects that could affect the plan in unexpected ways so the chances of us actually succeeding are extremely low" I explained to them and some of their expressions seem to falter whereas some of them seemed like they were proud of me giving it such a deep thought.

"Told you she was smart, Kael" Irene said looking towards Kael who was finally facing everyone else. He must've turned around during my explanation but that's not the important here. "What do you mean?" I asked Irene demanding an explanation for her statement. "Well I told Kael that you would point such things out because you are not the kind of person who gets into something without thinking deeply about it" Irene said being proud of her judgement of me. "And how do you know that much about me? " After hearing my question they all started looking here and there awkwardly as if to avoid answering that. I sighed "let me guess, you all have been spying on me in my past few universes haven't you?" I asked already knowing the answer. "Well we wouldn't say spying on you but more like making sure you're fine and-" "Worthy of being in the team?" Lucien started giving an awkward explanation but I cut him off and finished that sentence. They all looked me cautiously, waiting for my reaction to that "it's fine, you guys didn't mean any harm and if I was going to add someone in my team, I would also do the same thing to make sure I'm adding the right person" I said and they seemed to have relaxed after hearing that.

"So are you joining us or not?" Kael asked once again as if to get a final answer from me.

"The plan has a lot of loopholes and many things could go wrong but if you've done a good background check on me then you would know that things like that don't stop me" I said confirming that I would be joining them because personally I was also tired of this and living felt like a chore at this point so better do something than nothing.

Everyone seemed to have a cheerful expression on their faces from my response and it was adorable seeing little Dylan finally reacting positively towards me.

"But I have a condition"

Their cheerful expressions were replaced by a small frown wondering what the condition will be. I turned to look at Kael and I flatly demanded

"teach me how to maintain a particular appearance in different timelines like you maintain the same appearance in all the timelines you shift in" I said and he stopped stirring his drink. He hasn't even been drinking it, just stirring and playing with it. He came to a halt after hearing my demand and finally turned towards me as if to see if I'm just joking around or being serious.

Everyone else seemed to have a horrific expression on their faces as if I asked for his kidney. "Nora I think you should stop joking around" Irene said trying to lighten the mood in hopes that I'd play along and drop it but I won't. I looked him in the eye "take it or leave it" Kael looked at me for a while to see if I'd back down from my demand but I didn't. He turned

around in annoyance and stood up from his seat and muttered something very lightly.....

"Fine" that's all he said before leaving

And everyone else seemed to have a look of disbelief in their eyes. "Did- Did he just agree to that?" Lucien asked in disbelief. "Well that's what it seemed like" Irene added to confirm Lucien's statement. Eugene scoffed and added "that guy knows when to not be stubborn and prioritize what's best for everyone"

"Well it's all good then isn't it? Maybe he'll teach us too but I doubt that's going to happen" Lucien said wondering if it would be possible for Kael to teach them as well. "Don't worry, I'll make sure you all learn it.

I can teach you all after learning it myself" I said making them all break into a smile "really?" Iris asked in excitement, I patted her head and said "yes I will" while smiling at her. "What about Kael? Won't he be mad if you do that?" Irene asked still not sure about my idea. "What can he do after you all have already learned it?" I said while smiling mischievously and they all burst into Laughter yet again. "We finally got a match to him" Lucien said in between his laughs. I looked outside the window and the dawn was breaking in. I needed to go back to the castle before anyone could notice my absence. I got up from my seat and put my cloak over my head again.

"It's been nice meeting you all but I need to get back before someone notices my absence or I'll be in trouble" They all seemed to have a look of disappointment on their faces after hearing my words "so soon? but we didn't even get to chit-chat

yet" Irene added with a disappointing tone. I smiled and said "I'm sure we'll have a lot of time for that in future"

I reached towards the door and looked back at them one last time and gave them a final smile before leaving.

Chapter 7

I returned to the castle after saying my goodbyes to them and it was not easy, I almost got caught again by one of the guards. Fortunately I didn't have to knock the guard out this time. I arrived in my room safely before people started waking up for the day.

I couldn't keep my mind off of the conversations I had with those people. They all seemed nice and sweet but can I trust them? Of course not.... yet. Their goal seems delusional but I agreed to it because it is better than being trapped in this endless cycle of timeline/universe shifts but I still do not have any hopes for their plan to work out.

"hey Brigitte are you awake?" It was Ursula but why is she here right in the morning? Did she see me sneak in? "Yeah you can

come in" I said in a tired voice. The door opened after a few seconds and she entered looking like she just woke up. I assume she didn't see me sneak in "Did you hear?" Ursula asked me and looked at me waiting for my response but my expression clearly showed that I had no idea what she was talking about so she continued "it seems you haven't heard yet. I think you should hear it from his majesty the king himself then, he's called all of the family members to gather at the dining hall"

I sighed, what is this about now? I already have enough on my plate. I can't deal with this right now. I can only hope it's not something that could hinder my plan.

what could be so important that Ursula came running to me while looking so dishevelled? "We need to make ourselves look presentable before we go, I don't want to hear a lecture from Elias again. " I told her and urged her to leave so she can get ready. Ursula nodded her head in understanding and left.

Surprisingly me and Ursula were first to arrive at the hall. Other members of the family had started arriving after a few minutes. We took our seats and I sat next to Ursula. It took a few minutes before everyone was present at the dining hall on their seats. There were a lot of family members that Brigitte never even talked to so I had no clue how to act around them.

I greeted the ones I recognized from Brigitte's memories. His Majesty the king arrived soon enough and everyone's murmuring voices seemed to come to a halt in respect to him. Everyone greeted him respectfully and took their seats. No one said or did anything for a few moments, probably waiting

for his Majesty to start saying something since that's what we assumed that he called us all for.

"Let's eat" is what the king said and didn't bother looking up like he was preparing himself mentally for something....at least that's what it seemed like to me. Everyone looked at each other in confusion but started eating in a few seconds. It was a quiet breakfast until- "We are at war" the king said making some people choke on their food where as some spewed out the water they were drinking, I was the later one

Some people seemed to already know while others like me had no clue. Of course Elias knew, he's the crown prince. "starting today" the king added more making everyone lose their mannerisms and calm. I definitely could not have predicted that a war would be happening while I'm here. I assume Ursula knew because of Elias since they're close and what kind of king gives the news of war to his family members in the dining hall while having breakfast? I have no idea if hat's how royalty works but I can only go with the flow.

Everyone started asking questions about how or why. This definitely wasn't in my plan. I wonder how Kael and others will react to this. I have to meet them at let them know about it so they can be prepared. From what king told us so far the enemy attacked few of our soldiers near the borders a few weeks ago and so we attacked back and it's been going on for a few weeks now hence the enemy has officially declared a war. It appears most of family members weren't aware of this going on because they all seemed shocked except Elias and a few more people.

This complicates things even for our plan to shift timelines. I as Brigitte and a princess will be fine But Kael, Irene and others are commoners in this universe so they might be in danger. I'd have to inform them so they can be prepared.

I finally arrived in my room after a 2 hour long discussion of war during the breakfast. I need to sneak out and meet Kael and others right now to let them know. "So we're at war?" Someone spoke from behind me. I gasped and turned around only to find Kael crossing his hands and standing next to the door while looking down in deep thinking.

"Oh God you'll give me a heart attack one day. Could you stop breaking in to my room for once?" I asked putting a hand on my chest to calm myself. "You should be grateful that you don't have to sneak out again to inform us about it" He said in his usual as-a-matter-of-fact tone. "That is..... true" I admitted in defeat. He didn't seem to show any reaction to that. "So did you hear everything?" I asked him if he did so I don't have to explain anything.

"I didn't hear it all but enough to understand that the war will not be good for us and our plans considering it's only been a few days since we shifted to this universe, we can not shift to another for a while" He said looking as if he's trying to find a solution. "And we don't have enough funds to run away from this country and survive until the next shift happens..... Unless-" He looked at me as if waiting for me to understand or say something but I didn't get what he was implying until my eyes Widened in realisation.

Did he want me to- "NO" I said exclaiming or more like almost shouting "lower your voice someone might hear you" He said putting a hand on my mouth and I removed it. "I can't do what you want me to do" I said firmly denying it again but in a lower tone this time so no one in fact hears us.

"Why not? You're a princess, I'm sure some of your dresses and Jewelleries are expensive enough to fund all of us running away from this country" He said like it wasn't a big deal and maybe it wasn't but it's still stealing. "They're not mine, they're Brigitte's and I'm NOT going to steal from a princess" I denied again firmly but he just gave me a look as if I'm being a fool. "We must figure out another solution also I'm a princess, if I run away, the royal family will notice and track me down so that is definitely out of question" I said trying to put some sense into him.

He hummed and said "You're right about that". One thing about this guy I've noticed is that he might be arrogant sometimes but he does listen to people when they're saying something that makes sense instead of stubbornly standing on his own opinion.

"So we only have two other options then" He said after a long pause.

"Either stop the war or end it quickly" He said like it was in our hands at all. "Yeah as if that's so easy" I said trying to make him understand that- "actually it is" He did something and in one moment I found myself in a grassfield. Wait what- I looked at him confused but there were other people next to him.

It was Irene and others. They were all standing around and chatting until they noticed us and ran towards Kael. "We can end it" He said again confidently and Irene and Lucien added "yes we can" With full confidence.

"What are we talking about ending here by the way?" Lucien asked making a dumb expression. "Yeah what are we talking about here?" Irene also added awkwardly rubbing the back of her head.

"The war" I told them and their eyes seemed to widen at that. I started explaining everything to them and their expressions grew more serious as I kept talking. "Yeah we can end it quickly and move on to another universe again" Iris added enthusiastically, not understanding the depth of the situation. I would Correct her but I still had a question to ask Kael.

"How did you just teleport me out of my room to here? Don't tell me you-" I started asking my question until I was cut off by Kael. "Yes I do have all my abilities from all the different universes and timelines I have been in" He added making my eyes go wide. Is that possible? I didn't think it is. If that's the case then we might be able to end the war quickly but are his abilities alone enough to end it?

"Yeah we too.... all have our abilities from all the universes we have been in so far" Lucien added proudly and others agreed with him. "It's all thanks to Kael, he taught us how to get them permanently so we can have them in every timeline and universe that we shift in" Eugene added giving a grateful look to Kael.

"You can learn it as well it's very simple" Iris added cheering me up for it I smiled and said sure. If they all have their

abilities right now then it is definitely possible to get through to this war.

"It won't be easy being in a war" I told them making them all come to a halt and look at me. No one said anything for a few seconds but then Irene added "it's nothing we haven't been through, before. We have handled worse in the other universes and timelines we have been in" Irene said reassuring me and I could believe her because I myself have been through hell. I smiled to her in response. "Well then" I turned to Kael

"Teach me everything"

Chapter 8

Author's POV

An arrow flew near Nora almost touching her but she was quick enough to dodge and it only ended up giving a small cut on the cheek. "Are you alright?" Irene immediately ran up to me. The enemy had started attacking the area they were all standing in.

It looked like they were in an open field but they weren't so far from the town market and some of the enemy soldiers seemed to have sneaked in to the town and started attacking with the arrows. Kael and others didn't know what other weapons the enemy possessed so they couldn't plan out a strategy to fight them yet.

"What is going on and where the hell are the palace guards and soldiers?" Irene reacted first, stepping forward and making a protective stance while covering the others. She didn't say it but her eyes screamed "you have to go through me first before getting to them". Nora also recovered from the shock quickly and Kael made a protective gesture towards her.

"Everyone....protect Nora at all costs, it seems they know she's a princess and are targeting her specifically" Kael shouted so everyone could hear him. "He is right We will be fine since we have our abilities but Nora doesn't have hers yet so we can't afford to get her hurt" Irene added agreeing to kael. Everyone even the kids made a circle around Nora protecting her from any other upcoming potential attacks and there were few but they were easy to dodge and take care of because of their abilities. Lucien caught one of the arrows and looked them over carefully. He examined them for a while and his eyes widened in realization. "These are poisoned" He shouted so everyone could hear him. Kael and Irene didn't seem that surprised since they were expecting it. It is very common to use poisoned arrows during wars so there was nothing to be surprised about but the concerning thing was Nora got poisoned from one of the arrows earlier and they had to get her treated as soon as possible.

"I'm going to take you all to the bar, take care of her there and I'll take care of these people here" Kael said looking towards them and Irene had a disapproving look on her face but Kael gave a firm glance towards her saying there's no room to argue and Irene gave up on arguing further on that matter and nodded in defeat. Nora seemed to be losing consciousness slowly so they couldn't delay it any further.

In the next few moments they all were in the bar again. The same place most of them met Nora for the first time and on her second visit she was on verge of dying. Nora was lying on the bar counter at the end of the hall. Eugene being a healer checked her condition which did not seem to be getting any better. "It looks like her consciousness is torn between this universe and the void" Eugene said making everyone confused. "The void?" Irene asked in disbelief. "But we enter the void when we're about to change timelines" Lucien added sounding perplexed. "Does that mean she's about to.... die and shift timelines?" Iris asked in a worried tone.

"No Eugene won't let that happen" Lucien added reassuring Iris but truth to be told even he didn't know what was going to happen. Nora was the reason they all came to this timeline and they thought they'd have time to bond with her as companions and she would learn more about them and learn to manage her abilities but nothing goes as expected.

"The poison is not fatal and can be healed easily but the thing is if Nora chooses to stay in the void or move on to a different timeline then the one who will wake up in this body would be actual princess Brigitte not Nora." Eugene explained to everyone and the reactions weren't positive just like he expected. "Can we do anything to bring her back?" Irene asked.

"This sounds cliché but maybe talk to her and convince her to come back and if she can listen to you all then she might actually decide to come back" Eugene said in a defeated tone while working on healing her. "I have neutralised the poison but can not guarantee who will be waking up in this body" That was all Eugene said before moving away from her body.

Irene sat next to Nora. Iris and Lucien were surrounding Irene and Nora where as Dylan hadn't said anything so far, he just seemed sad and didn't know how to react or what to do so he just sat a little further away.

"Hey so Nora, how are you?" Irene said awkwardly and Lucien held back a laugh and said "great question, she's definitely not almost dying" sarcastically. If looks could kill Lucien would be six feet under the ground. "You got any better idea how to do this?" Irene asked him but he didn't have a response to that. "No but it definitely does not work like that" He added in his defence.

"And I'm the teenager here?" Iris added shaking her head. "Let me handle this" Iris took Nora's hand and started talking to her. "Ms. Nora we may have only known each other for a few days... Well more like just a day but I feel like we could all really make a good team and become close friends if you give us a chance" Iris said a little awkwardly not sure if she's saying anything wrong. "We may seem like a bunch of idiots at time but trust me we are much more than that and if you do give us a chance I promise we will not make you regret this" Iris finished saying what she wanted to say and turned around to see the look on Lucien and Irene's faces and they both seemed stunned. "What? Did I say anything wrong?" Iris asked in confusion "that was....." Irene opened her mouth to say something but before she could finish Lucien finished the sentence for her "amazing.... I think we should also try something like that"

Lucien added looking at Irene and she nodded in return. Irene began talking again this time but with much more seriousness and pouring her feelings this time. "Well

Nora.....You know I understand that you are kind of older than me in experience and age but for some reason I feel protective towards you like an elder sister so if you wouldn't mind giving me a chance then I would love to be your elder sister" Irene finished her part awkwardly not expecting anything and it was kind of embarrassing for her to say things like that in front of the others.

She looked the other way embarrassingly but only Iris seemed to have noticed that. "Well if you're being the elder sister then I would love to be a younger brother to her since I am infact younger than her and would love to have an elder sister like her" Lucien said, his sentence directed towards Irene but before Irene could respond someone interrupted them.

"No I'm the younger brother" It was Dylan. They didn't notice when Dylan came so close to them. He was pouting like a child and seemed extremely adorable after acting all distant and nonchalant towards Nora. He was finally starting to show that he cared about her. Irene and Lucien chuckled seeing him and acknowledging how adorable he was.

"We can both be the younger brothers you know" Lucien added while ruffling Dylan's hair. "Whatever" Dylan said still a little embarrassed. "What about older brother then?" Eugene asked from distance. He was still there behind the bar counter cleaning things up and observing everything going on "I could be the older one then" He said casually. There wasn't a hint of embarrassment on his face. He said that in complete seriousness and owning up to his statement.

"Wouldn't you be more like a father figure to her?" Lucien said taunting Eugene and pissing him off in the process. "Listen

here you-" Eugene started shouting but was cut off by someone.

"Can you all stop this foolishness for one moment?" It was Kael

who interrupted them in a cold voice. No one noticed him so they all were surprised by his presence but no one was surprised that he was already done dealing with the people who attacked Nora.

"We were just trying to communicate with Nora so she can wake up soon" Irene said trying to explain what was going on. "Maybe you can try it too" Lucien added trying to convince him to do the same. Kael didn't say anything to that and simply walked over to where Nora was lying.

He just looked at her for a few seconds and did something that shocked everyone. He started pinching her cheeks hard. "You can wake up now. Evasdropping on other's conversation while they're worried about you isn't nice"

He pinched her cheeks harder after finishing the sentence and she got up with a stinging pain while rubbing her cheeks "Hey that wasn't nice" Everyone seemed shocked seeing her awake but their expressions were immediately replaced by relief.

Kael added and took a seat next to the bar counter. "I wasn't evasdropping, they were talking to me and about me so they wanted me to hear, right guys?" She asked looking towards everyone and suddenly they all looked embarrassed of the things they said. "Well yeah I guess" Irene added awkwardly. "How are you now?" That question coming from Kael surprised Nora. She didn't think he'd even ask her that.

"Well I was in the void for a while and thought about moving on to the next universe but then I remembered I still have to learn a lot of things from you people and if I move on to another universe, lord knows how long I'll have to wait for you all to come visit me in there so I came back and as for the body, I think it's fine now" Nora explained and kael simply nodded his head in understanding.

"But there is something I still have to tell you"

"What is it?" Kael asked Indifferently

"I met Brigitte"

Chapter 9

Author's POV

"You met who?"

Irene and Lucien asked in unison whereas Kael just had an expression of disbelief on his face but didn't say anything.

"Brigitte, the real one"

Nora replied sounding confused herself.

"Is that even possible? In our experience we have never encountered such incidents" Lucien added thinking deeply for once whereas Irene was looking towards Nora waiting for further explanation and answers.

"Have you encountered something like this before Kael?" It was Eugene this time asking Kael on a serious note in response to which Kael nodded slightly while having a sharp expression on his face "yes".

Everyone seemed flabbergasted at his declaration. " R-Really? You too?" Irene said putting a hand on his shoulder. "What could this mean?" Nora asked Kael hoping for an answer.

"We don't have time to think about what it means. What matters is what Brigitte said after meeting you" Kael turned towards her waiting for her to continue but Nora seemed to be in deep thought as if trying to remember all the details.

"I don't remember all the parts since some of them are blurry but from what I remember she was in the void with me in her actual form which is this body that I'm occupying but it was more like her soul since she looked a little transparent" Nora started her explanation and everyone stared at her intensely willing to hear more.

"She said something about me finally being here.... again and she was happy to have me back which is extremely weird because I have no memory of Brigitte remembering my existence in her body from last time I visited her" She explained leaving everyone stunned again.

"Hold on you have been to this universe before? And it was when Brigitte was little?" Irene asked to clear her doubts and confirm if she was hearing the right words. "Yes" Nora replied in a normal tone like it wasn't a big deal but to others it was something new, something they'd never heard of. "Is that possible?" Lucien asked Kael while being astounded. Kael nodded in response "I have experienced it once" Kael added

further and this would have been the nth time everyone was shocked today.

"This is a lot to take in but we do need to discuss this so let's get over the shock and talk about this rationally" It was Irene who stepped up again trying to remind everyone of what's important here. Everyone seemed to listen to her and direct their focus towards Kael and Nora again.

"So you are saying that Brigitte said she remembered you from the last time you visited this universe and she is also glad to have you back but according to her memories that you inherited, she didn't know you ever existed in her body?" Irene added making a conclusion out of the things Nora said. "Yes exactly" Nora replied while looking back to her and Brigitte's conversation in the void.

"It's just simple then" Irene said while rubbing her chin "that was Brigitte's unconscious mind" Irene finished the sentence making Kael snap his eyes towards Irene in surprise not because she was wrong but because of how accurate she was.

"You mean subconscious mind? Lucien added thinking he was correcting Irene but before he could say anything further or Irene could clear it herself, Kael cut in between their conversation.

"No, Subconscious mind and unconscious mind are different aspects of the human consciousness, subconscious mind records things you don't notice but unconscious mind saves every bit of memory of your life since you're born. The ones you forget and the ones even your subconscious discards." Kael stopped to look at everyone's expression to figure out if they understood what he meant or not.

"I think I get it" Lucien added trying to process everything. "So that's why Brigitte knew Nora and was welcoming her back" Iris mumbled to herself "Yes" Nora added while smiling towards her.

"This kind of incident is extremely rare. Across the multiple timelines and universes that we go to, we often come close to almost dying while fighting a war or battle but it rarely happens that the person you're possessing shows up with their unconscious self/mind" Kael said and Nora responded with a nod and understood what he meant by that.

"But you said it happened with you as well" Nora asked looking at him waiting for his side of story but he just said a simple "yes" And turned towards the counter again. "What? No further explanation? Or the story? I told mine so I think I deserve to know more as well" Nora demanded while putting her hands on her hips but he still didn't say anything. that seemed to piss Nora off even more. "Fine don't tell me. I don't know how you guys trust him and follow him around when he is so secretive and doesn't tell anything" Nora blurted out without thinking much of it but everyone appeared a little offended.

No one said anything for a while. After a few more moments of silence Kael stood up without saying anything and left the bar.

Nora looked at everyone and noticed the way Kael left. It didn't take long for her to realise that she made a mistake and crossed a line.

"I apologize, I don't know what came over me. I really didn't mean that. I totally understand that if you all are working

together you must have sorted such things out long ago. I'm sorry for crossing a line. I didn't mean-" Suddenly Nora felt a hand on her shoulder and felt herself being sat down.

It was Irene who made her sit down and looked at her with a sad expression as if remembering something. Nora looked at her for a while and confirmed that Irene wasn't mad at her so she could finally settle in her seat and was ready to hear what Irene had to say "He found me when I was extremely close to insanity"

"There was a time when I started losing sanity while shifting so many universes and no matter what timeline I ended up in I immediately tried to kill myself even though I knew it was another person's body and that it didn't belong to me but I couldn't care at that point and just wanted to be free from the torment.

I killed myself or more like the people I was possessing in 13 timelines one after another. Once I shifted to a timeline in Ancient China, I was in a different body of course and there was a war going on and the body I was possessing was of a doctor so I was sent there as a doctor for the soldiers but as soon as I woke up in that timeline, some of the men and workers there tried to sexually assault me so I cut their hands off with their own swords."

Irene took a pause to notice if Nora was listening to her and smiled when she found she was.

"Because of cutting their hands off, I was to be punished and tortured. It really didn't bother me much since I was going try to kill myself in that timeline again anyway but that's when

Kael found me. He had same appearance as he has now and he rescued me from the punishment.

Then he took me somewhere quiet where no people were around and my hands and legs were tied the whole time so I couldn't run away. I got suspicious and tried to attack him with the knife I hid and used to cut the ropes while he wasn't noticing. 'I won't let you have your way with me' I screamed and tried to attack him as soon as I got free but he dodged effortlessly yet I kept attacking.

It was after a while that he realised that I wouldn't stop fighting him so he knocked me out with attacking on my neck with his hands.

I woke up after a long time and we were surrounded by two tents and I was covered with blankets while lying down whereas he was starting a fire. My first instinct was to fight again but I noticed that he had not tied my hands and legs and also provided me a blanket which someone with ill Intentions wouldn't do.

I was too tired to fight so I flatly asked him 'what do you want from me?' He looked at me for a few seconds and looked back at the fire he finally became successful in creating. 'I am a shifter too' he simply said with no expression like he was saying the most normal thing ever but for me it was like my whole world changed because I never knew there were others like me."

Nora nodded and urged her to continue

"I didn't believe him at first and was very suspicious for a while but he explained everything to me that night and what his goal was. I had a pretty similar reaction to yours Nora but

eventually I opened up to him and we started looking for more people like us across different timelines and he didn't tell me everything about himself or how he found me or how he knew how to spot a timeline shifter and a lot of other things. He still doesn't share everything with us but we all have slowly come to terms with that. We know if he doesn't tell us something it's because of a reason and he might be secretive but he'd never let any harm come to us. He does everything he can to protect us so how can we not trust and follow him?"

Irene finished her story and Nora's expression was something between astonished and guilty. "Lord I'm an idiot I'm so sorry for saying that I-" Nora started blurting things out in guilt and regret until she was interrupted by Eugene "I think it's him you should be apologizing to. Sure we deserve an apology too but we understand since you're new whereas Kael is kind of person who wouldn't show when he's feeling down or is affected by someone's words. He just leaves and isolates himself so I think you should go talk to him first" Nora looked towards Eugene and by the time he was finished she was already half way rushing towards the door. "Thank you Eugene. I'll be back soon" She said and ran out the door to look for him.

"Gosh I hope that ends well"

Lucien added while looking towards the door Nora just left from.

"I hope so too"

Irene added while supporting her chin with her hand and looking towards the same door

Chapter 10

I left the bar while Eugene was in the middle of putting some sense into me. I did hear him finish his last sentence but I was in a hurry so I didn't react.

I looked around for Kael but didn't see him anywhere. "No point in crying over the spilled milk you know" A voice in my head said... It was Briggite's voice. I have been hearing her voice since I met her in the void and ignoring it because I'm not ready to acknowledge that yet and this has never happened before so I don't know how to respond to the voice without looking like a crazy person.

"You know I can hear all your thoughts right? There's no point in ignoring me" She said again trying to get a reaction or response out of me. "Where could he possibly be?" I said to

myself still not having caught a sight of him. "What are you going to do even if you do find him?" She asked again and I ignored her...again. "Let's see how long you can go on ignoring me" I could feel the pout in her voice but I didn't have time to deal with her right now. I will sort everything out with her once I'm alone in peace with myself at my room. My room..lord heavens I have been missing from the palace since morning what if someone finds out? "I don't think they'd notice since they have a whole war going on you know" Brigitte added reassuring me and it kind of worked.

"Shouldn't you be back at the palace by now?" I turned around to find Kael looking at me disapprovingly like he was about to scold me again. "Roaming around like that as the princess and member of the royal family while a war is going on is not the best move" He said scolding me with that disapproving look of his as I expected. I took his hand and made him follow me to a quieter place where I could give him a proper apology "I'm sorry" I said with regret and guilt in my tone. "You should be. Roaming around is dangerous for you right now and I can't be protecting you all the time" He said with a stern expression. "Not about that...about what I said earlier" I said with guilt evident in my voice.

"I had no right to question your ways and the trust between your teammates, I crossed a line and I'm sorry" I finished my apology and didn't dare to look at him because I knew he must either be disappointed or amused that I had enough guts to admit I was wrong but to my surprise he had neither of those expressions as I looked up to him to see his reaction.

He just had his usual indifferent expression masked on his face which for some reason annoyed me even more. "don't you

just want to punch him once?" Brigitte added her own insight which did not help at all because she was right I did kind of want to punch him right now because who on earth reacts like that to a heartfelt apology.

"You were right" those were the first words he said after a few moments of silence. "Huh?" I asked in confusion again. " I don't tell them everything but they still follow me and trust me for some reason and I know I don't deserve their trust and loyalty. You just said the truth out loud, there's nothing to be sorry about " at first I thought he was just trying to make me feel more guilty or said this so I could pity him or comfort him but looking at him closely I could tell he... genuinely believed what he said.

He actually thought he didn't deserve their loyalty. "What? You're feeling bad for him now? Come on, you wanted to punch him a few seconds ago and now you melted over a few words? You're pathetic" Brigitte added her unnecessary insight again. "I can hear that you know" which I didn't care about and neither did I care if she could hear my thoughts. "Hey!" Brigitte exclaimed again and I ignored her.... again.

"There's nothing I can do if you truly believe that and I won't try to comfort or convince you otherwise because you will see how much they respect you with time regardless of what I say. As for me, I felt like I crossed a line so I apologized to clear my conscience so I'm just glad you heard me out" He looked at me with a strange expression as if he didn't expect such serious and mature response from me. "What? Just because I look like a young princess right now doesn't mean I'm not an old lady of 180 something years" I said trying to lighten the air.

"You should be getting back now. They can try to attack you again" He said looking around making sure there was no danger in the area. "Relax a little, the enemy hasn't completely infiltrated the borders yet. The soldiers are still fighting at the gates. The thing that happened in the morning won't happen again" I said trying to make him relax a little and to my surprise what next happened was exactly the thing he was worried about.

"Dodge" He screamed and I turned around to see where the attack was coming from. I caught an arrow that was headed straight towards my head and examined it. I rolled my eyes "these poisonous arrows again? Can't they come up with something new?it's getting boring at this point" While I was blabbering to myself he took my hand and started running towards.... I don't know where but judging from the look of his face he didn't either.

I suppose he was just trying to get us to safety..... at least that's what I thought until we were in a completely secluded area and there were no public around. It was night and dark already but I could see people slowly appear in front of us. They looked as if they were finally eager to have caught us alone. "Wait weren't we going to safety- oh" I realised he wasn't trying to get us to safety but trying to get away from public so we could deal with these people alone. As expected of him but can Brigitte's body fight this many people? There were around 20-25 enemy soldiers and somehow they kept sneaking in through our borders and always located me effortlessly or tried to attack me.

That was definitely suspicious but I'll think about it later. For now I need a strategy if Brigitte's body can't fight this many

people at same time. It's different from just dealing with a few thugs. "Hey don't underestimate me, I am a princess but a warrior too. I have been given same training as my brother since childhood" Brigitte stated defending herself. "We'll see how well trained you are" That was the first time I resounded to Brigitte directly so far and she seemed to be astonished but didn't say anything for awhile. I heard another word a few moments later "let's show them shall we?" I could hear the smirk in her voice. "Attack at 1 2 3" Kael said and I attacked exactly at 3

I didn't have any weapons on me so I simply had to use my fist and legs. There seemed to be some muscle memory of martial arts in Brigitte's body which turned to be extremely helpful considering I didn't have a weapon on me at the moment. "Told you" I could hear Brigitte's proud voice but I didn't have time to be distracted even for a second. I had dealt with 4 of the enemy soldiers so far and broken 2 of their swords, 3 of their legs, 2 of their hands and made sure in all of them that they can't have offsprings.

Kael was doing very well himself and had dealt with 6 of them. So far. A little bit of distraction and I almost got punched in the face but I caught the fist of the person and broke it with force singlehandedly. "Hey, you don't mess with my face" Brigitte shouted as if he could hear her. I made sure this one couldn't have an offspring either but as soon as I was about to move on to the next one, someone grabbed me from behind and tried to choke me with the forearms however, unfortunately for them, these petty tactics don't work on me. I got free from the person and broke the person's hand and smashed them against the wall

"who is helping you?" I asked the person and of course didn't expect them to answer immediately.

"Some of your soldiers snuck in during the day and tried to attack me. it's not possible without an insider's help. So tell me who is helping you?" I twisted the person's hand again to get a response but the person was just screaming in pain. "I... I don't know. We were just told we had to sneak in but before attacking any citizens we had to kill you so we were just following orders. I don't know who helped with the information or sneaking us in"

The person groaned loudly in pain again. I bashed their head against the wall knocking them out and turned to deal with more but there were none left. Apparently Kael already took care of them and was looking at me while breathing heavily. "He looks....rather delightful right now doesn't he?" Brigitte added in a dreamy kind of tone and I immediately made a disgusting expression out loud which I didn't mean to. "So you can hear the voice too huh?" He asked me with a serious expression.

"How.... How would you.... Right, you said you also experienced something like this right? So does that mean you could hear the voice as well?" I asked even though it's not that shocking but what's shocking is this man also has a voice inside his head like mine and his expression never seemed to betray a thing "the voice he has inside him must be boring just like him. This guy is a personality disaster but at least he's pleasing to the eye" Brigitte added her unnecessary insight again which I had no choice but to ignore.

"I do have a voice and it happened the same way as it happened to you" He cleared my doubts and as if he knew what I was thinking. He added "I don't know why it got stuck with me but it's been stuck in my head through every universe I shift in even though he belonged to only one of the universes that I had been in so it's most likely that Brigitte's voice will follow you around in the other universes too" He finished explaining and that just did not make me feel any better.

I can not handle this voice for the rest of my life and I didn't care if Brigitte could hear me. "That's rude" Brigitte added.

"I might as well just get admitted to a mental asylum" I said to him in tiredness and defeat. I stood against the wall but my legs were feeling weak from all the fighting so I slowly sank down and just sat there, to my surprise he came and sat next to me. "It'll be fine, we can achieve our goal and be at peace in our original universes" He said in an attempt to comfort me.

I listened to him but I didn't believe what he said.... not at all. "How can I be at peace when my mind is the one causing disruption not the place?" I said in a tired tone and felt like I could fall asleep any moment. He looked at me as if he understood exactly what I meant. "My own mind won't let me have peace anywhere so I don't know what I'm fighting so hard for" I said clarifying my statement so he could understand better but I knew there was no need of it. He understood exactly what I meant, I had to say it out loud for myself to hear.

I was feeling extremely drowsy and couldn't hear what he said next. The last thing I saw before losing consciousness were stars

Chapter 11

As soon as I woke up I felt like my head was being banged against a wall. Before I had the time to comprehend what was going on or where I was someone tapped on my shoulder and told me to eat some breakfast.

I felt a little irritated because I didn't like when someone immediately talked to me right after I woke up. I opened my eyes to see who it was and to my surprise it was Lucien. I looked around to see where I was only to find myself at that bar again.

"Do all of you guys live at this bar?" I asked while putting a hand on my head trying to get up. I was lying on a couch whereas Lucien and Irene were sitting on the other two chairs while drinking coffee.

"Well not exactly, all of these people we are possessing currently do have homes and lives but we have been visiting this bar way too frequently since your appearance" Irene responded to my question while I sat up and took a glass of water which Lucien brought me as soon as I woke up.

"How was I brought here?" I asked while drinking the water. "Kael brought you here last night" I choked on the water hearing that and remembered the events of last night. Right, I fainted after that fight. How embarrassing. "Hey you should be grateful to my body you know" Brigitte said inside my head. Right I have to deal with her too now.

"He didn't say anything when he brought you here. He just laid you down and said your life is in danger so it's better that you stay with us until we can leave this universe" I thought we already went through the part of me being with them. I sighed in frustration again. "You know what was funny? He was carrying you like a sack of grain. Damn it, we don't have phones here or I would've taken a picture. It was hilarious" Lucien said while laughing. Now knowing that pissed me off more but can't really expect him carry me like a princess, that would be worse. "You're so boring" Brigitte added her unnecessary insight yet again.

"He also told us to make sure you don't leave but I'm not going to listen to him. I want to know what you think." Irene asked looking at me for a response. I sighed feeling tired again. "You just slept 10 hours straight, what do you mean you're tired" Brigitte asked but I didn't respond. "I understand why he would say that but I already talked to him on the matter and as much as I love your and everyone's company, I have some things to figure out in the royal house. Someone is trying to

kill Brigitte and also helping the enemy's soldiers sneak in to our Kingdom" I said and Irene listened to me closely but didn't say anything for a few moments "That would've surprised me in my first few timelines but now I'm just used to this sort of stuff" Lucien added casually like it wasn't a big deal and yeah as compared to all the things me and everyone has been through so far it wasn't but for some reason I feel a little obligated to find out who is trying to kill Brigitte and protect her body because if this body dies, I will shift to another universe but Brigitte herself would be gone forever. "I knew you cared about me" Brigitte said in a cheerful tone causing me to inwardly roll my eyes.

Irene took my hand in hers and said reassuring me "You are free to come and go whenever you want. I'm sure you can take care of yourself. As for Kael he can stop overreacting for a while. I'll deal with him later" As expected from Irene she was much more understanding. "Not sure if Kael is going to like this" Lucien said like he was excited to see Kael's reaction. "He can talk to me himself if he has any problem with what I'm doing with my own life" I said in an assertive and annoyed tone. "Actually it's my life you're talking about so.... " Brigitte added only to be ignored by me.

"Let's have a talk" I looked up to see where that came from and of course it was Kael. He looked... normal.. Not a single expression of anger, confusion or anything like always. That's all he said and went to the backyard of the place. I looked at Irene and she nodded in assurance so I followed him.

There was a small backyard at the back of the bar. He sat down at the wooden plank and gestured me to do the same. What was he going to talk about? I hope not me staying here

with them. "If you're trying to convince me to stay with you guys then this is a waste of time." I said before taking a seat. He just nodded in response. "I didn't call you for that. I already heard what you said"

"Then why did you call me here?" I asked raising a brow

"You said you wanted to learn how to keep the same appearance in all timelines and also have your powers from other universes back, did you not?" He responded

"Yes I do wish to learn that" I said attempting to hide my enthusiasm.

"You need to have your powers in order to be able to change your appearance" He said and I nodded

"And how do I get them?" I asked even though I knew he was about to explain that.

"You have to enter the void for that" He said casually leaving me dumbfounded. I certainly didn't expect that even though I should have. I guess it is because I have Brigitte's IQ right now. "Hey don't blame your stupidity on me" Brigitte added in her own defence. I admit my own mind did not go that far.

"And what do I have to do once I get there?" I asked looking towards him while he was staring at nothing in particular.

"Once you're in the void, you're pure consciousness, not bound to any physical body so simply think about the particular power you want to have back. Once you think about it. Don't get distracted and try to remember and visualize how it felt to have it, use it. It shouldn't be hard since your consciousness has already been through the experience of using that power before. You would know and feel it once the

power is actually back and once it's back, it attaches itself to your consciousness. It may take hours to days or even months to finally summon your power back. we can't know for sure."

He explained and I listened carefully and being frank I did believe it could work but considering all the other members of the group have their powers I don't have any option but to believe him. "And that is only for one particular power?" I asked just to be clear. "Yes"

"Then it's going to take a lot of time summoning all of my powers back." I said in a frustrating tone. Days to months for only one particular power? that sounds insane. I have countless powers that I want back and this is going to take hell lot of time to get them all.

"And all we have is time whether in this universe or any other timeline. You can take as long as you want to summon all of your powers back" He said calmly like it was a simple thing to do

"You don't have to get all of your powers back only the ones that are extremely necessary and can be useful in accomplishing our goals" He added. Well that makes it easier.

"How long did it take for you to get all of your powers back?" I asked and his expression became harsh suddenly. I suppose that's my cue to not ask any further questions but I was curious so I asked again only to see him get more and more frustrated.

"It's fine if you don't want to tell" I said in defeat but I'm going to ask sometime later again. I heard him sigh and exoected him to continue but he didn't say anything further.

"32 years" I looked at him wide eyed.

"That's..... Crazy..... How many powers do you have that it took so many years?" I asked not hiding the shock in my tone. And of course he didn't respond to that.

"But hey don't we have to be in between life-death condition in order to enter the void?" I asked looking at him to see if his face betrays any hint of emotion or expression. "Yes" He said flatly. "So did you get into that condition everytime you had to summon a power back?" I asked in disbelief because that sounds horrible. "Why ask something so obvious?" He said casually.

"That's.....not something to be taken lightly" I said with the same wide eyed expression I had. It took me a while to get over that shock. "then does that mean all of the members have went through the same things multiple times?" I asked trying to diverge the focus from him a little because I could tell he was getting uncomfortable.

"Don't worry they only went through it 2-3 times since all of them only wanted few of their useful abilities" He said reassuring me because I couldn't imagine the kids going through that sort of thing. That sounds horrible for kids even though I know they're not actually kids but as compared to other members they are quite young. Now there was just one other thing I needed to know....

"Hey but how do I get into the life and death condi-" I was in the middle of finishing my sentence before I was stabbed through my stomach with a sword. Blood started pooling in my mouth and my vision started getting blurry. I looked up to see who could enter the bar with all the team members and

have the guts to stab me in the daylight and my stupid brain
was still surprised to see that.....

It was Kael.

Chapter 12

Author's POV

As soon as she passed out, Kael carried her back in the bar where everyone was having a casual time chatting away. Their casual time was interrupted when they all saw Kael carrying Brigitte's stabbed and bleeding body. As soon as they all noticed Brigitte and Kael they all rushed to him while shouting questions at him. "What the hell? What happened in just a span of few minutes?" Irene asked or more like screamed at him. "Did someone attack her? What on earth were you doing while she was getting stabbed?" Lucien asked shouting in worry again.

"He is the one who stabbed her" to everyone's surprise it was Eugene who responded to Lucien's question. "What? That's ridiculous, why would he do that?" Irene started asking but her sentence got caught up in her throat as her eyes widened in realisation.

"No way? Is she already?" She looked towards Kael and he responded with just a nod. Everyone's eyes were on Kael as he carried Brigitte's body to the couch. "Is she going to be alright?" Iris said while hugging Irene. "Yes of course she would be. We have Eugene here who can cure any fatal wound or disease" Irene said reassuring Iris while patting her head. "So is Nora really going to get one of her powers now?" Lucien asked while looking at her passed out body.

"Not if you don't let me treat her. She'd just die then and move on to another universe. Now move away and let me check the wound" Eugene said making Lucien move away. Dylan was quite like always and was just watching it all unfold without saying a single word despite being worried about her.

"You sounded like you already knew this was going to happen" Irene asked Eugene suspiciously. "Yeah I did, Kael talked to me about it after bringing her back last night" Eugene said while examining the wound. "And you didn't think of stopping him from literally stabbing her? Or never thought of telling us beforehand?" Lucien asked Eugene sounding a little betrayed. "Well if I did tell everyone then would you have let it all happen? Or would you have been able to act all normal with her in the morning?" No one responded because they knew he was right. They wouldn't have agreed to this.

"Still this was just too harsh, she wasn't even prepared for it" Lucien said taking Nora's side again whereas Irene seemed to have recovered from the shock and got straight to the point with Kael.

"So did you explain everything to her thoroughly? Are you sure she understood everything?" Irene asked Kael on a serious note. Kael nodded. "I did explain everything but if she herself is stupid or does something stupid then there's nothing I can do about that" Somehow that didn't reassure Irene and just added fuel to her anger.

"You know sometimes you are too cold. She let her guard down around you and you stabbed her. I don't think she can ever trust you again. I know it was necessary but we could've planned something and given her time to mentally prepare for it" Irene said trying to reason with Kael in response to which he just looked her with his same expression. "We don't have time for that, there are people who want to kill the 'princess Brigitte' and we can't always be around to protect her. I know she is capable of defending herself but having her powers would be faster and better for all of us. I just made a practical choice" Kael said with his same monotonous tone. It was clear he didn't feel guilty at all which seemed so wrong to Irene but she couldn't be mad at him either because she knew what he said was right.

"Her wound is all healed but her consciousness is still in the void so I can not say how long it will take for her to wake up again." Eugene said after completely examining her and healing her with his powers. He got up and was walking towards the bar counter again. "You know the wound didn't have to be that fatal. You could've gone easy on her" Eugene

said to Kael in a low tone so no one else could hear. Kael looked at him but didn't say anything.

It had already been 7 hours since Nora was Unconscious. Everyone seemed worried. Dylan and Iris were surrounding Brigitte's body. "Did he have to stab her like that?" Dylan asked slowly and everyone seemed to pay attention to him since the kid rarely talked. "she will be fine. When she wakes up she will be more powerful and capable of protecting herself" Lucien said reassuring Dylan whereas everyone else was just as worried.

As everyone seemed to be chatting, Irene noticed Kael sneak to the backyard where he stabbed Nora, she immediately followed him but didn't say anything. He was sitting at the same place as in the morning with a grim expression on his face.

"So you do feel guilty huh?" Irene said finally making her presence known to him and taking a seat next to him. "I did what was necessary. what I feel shouldn't matter" He said in his matter of fact tone again with his indifferent expression. 'He has mastered his cold tone and expressions so well after being like that for so many years' Irene thought to herself.

She knew stressing out this topic wouldn't do any good to either of them so she tried to change it. "You know after I joined you for first time, there were multiple times I was doubtful about you and just wanted to ditch you because you always acted so... You" Irene said trying to change the subject. He looked at her not surprised as if he already knew that.

"Why didn't you?" that was the question he genuinely wanted to know the answer to. "And there were times I thought you would even sacrifice me or ditch me if it was a 'practical choice' but as we spent more time together searching for more members of our team and as our team grew I started to notice that you value your goals but not at expense of your companions." She said looking at the sky and without waiting for any reponse or reaction she continued "Remember there was a timeline where you couldn't protect Eugene on time and he was unconscious for days?" He still didn't say anything and waited for her to continue. "Everyone thought you didn't care since they didn't know much about you at that time but I knew you spent those days studying medicine and looking for ways to heal him and wake him up"

Now that made Kael's eyes widen just a little. He looked away "I was just taking accountability for my actions, he was unconscious because I was too late to protect him. It was an obvious and practical thing to do" He said and Irene just shook her head while smiling. "Sure" Irene said. They sat there in silence for a while looking at the sky.

"She's awake" Iris came rushing towards them only after a few minutes. Both of them looked at each other and got up immediately. They ran towards her and before they could reach her Kael was hit by a kick on his face and landed on ground. Before he could get up again to process what happened he was yanked up by his collar and got punched in the face again. As he was about to get punched again he stopped her fist and stood up. "I can't believe you fucking stabbed me" Nora said screaming at him and continuously

tried to kick and punch him but he dodged them all effortlessly.

"You. Bastrad. How could you just do that" She was still screaming while constantly trying to kick and punch him. For a moment he looked towards other members but none of them said anything and just watched. "Don't expect anything from us. You deserve that" Lucien said while eating popcorn and Irene just seemed to enjoy the show whereas Iris, Dylan and Eugene were just looking like they were watching a drama unfold. Kael grit his teeth and finally went all in and caught both of her wrist trying to calm her down but she was still trying her best to get free from his hands.

"You can be as mad as you want but first let's take this outside" He grabbed her body like sack of potatoes and went to the backyard again. "What? You got me here so you can stab me again?" She shouted in anger without letting him say anything and immediately started attacking him again.

"Listen you can hit me all you want later but let's talk about what happened first. You and I both know that is more important" He said while avoiding her attacks and she seemed to come to a halt after hearing his words. She retreated her fist which was halfway in the air and sighed. "Fine let's talk" She said and took a seat at the wooden plank. He followed her and sat next to her.

"So what happened did you get any power of yours back?" He asked looking at her calmly. "I did but... It's not the one I was aiming for." She said in defeat and disappointment. "But I guess it's somehow still useful" She looking at her hands. "What exactly is it?" He asked waiting for her to give him an

example of her power when suddenly his hand was raised without his permission and he slapped himself out of nowhere, his other hand was about to do the same but he started resisting it, his resistance didn't seem to have any affect whatsoever and ended up slapping himself.

She started laughing at him while holding her stomach. "Serves you right" she said in between her laughs. "Are you done?" He said with an irritated expression on his face. "Finally an expression other than the plain one that you have all the time" She said getting up and standing in front of him. She lifted her index finger and two glowing white threads appeared that were connected to both of Kael's hands. She retrieved the threads but he didn't seem impressed a bit from her ability.

"Don't be so fast to judge it. Wait and watch" She snapped her fingers and the white glowing threads appeared again. Now she focused her mind while closing her eyes and the threads started forming a shape. It took a few moments for Kael to realise what shape the threads were taking form of. It was a tank. A military tank that's used in wars. He looked at her as if asking if it actually works. "Yes it functions exactly like a real military tank and is just as dangerous" She said while smirking. He seemed a little impressed now. "So you can make things out of thin air with these threads of yours? Are they durable or just easy to cut?" He asked examining the military tank she just created.

"They can't be cut by anything. They can't even get blown up or anything like that" She said proudly. "So how many things like this can you make? Also can you make any more

dangerous weapons?" Kael asked still examining the military tank.

"Yeah I can make anything as long as I have seen what I'm making and have knowledge of it" She said clearing his doubts. "This can prove to be extremely useful for us" He said sounding a little impressed with the ability. "But you said this wasn't the ability you were actually aiming for so what was the one you were-" He was in middle of finishing his sentence but as soon as he turned around he was stabbed in the stomach by a sword made of threads. He looked a little surprised but still had an expression like he saw it coming "now we're even" She said while he lost consciousness.

Chapter 13

Nora's POV

I turned around after winking at him. "Don't you think that was a little too harsh?" Brigitte said in an empathetic tone implying she felt bad for him.

"That might have been harsh but he had it coming." I noticed others were rushing to him as I started walking towards the bar again. Lucien went and grabbed him on one of his shoulders and Eugene immediately started healing his wound whereas Irene was just looking at me with an unreadable expression.

I just looked her for a few seconds before finally breaking the silence "listen I'm grateful for what you guys did for me but I'm not going to apologize for that" I said and saw Irene's expression change. "You don't have to, he'll be fine once Eugene heals him" said Irene and motioned me to walk inside the bar. I followed but for some reason I was feeling guilty now. Did I really overdo it? "you're realising that now?" Brigitte's annoying voice rang in my ears again.

Irene didn't say a word until we sat down at the bar counter. Kael was laid down at the couch. While Lucien and others were surrounding him. Seeing them all like that sort of made me feel bad knowing that I was the reason for it.

"So your ability is spiderman?" Irene asked while taking a sip of her drink. "Hey it's not spiderman it's... something a little different than that. I can create whatever I want with my threads and it would function exactly the same as the real thing so you can say my ability is kind of creation" I explained to her and she nodded.

Somehow she felt a little distant to me this time. Was it because of what I did to Kael? "Yeah she definitely hates you now" Brigitte's comments did not help. I looked over to see how Kael was doing. "So you also feel guilty huh?" Irene said with a hint of smile on her lips which was very faintly noticeable.

"That..... Wait what do you mean 'also'?" I asked and she chuckled. "Nevermind that, is that your only ability? Or are there more you can summon?" Irene asked on a serious note. "Well I have a few more that could be useful but I have exhausted my soul's spiritual energy for a while so I don't

think I can summon another ability for a few days" I said and she nodded again.

"by the way what is your ability? Eugene's ability is healing and one of Kael's abilities is teleportation that's all I know about you people so far but what about Lucien, Iris, Dylan and you?" I asked Irene and she smiled warmly. I could feel that she was coming back to her usual self from the cold and distant self she had been from past few minutes. "Curious are we? You'll find out soon enough, have some patience" She said taking another sip of her drink.

Before I could finish my drink I felt as if I was sucked in to a different dimension. I felt dizzy and didn't understand what was happening. I started hearing an echo with a hint of demonic tone. Everywhere I turned was a mess with sentences and images.... Wait these weren't just images or sentences these were.... My memories.... Not Brigitte's but my own memories which even I didn't remember properly. "Dear lord your consciousness is a huge mess" I heard that demonic echo again and turned around to see who it was. I was ready to attack until I saw the person. It was.... Irene.

"Irene what is this place what's going on?" I asked in a bewildered manner because I wanted to get out of here as soon as possible. "This is your consciousness and these images and sentences that you see are everything your consciousness has been through. So they are your memories" She explained in that demonic voice again. She looked different as well.

Not too different from the current body she was possessing but just a bit more fierce and she has some sort of sinister

expression on her face. She looked all the same as the real world but she somehow seemed more powerful.

If I didn't know any better I would've thought I was encountering a villain right now. "So this is your ability? Entering people's minds?" I asked just to confirm my doubts. "Yes I can enter people's minds and can either improve their mental health completely by erasing their trauma or make them go absolutely mad and make them do whatever I want" She explained it all slowly and in that tone she sounded like a true villain but thankfully she is on our side.

"I get it but can we get out of here now. I'm feeling suffocated" I said feeling a little dizzy because I could not handle seeing so many of my forgotten memories everywhere.

She smirked and said "sure". As soon as she snapped her fingers we were out of that place and I was back in my body... Well Brigitte's body. I was breathing heavily, I looked up to see Irene and she was casually drinking. "You weren't ready yet, I should've waited more before showing you my ability. Sorry about that" She said in an apologetic and it sounded genuine. Now she seemed like a completely different person from the one I was just talking to a few moments ago. "So your power is mind control" I stated and drank a glass of water. "You could say that" She said nonchalantly. I turned around to see that Kael had finally woken up. I raised my hand to say hi but got rejected coldly.....Right I just stabbed him of course he would be petty about it.

I was about to ask for a drink for myself again but then remembered something "hey I haven't been to the palace in two days, I would be doomed if they find out. Hell they must

have found out already" I said in panic. "Oh dont worry about that I made a clone of you the night he brought you here and sent that clone to the palace. It would act exactly like you" Lucien said reassuring me and I must have had a confused expression on my face because he started explaining further.

"Yeah I can make clones of people and have them act exactly as the real thing" Lucien said proudly while explaining his ability. "That sounds amazing" I said in awe and relief that I don't have to continue living in the palace. "But the teeny-tiny setback of my power is that the clones disappear after a certain period of time" He said awkwardly rubbing his head. Well I guess that makes sense.

"How long?" I asked

"3 days" Lucien responded

"I still have day" I thought to myself but accidentally said it out loud

"Yes" Lucien and Irene responded at the same time

"I have to figure out who is trying to kill me and leaking information about our kingdom to the enemy" I said to myself but Irene must have heard it. "But how? We don't have any leads" Irene asked

"Well then we will have to get one" I said as an idea popped up in my head and I started smiling wickedly. "What do you mean?" Lucien asked. "You'll see tomorrow"

Author's POV

As Nora was roaming around the market the next day. She finally got time to admire the city after being in this timeline for so many days. Irene next to her was having just as amazing time as her. They were shopping and having fun until Nora noticed some people following her. Irene noticed them as well and they both gave each other an understanding look. "Can't even have a day off peacefully now" Irene scoffed in annoyance. Both of them started to move towards an empty alley to lure the people following them.

As soon as they reached the alley, the people revealed themselves. There were 5 of them. They were dressed like normal citizens but they were enemy soldiers. Irene and Nora could tell by the weapons and their build that these were no ordinary people.

"You can sit this one out, I'll handle them" Irene said while covering Nora protectively.

"We will say this once, hand the princess over to us and we will let you live" One of them said while looking at Irene. Irene only smirked and took out her sword in response. "How about you run away now and I'll let you go with your limbs intact?" Her words caused them laugh as if she said something absolutely ridiculous.

"Stop messing around and hand her over to us" One of them stepped forward with his sword pointed at Irene and before anyone could notice Irene already chopped off that man's hand which was holding a sword. "I told you to leave if you wanted to go back with your limbs intact" She said with a

sinister look on her face. She chopped off his left leg without anyone noticing and his body fell down as he screamed in immense pain "the offer is not available anymore. None of you will be going back with your limbs intact now. " She said as she turned towards all of them. However before she could do anything else. One of them had already reached Nora and had grabbed her from behind while putting a sword on her throat.

"If you move I'll slit her throat" The person said in a victorious tone. Irene looked at him with a tense expression "you're bluffing" Irene said with a smirk "you think?" He said with a madness in his tone. "Well then let's see"

Irene's expression changed to panic as he slit Nora's throat within a few seconds and

She fell to the ground.

Chapter 14

Author's POV

Irene's eyes widened in shock as she witnessed Nora's body falling down but she recovered quickly and chopped off the remaining 3 people's arms and legs but there was still one person left...the one who killed Nora.

Irene started menacingly moving towards the person who cut Nora. The person picked up his sword and was getting ready to fight but as soon as Irene reached near him her expression changed and she looked up towards the wall behind his back and started smiling warmly. "How was my acting?" She asked Nora and Lucien who were standing on the wall.

"It was acceptable" Lucien said while getting down from the wall as Nora followed him. Kael appeared from the entrance of the alley. "My clone of Brigitte was also perfect by the way" Lucien said being proud of his work and Nora smiled "yeah it was actually".

So what are we doing with him now?" asked Lucien. "Simple tie him up first and then we can torture the answer out of him"

The person who was now lying on ground with his knees started stuttering "wh-what is going on? Y-You....I killed you and I don't know what you're planning but torture won't work on me" The person Said trying to sound confident but it was clear that he was tensed. "You know what we're going to do with him so why bother saying stuff about torture?" Kael said in his same old tone. "Come on it makes things fun when they get scared hearing the word 'torture'." Irene said with a sinister grin. " You know you scare me sometimes Irene" Nora added with an awkward expression on her face.

"Let's get it over with, we don't have all day for this" Kael said. "Here? Right now?" Irene asked with a little surprised tone. "What? You want to take him back at the bar? We don't have time for that" Kael responded while crossing his arms. "But you could teleport us there you know" Irene added with a pleading tone.

"I could but I don't want to right now. It'd cost a lot of energy to teleport so many people at once" Kael said and leaned against the wall waiting for Irene to get started. "Yeah sure, sometimes I wonder why our team even likes him" Irene whispered so only Nora could hear which earned Irene a

giggle in response. "I can hear that you know" Kael said with furrowed brows. "Fine I'll get started" Irene said bent down towards the guy who was now tied in the threads Nora created.

"Whatever you're planning won't wor-" The person stopped his sentence in between and became unconscious where as Irene just looked dazed with open unblinking eyes as if she was not a living being.

Irene's POV

As soon as I entered the soldier's mind I started hearing all sorts of voices and memories which is what always happens as soon as I enter a person's mind but this person seemed rather disturbed. I don't have time to worry about this person's mental state, I just need to get to the memory of him sneaking in our kingdom and figure out who gave him the information about Brigitte and wants her dead. This person's mind was a mess so it was hard pinpointing it myself so I have no other option but to meet this person's consciousness myself.

The one thing I hate about my power is meeting people's consciousness inside their own mind. "What is this place? What is going on?" I heard his consciousness screaming and sighed. I went towards the person to ask him questions but he started attacking me as soon as he saw me.

I dodged all the attacks with a bored expression. These people are all the same. "You know you can't really hurt me here, I'm just a figment of my consciousness so all this is pointless" I said while dodging the attacks with a bored expression. I sighed and said "Enough" And bound that person's consciousness with a rope.

Well he can break free any moment he wants since it's his mind but he doesn't know that and he never will. "Now start talking or I'll make you go through your worst nightmares and memories again and again until you lose your mind" I threatened the person with a scary tone which must have worked because he seemed a lot scared than before now. "Who gave you the information about our kingdom and who told you to kill Brigitte? " I asked with an assertive and angry tone which didn't seem to work because he stayed silent. "Fine let's do it the hard way then. Let me check your worst memory, we're gonna relive that again and again and again until you're ready to spill" I said while looking through his multiple memories. "No, No please I.... will tell you" He said in fear and panic. I looked at him and gave him an expression of go on.

"It was a week ago, I was told that the war will be declared from our side but it was actually someone from your kingdom who demanded that we declare war on you people. I don't exactly know who it was but it seemed someone in his 20s. He said that he guarantees that we will win your throne and he will provide all the information we need regarding the attacks and plans" He started talking and as I was listening I got bored a little.

"And why did he ask you to kill Brigitte?" I asked again with a threatening tone. "I don't know we were just told that if we kill her we will be given more information to infiltrate your kingdom" Sounds reasonable that the person wouldn't reveal themselves to the soldiers so easily but at least we know that the person is in his 20s wait- "you said the person sounded like they were in their 20s so does that mean they met you under some disguise? If so you must have noticed some other things

about their appearance isn't that right?" I said looking at him suspiciously but when no response came I kicked him in the stomach.

Even though he couldn't feel the pain, I made his mind think he could. "He-he was wearing a badge. It has your kingdom's royal symbol so I think it might be someone from the royal family and considering the level of information they gave it must have been someone in high position" He said and I wasn't surprised at all.

These things are pretty normal in wars. If anything I was bored about how cliché all this was turning out to be. "Do you remember anything else?" I asked the person again but they didn't say anything after that and I could tell they weren't lying anymore and since I was inside their brain so I thought it was time to wrap it up. "Also one more thing....." I looked at the person to hear what they had to say.

Author's POV

As Irene came back to her senses, the person tied up also regained their consciousness. Everyone gathered around them expecting an explanation or answers about what happened. "So did you get anything?" Nora was the first one to ask and everyone looked at Irene expecting an answer. "Well I'm afraid it was nothing much. I just found out that it was a royal family member most likely someone in high position based on how detailed their knowledge was."

"I couldn't figure out who exactly because when they met these people they were disguised. The Only clue we have is

that the person is most likely to be in their 20s" Irene explained and Nora seemed to be in deep thinking.

"Does it sound like someone you know?" Kael asked "I do but it all seems too suspicious, too easy and too perfect for it to be that person" Nora replied while rubbing her chin with her hand.

"Why? who do you think it is?" Lucien asked not having a clue.

"My brother Elias" Nora said shocking Lucien.

"Your brother?" Lucien asked flabbergasted

"Well Brigitte's brother to be exact but it's not him. Someone from the royal family would be too careful to carry around a badge with royal symbol but that person was not only carrying it around but he also showed the soldiers the badge despite there being risk of the soldiers getting caught" Nora said still in deep thought

"So that means...." Irene said looking at Nora in a suggestive way.

"Someone is trying to frame Elias for treason and trying to kill me"

Lucien's eyes widened again. "Really?"

"Man this couldn't get any more Cliche" Irene said in a bored tone.

"So what you planning to do?" Asked Kael.

"Nothing"

Chapter 15

Nora's POV

"What do you mean nothing?" Asked Lucien.

"Frankly, Saving my brother from the treason accusations is last thing on my mind when enemy soliders are out there to get my head" Nora said with full honesty and to her surprise not a single one them looked like they were judging her for it.

"So what do you plan to do from now on?" Kael asked.

"Firstly I want Lucien to spread around 5-6 of Clones of me if that's fine with you Lucien" Nora said looking at Lucien. "yeah of course that's a piece of cake"

"Why? What exactly are you planning?" Asked Irene. Nora's lips formed a smirk. "I want my clones to gather some of the soldiers in one place and then we can rewire their brains into working for us and send them back. Once they're back to their own base, we'll tell them to find out who exactly that person is and report to us. I suppose you can do that Irene?" She turned towards Irene.

"Yeah but it'd take a lot of time and energy, how many soldiers are we talking about here?" Irene asked hesitantly. Nora smiled at her reassuringly "don't worry you don't have stress yourself too much for this, how many soldier's minds can you rewire without stressing yourself too much?" Nora asked making sure to give her a reassuring smile again. "50? I can do 50 in a day" Nora's eyes widened at the number. "Woah that's a lot, I was simply hoping for 10-20 soldiers" Nora said. "That's a piece of cake then" Irene responded proudly

"So Lucien..." She looked at Lucien and he understood what he had to do and immediately started working on making Brigitte's clones. He made total 8 of those. "Will these do?" He asked looking at Brigitte. "Yeah definitely" The clones seemed to know what to do and immediately spread out through the town.

"What are we doing with these people though?" Lucien asked looking at people who's limbs were torn off and the guy who's mind Irene infiltrated. "Oh they're still here?" Nora said as if she completely forgot they existed. "Irene can you?" Nora didn't even finish her sentence and Irene understood and got to work.

After she was done erasing the soldier's memories of the past hour, Kael teleported them all to somewhere. "Where did you send them?" Lucien asked. "I don't know, just out of this kingdom perhaps" Kael said casually and Lucien let out a snort. "What do you mean perhaps?" Irene asked again and Kael looked like he was starting to get annoyed.. "I sent them in a volcano" He stated flatly and everyone was too stunned to speak.

"KAEL" Everyone Shouted altogether which seemed to have made him flinch a little. "I'm joking, I sent them to this kingdom's prison. You're a princess aren't you? You can confirm later whether I'm telling the truth or not" He said looking towards Nora with an indifferent expression. Everyone let out a sigh of relief. "That was not a good joke" Irene said. "Cut him some slack, he's trying his best to be funny with his stoic self" Nora added while taunting him which got her a glare from Kael.

"Now we wait for them to bring the soldiers here and while we do that. I want to ask do any of you have abilities to make some tasty food apoeear out of thin air?" Nora said and all three of them looked at her like she had grown horns. "I'm joking, unless it's possible?" Nora said awkwardly. "We wish we had those abilities but unfortunately we don't" Irene said chuckling.

"While we wait I want to talk about something important" Kael said making all three of them look at him. "What is it?" Irene said urging him to go on.

"I need to visit a different universe tonight" Kael said making all three of them snap their head at him "What? You mean-"

Nora started talking but couldn't continue. "Nora I need you to come with me to that particular universe." Nora pointed a finger towards herself. " Me?"

"we need to leave by tonight, we can't waste anytime" He said causing Nora to grunt.

"But what about the plan here? " Nora asked but it was Irene who responded. "Don't worry, me, Lucien and Eugene will make sure the plan runs smoothly" Irene said reassuring Nora. Even though Lucien and Irene were curious themselves but hid their curiosity for now because Kael did not seem to be in mood to provide further details and since Nora was going with him. She would probably tell them everything that happened after she came back.

"So what are we going to do there and where exactly are we going? Could you tell me so I know what to expect?" Nora asked expecting him to do a further explanation but the only response she got was "you'll find out once we reach there" making her frown. Nora wanted to say more but knowing him she knew nothing good would come out of it.

"Actually we can leave immediately if Irene and Lucien can take care of the rest from here on" Kael said looking at Irene and Lucien. Both of them looked at each other then nodded towards him. "But will we change bodies again?" asked Nora

"We would, it's time for you to learn how to shift to a different universe on command" Kael said like it was the most normal thing ever. "Hold on we are going too fast, so I have to go to a different timeline with you and I also have to learn to shift to different universe immediately?" She asked slowly processing everything.

Kael nodded. "we don't have time, let's get to it" Kael said taking a meditative pose and gestured her to do the same. She blinked and looked at him unbelievably for a few seconds but followed his commands in the end. As soon as he felt her sitting next to him he started talking.

"Remember the void?" He said and her instant reaction was to jerk back while making a protective stance. "You're NOT stabbing me again just for me to get back to the void" She said shouting. "I'm not going to stab you just imagine being in the void and think of the universe you have to visit" She looked at him suspiciously and saw his sword was a few feet away from him so she took the meditative position again. She did exactly as he said. "But I don't know which universe we are going to" She said making him look at her as if he just realized that.

He suddenly held both of her hands startling her and closed his eyes. Before she could ask what he was doing her mind started getting filled with some visuals and images of a place. "That's the universe we are going to" He said while the images of the place kept pouring into Nora's mind.

She hummed in response as she was busy memorizing as much details as possible. When they were done he released her hands. "Now what?" She asked and Kael gave a look to Irene and Lucien to which they nodded but Nora hadn't noticed this little exchange. "Remember the place and think of it there while fully being focused" He said but she hadn't processed it completely yet and asked "think of it where?" She was about to turn to look at him until she was stabbed again.

This time from behind but she wasn't the only one who got stabbed, Kael was stabbed along with her. She looked up to see who it was and was surprised to see Lucien. It was Lucien who stabbed Kael. She didn't even need to turn around to see who it was that stabbed her. She knew it must have been Irene but she still turned around to see the look on Irene's face and what she found were eyes full of sympathy, guilt and regret.

Irene gave her a sad smile and said "sometimes things like this are necessary. I'm so sorry Nora. I'll let you stab me next time to make it even" She said with a sad smile. Nora didn't even bother trying to feel betrayed. She understood by now that working with these people required continuous stabbing. She closed her eyes and lost her consciousness.

Several minutes later Nora regained her consciousness in a different body again. It was of a ginger haired girl this time. That's all she could see about her appearance since she was in a random place. This universe was extremely different from the one they were just in a few moments ago. It seemed futuristic and there were flying cars and objects all around but it wasn't normal technology. The technology in this universe was all based on nature and instead of harming nature it protected it and still became of use to people here. She wasn't much surprised since such things were normal for her but she had to admit it was quite unique from all the universes she had been to so far.

After analysing her surroundings for a few minutes she started looking for Kael but her search didn't last long as Kael himself appeared in front of her just a few moments later. He had his

usual appearance since he knew how to maintain the same appearance in every universe.

"So what is this universe and what are we doing here?"

"This is the universe that I shifted to for the first time ever"
Kael responded calmly and she turned to look at him in disbelief since she didn't see that coming.

"And what are we doing here?" However the response she got wasn't what she was expecting.

"We're here to end the person who runs this place"

Chapter 16

Nora's POV

"Person who runs this place?" I asked him in disbelief.

"Yeah" He said examining the place as we started walking towards a more secluded area.

"What is he? Some sort of dictator or something?" I asked while looking around and admiring the view. The place was ethereal and had a different kind of allure to it, specially with the technology.

The technology seemed like it's all nature based somehow. I couldn't really understand it. "You do know that as a person who's only ever been in one kingdom, this whole place is too

much to handle for me?" I heard Brigitte's voice inside my head but I have no time for her right now. Whatever we're here to do is much more important.

"Worse, He thinks he's some sort of God" Kael said furrowing his brows and closing his eyes as if he's thinking of something, maybe trying to remember the things from the last time he was here.

"Yeah that's how dictators usually feel but anyway..... what exactly is he doing wrong and how exactly are we supposed to stop him?" I asked.

"So you guys finally made it huh?" I turned to see some guy with blue hair pop out of a blue portal. His clothing looked appropriate according to this world but what's more shocking to me is the portal. "Alright now who is he?" I asked Kael moving closer towards him since I didn't trust the new guy yet. "I'm the one who called Kael here but who are you?" The guy turned towards me with the same suspicious look I held for him. "I'm Nora and I'm with him for some reason" I said disinterested and Kael looked at me with a weird expression.

"That doesn't really answer my questions but anyway I'm Luke, Kael's old friend from this universe" He said smiling and took out his hand for me to shake which I didn't because Kael's friend or not, I didn't trust this guy yet. "God, have some faith in people, some people are genuinely nice you know" Brigitte said inside my head and I rolled my eyes.

"We are not friends and we don't have time for chit chat. let's get out of here first then we can discuss further" Kael said looking at Luke with that usual expression of his. Luke

actually seemed kind of hurt with Kael's response but recovered his demeanor quickly.

"Right! you were always like this, getting straight to business. Very well" He said and snapped fingers then one of those flying cars I saw few minutes ago appeared in front of us. Looking at it upclose it looked more like a mini car which could only include one person.

The door opened and Luke gestured us to get in but how are we all going to fit in there? "Is this like that flying carpet thing which I read about in books?" Brigitte asked and I ignored her. Kael got in without any questions and Luke was now waiting for me to get in. Despite having questions in my head about how we'd all fit in there, I got in and thank god I didn't ask the question because as soon as I got in I noticed the inside space was much bigger than what it appeared on the outside, it looked like the inside of a limo.

I would've looked so stupid if I asked that question at that time.

I took my seat and Luke got in after me. As soon as he sat I could feel that the car started moving or more like fly.

I looked outside the window in awe. The huge skyscrapers surrounded by nature and cars flying everywhere, it was a beautiful sight and I couldn't take my eyes off. "We're not here for a sight seeing" Kael said bringing me out of my daydream and a I immediately rolled my eyes. "You're no fun"

Luke just looked at me and gave a gentle smile. He was good looking and has amazing features. He could be a game character with his blue hair and perfect side profile. "He has crossed all the lines" Luke says in a serious tone and I could

feel the rage in his voice as he talked about the person. "When has he ever not?" Kael said looking like he was in deep thought "okay just so you two know, there is also someone here who doesn't know whatever is going on here so I'd like some explanation please."

Luke looked at me curiously "You didn't tell her anything at all?" Luke asked Kael and his response was "we didn't have time, we were also dealing with some things there" Luke sighed and shook his head lightly "I should've expected that from you" Kael didn't say anything to Luke's remark. "Miss..... Nora was it?" Luke asked me and I nodded. "So Nora, before telling you anything I'd like to ask you what do you think of this world and what have you observed so far?" I was startled by that question since I did not expect that but responded quickly and took another look outside the window.

"This world is beautiful and the technology seems extremely advanced. It looks like the technology somehow works along with nature to provide the best outcome for humans and from what little I observed on the street few minutes ago, all humans seemed way too civilised and I didn't see anything wrong here from the little time I spent so far. Which is extremely rare to find even in the multiple timelines and universes that I have been through" I said and Luke smiled while drinking his tea. "Hey where did he get that tea from? It wasn't here until a few moments ago" I ignored Brigitte again.

"You're right Ms. Nora, everything works on natural technology here and we don't harm the environment to be more advanced, that is one of the main reasons we have developed so much in a short amount of time" Luke said looking outside the window. "Is that all Ms. Nora?" I didn't say

anything for a few moments and saw Luke and Kael exchange a glance as if they are testing something. "However..." I added and saw Kael smirk just a little. "this is all just a facade isn't it?" I looked at Luke with a smirk "what do you mean?" Luke feigned ignorance on purpose, he was waiting for me to give an explanation and see if I could figure it out. He was basically testing me and Kael was in on it, that was the only way I could explain that little exchange between them earlier.

"This place has nature and technology working together while there are no disputes between humans at all. The last point itself is suspicious and gives everything away because no matter how much a civilization grows, how much technological advancement humans achieve, one thing that can never change is the human nature. The human nature and instincts to cause destruction, trouble and disputes. Isn't that true Mr. Luke? " I said looking at him "what are you implying?" He still didn't want to stop testing me and wanted me to say it myself.

"That a world like this one can not exist unless the people here are being controlled and have their free will taken away completely, and this nature friendly technology isn't in-fact nature friendly" I finished my telling them what I thought of this place. Luke seemed impressed whereas Kael only had a small smirk on his face.

"I see why Kael brought you with him" Luke said with a satisfactory smile and took another sip of his tea. "So what do you exactly plan to do?" I asked looking at both of them hoping that any one of them would respond but none of them said anything for a few moments.

"We want to help people gain control of themselves back, to have free will again" Luke responded finally. "Yeah I figured that much but is it really something so hard that you had to call Kael from a far away universe?" I asked and I don't know if it sounded rude but I didn't care at that point. "Nora....it isn't just about getting the people their freewill back.... It's not that simple" Luke said make me more curious. "So what exactly is the issue? You have to defeat that dictator or whoever is controlling this place and people would be free. It's just that simple unless I'm missing something" I said looking at both of them suspiciously.

"Defeating the person who rules this place wouldn't be a big problem but the thing is....." Luke said looking at the tallest building outside the window. It seemed like we were moving towards that exact building but we were still very far from it. "What?" I said getting impatient.

"He is our Master" Luke said making my eyes go wide.

"was our Master" Kael added or more like corrected him.

"The person who rules this world was your Master?" I asked just for confirmation.

"Yes" Both of them said at the same time.

"But how can you guys kill your own Master? Wouldn't he outsmart you and would have an emotional advantage over you?" I asked looking at both of them.

"You're right" Luke said with that gentle smile of his again

"That's why we won't do it" Luke said looking at his cup of tea and putting it aside.

"You will"

Chapter 17

Author's POV

She stares at both of them for a few seconds processing what they just said and forms a small smile. "So that's why I'm here" She says to herself but Kael hears her and nods In response.

"But it's hard to believe that you can't beat your master of the first ever timeline you shifted to. You've been shifting unviwerses for over 500 years, I'm sure you could easily take him out. So what's the issue?" She asks making both Luke and Kael still for a few seconds.

Luke looks out the window towards the tallest building of the city with sad eyes. "Because we are bound by a vow to protect

him with our lives" Luke says clearing Nora's doubts. "You can't break a vow you took 500 years ago?" She looks at Kael in disbelief. "It's not just a normal vow. Here in this world when we make a vow we bet our soul on it. If we break it, our souls would be compromised as a result" Nora processes what Luke said and she looks at Kael again.

"Okay so why did you choose me for this mission? I'm pretty sure Irene and others would've been much more helpful and more than willing to do this for you" She asked and his only response was "too many questions" She made a 'huh' face. "You ask too many questions, we're here, let's get out first" She turned towards the window and saw that they have infact landed on a building but it's not the tallest one where the ruler of this place lives but a smaller one next to it.

They all got out of the car and she started following both of them inside. The system of this place was completely automatic just like anyone would expect an advanced place to be like. A blue ray from the door scanned Luke from head to toe once it was done the door opened a few moments later.

Both of them followed Luke inside. There was a long hallway with a lot of doors on both sides. Nora was just looking around taking in everything although there wasn't much to take in. It was a plain hallway with walls and a lot of doors. after walking for a while Luke finally stopped at a door and all three of them went inside.

The room was pretty spacious but the white walls gave a weird vibe to the room as if it was some sort of mental asylum or a scientist's lab except this room had a bed in middle of it and a person was lying down on that bed, they weren't asleep.

The person seemed to be reading a book and had taken notice of the presence of other three people in the room. They got up and sat on the side of the bed. As Nora got closer she realised it was a woman with long White hair and paper white skin with hazel blue eyes and white eyebrows. She looked beautiful except for the fact that she seemed like she hasn't slept in days and looked a little malnourished.

She was gazing towards Luke and as soon as her eyes landed on the other two people, she instantly became wary of them. "Who are these people?" She asked while Luke sounding cautious. "Don't worry they're my friends. We can trust them or I wouldn't have brought them here" Luke said trying to reassure her.

Luke turned towards Kael and Nora "This is Cecelia, she's been hiding from our Master for months now" He says and Nora takes another look at Cecelia "I'm not sure if living right next to your Master's residence could be considered hiding" Nora added sarcastically but Luke took it seriously and started explaining.

"Well, This building belongs to me and I'm Master's right hand man so he trusts me a lot" Luke says casually and Nora nodded but something still felt off about this whole thing to her. "Why is she hiding?" It was Kael who asked the question this time "I made a serum" Cecilia herself started talking this time making all three of them look at her.

"A serum that could kill him" She said shocking Kael and Nora. "Doesn't that just make everything easier for you guys?" Nora asked and Cecilia made a frustrated expression and continued.

"If only it was that simple, I was developing the Serum without his knowledge. I studied him and his abilities for months, started working on the serum in secret but when it was almost done someone informed him about it and he destroyed it. Needless to say he was extremely furious at me and wanted me dead. I tried escaping and was sure I'll be caught and killed but Luke found me and hid me here" Kael and Nora listened to her intently taking in every detail. "you don't have the serum anymore so in that case you need to make it again right?" Nora asked and Cecelia nodded in response.

"I have collected the resources to make the serum except only one thing is missing and if we get it the serum would be complete" Luke said grabbing their attention again. "What are you missing?" Kael asked "A memory of someone whom our master considers dearest to him" Luke said while looking at Kael and Kael made a frustrated expression as if he wanted get out of there.

"If that's why you've brought me here then I'm afraid you've got the wrong person" Kael said with furrowed brows "you were his favorite" Luke added which seemed to make Kael more frustrated "I have no time for this, let's get back Nora" He said while grabbing Nora's hand "you can't leave this building without my permission and come on he treated you like his own son" That seemed to have earned Luke a punch from Kael which resulted in Luke landing on the floor "No one treats their own son like that" Kael said in a low dangerous tone.

Nora and Cecelia were too stunned to say anything. Kael started walking towards the exit of room and no one made an attempt to stop him.

"He's destroying this planet" Cecelia said making Kael stop in his tracks. He's WHAT?" Nora said not hiding the surprise in her tone. "This place may seem like it's eco-friendly or in sync with nature but the truth is he's using this planet's core to power everything. All the eco-friendly technology and harmless robots and buildings and everything else, it's all powered by this planet's core. He somehow found a way to use it and at first it seemed like a good idea but slowly we started realising that it was actually killing the Planet bit by bit. We told him to stop and that we could find another way but he refused saying this is the fastest way to achieve everything humans can possibly achieve on this planet. If we don't stop him everyone here will die soon. We only have a few years till the planet gives up on us" Kael and Nora listened to her and processed everything she said.

Kael didn't say anything for a while but turned around and started walking towards them again. "What do you need me to do?" Kael said while looking at Cecelia and she smiled in relief. "Just a few drops of your memories with him would do" She said while wiping some of the tears that fell from her eyes while explaining everything.

"That's fine but I'm not sure if it would work" Kael said implying the issue about someone being dearest to the Master. "Thanks Brother and it'll work, I know it will" Luke said while rubbing his cheek which was punched by Kael a few moments ago. "I'm not your brother, we're friends" Kael said correcting Luke.

"Oh so now you admit we're friends?" Luke said playfully teasing Kael only to make Kael raise his fist again in response "let me make it even for the other side of your face too" Kael said moving towards Luke who was now hiding behind Nora "hey don't get me involved in this, I've already been stabbed enough by this guy, I don't need a punch as well" Nora said trying get Luke away from her "stabbed? What kind of things are you guys into? I didn't know Kael had such kinks" Luke said now making both Kael and Nora mad. "Hey what the actual hell are you thinking?" Nora said landing a punch on Luke's other side of face. "Maybe it was infact a mistake calling Kael here" Luke said rubbing his other side of face.

During this commotion Cecelia got up from the bed and opened a drawer which was built in the bed. She took out a syringe but it didn't seem like an ordinary syringe, it looked like it was specifically desinged for something . Cecelia went up to Kael and asked him to sit on the bed and since Nora had already punched Luke, Kael was satisfied enough so he did what Cecelia asked.

"Now close your eyes and think of your fondest memory you have with Master" Cecelia said and Kael furrowed his brows "oh boy this is going to be hard" Luke murmered making Nora look at him. Nora walked towards Luke helping him get up "how exactly was their relationship? You say Kael was dearest to him whereas Kael seems to hate his guts" Nora asks Luke hoping for some backstory.

"It's a long story, let's just say the father and son did not get along at all" Luke said not giving any helpful information. Nora turned towards Kael and noticed Cecelia put the syringe near Kael's head while it was sucking out some glowing yellow

fuil out of his brain. "That's his memories" Luke said making Nora look at him again "that syringe is for taking out people's memories, it doesn't wipe the memories from the person's brain though, it only creates a copy of it" Luke said "so basically that yellow thread simply copies the memories" Nora said in a more simple term making Luke chuckle "yeah exactly that"

Cecelia carefully stored the memory back into her drawer again. "So let me get this straight, our plan is that Cecelia makes the serum and I somehow inject it into your master's body and end him?" Nora asked making everyone look at her "yeah exactly that" Luke said casually as if it was the easiest thing in the world. "What's to stop me from getting killed by your psycho master?" She asked while putting her hands on her chin "Nothing. That's why you'll summon more of your powers from other universes that you have been in and this time more useful ones" Kael said "oh please not the stabbing again" Nora said groaning in annoyance. "You don't have to get stabbed here. We have a drug that can get you between life and death condition extremely easily" Luke said which made Nora let out a sigh of relief.

"Wait so you did know what I meant by stabbing and yet you made that stupid remark about kinks?" Nora said in a pissed off tone which made Luke step away from her a little "I was just making a joke. No need to be so serious about a joke right?" Luke said moving further away from Nora. "And besides-" Before he could finish what he was saying Nora kicked one of his legs 'lightly' "make sure not to make such jokes again" Nora said smiling at Luke. "Now get me the drug so I can get this over with"

"About that..... " Luke said hesitatingly.

"Gosh what now?" Nora asked in annoyance.

"It's in the main building where our Master lives" Luke said looking at Kael.

"So? You're his right hand man, I'm sure you can get in easily. What's the issue? " Nora asked wondering what the problem is.

"He's actually banned him from the building for a few days" Cecelia said saving Luke from further explanation.

"What did you do?" It was Kael who asked Luke this time

Luke's ears were turning a little red and he seemed to be embarrassed about something.

"He got caught making out with a girl and master was mad at him for disgracing his teachings" Cecelia said casually which made Luke even more embarrassed "that's so stupid. What are you? a high school teenager getting caught while making out and being expelled" Nora said in a mocking tone. "In my defense, I rejected that girl but she herself went in and kissed me regardless of my rejection and I was trying to get her off of me when Master came in and saw me"

Kael just seemed annoyed by the stupid reason and got straight to the point "so how do we get in now?"

"I have an idea" Nora said making all three of them look at her again

"We walk in through the door"

Chapter 18

Kael

My existence was a mistake

Chapter 19

Nora

As I say that we can walk in from the front door, all of them look at me like I've grown horns. "To be fair it does sound stupid when you say it like that" Brigitte's comments did not help.

"What I mean is your Master values Kael in his own way so we can pretend that Kael is simply visiting this place after a long time because he needs help with something since we all know Kael, he wouldn't visit for any other reason and once we're in, we can execute our plan and I'm pretty sure if Kael is as valuable to him as you say, he'd let you get in as well" I say looking towards Luke who did not seem convinced.

"Your plan is good but there's just this one issue" Luke says. "What is it?" I ask. "Kael wouldn't do it" Luke says looking towards Kael for confirmation and Kael's silence gives him the answer and that just seemed to infuriate me "Really? You're being all emotional now of all times? Come on, it's been 500 years, there are lives at stake here" I say looking at Kael. He grit his teeth in response and got up to leave the room.

Before I could say anything further I felt Cecilia's hand on my shoulder indicating that I should stop saying anything further. She also gestured towards Luke who was following Kael without any hesitation. Perhaps it'd be best that he takes care of it and convinces Kael to see their psycho master.

"I understand that you mean well for the people here and you are specifically brought here to help us, also that you are angry at Kael for being so stubborn over this but it would be better if you have some patience with him. He'll come around, it'll take time for him to be able to face our Master again" Cecelia said trying to make me understand that I needed to be patient with Kael which isn't new information. I've already learned that in the brief time that I've known him.

"Weren't 500 years enough?" I was about to say that out loud but Brigitte stopped me. "Are you sure you wanna cross that line? Yes Kael is being stubborn but you don't know what happened when he was here and saying things like that without even knowing the full story kind of makes you look like a horrible person which I'm sure you don't mind being seen as but now you have decided to be Kael's comrade so act like one" This was the first time Brigitte's advice was actually helpful and as much as I want to get this all over with, I know Brigitte is right.

I let out a sigh in defeat "fine, I understand" Cecelia looks at me with a smile. "So would you be willing to tell me what happened between Kael and his master?" I asked Cecelia.

Cecelia seemed hesitant for a moment but sighed and continued. "When Kael first came here he looked different and this world was also different. It wasn't this developed and Kael was about 7-8 year old " Cecelia said and I knew what she meant by "looked different" Kael must have been in some little kid's body.

"And it wasn't just the body he possessed that was 7-8 years old, he was actually around 7-8 years" Now I didn't expect that for sure. I did not think of that possibility at all. "He was a sweet child, he didn't realise what was happening to him but our Master knew immediately. He decided to take Kael in as his own son and Luke was around same age when he decided to become Master's disciple. I never talked to them and only admired them from afar."

Cecelia continued as I listened intently. "Master was harsh with his trainings of swordsmanship and other combat techniques but as we grew, he became more and more relentless and harsh with both Kael and Luke. Kael often used to think it was because Master never thought of him as his actual son. Of course that wasn't the case but nothing would convince Kael of that." Cecelia said with a sad smile as if remembering old days.

"Things went on like that for years but everything changed one day. The day Master went to search for a medicinal plant that could heal his illness. Yes, he had gotten ill but being the stubborn person he was, he didn't tell anyone and went to

look for medicine himself. He told Kael to never let anyone inside his home no matter what or who so Kael being Kael he obliged and when master came back he found two dead bodies." Now that made me gasp and let out a sound of "huh" I Immediately covered my mouth. "Who were they?" I asked looking at Cecelia waiting for the answer but we were interrupted by Luke saying "he finally agreed guys" Luke said but he had a bruised eye which I don't know.....is sort funny but now is not the time.

"I thought it was going to take forever" Cecelia said with a sigh of relief. "So we have no time to waste, let's get going" Luke said and I looked at Cecelia who was preparing to get back to her bed. "Aren't you coming with us?" I turned around and asked Cecelia. "He can excuse Luke but not me" She said with a sad smile and how stupid of me to forget that she tried to kill him so of course he wouldn't welcome her. I gave her a smile and nodded.

"So our plan is to get inside the building, acquire that drug and I summon another one of my abilities and then we attack him?" I said summarizing our plan. "Yes exactly. I just hope it goes as smooth as it sounds" Luke sighed.

We were out of Luke's place and were just moving towards the main building of their Master until someone stopped us in our tracks. "You aren't allowed to enter this place" One of the guards said to Luke and Luke seemed irritated "well you can tell our Master that I've brought Kael with me. I'm sure he'd change his mind." Luke said trying not to sound irritated by the guard.

Kael on the other hand hasn't said anything so far and just seems lost in his own world. I wouldn't have been surprised if he was second guessing everything. The guard seemed reluctant on disturbing their Master over Luke and Luke seemed to be getting more and more irritated every moment.

"What is all this commotion about?"

We suddenly heard a deep chilling voice as the door opened and a Man surrounded by multiple guards appeared. He seemed tall with brown hair and some greyish strands in between his hair. He seemed to be around 50 but he seemed much healthier and younger for someone who was in his 50s or nearing 50s. Anyone could get scared by taking one look at him.

"Master" Luke immediately bowed down to him by putting one of his hands on his chest and so did Kael....hesitantly. I realised I'm the only one who hasn't done that yet so I followed their actions.

So this is the man they've brought me here to kill.

Chapter 20

Author

"Leave" was all their Master said before turning his back to them leaving the rest of them astonished.

"But Master.... " Luke attempted going after him but was stopped by the guards. "Hey come on let me in. I have brought Kael with me" Luke said screaming on top of his lungs and that made their Master stop in the tracks. After a few moments their Master finally responded. "Let them in" The master said in a cold voice and the guards moved out of the way immediately.

Nora raised a brow in amusement and followed them all in while holding back the questions she had.

"So what are we about to do?" Nora finally asked whispering to Luke after holding back for a while. "Just let them meet first" Luke said whispering back whereas Kael just seemed irritated by everything. They all entered an elevator and calmly followed their Master.

"You can not kill me"

The Master said in a matter of fact tone startling everyone. "M-Master why would you think-" Luke started talking but was cut off by their Master.

"Do you think I'm a fool?" The Master said looking straight ahead while his hands were clasped behind. "N-No Sir" Luke said and Nora couldn't help but shake her head in disappointment. "I'm only here because Luke said he needed help" Kael said in his neutral tone. The Master hmphed at that. "So this is your original form? Quite different from what you used to look like when you were here" The Master said side eyeing Kael but Kael didn't respond to anything.

The elevator opened and the Master went out first followed by the others. "Is this where the Master spends most of his time?" Nora thought to herself and her question was surprisingly answered by Luke immediately as if he heard her inner thoughts. "This is where Master stays at most of the time" Nora took the whole place in. The big hall, The high pillars and ceilings, the view of the whole city outside from the big glass windows. They were at the top floor of the building and the hall was ginormous.

"So what plan do you have to kill me? Let's hear it" The Master said finally turning towards them. "Master that's not-" Luke started saying but got cut off by Kael "There is no point in lying to him" Nora nodded in response. "We are simply here to talk to you for now" Nora said taking an initiative. "For now?" Master said sparing her a glance. "So you do plan to kill me later" No one said anything at that. "Your choice of women never ceases to amaze me Kael" Master said with a smirk. Nora rolls her eyes and just gave up on trying to correct him.

"So what do you want to talk about young lady?" Master said finally giving Nora some attention. "First of all I'm 182 years old and second of all we are just here for the drug that can get people in between life and death state" Nora said leaving Luke and Kael both dumbfounded.

"Hey that was our secret plan, why are you-" Luke started whispering to her but she ignored him. "What would you need that for?" The Master said sounding genuinely amused. "I need it so I can summon more of my powers from multiple universes that I have been in" She said leaving Luke's jaw dropped. "Has she gone crazy? Are you sure you didn't just bring a nutjob with you?" Luke said to Kael who seemed just as confused because this definitely was not in the plan but for some reason Kael trusted her so he let her continue.

"Young lady do you think I'm an idiot to let you have access to that drug so you can kill me with your abilities?" The Master said in an amused tone as if he wasn't sure whether she was brave or just plain stupid. "Well I am not here to kill you. I am here to challenge you to a duel " Luke was pulling out his hair at this point. "What an idiot have you brought here with you" Luke said to Kael in a panicked tone.

"And I want to be at my full strength while I fight you. I mean the fight should be fair. Don't you think so Master?" She said bowing down dramatically and suddenly everyone heard a loud laugh in the hall. It was the Master. The Master was laughing.

"I like this one Kael, Keep her" The Master said in between his laughs "that is... If her soul returns alive from here" He said while his expression turned extremely dark within a moment. "A duel is what you want so a duel is what you'll get" The Master said in a nonchalant tone making Kael and Luke gasp in disbelief, knowing their master they completely thought that he wouldn't accept the challenge so they were not worried but their Master accepting the challenge meant trouble for them because yes they were planning to deal with him later but with a different plan and different strategy, not a duel and that as well in front of everyone.

"Great. So If I win, you let all the people here go and give them their free will back and also stop using this planet's core" Nora said earning another laugh from the Master "This is a really funny one Kael. I suggest you marry this one" The master said in between his laughs again "if she survives ofcourse" His tone suddenly turning dark again. Nora grit her teeth at the joke but she let it slide.

"Now tell me young lady what will I get if I win. The people of this planet and using the core doesn't count because they're already mine." He said looking outside the huge glass window.

"Kael" Nora said making Kael and Luke choke on air.

"You get to keep Kael here with you"

"What the hell are you talking about?" Kael suddenly appeared behind her looking the creepiest she has ever seen him. She slowly backed down "so do you accept master?" She asked looking at him. "I do" Master said with amusement. "Luke I suppose you know where the drug is?" Master asked still looking outside the window. "Yes" Luke said in a much collected tone this time. "Great, get this lady that drug and you have one week to prepare" was the last thing Master said before dismissing them.

As soon as they left the hall Kael has Nora cornered and she could feel the rage from him. "WHAT. THE. HELL. HAVE. YOU. DONE?" She could tell by his tone that he was more than furious. He wanted to kill her himself.

"Hey I know what I did was wrong but it was just a bait to get him agree to the duel. Even if we lose you can't stay here that's for sure. Me and others will get you out no matter what and have some faith in me for godsake. I will not lose easily." She says trying to convince him but that didn't seem to have worked at all.

He punched a wall next to her head which startled her. "Okay maybe I went too far with that one" She thought to herself. "I'm sorry okay I promise I'll do my best to win" She said trying to calm him down but he just removed his fist from next to her head and went ahead without saying anything. "Classic Kael" Luke said looking at Kael leave.

"So Luke, you have to deeply explain every single ability of your master to me so I know exactly what power to summon

when I'm in the void" Nora said to Luke like nothing happened.

Luke looked at her not sure what to make of her anymore after what she pulled inside the hall few moments ago. "Well, he only has one ability" Luke said making Nora snap her head towards him. "Just one that's all?" Nora asked in disbelief.

"Yeah, the rest of it is just techniques, trainings and skills he learned himself for over the years" Luke said while moving towards the lab where the drug was supposed to be. "Okay so what is his one special ability that I need to be worried about?"

"It's kind of.... Complicated" Luke said not sure how to explain his Master's ability. "Complicated how?" Nora asked still in confusion but curiosity rising within her. "He can kill someone by thinking" Luke said making Nora pause within her steps. "Wh-what the hell does that even mean?" Nora asked in pure disbelief.

"It's exactly as it sounds.... He can think things into existence" Luke said and realised Nora has stopped following him for a while. Luke turned around only to find a completely panicked Nora. "Oh my god What the hell have I done. I am so done for" Nora said with hands on her head. "If this was a cartoon Nora's eyes would be bulging out of her sockets" Luke thought to himself and smiled a little "don't worry his ability has a limit" Luke said expecting to calm her down which did work. "What do you mean?"

"He can think things into existence, that's how this world progressed so quickly but he can only use it once a day and he has to do it with extreme focus and when he uses too much of his spiritual energy into focusing on that one thought. He

becomes weak. that's when you'll attack" Luke said explaining his strategy according to his understanding of his Master's power.

"That doesn't sound so bad now" Nora said with a sigh of relief. "But you still have to fight him with the martial arts and all because that would be a lot harder and in that body? You're done for" Luke said looking at her up and down "are you on my side or his?" She said smacking his arm "I'm just saying the truth"

"Are you two going to keep wasting time like this?" Both of them looked up only to find a pissed off Kael looking at them with annoyance which was nothing unusual for either of them. "Oh yeah we're going to the lab to get the drugs. I was just explaining Master's ability to her" Luke said rubbing the back of his head.

"Stop wasting time and let's get going" Kael said and turned around to walk again.

Both of them followed Kael quietly this time.

"You know master was right about one thing" Luke said grabbing Nora's attention. Kael heard him too but didn't give a reaction. "What?" Nora asked and Luke made a mischievous expression in return

"You really should marry her if she gets out of this alive"

.....

.....

Both of them smacked Luke at the same time

Chapter 21

Nora's POV

"You had it coming" I said while being a little irritated and Luke was rubbing his head where me and Kael had smacked him. I know he only meant it as a joke but it still pissed me off.

"You guys are unbelievable" Luke said still rubbing his head. "What's unbelievable is you making such jokes" I said with a hint of irritation in my voice again. "Alright, Alright, I apologize I won't do it again" He said putting his hands in a defensive manner like he was giving up. "Good, now how far is the place where you have stored the drug, we've been walking for a while" I said looking around. Honestly I'm not

too pleased with the idea of being in that 'life-death' State again but it's inevitable.

"There's the elevator, it's on 8th floor, we have to go down" Luke said pressing the buttons for elevator and all three of us went in. Also there is a question that has been bugging me for a while.

"Hey Luke" I called out to him and he looked back immediately after pressing the button to the 8th floor "yes?" he asked with wonder evident on his face "I have a question..... If your master can think things into existence then why doesn't he think of a new way to run this technology without using the earth's core" Luke heard my question and gave me a smile. "You see that's the thing about human imagination, sometimes it's horribly limited. Master has tried before but it didn't work out.. Whatever other ways he could think of did not work for more than a few weeks, others have tried helping with their ideas too but it didn't work either. In the end, this was the conclusion he came to" Luke said and I nodded my head in understanding. The elevator opened after a few minutes and all three of us went out to the hallway.

This floor had a lot of people but none of them seemed to have any awareness of what they were doing and looked..... Robotic? That makes sense since most of people in this world are under control of the Master but I didn't expect for people in the building to be like that too.

Luke kept walking the long hallway as me and Kael kept following him silently until he stopped at one of the doors and entered the password to open it. As went inside, I took in the room and the details. It looked like a lab storage. There

were no people there but it looked like a lot of formulaes and chemicals were stored there. I looked around to see if there's sign of any soul here but no. It was just us which was much better. Luke went further in the lab looking for the drug.

"Do you even have an ability that can help us defeat the Master?" I got startled by Kael's voice. He hasn't spoken directly to me for a while now. I thought he was still mad at me.

"Well I have several abilities in mind but what type of ability do you suggest I should have?" I asked him and he seemed like he went deep in thought. "Something that wouldn't let him think at all, something that can just take away his thinking ability" Kael said while looking like he was deep in thought and suddenly turned to look at me again.

"That's..... actually a brilliant idea but unfortunately I don't have such ability in any of the timelines that I have been in" I said in a defeated tone and I could see he was disappointed but not surprised "of course you don't. Nevermind then" This bi- "hey you shouldn't curse out like that. He's also frustrated by all this and just needs it all to be over with" I heard Brigitte's voice in my head again, she has been quite for a while but unfortunately, she decided to speak again.

"yeah yeah whatever" I said not wanting to argue with Brigitte. "that's why I will curse him out for you. Who does he think he is being disappointed in you as if you aren't here giving him a huge favor. Not to mention he didn't even tell you beforehand that you had to come here with him and he has the audacity to be disappointed in you? Just because he is good looking and a man, he thinks he can order you around huh?

Men never change." I was startled by Brigitte's outburst but it also made me laugh and feel better in some way it was like she said everything I couldn't say and even though no one else heard it. It made me feel much better.

I couldn't say anything out loud to Kael after he reacted like that because Luke came back with the drug and a syringe. "Here we go. It's ready but the question is are you?" Luke asked looking at me with concern.

"Yeah I'll be fine, this body isn't mine anyway" I said which kind of sounded horrible but it was true. Luke smiled and said "I wasn't talking about the body, I was asking whether you are mentally prepared? It requires a lot of mental strength too you know". I almost smiled at his concern.

"Thanks for the concern Luke but I'm fine and I'm glad at least someone cares about that" I said the last part taunting Kael and he just grunted in response.

"I'm glad to hear it" Luke said smiling and gestured us to follow him out of the lab. After walking for a few minutes Luke entered another room and this one was similar to Cecilia's. It was white and a bed was placed in the middle of the room.

"Go ahead" Luke said and I understood. I moved forward and laid down on the bed and controlled my breathing, preparing myself for the drug. "Now it's gonna pinch a little" Luke said before injecting me with the syringe and I nodded in response while closing my eyes. "It'll take 3-4 minutes to kick in and I want you to clear your head during that time. Your Consciousness is getting ready to be detached to your body so I suggest you do not pay any attention to any sensations in

your body right now" Luke said trying to prepare me and I could hear him well for a while but after certain period of time his voice grew blurry and I got dizzier and there came a point I couldn't hear him at all. In the next few seconds I was completely lost into the darkness.

Author's POV

"Do you think she'll be fine" Luke asked Kael. "Yeah, she has done this before so she'll be fine for sure" Kael said without a hint of hesitation. "I hope so too or else it won't be good for either of us. You know what Master does to people who fail to live up to what they promised right? Now he knows that I have betrayed him so if we don't win this both of us would be doomed" Luke said with a serious face.

He seemed to be stressing a lot over this even if he appeared to be playful time to time, he was infact very worried about what has happened and Kael understood him so he hesitantly tried to reassure him.

"It'll be fine. She may seem like she's an idiot but she's smart and powerful in her own ways. She'll figure something out. Have some faith in her" Kael said trying to make Luke feel better which in return earned him a bit of mocking from Luke.

"You would never say that if she was awake right now would you?" Luke said in a taunting way but Kael just turned his head away and took a seat next to her bed. "Then again you've always been like that with all your colleagues, appreciating their help and understanding them but never showing it. You know it wouldn't kill you to let your colleagues know that you

value their help and abilities" Luke said trying to get some sense into Kael about better communication with his colleagues but as always it didn't work.

"How long do you think it's gonna take for her to finally come back to her senses?" Luke asked taking a seat next to Kael. "Last time it took a whole day for her to come back so I'm expecting the same this time around" Kael responded thinking back to the first time when she got her first ability.

He suddenly felt a pinge of guilt remembering how she said "at least someone cares about that" when Luke asked her if she was mentally prepared for it. He admitted to himself it was wrong of him to do that out of the blue but it was also necessary at least that's what he told himself.

"Well then should we get back to Cecelia until she wakes up?" Luke suggested and Kael gave it a thought and nodded. They both got up to leave but Kael turned around to get one last look at Nora before leaving. "It's fine, I'll know when she wakes up. I have wrapped a bracelet around her wrist which will inform me as soon as she's awake" Luke said reassuring Kael.

"You know he probably knows that you're keeping Cecelia in your place" Kael said while walking next to him. "I have suspected that too and if it's true then it's weird and suspicious that he has allowed it to go on for so long" Luke said with a hint of stress in his tone.

"We can never know what he's thinking afterall huh? " Luke said in defeat and Kael didn't say anything to that.

They arrived at Cecilia's room expecting her to be reading the book she was reading the last time but what greeted them wasn't Cecelia reading a book.

It was her in a pool of blood

Chapter 22

Author's POV

Both of them went running towards Cecelia. Luke held her bloody body and checked her nerves. "She's alive" Luke said looking towards Kael in panic "Call the doctors and nurses, I'll be with her until then" Kael said but Luke hesitated for a moment before letting Cecelia go and ran towards the hallway.

"M-Master I'm s-sorry" Cecelia said while she was unconscious making Kael's eyes widen. "Did Master do this?" He asked Cecelia but she just groaned in pain. "You're going to be fine, Luke has called the doctors" Kael said trying to make her feel even a tiny bit better but it didn't work. She opened her eyes

after a few moments "it's okay, it was going to happen sooner or later" She said smiling sadly with her bloody teeth. "No no don't lose hope yet you're going to be fine." Cecelia gestured towards her drawer... "there....there I've written down the process of making that Serum that can kill Master" She said while coughing up blood.

"We have the last ingredient now so anyone can make it by simply following the steps" She said looking towards her drawer.

"Hurry up and save her" Luke opened the door screaming at the doctors and nurses who were hurriedly flooding in the room. "Hurry, we have to move her to the ER" One of the doctors shouted. Kael moved to let the doctors do what they needed to do.

The doctors moved her to the ER in the next few minutes leaving Kael and Luke alone. Kael moved towards the drawer Cecelia gestured to and opened it. He took out the paper and the last ingredient which were his own memories.

The paper did have a step by step guide on how to make that serum. "What is that?" Luke asked looking over that paper. Kael handed it over to him. "Always trying to save the day to the end huh" Luke said in a sad tone looking at that paper. "She'll be fine" Kael said trying to make Luke feel better. "She has to be" Luke said furrowing his brows.

"It was Master's doing wasn't it?" Luke said with gritted teeth and Kael wished he could say otherwise but he couldn't.

"She did mumble something like that while she was almost unconscious" Kael said looking into nowhere. "What did she

say?" Luke asked but Kael didn't want to repeat it because he knew it would make Luke feel even worse.

"I'm not asking, I'm demanding" Luke said with a firm tone this time. "I'm sorry Master" Kael said with a sigh "that's what she was mumbling while she was almost unconscious" Luke gritted his teeth again feeling helpless.

If it was in his control he'd kill the Master right now with his bare hands but he couldn't. He has to be patient and execute their plan perfectly. "It'll be worth it" Luke said to himself trying to control his anger.

"It's okay the doctors will save her" Kael said in an attempt to comfort Luke but the encouragement didn't do anything. "Nora is trying to get her powers and we have the ingredients to make the serum, all we can do now is wait" Kael said more encouraging words despite knowing it doesn't help at all.

Irene's POV

It had been a few days since Kael and Nora went off to their mission which was rather secretive and we knew nothing about.

As for us we sent the soldiers who were rewired to work for us but we have not got anything useful yet. I was at the bar training in the backyard when Lucien suddenly came running to me.

"What happened?" I asked him while he was just catching his breath. "Ursula..." He said still catching his breath. "Who?" I asked although I knew what he was talking about I just needed

to confirm. "It's Ursula's mother who is trying to frame Elias and kill Brigitte" He said leaving me dumbfounded. "Ursula is Brigitte's sister right? Does Ursula know about what her mother is doing? Is she in on it?" I asked to confirm my suspicions.

"No Ursula doesn't know" He said "Or maybe she's good at hiding but we can't be sure yet" Lucien said in a tired tone. "So what's our next move?" Lucien asked but even I didn't know what we should do next.

"I will be honest Lucien, before Kael and Nora left our plan was to find out who wanted Brigitte dead but we didn't discuss what our next step would be. I am rather unsure of what to do now" I said feeling disappointed but he just smiled and said "hey I didn't expect you to have the plan figured out, I just asked because in absence of Kael you're the one who our group looks up to so I asked you instinctively. Even if you don't have a plan yet we can wait for Nora and Kael to come back or we can form a new plan. Whatever you choose we'll support you" That made me smile "thanks that means a lot"

"We have to discuss it with Eugene and the kids as well" I said while trying to think of our next steps. He nodded and suddenly we heard a loud noise as if a lot of people were barging in.

We both immediately went running inside. There were a lot of soldiers from the palace invading the bar "What's going on?" I asked Eugene looking at the mess soldiers were creating.

"They're saying that someone has reported that we are in contact with the enemy soldiers." Eugene said casually "That's... true but we aren't doing any harm to the kingdom

instead we are getting information from them" I said lowering my voice so none of them could hear me except Eugene and Lucien

"Yeah but we don't have proof and they probably won't hear us out" Eugene said calmly "is there any news from Kael and Nora? about how long it'll take for them to come back here?" Eugene asked but seeing mine and Lucien's face he knew what the answer was.

"So what do we do now?" Lucien and Eugene asked at same time. Looking at me for instructions and I suddenly felt heavy. I know they look up to me if Kael is gone but sometimes it gets a little overwhelming like right now.

My decision matters a lot and I'm so unsure of what to- "Irene we trust you and will accept whatever you decide" Lucien said with a reassuring smile. That gave me a little courage so I blurt out the plan I had. "We have three options right now. First is to fight them and become wanted fugitives. Second would be to try to convince them that it wasn't us which they won't believe and throw us in prison based on pure suspicion or third... I use my abilities on them and command them to leave."

I said explaining my options and both Eugene and Lucien smirked and nodded towards each other. "We all know the correct option right?" Both of them looked at me at the same time so I understood what they meant. "Well then leave it to me" I said confidently stepping up. "Where are the kids?" I asked looking around because I didn't see them for a while.

"It's night time at a busy bar so of course I sent them home." Eugene said like it was obvious. "Good" I said and moved

forward towards the soldiers who were wreaking havoc everywhere.

"Attention please" I shouted bringing all the soldier's attention towards me. They all looked at me like I was about to dance or something well of course they'd think that about a girl who is in a bar late night but they're about to be so wrong.

It only took me a few moments to get control of all of their minds and get them out of here while making them firmly believe that we were innocent. "See nice and easy. We can always count on you" Lucien said putting a hand on my shoulder.

"Now another issue is who the hell told them about us?" I said thinking about the possibilities but no one came to mind. "Some locals must have seen us" Lucien said casually and it does make sense but what if it's someone who knows our real identities? That could be troublesome but I'm hoping that's not the case.

"Also when the hell are Kael and Nora coming back?" I said frustrated because it's been days since they were gone and we still haven't heard anything back yet and there is no sign of them. I turned around in frustration and almost fainted with shock. What the-

"So I heard you've been missing me"

Chapter 23

Nora's POV

As soon as I entered in Brigitte's body again I found myself lying in a room I didn't recognise and next to me was... a random man? Wait... This must be the body Kael was possessing in Brigitte's universe. Without him the body turned into its original appearance but this isn't the time to dwell over that. I have to find others first and let them know that we're fine. I know I was supposed to be summoning my abilities but reassuring them is just as important and frankly after all the stuff that happened there I was sort of missing them all.

I suddenly heard a loud noise as if someone was crashing things everywhere. I waited a few moments before getting out of the room because I still felt dizzy from being in the void and my consciousness still hasn't completely attached itself to the body yet. I think it must have taken 10-20 minutes until I stopped feeling dizzy. I finally went out to see that Irene has taken control over some soldiers and sent them back. I'm not exactly sure what happened but it looked like she handled it well and I wasn't surprised that she did.

"When the hell are Kael and Nora coming back?" I heard her say and complain about us being gone. That made me smile. So I wasn't the only one missing them. She turned around in frustration and I surprised her with "so I heard you've been missing me" She almost fainted with shock. It looked like she definitely didn't expect me to appear out of thin air as soon as she mentioned my name.

"What the- when did you- is Kael also back?" Irene asked clearly too flabbergasted seeing me out of nowhere specially after she had just been complaining about us being gone for too long.

"Well unfortunately he still has work to do there and so do I. I have to go back soon" I said much to her disappointment. "Oh- well then what made you visit us in between of your mission and if you're here means you were in the void again so does that mean-" Irene started asking questions after questions and Lucien tried to calm her down. "She can explain everything to us if you calm down let her" She understood him and nodded in response.

Eugene hadn't said anything so far and was just observing our interactions. I quickly nodded at him in acknowledgement because it would've been rude to ignore him completely.

We all sat down at the couch in the hall where I first laid down the whole day after Being stabbed for first time. I slowly started explaining everything that happened back in that universe so far and the more they heard the more confused they became.

"That's.... kind of crazy. Kael never told us anything about his past or anything slightly related to it. Do you think he'd be mad that you told us all of this without his knowledge?" Lucien said making me realise that telling them probably wasn't as good of an idea as I thought it was.

"Well that- I didn't really think about it" I said awkwardly. "So do you have any plans on how to defeat that master of his? Also does he have a name or have you all just been calling him Master all this time?" Irene asked and that just hit me that I never asked for his actual name. "Actually we have infact just been calling him Master so far" I said putting a hand on my forehead. "But as for the plan I don't have any so far" I said in a disappointed tone. "It's fine, you guys will figure something out. I know you will"

Irene said trying to encourage me and it did work. "So did you summon any abilities so far? You know to try to defeat that Master? You have been in the void right?" Lucien questioned.

"Actually I came here exactly for that. I wanted to take your opinions on what kind of power should I summon to defeat him?" I stated making all three of them look at me. "We're glad

you came to us for opinions but I doubt most of our opinions would be useful" Lucien said doubtedly. I was about to say that it's fine and any opinions are appreciated but Irene suddenly made me turn to her and said with a wicked smile.

"I actually have a plan if you're up for it"

Luke's POV

"Sorry, we couldn't save her" The words rang in my ears like a death sentence. They couldn't save her? What do they mean? There has to be a mistake. How can she be gone just like that? Who is to blame? Master? Yes? It's all his fault. No actually it's my fault that I let it come to this. If only I was more careful or more capable I would've been able to protect her better. Why did I ever leave her alone? I should've been with her. I knew there was no length master wouldn't cross yet I was careless. She was my responsibility.

"We will avenge her" Kael interrupted my thoughts and I looked at him while holding back my emotions. "I'm going to make him pay for everything that he did" I said with clenched teeth but before I could say anything anymore Kael turned around and started walking out of the hall "where are you going?" I asked and without turning back he said "to check on Nora and see if she's back"

Right. She was also here preparing to fight the Master and I would do anything in my power to help her. I turned around to see Cecelia's lifeless body lying on the bed one last time and followed Kael. "It's only been 15 hours, do you think she would be back already?" I questioned and he nodded in response. "She was back within 10 hours the last time so there

is a chance she has been back for a few hours now" He said it so confidently like he was sure she was back so I didn't question him any further.

We continued walking in Silence after that but I still couldn't take my mind off from the fact that Cecelia died. I can understand why Kael isn't affected at all by her death because he didn't even remember her but I have been with her for all these years and despite us not talking much because things got busy. We always acknowledged each other and had this understanding between us.

I was always grateful to have her around. For some reason she made it bearable to be here in this.... Prison. The reason I saved her after she ran away from Master was because I somehow felt like I owed her. I did not think her death would affect me this much but this feeling is too....

"We're here" Kael said pulling me out of my misery for a few moments as we stood outside the room we left Nora in. He stepped aside so I could enter the password for the room and I did. We saw nothing but darkness as we entered the room. "That's weird, when we left we did not turn off the lights did we?" Kael asked looking around suspiciously. "No we didn't" I said pulling out my sword from a little portal to my personal room. We took our fighting stances and turned on the lights ready to fight but to our surprise no one was there and that was not a relief because no one was there, not even Nora.

"Where is she? " I said taking a look around the whole room. " Either she woke up and left while searching for us or Master has her" Kael said the last part in a deadly tone like he was ready to kill if it was necessary. He always had been protective

of all his companions so it was not a surprise that he was this worked up about it.

We were about to turn around when suddenly both of us felt swords pointed behind our backs. "Now don't be so worked up" That voice. It's Nora's. Both of us let out a sigh of relief "Nora is it you?" I asked even though I already knew it was her. "Bingo" She said and removed the swords. Kael did not look happy at this little game she just played.

We both turned to look at her and she was standing there in full confidence with swords made out of threads? Is that her power? Coming to think of it I had not witnessed any of her powers yet. "As much as I appreciate you being playful. We don't have time for it. Master killed Cecelia" I said with murderous intent lacing my tone and she immediately changed her demeanor from playful to serious.

She immediately turned around and started walking towards the exit door without saying anything. "Where are you going?" I asked running after her "To kill that soulless Master of yours" She said with the same murderous intent I was filled with a few moments ago. "But the duel doesn't take place for another 6 days" I said trying to reason with her but deep down I wanted her to kill Master right now hell if it was up to me I'd do it myself but I couldn't.

"The duel starts when I say it starts. What choice does he have if I start attacking out of nowhere except to fight me?" She said pulling out her swords of threads again. Are those even durable? I wanted to ask but I suppose I'll find out soon enough. I was following her until Kael signled me to stay back with him for a few moments.

I slowed down my pace and he matched mine within a few moments but his eyes were on Nora the whole time. He whispered something to me which I couldn't catch. "What did you say?" I asked whispering again. He looked at me with dead serious eyes and whispered back....

"That isn't Nora"

Chapter 24

Luke's POV.

"What do you mean that isn't Nora?" I asked Kael but he kept his eyes on 'Nora' in front of us. "Just wait and you'll see" That's all he said and went ahead following 'Nora'. What the hell? He couldn't just say something so unexpected like that and tell me to wait and watch but then again, He's Kael that's what he always did.

I sighed and shook my head in utter disbelief. "We don't have all day" Kael said turning back to look at me and I rushed to their side. I stole side glances at Nora but it didn't look like she wasn't 'Nora'. The way she talked and got so worked up over Cecelia's death definitely made it seem like she was infact

our Nora, the Nora I knew so far but could it really be that she wasn't?

Like Kael said I'd find out soon enough.

"So are you just going to start attacking him out of nowhere?" I asked 'Nora' but she did not respond to me at all. Now that I thought about it. Her body was the same as the one Nora was occupying so it was quite possible that someone else took over the body but who? And why was Kael so chill about this? It's like he knew what was about to aspire but refused to tell me. I wouldn't be surprised if that was the case. It used to happen often back when he used to live with me.

As soon as we reached the top floor where she challenged our Master to a duel, she didn't even knock and just blew off the door with her punch. I was too flabbergasted to do anything for a few seconds but reacted as soon as Kael told me to snap out of it.

The Master stopped what he was doing and before he could ask any questions or say anything she threw a punch at him which made him fall backwards towards the window.

The glass window broke which made him fall from the top floor of the building. That was certainly unexpected but that wouldn't have caused enough damage for the Master. Some damage? Sure but enough that she can win against him? Unfortunately Not. "Open the portal" Kael said to me in urgency and I immediately knew what he meant. I opened the portal to where Master landed. Me and Kael walked through it whereas Nora was already there. She probably jumped from the building too.

"You know you're gonna have to pay for the damages you caused back there. They cost a lot" Master said getting up and fixing some of his dislocated bones. I'm not surprised that falling from the tallest building didn't affect him much but this fight here is too sudden.

"Does she even have a plan?" I asked Kael while Nora and Master were standing in front of each other ready to fight. "No idea" Kael responded in that nonchalant tone of his and honestly sometimes I want to punch him in the face. This guy can not show how he feels for the sake of his life. "Do you at least have any idea what kind of power she summoned?" I asked Kael again and he just shook his head with furrowed brows.

"So what you're saying is we're basically doomed if she doesn't have a solid plan" Kael didn't respond to me after that and I took that as a yes. Maybe it wasn't such a good idea to ask Kael for help.

Nora attempted to throw another punch at Master but to no one's surprise he dodged it effortlessly this time. Nora turned around to attack again, this time with those swords of hers that were made of threads but it was useless.

Master dodged every attack effortlessly. Before we could see what was happening Master drove a sword through her stomach in an instant making her drop to the ground. Kael and I started running towards her to help but Master gave a hand gesture telling us to stop.

"This is a duel between us. You don't get to interfere or have you already forgotten all the basic manners I taught you?" Master said with a stern tone making Kael and I stop in our

tracks. Nora did challenge him to a duel and it's true that according to the rules here we can not interfere.

"Either she gets up and fights again or she dies right here. That was the deal. she also started attacking me out of nowhere catching me off guard which was cowardly and against the rules. She should already be punished for breaking so many rules so nothing you say will convince me to let you help her" Master said in that stern tone and sharp look on his face. He was angry. Really angry.

"The body Nora is occupying here is weak and can not handle an attack like that." Kael said looking at almost dying Nora. "So if she dies here she'll go back to the world you guys came from but according to the deal you'll have to stay here" I said stating the obvious and Kael grit his teeth at the last part. "That won't be happening" Kael said whispering to himself but I heard it. It's commendable how much faith he has in her but considering the situation right now I think he's about to be disappointed-

My thoughts were interrupted when I suddenly heard a pained scream from Master. He had been attacked from behind. Someone had drove sword through his chest but we all could see that Nora was on the ground and suddenly she..... Disappeared? the person pulled the sword back from Master's chest making him stumble a little but he didn't fall.

As he stumbled we finally noticed the person who drove a sword through his chest. It was Nora. Completely fine. Not bleeding. Not wounded. Completely fine. But how? She had just disappeared in front of our eyes. How could that be?

"Kael what the hell is happening?" He smirked and I could tell he was a little proud. "I told you that person wasn't Nora" Right he did say that "but then who?" I asked and his response was just two words. "A clone" He said calmly like I'm supposed to already know how that worked out.

"A clone? How?" I had so many questions and his short responses with no explanation weren't helping in quenching my curiosity. "Lucien is here" Kael said looking around but of course he couldn't recognize him because he would be in a different body than whatever body he was occupying in the world they just came from. From what Kael had told me about his teammates, I remembered there was a guy who could create clones of people so I assumed that guy was behind this.

"So that is the real Nora attacking master right now?" Kael looked at the Nora who was fighting with the Master and dodging all the attacks while also counter attacking. "No. This one's also a clone" Kael said after observing her for a few seconds. "This one as well? So where is the real Nora that we know?" I asked carefully looking at the 'Nora' fighting the master.

She looked the exact same. You could never tell the difference between her and the real Nora. "I have no idea where she is but she definitely has a plan" Kael said crossing his hands and relaxing his demeanor. "You have that much faith in her?" Kael didn't look at me but I could tell he was feeling a little proud. "I have faith in the ability of my comrades to work together"

I smiled a little at that. "I see". I also felt a little hurt since there was a time it was me and him who used to be an unstoppable

duo but he had other people now whom he cared about even if he didn't show. " On that note " He said bringing me back from my thoughts. "Would you like to join us after this is over?" He said and it took me a few seconds to process what he meant. "So you mean? You and your teammmates?" I asked just to make sure I wasn't hearing things and he nodded. It was a generous offer and I would want nothing more than to be with my childhood friend again but "can I think about it?" I asked and he nodded in response.

I looked over to see how far the duel has come and despite Master being wounded Nora was still losing. She had also got multiple wounds again, a lot of cuts here and there. Her body was about to give out...again. The second clone also disappeared within next few moments.

"Master must have realised by now what's up and he will be even more pissed off" I said to Kael but he seemed to be looking here and there as if searching for someone. "Are you searching for Lucien?" I asked him but he didn't turn around. "Yes".

"I think you'd find him easily if he wanted to be found-" suddenly I felt a gunpoint behind my head and I rolled my eyes. "Can any of your comrades just come and say hello like a normal person? Is a dramatic entrance like this necessary?"

When Kael heard my words he immediately turned around to look at my side but he wasn't looking at me he was looking at the person behind me which I guessed to be his Comrade Lucien however if it wasn't him then I was serious danger right at that moment.

Kael looked at the person for a few seconds and came closer towards us. "Stop playing around. He actually has a faint heart. He might pass out" Kael said to the person who held me at the gunpoint and frankly I was offended. "Hey I'm not that weak" I said frustrated trying to defend myself. The person removed the gunpoint from my head. I turned around to look at the person and ... It was actually a woman. She had a cloak on covering her head. If anyone saw her from further they'd probably think it's a witch.

"Irene I didn't expect you to be here as well" Kael said and the girl took off her cloak, she had brown hair and brown eyes with a sharp nose. She was beautiful. "I assume this isn't your actual body either" I said making her look at me suspiciously. "Oh I'm Luke. Kael's old friend" Her expression changed and she took a glance at Kael as if to ask Kael for confirmation. Kael nodded and she hesitantly took out her hand for me to shake. "I'm Irene and yeah you're right. I usually prefer being blonde" I shook her hand and I had a feeling she was still cautious of me but I let it slide.

"So where is Nora? We can't keep Master busy with the Clones forever" Kael asked Irene and I didn't expect what she responded next.

"She's back in our universe"