

Their Secret Obsession (A Reverse Harem)

by Pippa Moon Chapter 121

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Chapter 121: Not My Daughter!

Kane POV

The wave of satisfaction that swept through me, seeing the look of confusion on Anthonys' face, was worth breaking my silence. Charlotte was seemingly right, though; they, too, thought I was dead.

““Fuck it, they won't be leaving this room anyway!” Rolo barked out, his voice bitter and riddled with jealousy. I got it, though; I wasn't sure how to feel about the relationship Charlotte had formed with the Sparrow brothers.

“I know how we feel about it!” Rolo grunted, my eyes rolling internally at him as he let out a huff and slid to the back of my mind to observe like the love-sick pup he

was.

“What do you wanna do, brother?” Knox asked, turning to face me, although I could see from the way Charlotte squirmed his hand remained tightly wrapped around her. I watched her look up at Knox, those big blue eyes I bloody adored glossed over as she plunged into conversation with Sage.

“She needs to leave! The brothers won't respect us if we allow her to dictate shit to us, and you know Chase well enough to know he won't give us any information until she has left.” Knox's jaw tightened, and although he never replied, I knew he agreed.

“Angel..” He started to say, pulling her from her conversation with Sage. My eyes

drifted to Liam, who was watching my brother and our mate with intrigue that made me nervous. Adam was busy shoving what looked like a homemade gag in her father’s mouth while Chase sat on Mike’s knee like a hooker on a date.

The fucker was beautiful but bat shit crazy!

“No, don’t you use that shit on me. We said no more secrets!” Charlotte whined, her eyes shifting from Knox to me; her lips pulled so tightly together that she looked feral. Reminding me of when Knox slapped her ass so hard she bruised instantly.

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Chapter 121 Not My Daughter

“You will leave. You promised!” I nodded to my girl and then to Knox, a message passing between **us** that she was not privy to. I knew he would back down; he adored our mate, as **did I**, and telling her no was evidently not his forte! I guess I would be playing bad cop for the foreseeable!

“I promised to leave if I was in danger.” She replied, her tone laced with emotion that **had** my stomach tightening; despite what people thought, I didn’t enjoy being a hard ass.

“Charlotte!” I growled low in warning.

“Anyhooo..” Chase interjected, slapping Mike up the back of the head as he lifted from his lap and approached Knox and Charlotte, his hips filled with a swagger that made my lips twist in amusement.

“Congrats, guys! Bagsie godfather.” Chase smiled, stepping into Charlotte and Knox, whose whole body tensed as he watched the interaction between Chase and

our mate.

“Come on, killer. Let’s get you out of here and into something that doesn’t make you look like a reject for Shameless. Huh?” He grinned slowly at our mate, my back. stiffening at the idea of him going to watch Charlotte change. Knox’s hand moved quickly to grip Chase’s arm, apparently thinking the same as me, but Chase was quicker, holding them above his head in surrender.

“Come on, mate, like I would watch her! She is your fucking mate! Unlike you, I don’t take other people’s toys!” He groaned dramatically; I smiled, seeing the blush spread across my brother’s cheeks, understanding the reference and given the look. on Charlotte’s face, she would be asking what he was on about the first opportunity she got.

And the bastard knew that!

“Super glad you aren’t dead, Kane! Be a shame to lose **such** a cheerful, friendly teddy bear like you.” Chase added with a wink to Knox, who nodded his head and reluctantly let our mate go. Chase outstretched his hand for Charlotte, her eyes drifting down to it; I knew she was debating her options. We all waited with bated breath to see if she would go with Chase or dig her heels in and make one of us

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Chapter 121 Not My Daughter!

remove **her**.

With a sigh, I felt her relent and let out the breath I was holding, her hand reaching out to take Chase’s, but Knox was quicker. Knox’s large hand wrapped around Chase’s elbow, pulling him to stare at him.

“Anything... happens to her..” Knox growled venomously.

“It won’t!” Chase hissed back, his eyes dark and foreboding as he looked at my brother. With a nod, Knox released Chase, and his arm slipped around Charlotte’s neck to pull her into his side. I felt my girl relax, and I hated it. I hated the way these large males made her feel.

Safe!

“We make her feel safe!” Rolo complained, and I pursed my lips, not wanting to reply.

“I swear, Luna, I will be the best godfather; I will teach him how to kill like a pro and how to be sexy as fuck, unlike his uncool Dad... or is it Dads?” He asked, winking at me as he led her towards the door while still rambolling. “Who probably wears socks and sandals!” He laughed at his own joke. My eyes met Knox’s as we both let out a relieved sigh.

“If anyone is godfather, it will be Adam or me, not you, you psycho!” Liam laughed as Charlotte and Chase passed them by. Her lips curled into a grin while she slapped him on the chest, his hand flying to the spot in mock angst.

“Ouchy!” He winked, nodding to the door. “Ten minutes!” He promised as Chase led her from the room, her eyes meeting ours one last time as she lingered in the doorway.

“Fuck, come on... I promise they will be fine.” Chase grunted, yanking her out the doorway playfully and slamming it closed.

“Something is up, these fuckers; they never act like this with a female,” I interjected into Knox’s mind, whose jaw was so tight I knew he was thinking the same thing even before the words fell from his mouth. Never one to be tactile.

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› Chapter 121 Not My Daughter!

“Why are you being so nice to Lottie?” Knox questioned, his eyes watching the two brothers.

“She’s special” Adam spoke, his tone level almost bored.

“And she is ours!” I growled, stepping further into the room to rest my hand on Mike’s shoulder and squeezing it until I heard him wake up with a cry of pain. Blubbering something about needing help.

“Mated males!” He snorted at Liam with a nod; Liam’s lips twisted approvingly as he pushed off the desk.

“So, shall we get this party started?” Liam stated, crossing the room to stand in front of Anthony, who sunk back to his ass in defeat while Adam removed the gag from his mouth, spit and blood dribbling down his chin.

“Fuck you!” Anthony hissed defiantly, spitting at Adam, the phlegm landing on his chin, a belly laugh leaving Liam’s lips.

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Chapter **122: Lycan Princess**

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Knox POV

“What?” I laughed in disbelief. “Bullshit!” but even I could hear the sharpness of apprehension that had crept into my voice. The hate that filled Anthony’s eyes made him look insanely unhinged.

“Oh, you have heard nothing yet!” Liam chuckled brutally. Arching a brow, I exchanged a glance with Kane to see his features smooth out like he hadn’t just heard something that would rock our girl’s world.

“Try not to be so excited over this bombshell!” Kane snipped, his voice controlled, unlike mine.

“Sorry, but you couldn’t write this shit!” Liam shrugged, earning himself a smack up the head from Adam.

“Have some fucking respect! It’s their mate we are talking about.” Adam barked, shaking his head in disgust. “Chase is meant to be the wild card, not you!” He added with an apologetic nod to myself and Kane

“Whatever!” I muttered, suddenly feeling tired. I pulled the chair out from behind the desk and dragged it along the floor, the loud squeak getting Anthony’s attention before I sat it in front of him and plopped myself down in it. I motioned with my hand for Liam to continue, sighing, feeling Kane come to stand beside me, his hand resting on my shoulder in what I understood as a silent message.

Calm down.

Well...Fuck that!

“So after all these years of ‘raising’ Lottie, you suddenly have decided she isn’t even yours?” I questioned sceptically. However, in my head, things were starting to fall into place.

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Chapter 127 Lycan Princess

“She isn’t!” Anthony growled. “No daughter of mine would be such a...”

“Finish that sentence, and I will slit your throat and tell them what I know,” Adam warned Anthony with a sharp tug of his hair, forcing him to look at his dark eyes; I watched Anthony withdraw into himself, his lips tightening no doubt to keep the insult he was fighting back inside.

‘Better! Make no mistake ‘Beta,’ I am only letting you live so Charlotte’s mates hear this from our lips, so I suggest you mind your fucking manners because I don’t **actually** need you.’ Adam cautioned, a grin painting my lips because despite how much I hated the bond the Sparrow Brothers had formed with my mate, one thing was clear: they would protect her reputation.

“I loved her mother!” Anthony admitted with a heavy sigh, his eyes dropping from Adam to the floor. “I thought raising Lottie would remind me of her, but it didn’t! It just reminded me of her betrayal.” I leaned back in the chair, my eyes shifting to Kane, who stood emotionless, watching Anthony. But I could feel the anger rippling off him like an electric current; he was pissed!

“If she isn’t your daughter, whose is she? Do you know?” Kane asked calmly.

after a minute of silence.

“Oh, he knows.” Liam grinned. “Keep going; we ain’t got all fucking day.”

“Her mother and I were together for years, but she went away with Alpha Leigh’s sister to visit a different pack and came back mated.” He explained, his voice so weak I knew the memories were painful to recall, I should feel bad for making him relive that, but honestly, I didn’t give a shit. Kicking out my leg, it collided with Anthony’s knee, a streak escaping his lips.

“To?” I asked, growing irritated with the waiting and theatricals.

“Alexander Royal.” A gasp left my lips as my eyes lifted from Anthony to Liam and Adam, who were nodding at me wide-eyed and excitedly.

“Sebastian’s uncle?” I asked Anthony, my tone laced with shock and confusion. Was this right? Was our mate royalty among our kind, a Lycan princess?

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Chapter 122 Lycan Princess

“IF this is true, shit’s going to hit the fan!” Kane interjected into my head.

The silence that followed from Anthony was almost painful; Adam flung his head forward, sending Anthony hurtling to his knees before me. My eyes never left the crumpled form of the man who had raised my mate, a word I used lightly, for he never actually did shit to protect, clothe, train or provide for her.

“Answer!” Anger erupted inside **me**; as **I** stood, kicking the chair back, the **sound** of wood crashing somewhere in the distance seemed irrelevant in comparison to the whirlwind of emotions crashing through me like a fucking tidal

wave.

“YES!” Anthony hissed, **his** eyes rising to meet mine, angry, red-rimmed and feral. “She is his cousin and heir to the Lycan throne.” His lips twisted into a snarl. “But she will never rule!” His words, like ice, prickled my back.

“So you planned to kill Sebastian and what?” Kane nodded. “To stop the secret. getting out **and** your wife’s betrayal becoming common knowledge?” Anthony shook his head, a sinister smirk spreading across his lips.

“You think I want to protect her?” He laughed, spitting at my feet. “I want to see her burn!” His tone filled with so much venom it made my blood turn to acid. I ran my tongue over my lip, fighting the urge to break his nose with my knee.

“We don’t have time for this. We have somewhere to be and enough shit to wade through.” Kane groaned, turning from Anthony to run his hand through his messy hair.

“She has a right to know!” I muttered, watching my brother as he processed this information. “He is going to end up telling her; you heard his comment earlier about her mother.” I expressed, pulling on Kane’s shoulder to get him to turn. “Better she hears it from us than him.”

“KANE!” I bellowed. Kane’s jaw was set so tightly that as he turned to look at me, I could hear the crunching of his teeth.

“I agree, brother. But we still have the moon goddesses’ deal to contend with! And this shit has made things worse.” Kane growled, pulling the chair I had kicked

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Chapter 122 Lycan Princess

up and sitting down in it, his elbows resting on his knees, his head hanging low as he tried to think.

“How is this..” I asked, motioning to Anthony. “Effect the crap we have going on with the moon goddess?”

“The moon goddess?” I heard Adam ask as he stepped closer to Kane and me, Liam hanging back to watch Anthony and an unconscious Mike.

“It’s a long story.” I muttered, dismissing him with a wave of my hand.

“Two bonds of the heart,” Kane repeated the moon goddess’ words to me, no longer registering Adam or Liam. “I planned to offer her father up...” He admitted, his eyes travelling back to the men behind us.

“And Mike?” I asked. Kane’s nod was all the answer I needed. “Can’t we still offer them? Lottie loved them, fuck knows why.... but surely it will still work.” Never had I seen Kane look as defeated and desperate as he did right now, as the fear of losing our mate and pups weighed heavy on him.

“It won’t!” A voice I recognised laughed into the room, sucking all the energy from it with each breath he took.

Author note: Hiya guys.

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Chapter 123: Picking My Battles

“So, what’s the deal with you and Knox?” I asked, side-eyeing my new companion more than a little curiously. I didn’t know much about what my mates had been up to while they were away. Perhaps I should ask them, but I had a feeling I would get the unedited version from Chase.

“Caught that, huh?” Chase asked, holding the door open to my bedroom. We had walked up here silently while I had stewed over the last twenty minutes. Deciding I would have to trust my mates and their reasons for asking me to leave, I let go of the anger and decided to make the most of the time with Chase.

“Well, subtly isn’t exactly your forte, darling!” I laughed, his eyebrow lifting at the name I had bestowed on him.

“Get cleaned up, and maybe I will tell ya... Darling.” Chase winked in a way that I am sure many women would find sexy. Me, not so much!

“Dick!” I groaned, ducking under his arm and heading to the bathroom to brush my teeth. I may not be able to do much about my clothing, but I could at least make sure I had fresh breath.

“Why don’t you have any clothes here?” Chase asked, appearing in the doorway, holding a bunch of Kane and Knox’s clothes. His face scrunched into an indignant frown.

“Did you go through my drawers?” I gasped through a mouthful of toothpaste.

and froth.

“Yes. I thought I would at least find a few lacy items.” He grinned, wiggling his eyebrows suggestively. “But there is fuck all of yours.” He stated, a question lingering between us.

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Chapter 123 Picking My Battles

“I have only been here a few days and haven’t had a chance to get my things from Mike’s apartment, and the bag of shit I brought with me is in Lilly’s room.” I explained, feeling toothpaste dribble down my chin.

“Ah!” Chase nodded before disappearing again. Rolling my eyes, I went back to brushing my teeth, washing my face, and brushing my tangled hair. Only when I had finished did I realise how silent the room was; fear crept up my spine as I poked my

head out the bathroom door to see the room empty.

“Chase?” I asked naively. He obviously wasn’t here. My eyes shot to the door, hearing a commotion on the other side of it. Sighing, recognising my best friend’s voice, I closed my eyes, knowing that a ball of anger was about to erupt through the door.

“Remind me to be more careful with my words next time!” I muttered to Sage, who was alert and waiting for whatever came through the door.

“You think he has gone to get your stuff from Lilly?” She asked, struggling to

hide how amused she was.

“Yep!” I grunted as the door opened, and a proud-looking Chase stumbled through, my bag hanging from his finger. A red-faced and angry-looking Lilly hot on his heels, demanding to know who he thought he was.

“Is this yours?” Chase asked me, ignoring the temper tantrum exploding behind him before he slammed the door in Lilly’s face while blowing her a dramatic kiss.

“Yes, but it’s like 6:30 AM!” I started to say but was cut off by the banging on my door.

“Let me in, you piece of shit!” Lilly howled from the other side of the door. “Or I am going to have my mate beat your ass! I am not finished with you!”

“Damn, she is a bitch! Poor Seb has his hands full!” He laughed, tilting his head to the bag again.

“I didn’t need it!” I grumbled, stepping forward to grab it, but he pulled it from my hold, hovering it above my head like the twins used to do to Lilly when we were

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Chapter 123 Picking My Battles

kids.

“You did! It’s yours!” Chase huffed, dropping it into my hands and nodding to the bathroom like my friend wasn’t banging on the door like a maniac. “I will deal with her. Go change. We ain’t got all day!” He grumbled, opening the door to face the beast outside again.

“So bossy!” I muttered, turning to the bathroom. I paused to look back, hearing Lilly’s shrill voice cut through the room.

“When my brothers hear about this, they are gonna kick your ugly ass!” Lilly snarled at Chase, her hands wrapped around her slender chest in what I knew was supposed to be an intimidating pose. Her actions reminded me of her outbursts when we were kids, always using the twins to get her way.

“Kinky! I might like that, sweet cheeks.” Chase mused, Lilly’s mouth hanging open in confusion. She evidently was not sure how to take Chase’s unbothered attitude. Watching the two of them argue, I smirked, loving that Lilly had met her match with this blonde-haired lunatic.

“Next time you want your stuff, Char, come get it yourself. Don’t send your mad dog to get it!” Lilly growled, her eyes locked on me angrily. Chase laughed, his back stiffening as he leaned forward to snap his teeth at Lilly, pulling a squeal from her lips.

“Careful princess dogs bite!” Chase warned her. “And my bite is... deadly!”

“Sounds right for a rabid mutt!” She spat, her eyes glowing with anger.

“For something so small, you’re annoying as fuck! Like a wasp or a goat,” Chase groaned, looking over his shoulder at me. “Is she a friend of yours?” He asked, ignoring Lilly’s screaming.

“Yes.”

“No!” Lilly snapped, crossing her arms over my chest again. “She is just my brother’s fuck toy!” She laughed bitterly.

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Chapter 123 Picking My Battles

“Seriously, Lilly!” I snorted, feeling the hurt settle in the pit of my stomach; I had hoped we had turned a corner after all I had done to save Sebastian yesterday. “I

thought we had moved past this!”

“I could cut her tongue out; it’s not like Seb needs that part of her to breed,” Chase expressed, shrugging his shoulders at me.

“Ughhh, who even are you?” Lilly hissed, shoving Chase in the chest before I could answer. Chase’s large hands gripped Lilly’s wrists and walked her back out the door. I smirked to myself, seeing him fighting back the urge to throw her on her ass, but Liam’s statement yesterday played in my mind, reminding me that Chase would never hurt a woman. Not even one as rude and obnoxious as Lilly.

“Why don’t you ask your mate who I am? Then I will accept your apology in the form of a blow job, chocolate, or both!” He winked before slamming the door.

“Hurt her, no! Disrespect her... yes!” Sage countered, my lips tightening

because I was uncomfortable with his statement.

“Really?” I asked frowning at his crudeness. “Sebastian won’t like that! And he will hear about it from Lilly!” I warned Chase, the smirk playing at the corner of his lips, letting me know that he was well aware of that but gave zero shits!

“And?” He winked.

“Dick!” I groaned again as I headed into the bathroom to get changed, knowing I wouldn’t win that battle. I was halfway through emptying my bag when I felt his presence in the doorway.

“Why do you let her talk to you like that?” Chase asked, the irritation in his voice unmistakable; he had clearly been stewing on that thought since I had disappeared in here. It makes you look weak, and I know you ain’t weak.” He added, his brows pulling together tightly.

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Chapter **124: Your Highness!**

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Lottie POV

“Comfy?” I asked as I walked out of the bathroom to see Chase sprawled out on bed. I hadn’t even had a chance to sleep in it yet, so his bloodied shoes resting on the comforter had a nerve twitching in my eye.

“Not really; I prefer feather down.” He shrugged like the wind-up merchant I knew him to be.

“Aw, sorry, Princess, but it wasn’t meant for your delicate ass; it’s for my mates and me. And we like it hard.” I teased playfully, wanting to drop my mates into conversation.

“Gross.” He grunted, a shiver running down his spine.

“Hey, you started it!” I winked, leaning up the door frame to watch him.

“Whatever.” He laughed, nodding to me, the sound making the muscles in my body relax instantly. But it didn’t stop my eyes from noting the way he looked at me. There was no desire in his stare, no lust or craving; it was purely platonic. Which was somewhat reassuring, but I knew I needed to broach the subject with him, just to make sure we were on the same page and to soothe Sage’s nerves.

“How do you feel about impending motherhood?” he asked, his lips twisting into a smirk.

“Fine.” I fibbed, but given the way his lips curled further, he knew I was lying.

“What do you want me to say?” I shrugged, crossing my arms over my chest. “That I am nervous; scared shitless even because I never exactly had a family that gave a shit, and I am worried I will fuck my kids up.”

“Excited... would have covered it.” Chase smiled, but it didn’t quite reach his eyes as he sat up, hanging his feet over the edge of the bed. “But yeah, I

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Chapter 124 Your Highness!

understand Anthony doesn’t exactly seem like the warm and fuzzy type,” he muttered. “I can relate to that.” He nodded, a long breath leaving his lips.

“Really?” I asked, pushing off the doorway to sit beside him. I had so many questions and hoped that if I let him talk, I might get some answers to them.

“Really?” He nodded, eyeing me out of the corner of his eye, a smile teasing his lips. “Three questions, that’s all you get!” He nodded, crossing his legs as he turned to face me. My eyes dropped to the bloody mark his shoes left on my bed, a brow arching as I raised them to look at him.

“Ughh, it’s just a little blood.” He moaned, trying to rub the mark off, only to make it worse.

“Do you bloody mind?” I laughed, slapping his hand away, his eyes lifting to meet mine, filled with fake hurt as he cradled his hand to his chest.

“Not one bit, Your Highness.” The way he dragged out the last word caused hesitation to lick up my spine, although it vanished quickly, seeing him grin, the smile finally reaching his eyes.

“How did you meet Knox and Kane?” I asked, deciding to push through my feelings to make the most of his offer and ask the questions that were toying at the tip of my tongue.

“My brothers and I were hired to befriend them when Sebastian shared his plans to align himself with the Maddox family. They wanted to ensure that brothers would not be too much trouble; Knox has a reputation as a loose cannon and the powers that be wanted to confirm Kane could keep him under control.” Chase admitted freely, his fingers fiddling with the laces of his shoes as he watched my

reaction.

Honestly, I wasn't surprised; we all knew that the Royal family was careful with whom they aligned themselves, so I was not stupid enough to think they hadn't vetted Alpha Leigh, his pack, and my mates before agreeing to the match. Nodding, I pursed my lips, wanting to confirm my theory that the Royals had hired the Sparrow Brothers, but knowing that would be a waste of a question. I decided to try to get two answers from one question.

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Chapter 124 Your Highness!

“Why did the Royal family pick you, Liam and Adam? You must have had some history with my mates for them to choose you three.” I asked, pursing my lips as I watched him sit back against the headboard and eye me carefully.

“I never said the Royals hired us,” he stated, but the twitch in his eye let me know I was right. Letting out a laugh when I refused to change my question, he nodded, giving in.

“We are of similar age to the twins. We have met occasionally but were never close to them or anyone else; it was forbidden.”

“Forbidden?” I asked, my head spinning with sadness because that sounded lonely, isolating and honestly rather pathetic for men as vivacious and sweet as these three. Chase's finger fell on my lips to silence me. Pouting under it, I nodded

for him to continue.

“I told you, we never had a loving upbringing. Liam, Adam, and I are the bastard children of the Royals.” He shared sincerity, lacing his tone as he shrugged, trying to act unbothered. However, I could see the pain swimming in his eyes. “We were raised to protect the family line, reputation, and each full-blooded component at all

costs.”

“I am sorry, Chase.” I whispered, my hand landing on his to stop him from pulling his lace apart. Squeezing his hand lightly, I nodded for him to continue, not because I needed him to finish his part of the deal and answer my question but because I could tell he genuinely needed to talk. To get this off his chest and if I could help ease his pain just a little, I would. Given what he had done for me last night with Mike and my father, I owed him that.

“It’s fine.” He nodded, his eyes tightening. “It is what it is. We go where we are told, do as we are told, and kill when needed without question—all part of the training. All is good as long as the Royals are untainted and clean of blood.” I ran my tongue over my suddenly dry lips and dropped my eyes to his shoes that were coated in blood, my father’s and ex-boyfriend’s blood.

“You like it though, don’t you... killing?” I asked, my eyes rising to meet his, a sadistic grin pulling at his lips, sending a shiver down my spine. Liam was right; he was beautiful but deadly.

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Chapter 125: Fight Fate!

Mike POV

“No.” I muttered through a bruised and cut lip, hearing the voice of the demon from the hallway. “Don’t listen to him.” I tried to say, but even I could hear how mumbled and broken it sounded. I attempted to open my eyes but struggled and knew instantly the blonde-haired fucker had swollen my lids closed.

“How **did** you get in here?” One of the Alphas asked; I suspected it was the one I had watched beat Anthony almost to a pulp.

“Does it matter? I can help,” The demon replied. I could hear the smile in his

voice even if I couldn't see it.

"You have helped enough!" Kane's voice cut through the air, anger crackling off his tone like thunder off a cliff top. Without my eyesight, my other senses had heightened, and I could smell the death and corruption infecting the air from the demonic presence in the room. How had I not noticed that earlier?

"Hear me, Kane Maddox, if I wanted you or your brother dead, you would be. I simply wanted some pre-show entertainment. So if you don't mind, I would like to skip the whole dick-measuring part of this exchange and get to the damn point." I heard the demon spew from his poisoned lips. Given how the air changed around us, the twins were less than impressed with the attitude rolling off the demon.

"See, now, was that so hard?" He asked; I couldn't help but note that Knox's usual cocky attitude was gone.

"Get to the point, filth." Kane growled, the floor creaking under someone's footsteps.

"It won't work because the moon goddess has linked the deal to the bloodlines. Your father and her.. cousin... Is that right?" The demon asked, my mind whirling with confusion. What deal with their father? Does this mean Alpha is alive? If so, does he know what happened? Who was behind the attack?

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Chapter 125 Fight Fate!

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“See, now, was that so hard?” He asked; I couldn’t help but note that Knox’s usual cocky attitude was gone.

“Get to the point, filth.” Kane growled, the floor creaking under someone’s

footsteps.

“It won’t work because the moon goddess has linked the deal to the bloodlines. Your father and her.. cousin... Is that right?” The demon asked, my mind whirling with confusion. What deal with their father? Does this mean Alpha is alive? If so, does he know what happened? Who was behind the attack?

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Chapter 125. Fight Fatel

“Scared, little pup?” a voice whispered through my mind. I swallowed through my dry throat as panic settled at the base of my spine, but I resolved to stay silent. Like I had a choice anyway.

“What deal have you made, Kane?” Liam’s shocked voice erupted into the room. When no response came, a scoff left the demonic scum’s lips, and he continued.

“So you see, the sacrifice needs to contain your blood or hers, and as Daddy dearest is not actually Daddy at all, and Mr Green is not related to the Royals, the deal will be rejected.” The smugness cutting each of his words had my lips pulling tightly into what I hoped resembled a smirk. I might hate the demon, but hearing the twins get knocked down a peg or two was fantastic, even if I couldn’t see it. I could imagine the look of disappointment on Knox’s cocky, self-assured face.

“How do you know this?” I heard Adam ask, his voice devoid of emotion and all business like the standard for an Alpha.

“I know it well because I can smell the magic weaving through Lottie and attaching itself to her.”

“Is there a loophole?” Adam’s calm voice asked again, although a tinge of anger clung to his words, making me curious.

“You haven’t put two and two together yet?” The demon asked into my mind, my bruised lips pressing together into a thin line at the amusement in his voice. I wanted to reply but knew he was trying to bait me and I couldn’t trust anything he

had to say anyway.

“Or help you!” His voice bounced around my head before I felt him slide into the back of my consciousness.

“Yes, but Tweedledum and Tweedledee here have clarified that they don’t want my help.” The demon laughed into the small room, a growl emitting from Knox’s lips.

“How will you help me?” I asked the demon as he continued to taunt Knox and Kane, my head pounding so much the voices of those around me floated away; I couldn’t keep up with their conversation and the feeling of the demon floating around my head and had no choice but to pick one to focus on.

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Chapter 125 Fight Fate!

“I can return your wolf, and you can heal.” He admitted, hope finally slipping back into my bones. I had thought I would die in this room, but if I had my wolf, maybe I would stand a chance against the wolfless Alphas.

“Now who is cocky! You wouldn’t! But I could protect you- for a price!.” The demon chuckled privately into the depths of my curious mind.

“What will it cost me?” I asked internally, but did it matter? I would do anything

to survive, and the demon knew that.

“In the coming months, I will approach you for a favour, and you will agree no matter your feelings on my request!”

“Done!” I replied flippantly, a deep, spine-chilling chuckle exploding into my mind, confirming he had heard me. The fear washed away when instantly I felt my body strengthen, a bond snapping back into place as my body relaxed, alerting me to Flint’s return. I wanted to scream with relief, jump up and tell those in the room to go fuck themselves, but I knew better than to play my hand just yet, so instead, I stayed silent and allowed Flint to heal me slowly, my attention flipping back to the chaos exploding around me.

“No chance!” Kane seethed as I breathed my first easy breath, as the swelling eased around my face, and my ribs silently cracked back in place.

“Hold up.” Adam interjected, stepping in front of Kane and closer to the demon I was apparently now teamed up with. “You have your wolf; why don’t you let us make that decision, yeah!” He snapped his eyes, meeting Kane’s with suspicion.

“What’s the price you mentioned?” Adam asked, my lips pulling tightly with bitterness when I realised that I had been naïve to think I was the only one he had

offered this deal to.

“Aww, did you think you were special, princess?” The demon laughed into my mind, the sound like nails on a chalkboard.

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Chapter 126: Isn’t He Meant To Be Dead?

48

Lottie POV

“Chase... What about your mother and father?” I asked, knowing I would not like the answer he was about to give; I tried to keep the pain from my voice.

“My mother is dead. Once she had served her purpose, my father no longer needed her,” he expressed, with a shrug that I knew was forced, but he continued on, not wanting to make a big deal out of it. I guess I had to respect that, even if I disagreed with it. “And my father, like yours, wasn’t exactly the sappy type. More blood and sweat than hugs and laughter.”

“What do you mean by purpose?” I asked, unable to hide my shock because he couldn’t possibly mean what I thought he did.

“What? Are the Royals not quite what you thought, Your Highness?” He scoffed, my jaw locking tight at the pet name he had seemingly bestowed upon me. Did he think I was like the barbarians he was describing to me? Is that why he chose the

name?

“What about yours, your mother? She is dead, right? Do you know much about her side of the family?” He asked, taking me by surprise. I never spoke of my mother, especially not with people I barely knew, which meant my father had been spewing his venom when it came to her.

“Char... Tread carefully,” Sage warned, her senses prickling at the mention of our mother.

“It’s okay; I trust him,” I admitted, and the truth was I did. I couldn’t put my finger on it, but something about him felt safe, like the warm embrace of family.

“My father never spoke about her, at least not until recently, and what he has to say isn’t exactly worthy of repeating.”

“I see.” Chase nodded, and I felt he really did, given the way his eyes lowered

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Chapter 126: Isn’t He Meant To Be Dead?

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from mine sympathetically. “Would you welcome her family if they appeared on your doorstep?” He asked, his eyes tightening at the corners as I considered his question. I had always wished for family, with a bond like Lilly had with hers, wasn’t exactly a secret my dad was a drunken fool or that my mother had died, and where had my family been then? If I had managed this long without them, I hardly needed them now.

I opened my mouth to answer when pain shot through my mate’s bond, crippling me as both Knox and Kane simultaneously suffered pain beyond anything I had felt before.

“What’s happened?” I asked through the bond. I could sense them on the other end as panic ate at my insides. Yet no response came. Lifting off the bed, I yanked on Chase to pull him after me.

“Something is wrong; I can feel it. We have to go!” I wailed as I pulled him towards the door, not wanting to waste a minute. I could see the confusion whirling in his eyes and knew he was going to be a pain in the ass.

“What? I would feel it.” Chase half laughed, his eyes pinching together as he tried to feel through the bond he had with the other Sparrow Brothers.

“You don’t have a wolf, dumbass. Come on! The guys need us!” I snapped, shoving him through the door and into the hallway, my eyes opening wide as he tumbled into the immense stoic figure of Alpha Leigh, his eyes scanning Chase and then me with a tinge of outrage and confusion.

“Care to explain why you are sneaking a male who is not my son’s out of your room, young lady?” Alpha Leigh asked, his eyes tone light despite the harshness of his eyes as he scanned Chase, who was rubbing his head dramatically.

“Fuck man, what are you made of man, pure steal? I have a damn concussion now!” Chase mumbled, a frown pulling at my lips at the complete lack of concern shown by those around me.

“We don’t have time for this!” I growled, pushing past Alpha Leigh only to walk straight into Sebastian, His eyes shifted between Chase and me, his frown deepening as some kind of realisation dawned on him.

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Chapter 126. Isn’t He Meant To Be Dead?

“Chase, I assume it’s you who has my mate in such a tizzy?” Sebastian sighed, rolling his eyes as his **hand** landed on my shoulder, sparks tingling under the skin where his hand lay. Looking at his hand and then at him, I shrugged his digits off and walked away to the stairwell.

“That would be correct; she informs me you’re gonna kick my **ass**, Seb.. wanna **do** that now or later?” Chase asked in his usual juvenile manner that any other time would be cute! But when I could feel my mates panic through the bond. Not so

much!

“Later.” He grumbled, a laugh erupting from his lips as he followed behind me.

“Pussy!” He whispered just enough for Sage and I to hear. “Will you slow the fuck down, woman?” He added as he reached the stairs, taking them two at a time to catch up with me.

“Charlotte.” Alpha Leigh’s voice boomed behind me, making me stop as his Alpha command caught me off guard. “What is going on?” He ordered, my lips pursing as I considered lying to him for a split second before thinking better of it and nodding to the stairs.

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“I don’t have time to explain, Alpha. Kane and Knox are hurt. So either wait... or hurry up and follow me.” I sighed, knowing I was making a mistake in involving Alpha Leigh because the second he entered that room and found my father beaten, he was going to have questions—questions that would most likely change everything forever. When Alpha nodded, releasing me from his hold, I turned and took the stairs two at a time again.

“Isn’t he meant to be dead?” Chase whispered in my ear as he linked his arm through mine and walked down the stairs beside me.

“It didn’t stick,” Alpha Leigh replied. Despite the fear rippling through me, a smirk pulled at my lips when I turned to look at my Alpha, only to see him wink at me as he followed closely behind.

“You sure? Because you look like shit!” Chase asked, his words laced with amusement as he watched the exchange between us before he continued rambling. “So, what’s going on with the boys? Do you think it’s Mike? Or... he who shall not be

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Chapter 126. Isn’t He Meant To Be Dead?

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Chapter 127: Facing the Demon’s Fury

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Kane POV

It all happened in slow motion; the idea of sharing Charlotte with that demonic filth and the way he had spewed his poison had been too much for Knox, and before I could reach to him, he had lunged. His eyes glowed with the redness of Havoc. I had felt the anger detonate inside him at the idea of this creep getting his hands on our girl, so I understood why he had lost his composure and attempted an attack on the creature from the pits of hell itself...

“She is mine.” Knox roared as he launched himself at the demon, his muscles rippling with power as he sought to avenge the torment it had inflicted upon his mind not twenty-four hours ago and our mate.

“I never said she wasn’t! I just said I wanted a bit of her!” The demon I knew as Astaroth laughed, adding fuel to the fire within Knox. My breath caught in my throat as I witnessed the breathtaking spectacle unfolding before me. My twin’s figure, once human, now twisted and contorted as his body gave way to the primal power within him. With a primal roar, he embraced the change, his form elongating and shifting until he stood before me as a fierce black-haired werewolf.

“Shit!” I heard Adam gasp. I wanted to turn and tell them to stay, but I couldn’t move. Havoc’s fur gleamed in the small room, each strand as dark as the deepest night. His eyes blazed with an otherworldly hellfire; his red orbs fixated on his prey as he landed gracefully on the wooden floor, making the ground below my feet shake. I could feel the raw power emanating from my brother, a palpable force that sent shivers down my spine.

“Careful, I don’t know if he is controlled,” I whispered to Adam and Liam as they hovered in my provisional vision.

“He is your brother!” Adam hissed, his eyes meeting mine heatedly. I got it; the sparrow brothers were all about their bonds, the unity and their roles as protectors, but there was more to protect right now than my brother and his wayward wolf.

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Chapter 122 Facing the Demon’s Fury

Chapter 127 Facing the Demon’s Fury

Kane POV

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Chapter 127. Facing the Demon's Fury

"And if he gets out of this room, that is MY pack, and he will obliterate." I seethed, watching Havoc fight the demonic creep.

"Then fucking do something!!" Liam snarled just as angrily as I had.

"I am in control, brother!" Knox announced into my mind, and I wanted to believe him, but I still felt the crippling dread eat at me, rooting me to the spot. I watched from my spot frozen in place as memories danced

across my vision of the destruction Havoc had caused the last time he was allowed out to 'play'. The demon met Havoc's charge head-on, its twisted form twisting and contorting with unnatural agility. Claws clashed against claws, the sound of their battle echoing through the forest as they danced a deadly dance of tooth and nail. Havoc fought with a primal ferocity, his movements fueled by a righteous fury that burned bright within him. He looked ferrous, feral, and every inch the alpha wolf he was.

"KANE, do something, man!" Liam bellowed from somewhere behind me. I should, but it was not just Havoc's appearance that struck me; it was the sheer intensity of his presence. If that turned on Rolo, we were fucked!

"We can help Kane!" Rolo announced into my head, and as much as I trusted Rolo's judgement, I knew he, like Adam and Liam, was bound by the love of brotherhood. I had to think of the bigger picture as much as I hated the responsibility. Someone had to bear it.

Havoc seemed larger than life in his werewolf form, a force of nature unto himself. And yet, there was a vulnerability to him as well, a hint of humanity that lingered beneath the surface that gave me hope that Knox was in control of his

beast.

"Brother, do you really have the reins?" I asked Knox as I waited for a moment

longer.

“Yes, you gonna let me do all the work?” Knox laughed, I stood there in silence, watching my brother, bound by the ancient magic that pulsed through his veins, before nodding to Liam and Adam, then behind them to where Mike had escaped and was already fumbling with Anthony’s restaurants, his bruised and battered face replaced with pristine and cockiness I wanted to wipe from his smug features.

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Chapter 127 Facing the Demon’s Fury

“Get the prisoners secure,” I warned, **knowing** we would need them in the battle to come.

“Fuck them! Let Havoc have them!” Adam laughed, surprising me further seeing the level headed Alpha make their own call as he and his Sparrow Brother jumped into the battle, without their wolves, ready to lay their lives down for Knox and I.. and our pack.

Two Alphas joined the fray, their formidable presence adding weight to our side of the battle. Yet, even their combined might seemed to pale in comparison to the malevolent force they faced. The demon fought with a cunning and ruthlessness that sent shivers down my spine, leaving me feeling helpless and small in its wake.

Lunging forward, I caved and jumped into the heart of the battle, where the air crackled with tension as Havoc, Adam; Liam, and I faced off against the demonic menace that had plagued our pack for far too long. The stench of sulphur hung thick in the night air, mingling with the metallic tang of blood

The four of us forged together by blood and bond, locked in a fierce battle with the demon that had tormented us for what felt like an eternity. Havoc's powerful werewolf form clashed with the dark, twisted creature, each blow resonating with a ferocity that shook me to my core.

But as the fight raged on, it became painfully clear that we were losing ground. The demon, fueled by its insatiable thirst for power and destruction, seemed to gain strength with each passing moment. Fear gnawed at my insides as I watched my brother and allies struggle, their strength waning against the relentless onslaught.

"ENOUGH!" The demon roared when Adam had it in a headlock that seemed to be turning the tide for us. Instead, the power the demon wielded sent the three of us hurtling back, bowling us into an almost free and clear Anthony and Mike. Havoc's form fighting the powers as he pushed closer, teeth snapping at the monster who had invaded our lives, wanting to take what was ours.

"Mine!" Havoc snarled as he closed the gap on the demon.

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Chapter 128: You Tried to Kill Me!

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Lottie POV

"You!" I heard Alpha Leigh gasp, and honestly, I wasn't sure who he was referring to as my eyes scanned the chaos erupting around us: Havoc or the demon Astaroth. But what I did know was that he was pissed; the anger radiating off my Alpha in waves was almost enough to knock me off my feet and further into the

room.

"You tried to kill me!" Alpha Leigh seethed further.

“That hardly narrows it down,” Sage groaned, lending me some of her strength to steady myself, but she was too slow. A hand slid around my waist, pulling me back into a rock-hard wall of muscle and given the familiar tingles exploding in my core, I knew it was Sebastian who had secured me. Leaving me grateful but surprised and incredibly uncomfortable.

“Get off her,” Chase snapped angrily. Sebastian’s hand was quickly replaced by the familiarity of Chase’s touch, causing my eyes to shoot up to Kane and then Havoc for fear my mate’s beastly wolf would see Chase or Bash as a threat and lunge... again!

“It’s ok, Princess. Relax for me.” Kane soothed into my mind, sensing my anxiety. My body instantly did as my mate bid and relaxed as my eyes shifted back to Kane with questions. “Knox is in control, it’s ok.” Kane clarified, and I could see from the ease in his eyes that he was confident in his words. The pride on my face as I looked over at the magnificent form of Havoc felt slightly condescending, but I couldn’t help how I felt.

“Don’t do anything rash, angel face,” Knox requested, joining his brother in my mind. “Let Chase look after you until you’re at Kane’s side.” Knox’s husky **voice** rasped into my head, heat pooling in my stomach even as he pretty much implied I couldn’t look after myself, something I had proven time and time again. I pursed my lips, ready to fight **him**, but my **attention** returned to the anger exploding in the **room** from Alpha Leigh before I could respond to my mate.

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Chapter 128: You Tried to Kill Me!

“Tried?” Astaroth laughed as he stepped closer to where I stood. The demon’s gaze fixed upon me as he addressed my Alpha, his tone laced with a strange mix of curiosity and something darker that scared me, sending a chilling sensation down my spine. “I did kill ya, boss man!” He laughed without removing his leering stare.

“You piece of shit!” Alpha Leigh roared; I could hear the tension growing and knew I needed to do something before it was too late to salvage this shit storm.

“Help a girl out!” I whispered to Sage, her growl of approval bouncing around my head. Snapping my head around to look at my Alpha, my eyes shining with Sage’s silent presence, her eyes glimmering through mine in a petition for him to remember my request: for him to trust me.

“Please, Alpha!” I pleaded.

“Purple eyes.” I heard Sebastian inhale, his eyes darting to Chase with questions I was not privy to, but I ignored it and pushed on. I needed Alpha Leigh to back down; I was still paying the price for the last time I saved his hide.

“Trust me, please,” I whispered low, but the chuckle coming from the demon on the other side of me had my back stiffening and Alpha Leigh’s face screwing up with anger.

“That’s it. Be a good bitch and listen to the only one thinking with a brain and do as you are told, boss man. I would hate to have to kill you twice.” He laughed, continuing his stroll towards us.

“Take one more step, filth, and I will gut you.” Chase growled low, his hand on my back, his fingers curling into my top. He was in for a surprise if he thought that would keep me put.

“Cute!” The demon laughed, my eyes moving from his, no longer interested, knowing that Chase was keeping him entertained for a moment so I could check on my mates.

Kane stood **still**, his mouth tight and eyes angry, as he watched me, no doubt knowing I was about **to** do the exact opposite of what he and Knox had requested. I sucked down a breath **at** the seriousness in his eyes and averted my eyes, unable to

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Chapter 128: You Tried to Kill Mel

hold his stare any longer.

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Pursing my lips, my eyes trailed from him to Liam and Adam, who were

discreetly making their way over to where Chase stood, no doubt to support their brother in arms. But it didn’t take a genius to see they were both somewhat injured

and flagging.

“Get behind me,” Chase instructed into my ear, pulling me back to the moment, but it was too late. My feet were already moving further into the room, spotting Havoc lower, ready to pounce on the demonic intruder in a bid to keep us all safe.

“He can’t win!” Sage whined, and as much as I hated it, she was right. I knew he would stand no chance against the mind games and strength the vermin possessed. My eyes met with a pair of large fire-red orbs focused on me as I begged him to reconsider.

“Hey, Stud,” I whispered through our link as I continued through the room, hoping the bold move to approach

Would distract him.

“Charlotte!” I heard Alpha Leigh gasp from behind me, the panic in his tone not lost on me, but that was not my concern right now; what was the piece of wood sticking from Havoc’s side?

me.”

“Is that a chair leg?” Sage asked, her tone more of a whine.

“How did he not notice it?” I asked. “Knox’s resilience never ceases to amaze

“Kitty!” Havoc moaned, his presence filling the room.

I was sure to others that his towering form exuded power and menace, but to me, it screamed protection and safety. Frankly, there was nowhere else I would rather be right now than beside him and Kane because if Kane was right and Knox had control, I knew he wouldn’t hurt me!

“Mates!” Sage purred needily as I strode toward my mates, Havoc in his formidable wolf form and Kane towering beside him in his human guise

“Not so fast, Honey!” Astaroth growled, my stomach lunging as an unexpected

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Chapter 129: Make Your Choice!

Lottie POV

As I materialised in Astaroth’s demonic dimension, a chill crept through my veins, sending shivers cascading down my spine. The very essence of the realm seemed to writhe and twist, morphing and contorting in a grotesque dance around me. Panic clawed at my chest, threatening to consume me whole, as I frantically searched for any semblance of escape.

“Charlotte!”

“Kitty!”

Amidst the chaos and the cacophony of unearthly sounds, two familiar voices pierced through the darkness, a beacon of hope amongst the despair. Their voices were quickly joined by the Sparrow Brother’s panicked cries.

“Save her!” I heard Chase scream, my heart pounding in my chest, a wild rhythm matching the chaos around me. My breaths came in ragged gasps as I spun around toward the cries to face the portal, the swirling vortex that seemed to pulse with malevolent energy. It mesmerised me with a force I couldn’t resist, pulling at the very core of my being.

“Sage!” I whispered, wanting her to fight for our freedom, knowing I wouldn’t be able to do it myself; the hold the demon had weaved into my mind was far too strong. But it was too late; I could sense her slowly fading into a soundproof cage buried somewhere in the depths of my mind where even our mate’s voices couldn’t reach her.

My eyes glued through the portal to where Havoc and Kane’s voices blended together in a symphony of fear and determination, their shouts mingling with the roar of the wind supporting the portal. I could see the panic etched on their faces, their eyes wide with terror as they fought against the invisible barrier that kept them from reaching me.

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Chapter 129: Make Your Choice!

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Chapter 129: Make Your Choice!

Time seemed to slow to a crawl as I stared into the depths of the portal, my vision narrowing to focus solely on the two figures racing towards me. Kane's rugged features were twisted in a mask of desperation, his usually stoic demeanour shattered by the fear of losing me. And Havoc, ever the loyal beast, his jaw set in determination as he pushed forward, ignoring the danger that lurked just beyond.

I wanted to reach out to them and tell them that everything would be alright, but the words caught in my throat, choked by the overwhelming sense of dread that washed over me. The demon's laughter reverberated in my ears, a cruel reminder of the perilous situation we found ourselves in.

“Behave, and you can go back to them.” I heard Astaroth scoff into my mind like the sick fuck he was

Ime, however and I will *crush* them like the nothings

they are! The

choice is yours, honey!”

“Make your choice!” Astaroth sneered brutally, as he stepped beside me holding his hand out for me to take. When I didn’t move, a sly grin slipped onto his lips as red lightning sparked from behind us and flew through the vortex and slammed into Kane. Undoubtedly Astaroth’s way of showing me he wasn’t making an idle threat.

The soul-crushing sound of Kane’s cries filtered through to my ears as pain racked the mate bond. I watched him topple over Havoc’s feet ceased their sprint

throat as I watched

so he could turn and look at his brother. A lump formed in my stomach to Kane, or

him fight with Knox inwardly. No doubt torn between who to rush to Kane, or myself.

“It’s ok!” I mouthed, seeing Kane register my words, his face paled, as Havoc pushed forward toward me, his decision made. With a surge of adrenaline, I made a split-second decision. I wouldn’t let my mates sacrifice themselves for me, I simply couldn’t bear the thought of them facing the same fate that awaited me on this side of the portal. With every ounce of strength I possessed, I turned away from them, my eyes fixed on the demonic bastard before me.

“No!” I heard Chase scream from behind me as I took a hesitant step forward, my heart pounding in my ears.

The air crackled with energy, the very fabric of reality warping and twisting in

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Chapter 129: Make Your Choice!

response to the ancient magic that held sway over this place. I could feel the pull of the abyss, a primal force that threatened to consume me whole as it closed behind

me separating me from those I loved.

“Our only hope now is that this demon scum will keep his word and return us unharmed.” I whispered to Sage before remembering she had been silenced by

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Chapter 130: The Power Of Desperation!

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Lottie POV

I stood amidst the swirling darkness of the demonic realm, the air thick with the stench of sulphur and despair. Before me loomed Astaroth, his eyes drifting over his land to a gothic cathedral, its red marble structure, a stark contrast against the blackened sky. Lightning crackled ominously, casting eerie shadows that danced across the barren landscape.

This was Hell.

My heart pounded in my chest as I realised Chase had followed me through the portal. Anger flared within me, mixing with a deep sense of concern for his safety. Why did he have to be so reckless?

“What are you doing here?” I snapped, my voice laced with frustration as I turned to face him, my lips pulling tightly together watching him land a few feet in front of me with grace I could only wish for. Chase met my gaze, determination shining in his eyes despite the danger surrounding us.

“I couldn’t just let you face this alone, Lottie,” he declared firmly, his tone unwavering. “You’re my family now. I’ll do whatever it takes to keep you safe.” Family? Did he really consider me his kin? His words touched something deep within me, stirring emotions I wasn’t quite ready to confront, I wanted to be angry with him for risking so much, but his sincerity made it hard to stay mad. Still, I couldn’t ignore the fear gnawing at the edges of my mind.

“You idiot,” I muttered, shaking my head.

“Love ya too, your Highness.”

“**You** don’t understand what I am up against.” I whispered my eyes lifted to meet the red eyes **of** Astaroth who was watching us with intrigue as he stepped back a little, but **I** wasn’t stupid enough to think it was because **our** new guest had intimidated him. He was giving Chase a little **rope**, in the hopes he hung himself.

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“WE are up against!” Chase corrected me, coming to stand beside me, his fingers lacing through mine, the warmth of his touch, a welcome surprise in a world that seemed to thrive on misery. I reached out through the bond to my mates, hoping to sense their presence and find some solace in their familiar minds. But there was nothing. Panic clawed at my chest as I realised the demon had severed my connection to them.

“Your little reunion is touching, but futile,” he sneered.

“In this realm, your powers are useless.” Astaroth watched us with his eerie red eyes, a smirk playing at the corners of his lips as he observed our exchange, stepping closer to us with a smoothness that had me nervous. “Scared Honey?” He mocked as I bristled at the softness of his words, my fists clenching at my sides as I fought to keep my composure. Chase took a step forward, his jaw set with determination.

“Fuck off, man! I will make good on my earlier threat if you touch her!” he announced, his voice steady despite the danger looming around us.

“Man? Do I look like a fucking mortal to you!” Astaroth snarled, his lips widened into a cruel grin as he raised a hand, dark energy crackling around his fingertips before soaring at Chase.

“Be careful with your threats, Pup,” he warned, his voice dripping with malice. “There are consequences for insulting me.”

Panic erupted within me seeing Astaroth lift Chase into the air with his dark, demonic powers. My heart clenched at the sight of Chase screaming in agony while Astaroth twisted his body, snapping bones at unnatural angles before pinning him to a jagged rock. The sound of Chase’s cries echoed through the dark realm, sending shivers down my spine and not for the first time since being here.

“Stop! Please, stop!” I begged, my voice trembling with dread and desperation. “Please, don’t hurt him anymore.” I pleaded with the soulless creature. Astaroth regarded me with a sinister gleam in his crimson eyes, his lips curling into a cruel smile.

“Ah, the power of desperation,” The demon mused, his voice dripping with harshness. “Very well, little wolf. I’ll ease his pain, but only if you agree to hear me out.” I shook my head in disbelief, anger simmering beneath the surface as I stared

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at the demon before me. How could he go to such extreme and unnecessary lengths just to get my attention?

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“I would have listened to you back at the pack house,” I spat, my voice tinged with bitterness. “Once I was beside my mates and had them at my side, I would have heard you! You didn’t have to do this.” Astaroth’s smile widened, his amusement evident as he watched my turmoil.

“But where’s the fun in that?” he chuckled darkly.

“You’re vile!” I seethed the words flying from my lips coated in venom.

“So I have been told, honey.” he winked and as if to prove his point his fingers moved and the air filled with the brutal sound of Chase’s cries. I kept my eyes on the beast who was threatening my friends, my family and my mates and pursed my lips. “Now, do you agree to follow me into the cathedral and listen to what I have to say?”

I hesitated for a moment, torn between my desire to save Chase while satisfying the gnawing curiosity to hear what Astaroth wanted from me and the unnatural need I had to defy him just because I could. Chase’s screams echoed in the background, a painful reminder of the stakes at hand, forcing my hand.

“No, Lottie!” Chase screamed through a rough breath from behind me, turning, my eyes met his and my heart sank seeing blood run from his eyes.

“What are you doing to him?” I screamed, turning back to look at Astaroth who was pretending to pick dirt out of his nails.

“Killing his wolf, kinda. I am boiling him from the inside, His wolf has maybe 60 seconds left before... poof

dead!” He winked at me like this was all a fucking game. “Tik tok honey, make your mind up and fast.”

“Don’t do it!” Chase begged me. My eyes shifted back to my new friend with unwavering respect, even now as death loomed over him, when his body was racked with unbearable pain he fought for me! For my life and my future happiness.

“**You** can’t very well be godfather **to** my pups if you are **dead**, can you now!” I

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