Chapter 68

Harmon POV

"It hurts. My heart. It hurts," I panted to Samael. He was holding me close, trying to console me, and I felt like I was breaking down. I was feeling a loss, but it was not Brandon's. Whose death was I feeling?

"That man who saved us. He was our second chance mate," my wolf told me. It made sense. Ever since I woke up during everything, my eyes went to Brandon, but I knew it was not Brandon anymore. At the same strange time, I was feeling a connection to the man with the black hair and hazel eyes. It was strange. My bond with Brandon was gone, since he was now dead. The pull was much stronger with the other man. I assume it was because he was alive. Am I not meant to have a mate? This is the second time I have lost a mate, and I never even had the chance to meet him properly.

A loud roar could be heard from outside even without supernatural hearing. It was followed by a strange silence. The pain was settling down some. I will try to put my pain to the side for now. Ava. I needed to see Ava. I tried consoling my wolf. Maybe it was because we didn't know him for long, but the pain was dulling even more now until it was barely there as we went upstairs to the bedroom Ava was in. She was still asleep.

"She isn't waking up." We've done everything we can to try to wake her," Jasmine said, looking at Ava worried.

"Lucifer touched her head, and that was when she went unconscious. He never touched me. I was just too weak and ended up slipping away. He let us all go for a reason. Well, most of us, anyway." I said to them, my mind going back to the man with the hazel eyes.

"She is dreaming." A voice spoke from behind us. It was Atlas, looking disheveled. There was blood all over him. He looked like he had just stepped off the battlefield.

"How do you know she is dreaming"? Jessica asked.

"I am a dream walker, remember? Her subconscious called out to me, and I am going to bring her back," Atlas said.

Atlas Pov

I laid next to Ava on the bed. Whatever Lucifer did to put her to sleep was strong, but not strong enough. She still reached me somehow.

(Flashback to Atlas Being Outside)

After I created a memorial for Adam in the graveyard, I felt a presence next to me. I looked, but there was no one there. However, I could feel it. I could feel her. I could feel Ava.

My head started buzzing. She was trying to make her way in. I was not in the mood to open my mind, but I allowed her in. At first, it was quiet. Not a peep.

"Ava?" I questioned. Still. Nothing. Then, suddenly, "trapped" was all I heard in her small voice before the connection ended.

I flew back to the castle immediately. A woman, who was apparently sent by the Archangel Michael to aid Ava in her training for her powers, greeted me at the door

of my kingdom. I left her downstairs under the watchful eye of Uncle Ellis while I went to see my mate. After telling them that she had called out to me, I went to sleep next to her. I was transported to hell in my dream, and I could see Ava sitting on a throne next to Lucifer.

She was beautiful, dressed in a black dress that fell to the floor in ruffles. She wore a crown as well. A crown is fit for a queen. She was Ava, and yet not Ava as well. Her aura was different. Darker. Stronger. No one seemed to notice me at first. I moved closer, and she turned her attention away from the people and looked directly at me. Everything around us seemed to pause, except for me and her.

"Atlas," she said in a strong voice. "Why are you here?" she asked me.

"You called me. Or some part of you did. Is this what Lucifer did to you? Put you in a bed where you are ruling beside him? This is madness," I told her. I was walking until I stopped in front of her.

"Maybe I did call you. You should have ignored it, though. The truth is, I felt drawn to Lucifer the moment I arrived here in hell. Some part of me wants this just as much as he does," she said, smiling.

"This isn't you, Ava. He is messing with your mind. You will be able to see that once you wake up. He is twisting you to play right into his hands." I told her, trying to make her see sense. I told Kai to reach her wolf to break them out of whatever spell Lucifer placed her under.

"It is me. Or it will be. I know about the prophecy to come. You're on the wrong side of this war, Atlas. Join us," she said, smiling. Her dark aura was pulsing even more.

I walked towards her until I was directly face-to-face with her.

"Let me show you what's to come," she said, tapping my head before closing her eyes. I saw flashes of the upcoming war. So much smoke and death. I was Ava floating in midair over a huge pile of dead bodies, enjoying the chaos below. I

watched as she brought the dead demons back to life. She was in full power with her magic. I was seeing the outcome of what would happen if Lucifer corrupted her heart. Her darkness would overcome her. I just lost Adam. I couldn't stand to think about what would happen if I lost her too.

"Only love will wake her," a voice said from behind me. I turned around to see the woman I had let into my home earlier. She was a dreamwalker. It was the only thing that made sense for her to be here.

"Correct," she said, looking at Ava, who had not even noticed her.

"You know what this is?" I asked her, and she nodded.

"Sadly, I have seen a spell like this too many times, done by Lucifer. We have a lot of history together, and none of it was good. Trust me when I say that love is a powerful weapon. She, however, must love you in return for this spell to break.

"How do I wake her up with love? We've spent the better part of the last few weeks not in good standing with each other and only have talked with each other a few times," I told the woman.

"You are bonded more than just your mate bond. Destiny has entwined your lives together to right the wrongs of the past. No matter what either of you tell yourselves, you do love each other, which is how I know it will work. You need to kiss her. Kiss her with as much conviction as you can muster. It is the only thing that will break the spell Lucifer has over her right now," the woman said. I looked at Ava, whose eyes were still closed, sitting on her throne. I looked at her beautiful, heart-shaped face and full lips and pressed mine against them. It was a feeling inside me that stirred. It was an unknown feeling that gave me goosebumps, but I liked it. I wanted more, so I kissed her deeper. She opened her eyes and looked at me in shock, not kissing me back. Her dark aura flared up darker than ever, but I continued kissing her. I was not giving up on her.

"Come back to me," I told her through the kiss. Her aura started getting lighter, and she started kissing me back. She pulled back from me, and we were both breathless, but I could only hope she knew how I felt through it. I was not experienced with love, but I knew that what I felt for Ava was different from anyone I had ever been around. Call it love, or peace, or whatever. I just needed her to feel what she had been making me feel since our conversation by the lake.`

"Atlas," she said to me, smiling. Her aura was white, and it made her shine so bright. I closed my eyes, and I was suddenly awake in the bed beside her. I could see the woman I spoke to against a wall, and she opened her eyes.

"Well, did it work?" Rynyxon asked. We all looked at Ava, and for a moment, I was skeptical. She couldn't have loved me. There was no way. We barely got the chance to get to know each other, and that was mainly on me. I had been giving her every reason to doubt me. I've gotten her caught in my family drama, and she ended up hurting many times because of it. I was going to lose her too. She couldn't... My thoughts were stopped quickly as Ava started coughing before opening her eyes. She looked at everyone's relieved faces before it reached mine. She was tackled with hugs from all sides. I stood back, not wanting to interrupt any of them.

"Where are we?" she asked.

"Draconis. You're in one of my rooms," I told her.

"What do you remember?" Samael asked. She touched her own head, shaking it.

"I was in Lucifer's realm. I was chained. He touched my head, and then everything went black. It was just black. Then I saw light coming out of the darkness. I could not see into it, but I knew it was a way out. It was peaceful coming through. Then I woke up here, I think," she said.

"How are you feeling?" Jasmine asked her.

"Tired. Very tired," she said, looking down before looking back up quickly. "Someone is here. In this room. I can feel her," she said before nudging Jasmine to the side and looking directly at the woman who was sitting down on the ground. The walls started to crack, and the crack in the ground led from Ave. right up to the woman in the corner.

"Who are you?" Ava asked. Everyone else turned around, but I could tell they could not see her. The woman closed her eyes and then opened them, appearing before everyone else.

"Your powers are approaching more quickly than I would have thought. Only those I choose to reveal myself to can see me," she said.

"Announce yourself," Rynyxon said, standing in front of Ava.

"I am Michael's contact. He foretold of my coming here to you and Samael to help Ava with her powers. Rynyxon relaxed after she said it, nodding.

"What is your name?" Ava asked her.

"I am known by many names, but my full name is Sarah Myra Good."

"Wait, Sarah Good, as in..." Ava started, and Sarah smiled.

"That's right, Ava. I am your ancestral grandmother, and I am here to prepare you for your destiny.