

Chapter 67

Atlas POV

"For centuries, I have been stuck in this desolate realm. Forced to deal with the dead souls and demons that wander here. Trapped here by my lessers. I will walk free soon, and when I do, these realms you all over will never find peace. Everyone and everything you hold dear will burn. Anyone of you that stands in my way will also burn," he stated, looking at each of us as if it were the most normal thing to say ever. "Join me. Join me, and all you hold dear will be left untouched. You will be safe in the new world I intend to create," he said.

"I think I speak for all of us when I say, Fuck you!" I said to him: He was talking too much. What was he doing? Stalling? He looked into my eyes, as if reading me.

"Atlas Drakos," everyone. The no-striped dragon Usurped by his own brother. You were forced to rule after your mother was taken from you. Tsk, tsk, tsk. That one has got to hurt. I must commend you, Ana. You really did excellent work with the dragon family," he said. He was baiting me. Wanting me to attack. He was trying to slither his way under my skin like the vile serpent he is.

"Thank you, father," Sorena/Ana said, looking proud of her actions. She curled up under Adam, who was looking revolted by her touch. At least now, he was in his right mind.

"What do you want, Snake?" Rynyxon asked. Something was off, and we all felt it. Why not just kill us now?

"Rynyxon. I remember you very clearly. I sent my minions to destroy your little pack years ago. Have you met our daughter, Ana, Ava's twin?" he taunted more. "Your mate, no, your now deceased mate was so keen to give me Ana's little soul before she was born, after being told about Ana's dark future, not knowing that that was exactly what put our Ana on the path. The correct path is with me." Lucifer said. Rynyxon looked at Ana, who glared at him. It was clear they were thinking the same thing about each other. Neither claimed the other. Listening to him speak started to put some things in perspective for me. My question came on impulse.

"Where is my mother?" I demanded to know. He looked at me, then at Ana. Ana waved her hand, and there she was. My mother. Not in a solid form, but a spirit one. She floated beside Ana and Adam. She looked at Adam with sad eyes before looking at me. Adam pushed off Ana.

"What did you do to our mother?" he growled at her. His voice sounded strange. Did he know she was our mother? What was his game?

"Your mother was not a personal baby. I used her to get into your home. Into your lives. Look. I even found you as my mate because of that." Ana said, trying to reach for him, but he backed away towards us.

"Did you kill our mother?" Adam questioned her. His dragon was calm. Too calm. Not like him. I do not like him at all.

"In a sense, yes. Technically, your mother is dead. She has been dead for months now. I control her spirit, though. I used her spirit to spy on and gain information on Ava, as well as roam the halls of your home. She was there, but you could not see her. I made it so only Ava could. I promise, though, baby, it was not personal. I won't apologize. Your family is on the enemy's side, but you made the right choice to stay with me." She said it, smiling. She tried coming closer, but he backed away from her more.

"It's the same thing she did to Brandon," the girl on the ground said. None of us had even realized she was awake. Ana looked at her.

"Brandon was, in fact, personal. His vision of me was so strong, it called me into it and right to his location. We were entwined lovers in a past life, after all. Emilio was his name. A strong visionary, just like Brandon. He ended up killed because he trusted the wrong people," she said, looking at Ava with menace. There was so much we were missing here.

"Anyway," she said. "I initially planned to kill Ava, but my father has plans for her, and after his plans, so do I," she said, kicking back on her couch.

"You have three options," Lucifer said, standing up from his throne. "Join me. Join me, and anything you could ever desire, I could make it yours. Or all of you leave, but Ava stays. You all have my promise that nothing will happen to you. You will be safe to return home. Ava, however, will stay in my domain. None of you are prepared or trained to handle the kind of power she is about to inherit. Live a little longer," he said.

"And the third?" I asked. He smiled.

"Stay and die. I got Ava either way," he said. He whistled. As soon as he said that, the doors burst open. Three huge, black dogs with fire for feet and all black eyes came along, growling and snarling at us. Hellhounds. We watched in horror as they started melting into lava and coming together. A black mist of smoke formed, and when the smoke cleared, a massive three-headed beast, unlike anything we had ever seen, stood over 8 feet tall and looked down at us with saliva coming out of its mouth. I looked back at Lucifer, whose smile was gone now. Only his cold eyes remained on his face. "Choose now," he said.

"You won't hurt any of us if we leave," I said, and he nodded.

"I keep my word," he said. The group looked at me, annoyed.

"We're not leaving without them," Jasmine growled at me.

"Unchain them both, so we can say a proper goodbye to Ava," I told Lucifer.

"As you wish," Lucifer said. The chains on both Ava and the other girl came off them.

I looked at Adam. He gave a small nod. While I was talking, he had managed to get behind us and into the path of the beast. Not even the beast was watching him. I kneeled down to Ava, who was still passed out. I ran my hand around her face. Samael picked up Harmon, who appeared to be weak from whatever Lucifer did to her. I looked at Samael. He spoke in my head in a link he made with me.

"What's the plan?" he asked.

"Adam just said to be ready. He will create a portal for us to escape. Link everyone to run at Adam's command," I told him in his head. I was still kneeling down over Ava, checking her for any bruises.

"Are you sure you want to trust him? This could be a trap," Samael said in my head. I thought to myself. The whole reason we were in this mess was because he trusted the wrong person. I could never forget what he did to me, but I knew the look on his face when he was regretful and determined.

"I am sure," I told him. The link was then cut off.

"NOW!" Adam yelled and opened a portal.

"ATTACK!" Lucifer commanded the dog. Jasmine, Jessica, and Rynyxon all jumped through the portal. Everything next to me happened in slow motion. The dog knocked over Samael, who was carrying the girl. His jaws were right over Adam's. I threw my sword, which cut through one of the dog's heads, but not quickly enough. One of the heads came down hard on Adam as he was transforming into flame, eating

him alive. The other girl we saved screamed a piercing scream when it happened. Ana started to advance on us.

"Let them go. We will see them soon," Lucifer commanded, and all the other demons who were charging at us stopped in their place. Samael took his sister and jumped through the portal. It closed right after, leaving Ava in my arms as I stood there. A blue portal opened up right in front of me.

"GO SON," my mother said, and I didn't hesitate, hearing deep, cold laughter as I dropped down the portal, going home. I dropped into my room, which was still a mess from Adam. I took Ava to another room close to mine since she was still cold. I went downstairs, and there was everyone.

"Ava?" Jasmine asked.

"Upstairs asleep. Take her to the silver room," I commanded a servant passing by. They bowed and led Jasmine, Jessica, and Rynyxon to the room.

Samael and his sister stayed behind. My uncle came down with Aunt Katrina. Their eyes scanned the room.

"Where's Adam?" Aunt Katrina asked. I shook my head as tears threatened to pool in my eyes. Uncle Ellis read my aura and knew. He just knew.

"Oh my," Aunt Katrina said, staggering back and holding her chest. Uncle Ellis held her. Samael's sister was crying more now. I couldn't take it. I needed to leave.

I walked out of the room without saying a word. I transformed into Kai, and we went to the back of the castle grounds, where the arena for the Serpent Selis was. Everyone who attended had already left.

I'm not sure what happened. One minute later, I felt like I was fine. The next minute, emotions took me over, and Kai and I roared. Roared the most painful roar that we

ever did. Even worse than when my mother went missing. My brother. My fucking brother. Dead.

"YOU FUCKING BASTARD, ADAM," I cried out, tears flowing down my face. I couldn't even think about the past anymore. In the end, he died the way he was meant to. In the end, he died like a true Drako. Kai and I suddenly let out our inner fire, straight into the sky. It was a true loss, and one we would remember forever.