

Chapter 16 - Sophia's Revenge

Kane's POV

After I walked Sophia to her room, I had to go for a run. I had to let my wolf River out. He was just as confused as I was with everything. He was a quiet and shy wolf. He was the polar opposite of me. Where I want to talk and make people laugh, he would just prefer them to go away. Except Sophia. He wants to be around her all the time. Her big green eyes and dark chocolate hair and high cheekbones and those pouty lips. We can't get enough. I need to get this under control because Xander is going to kill me. I have to distance myself from her, but I can't. I literally can't. I find myself in front of her door knocking, not even realizing I'm doing it. She brings me happiness I didn't know existed and I want her to have the same. I would do anything to make her smile.

I was finally out in the tree line and stripped down so I didn't tear my clothes when I shifted. I called River forward and about a second later; I was in the back seat watching him take off. He was on the larger side for a Beta, but not as big as an Alpha. My fur was dark, so dark it kinda looked blue in the right light.

I let River do what he needed to do and not stop until he was ready. He was running at full speed through the forest. He was dodging trees and jumping over logs and even found a few small animals to hunt and eat. That's always his favorite.

After a while, he came to our pack's little piece of heaven. Our lake. It's small, but we keep it in pristine condition and we all enjoy it. He bent down and got himself a drink. After that, he went and laid down and watched as the sun was setting. I watched as the moon came up. I always loved doing this. I could watch the moon all night. It's a part of me. The moon goddess created me.

River had closed his eyes, happy to spend the night out here alone.

I was suddenly falling into blackness and didn't know where I was. I reached out to River but couldn't feel him. He was gone, and I was

falling. Did someone sneak up on me when I fell asleep and did they kill me? I was falling faster and faster. I closed my eyes so I wouldn't see the landing coming. Eventually, I landed, but it was on something soft. It was like the softest bed ever, or like a cloud.

When I opened my eyes, I was literally on a cloud with a beautiful woman beside me. She had long golden hair and golden colored eyes and a long white dress. Her entire presence seemed to glow. I am in awe of this woman.

“My child, I am so glad that you are here. We need to talk.”

“Moon goddess, is that you?”

“Yes, now listen. We don't have a lot of time. I know you feel something with Sophia and you don't understand it, but you will soon. Now I need you to do something for me and if you do this, I will grant you a wish, but just remember, I can't control love and free will.”

“What do you need help with?”

“Sophia is very special to me, as you will soon find out, but I need you to protect her.”

“Of course, I will protect her always, but who is the threat?”

“She is, my dear. She is struggling and with your silly little Alpha's stunt the other day, it's going to get worse before it gets better.”

I literally just stared at her, not knowing how to respond.

“I take your silence as a yes.”

“Yes, sorry. I am just not sure how she is a danger to herself.”

“My child, you will soon see. Now you need to go back.”

With that, she leaned down and kissed my forehead like a mother would do. I was again falling into blackness.

I soon landed with a thump on the ground, back in my wolf form. River got up and trotted back the way we came. He wasn't in a hurry, so neither was I. It was a beautiful night, the stars were so bright tonight and so was the moon.

We finally made it back to our clothes. I shifted back and walked towards the pack house. I needed to check on Sophia and make sure she was ok.

I walked in and all the way to my floor. It was just me now. Well and Sophia, but I didn't know how long she would stay here. After my dad died and my mom couldn't handle it, it's been lonely. I miss them and my brother, but he found his mate and moved to her pack. We talk but rarely see each other. I've always had Xander, but I know it's going to be awhile before we're back to where we were.

I was once again in front of Sophia's door, knocking before I knew what I was doing. Of course, she didn't answer. I unlocked it and let myself in. She wasn't in bed, but her blanket and pillows were gone. I checked the bathroom, and she wasn't there. I started searching the entire room, softly calling for her. I was panicking. I couldn't find her.

"River, help me. Where is she?"

"I'm not sure I can smell her. It's strong, but I'm not sure where. It's like it coming from everywhere. Wait, I hear something in the closet, I think."

I ran in there and found her curled up sound asleep on the floor. Why is she sleeping in the closet on the floor? I wondered. She was talking in her sleep. What she was saying didn't make sense. She must be having a nightmare.

"No, I didn't lie. Please, not that, anything but that."

I had no clue what she was talking about, but I could tell this wasn't a happy dream. I bent down to lift her up, and that's when all hell broke loose with her and she ended up punching me in the nose, breaking it again in less than 24 hours and kicking me in the stomach. I dropped to the floor moaning in pain, which quickly woke her and made her scream like a madwoman.

I shook her shoulders, trying to get her to wake up all the way.

“Sophia, wake up. It’s me, Kane, you're safe. Wake up.”

You could literally see the lights come on for her. It clicked who I was and I wouldn’t hurt her. I don’t think she even realized she had beat me up, but it’s ok. She was suddenly crawling into my lap, bawling. I just sat there holding her and telling her it was ok and that she was safe.

“Kane, it was horrible. I was back in the punishment room and I was reliving one of the worst punishments I’ve ever gotten, but it wasn’t Alpha Wayne and Luna Ann and his Beta doing it. It was Alpha Xander.”

“He will not hurt you, I promise. I will always protect you.”

“He used a silver knife on me. They hurt me so bad that day that I laid on the floor for days not moving. I couldn’t because the pain was too much. I thought that was the day I was going to die. I wanted to die. Nobody ever came in to check on me. If I would have died, they would have let my body rot right there and do nothing about it.”

As soon as she got it all out, she cried harder, and I was honestly too dumbfounded to say anything. All three would punish her together. Why would these people do this? She was such a kind and beautiful soul. I wanted to go kill them all right now, but we can’t we have to work with the council first. When the time comes, I will let her have her revenge if that is what she wants. If not, I will happily do it for her.

I finally snapped back to reality as she continued to sob on me.

“Sophia, what can I do? How can we make you feel better?”

She looked up at me with a tear-stained face and said, “teach me to defend myself.”

“I can do that as soon as the doctor says you're in the clear.”

“Thank you. Will you please stay with me tonight?”

“Of course, baby girl. Anything for you, but we aren’t sleeping on the closet floor when you have a bed.”

I tucked her back into bed and told her I would be on the couch. She refused and pulled the blanket back and gave me those eyes that I couldn’t say no to.

As soon as I was in bed, she was cuddled right up to me, sighing as if she was perfectly content and that this was normal. I just hoped that nobody would come in here tonight or it would be bad, so bad.

I woke up the next morning with River literally purring in my head. Purring like a fucking cat and the most amazing smell of lilies and chocolate. I also feel like something has shifted between Sophia and me, but I don’t know what. She was still sound asleep, so I took this time to slip from her bed and room to mine to shower and get ready because Xander would get out today.

“River, what is going on? Why were you purring like a goddamn cat this morning?”

“She is so beautiful, and she smells so good. She makes me happy. Can we just take her away from all of this?”

“No, she isn’t ours, but if Xander does what he says he is going to do, then yes, we will run away with her.”

“Do you think the moon goddess made a mistake in giving her to Xander? He doesn’t deserve her. She should be ours.”

“The moon goddess doesn’t make mistakes. Now calm down, we will figure this out. Right now, we just have to keep her safe and make her feel protected.”

He didn’t respond to me but went and laid back down in my head. He could be a pain sometimes, but I loved him. He has helped me through everything. If it wasn’t for him, I don’t know how well I would have survived my parents’ death. He and Xander kept me sane. I could never betray Xander, even if River wanted me to.

