

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 378

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Adrik

When I woke the following morning, Sephie was curled up next to me under the covers. I pulled her back against me, but she didn't move. Finally. Instead of trying to wake her up, I kissed the back of her shoulder and got out of bed as quietly as I could. I was worried that she would start to shake once I left, so I stayed close. Luckily, she was wearing pants for once as she was cold last night when we went to bed, so I could move her to one of the guys if needed.

I took the quickest shower possible and got dressed. I didn't hear her talking, but when I walked back to the bed, I could see her shaking. It wasn't bad yet, but she was just starting to mumble as well. A quick text to Andrei and I scooped her up, carrying her to the couch.

It didn't take long for Andrei to come upstairs. He stretched out on the couch, happy he could sleep a little longer too. "I'm so happy she finally did this. I'm so f**king tired," he said.

I raised my eyebrow at him as I laid her next to him. "More so than usual?" I asked.

He nodded his head. "Feels like I got run over by a bus. It started after we were at the hotel. I haven't recovered yet."

That made sense. "New level for you. It always makes her extra tired. Same thing happened to Misha. The only one I haven't seen it affect yet is Ivan," I said. As soon as Sephie was lying next to Andrei, her body started to relax and she curled up next to him. She hugged his arm as he tucked the blanket in around her. It was, in short, adorable. Even if I was jealous that he got to stay with her and not me. "She's likely going to sleep until noon, so take advantage of it. I'll keep everyone as quiet as possible," I said. Andrei just nodded his head, looking grateful.

I motioned for the other guys to be quiet when they walked in. Aleksei and Vitaliy walked out of their rooms at the same time. No one had seen Andrei on the couch with Sephie yet.

"Sephie finally lost her battle with sleeping in. She's on the couch with Andrei. I tried to leave her in bed, but she was shaking and starting to mumble by the time I got ready. He's experiencing new level fatigue anyway. It works out for both of them," I said.

Vitaliy looked curious. "You let her sleep with them?" he asked.

"Gross, dude. She's like our little sister," Misha said, a look of reproach on his face..

"It's also very obvious that she looks at Boss very differently than she looks at the rest of us. She loves us, but she belongs with him," Ivan said.

I couldn't help but laugh. "I trust them. And I trust her even more. Since she and Ivan were taken, she hasn't been able to sleep without someone next to her. It brings her nightmares back if she's alone. Her body reacts sometimes violently. We noticed it early on that I could stop it, but they're able to keep it from starting if she's next to them. And Andrei has the warmest body temperature out of all of them. She's incredibly sensitive to cold."

"That girl has lived through just as much trauma as I have, Vitaliy. Some wounds stay fresh for a very long time," Ivan said.

"She's also exhausted anytime something new happens to her. She's had a few new things happen recently. We're all surprised she lasted this long without sleeping in," Stephen said.

"What new things?" Vitaliy asked.

Misha chuckled. "She gave me and Andrei an extra "f**k you" boost to drive the point home with your two guys. That's never happened before. I also think she's incredibly adorable when she's feeling protective of us, for the record. She was ready to kill those two,"

"How?"

"You felt her anger when we were in Panama. That level was barely registering on her meter. She can deal with sane levels of anger and outwardly, she looks completely calm. She learned she can push her anger to them that day at the gym. She's been doing it with me for months now, with other emotions too, but it's much easier. She had to get it to a raging inferno to be able to push it to them," I said.

"When we were at the hotel, we figured out we could give it back to her. She panicked when that woman looked at her and she saw her for what she really is. She struggles with her fear, it's the only emotion she can't control. Like her anger, all her emotions are that strong, so when she feels fear, it's to the same in sane, inhuman levels, but she can't control it. Instead of having to deal with that, she was trying to keep her anger levels high enough it would override everything else. Andrei figured out what she was doing and learned he can push his anger back to her. When he did, it fed into mine as well." Ivan said. "The few times I've felt her anger at high levels, I've never been that angry without someone dying. But she walks around like it's a normal Tuesday."

"You can't push yours to her, Vanya?"

"No, I can. It seems to work slightly differently with me and Boss. It's more connected, like hers is a part of us and ours is a part of her, just in different ways." Ivan said.

"How?"

"She explained it the first time it happened. She said she can feel the difference between us. She called me her sword and Ivan her shield. She said my anger was beside her, moving through her, waiting for direction. Ivan's is directed outward from her, away from her, more like a barrier. Like a shield," I said.

"That's why you called him that," Vitaliy said, making the connection.

"She can feel the difference between me and Andrei as well," Misha said. "She said Andrei's is calm and controlled, but deadly. She said mine amps up the f**kery, which I'm totally here for." He grinned mischievously at Vitaliy.

Vitaliy thought for a few moments. "I keep thinking I can't be more impressed by her and she just keeps proving me wrong."

I laughed. "I say that almost daily, Vitaliy."

I checked on Andrei and Sephie before leaving to go downstairs to the office. They were both sound asleep on the couch. I caught myself wondering if she waited until today so Andrei could sleep too. He'd been busy the last few days. It wouldn't surprise me if she knew he was also exhausted.

Ivan and Viktor walked into my office a few hours later. "Mr. Turner does have a tail that isn't one of ours. Just one guy. We had our guys watch him. to see who he reports to," Viktor said.

"I'm guessing it's the police chief that saw Mr. Turner walk into the building. Our guys said this guy was terrible at his job. Our guys have been on Mr Turner for months and he still hasn't caught on, but this guy was on him for a couple days and was made. The police always think they're on top of their game," Ivan said, shaking his head.

"I need to have a conversation with Henry," I said. "That information we got from the journalist about Ricardo ties him up into a very neat package. I'd like to not f**k that up. Have you heard anything more from the journalist about the mayor?" I asked Viktor.

He shook his head no. "He seemed to think it would be quick work, but I think he overestimated his sleuthing skills. We've found a few things, but they're circumstantial at best."

I nodded. "Keep looking. Maybe ask for an update from him. Might help him along. Chen seemed to really enjoy lying to that guy, so he'll be ready to meet him again when we need him," I said. "Set up a meeting with Henry, in the evening, I want Sephie there when I talk to him."

They both nodded and walked out of the office. I leaned back in my chair, exhaling. The hardest part of all of this was the waiting. Waiting to collect information, waiting for the next piece of the puzzle to reveal itself, waiting for the next betrayal. I was getting impatient. That didn't bode well for everyone against me right now.