

# Their Secret Obsession (A Reverse Harem) by Pippa Moon Chapter 131

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## Chapter 131: The Empty Space

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Kane POV

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I stood there, frozen, my

closed just moments ago. Mes fixed on the empty space  
where the portal had

demon with unknown

powers.

girl had been taken from me, ripped away by some

“Charlotte!” I whispered, my  
mind spinning, trying to comprehend what had just happened. Tears stre  
amed down my face unchecked, as I  
struggled to process the shock and agony coursing through me. Behind  
me, I could hear my father’s voice, thick with concern and confusion as h  
e screamed at Adam and Liam for answers.

Answers they were not giving, not until I gave them the say-  
so. Something I had to respect.

“Kane, what happened? Where’s Charlotte?” His questions washed over me like distant waves, barely registering in my mind. How could I explain something I didn’t even understand myself?

“I don’t know,” I managed to choke out, my voice barely above a whisper.

“How can you not know? What the hell has been going on in here!” He seethed, and I knew without looking he was referring to Anthony battered and beaten on the floor in restraints while Mike hovered over him like a vulture.

“Pops, please!” The words felt hollow, empty as if spoken by someone else entirely. My father’s footsteps drew nearer, his presence a comforting weight on my back, but even his strength couldn’t dispel the darkness that had settled over me.

“Kane,” my father said again, his voice gentle but insistent. “You have to tell me what happened. We need to find her.” I shook my head, the movement slow and numb.

“I don’t know,” I repeated, the words tasting bitter on my tongue. “I don’t know where she has gone, or who took her. All I know is that she’s gone, and I couldn’t stop it.” A partial lie, I knew the demon took her, but who he truly was, where he

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## Chapter 131: The Empty Space

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had taken her and why, I didn't know. My father's hand came to rest on my shoulder,

a silent gesture of support.

"We'll find

her, son," he said, his voice firm with resolve. "No matter what it takes, we'll bring her back." But even as

he spoke, doubt gnawed at the edges of my mind. What if we were already

too late? What if Charlotte was gone forever, lost to some unseen enemy lurking in the shadows? The thought was almost too much to bear, a weight pressing down on my chest until I could scarcely breathe.

"Knox!" I breathed, needing my brother and the bond

we shared. I closed my eyes, willing the tears to stop, willing the pain to fade away. But no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't escape the overwhelming sense of loss that consumed me.

"Careful Kane." My father whispered, squeezing my shoulder. "He is unpredictable." Meeting my father's pained eyes I shook my head slowly, he had never liked Knox's wolf, even before last night and

we both knew why and it had nothing to do with his predictability and everything to do with the fact that if he so chose too he could take the pack and my father's title without breaking so much

as a sweat. Something he had proven last night. But what my Father failed to see in his own

messed up mind was that Havoc adored our father, we both did.

"Havoc is ok!" I declared. "Knox has control of him."

"That was before Charlotte was taken." Liam interjected unhelpfully. My lips pulled into a firm line as anger ate at my gut.

“Do you see him trashing the room? Losing his shit? Destroying you all? No! Knox has control. I trust my brother and I trust Havoc. I need them!” I barked out my voice breaking. Then, from somewhere behind me, I heard the unmistakable sound of Havoc approaching. Tension crackled in the air, thick and suffocating, as everyone held their breath, waiting for Havoc’s response.

Looking back into the open space I sucked down a breath feeling Havoc plop down beside me the floor shaking under his massive form but I couldn’t tear my gaze away from the spot where Charlotte had disappeared, couldn’t bring myself to face whatever horrors were swirling in Havoc’s eyes. Silence was the best I could do. Havoc’s presence was a silent comfort amidst the chaos of my emotions.

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“Charlotte is out there somewhere, alone and afraid, and I am powerless to save her.” I said coldly, sucking down the sob that threatened to escape my throat. Havoc’s fur ruffled as he threw his head back and let out a gut-wrenching howl that broke my heart further.

“Chase is with her, he won’t let anything happen to her. He will die before that filth touches her.” Adam announced with a firmness I almost believed. As I stood there, lost in my grief, I couldn’t help but wonder if this was just the beginning of something far darker and more sinister than any of us could have ever imagined.

“Havoc, I need Knox.” I sighed resting my head on Havoc’s large shoulder. “I promise I will call for you when I have answers, I will need you to rip the bastard apart!

” I admitted as I looked up into the red eyes of Havoc. An understanding passed between us as he moved to the back of the room to change. Pulling my eyes from the spot, surrendering myself to the knowledge that Charlotte was not returning, I met the concerned eyes of my father. Adam and Liam stood close by while Sebastian watched from the doorway a silent observer of the chaos.

“Son, I can’t help you if you don’t let me in and tell me what the fuck is going on. Starting with why my Beta is chained like a dog.” My father breathed, stepping towards where Anthony sat, gagged and bound.

“I wouldn’t,” I warned my father, Havoc’s low growl mirroring my own concerns and getting my father’s attention.

“He is a traitor.” Liam declared, unbothered by the growing tension, the fact he was not family or part of this pack made it easier for him to deliver the news, he wasn’t concerned for my father’s feelings or his reputation.

“What? Have you all lost your minds?” My father scoffed, taking a step closer to his Beta and oldest friend.

“It is true, Anthony is a traitor,” Adam stated bluntly, his voice carrying the weight of undeniable truth, the words hung in the air, a damning verdict that seemed to echo through the room.

“Someone best **start** talking, and soon.” My father demanded his fist flying into a nearby wall sending plaster and photo frames flying to the ground but I couldn’t

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## Chapter 131: The Empty Space

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### Chapter 132: Always A Choice!

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I stood before my brother, feeling the weight of my guilt crushing me. Every fibre of my being screamed at me to come clean, to spill the truth that had been gnawing at my soul since the demonic freak had appeared today. But fear had been holding me

back.

Fear of losing Kane, fear of Lottie's rejection, fear of what they might do if they learned the truth.

Memories flooded my mind, memories of that catastrophic encounter with the Demon. I remembered the way he toyed with my mind, the way he whispered promises of relief from the misery that consumed me. Misery, I now know he had put me through. I

remember the deal he offered, the sinister bargain that hung in the air, like a dark cloud.

"You don't have to suffer, Knox," Astaroth had whispered, his

voice

like silk and smoke. "I can make it all go away. But you have to give me something in return." And in that moment, I would have given him anything he wanted to *end* my suffering and the inner torment that was consuming me from having killed my father. Or at least thinking I had.

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A Choice!

I hesitated, even while my heart pounded in my chest. I searched his eyes **for** any hint of deceit, but all I **saw** was hunger,

a hunger that seemed to devour everything in its path. I should have listened to my instincts and ripped him limb from limb there and then, instead of letting him get the better of me.

“What do you want?” I asked in a moment of weakness, my voice barely a whisper.

“Something small! You will barely notice it’s gone.” Astaroth smiled, a smile that sent shivers down my spine. But something small; that I would hardly miss, seemed like a risk worth taking if it eased my pain.

Shaking my head to rid myself of the memories that plagued me, I swallowed the lump forming in my throat and met Kane’s hard gaze, seeing the anger swirling just behind his eyes my heart sank.

“Knox, what’s wrong?” His voice cut through the silence, his concern evident in the furrow of his brow and the worry lines etched upon his face, but, the sharpness of his tone was not lost on me. I swallowed hard, trying to find the words to convey the turmoil that churned within me.

“I... I made a deal,” I confessed, the admission tasting bitter on my tongue. His eyes widened in disbelief.

“What kind of deal?” My brother’s expression darkened with concern.

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Chapter 132: Always A Choice!

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“Not the good kind.” I sighed, as the memories flooded back to me, vivid and haunting. I watched myself in my mind’s eye as I nodded slowly at Astaroth in the great hall, just as Kane and Lottie entered. Agreeing with his deal. Pursing my lips tightly, I braced myself before telling my brother the truth.

“He told me...he would ease my pain.” I whispered nervously.

“Why? What was in it for him!”

Kane snapped furiously, and I understood where his brain was going. Demons never did anything without an ulterior motive.

“I don’t know, he just said it was small.” I started to say, Kane interrupted me.

but

“What was small?” He fumed, although I knew he was trying to hide his rage from me. Dropping my eyes from Kane’s stern features, I sighed heavily.

“I thought I had killed Pops. I believed I had destroyed everything. The demon was inside my head, playing tricks with my mind. I thought this was all my fault. The pain was all-consuming.” I whispered, but given how my father approached me, his hand resting on my shoulder, he had heard the pain that had attached itself to every syllable.

“It’s ok son.” his voice rang through the room, and I knew if I looked up I would see understanding in his eyes, and maybe in Liam and Adams. But not Kane’s.

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“Something Small? Small like Charlotte? Our mate! Or..” the sound of crashing wood grabbed my attention. My eyes lifted to see Kane smashing the only remaining chair in the room against a wall. “Like our fucking pups Knox!” He seethed his footsteps hard on the floor as he rushed at me, his hands landing on my chest and shoving me backwards.

“Pups?” I heard Sebastian ask from behind me.

“Yes, pups. Lottie is pregnant. Get with the program, your lordship!” I roared, turning to glare at Sebastian, my arms in the air in frustration. Sebastian’s jaw locked, but he said nothing, his eyes simply shifting to Adam’s curiosity clear on his face.

“Knox?” Kane barked, stepping into me to get my attention and force me to look at him and give him the answers he needed, something I wasn’t ready to do yet because I wasn’t sure what to say- Nothing seemed to cover the guilt that was eating at me.



“I don’t know, Kane. He was vague.”

“You would know all about that!” Kane snapped in reply. my lips tightening to fight back the sarcastic remark brewing on my lips,

“I know I have fucked up! I know that it is all my fault that Kitty has been taken from us!” Havoc whined inwardly, my lips pulling into a frown because that was more words than I had heard Ha voc

say in months. I knew he was gutted, and I got it! Because he was right, this was on us, but we were beating ourselves up enough,

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## Chapter 133

### Third Person POV.

There was a lot of tension in the room as Kayden and Angela faced each other. Kayden had a rather displeased look on his face, while Angela looked like she couldn’t wait to be rid of him.

“I can’t believe you of all people let Marlene manipulate you into making such a decision, Angela,” Kayden accused, his voice edged with frustration. “How could you let her talk you into committing murder? Just how?”

He had been taken aback when he heard from Marlene that Angela was the one responsible for the accident that put Amber in critical condition. He had thought that Marlene was the one responsible, but to find out that Angela had done it on Marlene’s orders made him even more shocked.

think I had a choice? Marlene had

Angela’s lips curled into a disdainful sneer as she shot back, “You I

people watching me and threatening me, Kayden. I had no other option,” she responded defensively.

Kayden's eyes narrowed with skepticism. "You could've Kayden's eyes narrowed with skepticism. "You could've

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you? way out if you really wanted to. But

**no**, you jumped at the chance to do her bidding, didn't you? Admit it, Angela. You've been waiting for

an excuse to rid yourself of Amber ever since Richard her, so you decided to do as Marlene married

wanted so that you could use such a dumb excuse to justify your actions."

Angela's jaw tightened, but she maintained her defiant stance. "Don't pretend like you don't want her

gone too. You should be happy that I did what you nor Marlene could have done since you're both cowards."

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Kayden let out a scoff of disbelief. "And yet, here we are, and she's still alive. Your little plan failed, Angela. Marlene pushed you to the edge of a cliff, and you just let her do it. Now you're

right where she wants you, and it's all because of your foolishness."

Angela's eyes flashed with irritation. "She might not be dead yet, Kayden, but she's barely alive. I

heard she's fighting for her life, which means she'll likely be dead soon enough."

Kayden shook his head in exasperation. "But until then, she's still breathing. And you've become

another pawn in Marlene's game. Congratulations, Angela. You played right into her hands, and I

**cannot** save you, nor do I think I want **to**."

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CLOS

Chapter 133

**Up to 30% off.**

**Silence settled between them, heavy and suffocating. The reality of the situation hit Angela at**

**once, and all she could do was wonder how she could save herself now.**

**Finally**, she broke the silence, her voice laced with desperation. “Okay, fine, I’ll admit that I **made**

a mistake. I shouldn’t **have** listened to Marlene or tried **to** kill Amber. But now that it’s **too** late

for regrets, what Kayden? I **can’t** undo what’s been done, and I’m going to need

o **you** suggest I do

**your help** to get

out of this mess.”

Kayden sighed heavily, running a hand through his hair in frustration. “For starters, you’ll need to

choose because the Marlene I know is most likely going to try to get you to clean up the mess.”

Angela nodded grimly. “And **if** I don’t?”

Kayden’s expression hardened. “Then you’ll be next on her list. So here are your options: you **would**

either have to finish what you started by ensuring that Amber doesn’t survive, or you’ll have to

leave the country as soon as possible.”

“I have to leave the country. And why is that? It’s not like anybody knows that I’m the one

responsible for what happened to Amber. I’m pretty sure they’re going to be suspecting either you or

Marlene, but definitely not me,” Angela retorted, not seeing any sense in her having to leave the country.

Kayden let out a dark chuckle before responding to her. “Well, maybe if you weren’t stupid enough to step out of your car when the accident happened and allowed yourself to be caught by the surveillance cameras around, just maybe then your name wouldn’t have appeared on the suspect list,” he retorted.

Colors drained from Angela’s face as the meaning of Kayden’s words dawned on her. “Are you being

serious right now, Kayden?” she asked.

“Would I be joking?” Kayden retorted. “A contact of mine who is on the case told me that you are the prime suspect at the moment, and Richard already knows this. Now, I know you think that he still has some leniency toward you, but that leniency has expired, Angela. You know that idiot is obsessed with Amber, so I’m pretty sure he’s coming for you soon,” he explained, a hint of amusement in his tone as

he spoke.

Angela’s hands trembled as she mustered up the courage to speak, her voice quivering with a mixture of fear **and** anger. “Kayden, I need you to leave. Now.”

Kayden’s eyes widened in shock. “You’re asking me to leave? Instead of begging for my help, Angela,

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Chapter 133

**do you realize what you’re saying?”**

Up to 30% off

**Angela’s expression hardened, her eyes** narrowing with a mix of annoyance and distrust. “**I know exactly what I’m** saying, Kayden. You’re **not** here to help me. You’re here to **taunt** me and revel **in** my misery. **I’m** pretty **sure** you’ve been looking for the perfect chance to **get** rid of me now that **I’m** a lover **you** no longer need, and now you’re here to watch me spiral for your sick entertainment. **I don’t care** how bad the situation gets, but I won’t let you toy with me any longer, Kayden. Get out of my

sight!”

Kayden scoffed, a bitter edge to his voice as he retorted, “You think I’m here for your amusement? Believe me, Angela, I would have tried to help you. Not because I care about you or anything, but because I won’t let Marlene get what she wants. All you needed to do was beg me earnestly, and you

would have been out of the country before the day ended.”

Angela’s gaze softened slightly, a flicker of doubt creeping into her eyes. “You expect me to believe that? Are you forgetting how well I know you? It’s clear that I’m just a lover you no longer need—someone disposable. And you would love for me to be gone since it’d be one less burden.”

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Kayden locked eyes with Angela, amusement in his gaze. “I guess you’re right, Angela. You are no longer necessary to me. But I would have helped you regardless. Now, since you don’t want my help, I’ll leave you to go ahead and deal with Richard on your own. Let’s see how far that gets you.”

With those final words, Kayden turned and walked out of Angela’s apartment, leaving her standing there trembling with a mix of emotions. The weight of the situation settled heavily on her shoulders as she rushed into her room, her hands shaking as she began to pack her bags.

Thoughts raced through Angela’s mind as she packed, her heart pounding in her chest. She suddenly

started to feel like she was running out of time, and the last thing she wanted was for Richard to show up here.

The sudden sound of the doorbell sent a shiver down Angela’s spine, causing her hands to tremble

involuntarily. Panic set in as she considered the possibilities of who could be standing outside her

door.

Could it be Richard, the police, or even Marlene’s men coming to silence her on Marlene’s orders?

She cautiously made her way to the door, moving as silently as possible, trying to steady her racing

heart. Peering through the monitor, her breath caught in her throat as she saw the figure outside. It

was the apartment manager's familiar face that brought a wave of relief washing over her.

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Chapter 136

### Third-Person Pov

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Marlene, cloaked in a nurse's **uniform**, skulked outside Amber's **hospital** room, her anticipation

**building** with each **passing** moment. Today was finally the day where everything **that she** wanted will

come **to** pass, and she **couldn't** wait **for** her biggest wish to finally come through.

**She** had meticulously **planned** every detail, waiting for the opportune moment **to** carry out her sinister **deed**. With a glimpse earlier confirming Amber's comatose state, Marlene knew the time was ripe **to**

execute her malevolent plan.

As the hall of the Vip room that Amber was in cleared and silence enveloped the corridor, Marlene seized her chance. She slipped into the room without being seen, her eyes fixated on Amber lying

motionless amidst a maze of medical apparatus.

A twisted smile crept across her lips, the anticipation of revenge fueling her every move.

Approaching Amber's bedside, Marlene's laughter echoed eerily in the sterile room. With a chilling tone, she whispered, "Hello, Amber, guess who's here to see you. It's me, your favorite little sister, who you used to love so very much," she whispered with a maniac smile plastered on her face.

Her fingers traced Amber's unconscious form, relishing the moment of power, and Amber's vulnerability.

"I can't believe the day has finally arrived," Marlene taunted, her voice dripping with malice. "To see you so vulnerable, so utterly defenseless—it's poetic justice. After all these years, the heavens are finally giving me an opportunity to end you. Can you believe it, sister?"

With each word, Marlene's delusions of superiority grew, fueled by years of resentment and bitterness. She leaned in closer, her breath chilling against Amber's skin. "From the beginning, it should have been clear that only one of us deserves to live, and it certainly isn't you. You watched me try to kill myself, and you let it happen instead of dying first and taking my place like the good sister **you** pretended to be."

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Her words **hung** in the air, thick with contempt. Marlene reveled in the imagined victory, savoring the **thought** of Amber's demise.

In her twisted mind, this was the culmination of years of simmering **hatred**, a **moment of triumph** long overdue.

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Chapter 136

**Up** to 30% off

Amber lay **perfectly** still, her **breathing steady**, as **Marlene's deranged monologue** filled the room.

**Though her eyes remained** closed, her **mind buzzed with** calculated precision. This **was the moment** sh

**had been** waiting for—the **chance to** turn the **tables** on her treacherous sister.

**She knew that** the hospital security, as well as the police **that** were **in** charge of **watching** over **her**,

were most likely **already aware that** Marlene was in the room with her. But just like she had **planned**,

**she was** waiting for Marlene to do something before proceeding with what she had in mind.

With each **word** Marlene uttered over head, Amber's resolve hardened. She had meticulously orchestrated

**this trap**, knowing that Marlene's blind hatred would be her downfall. Now, all she had to do was wait

**for the** opportune moment to strike.

As Marlene's fingers trailed through her hair, Amber fought to suppress the shiver of revulsion that

threatened to betray her facade. Every instinct screamed for her to lash out, to reveal her ruse and

confront her sister head-on. But she held herself back.

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Marlene's hands trembled as she surveyed the array of machines surrounding Amber's motionless form

Her heart raced with anticipation, a twisted thrill coursing through her veins as she contemplated



**the** final act of her revenge.

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With a savage determination, she reached out, fingers grasping at wires and cables with reckless abandon. Each pull sent a jolt of satisfaction coursing through her.

But as Marlene's frenzy reached its peak, a gnawing doubt crept into her mind. Why was Amber's body

not responding as expected? Where was the sign of life slipping away from Amber like she expected?

Frustration bubbled in Marlene, mingling with the tendrils of fear that clawed at the edges of her consciousness. She needed this to be over, needed Amber to pay for the years of torment she had endured, and she also needed to hurry up and get out of here as soon as possible.

With a desperate resolve, Marlene turned her attention to the oxygen mask that covered Amber's face.

With a swift motion, she ripped it away, her breath catching in her throat as she leaned in closer, searching for any sign of life. She wanted to make sure that Amber was no longer breathing but to her

shock, her gaze met Amber's, and a shockwave of horror rippled through her core.

Amber's eyes snapped open.

Panic seized Marlene's heart as she recoiled from the sudden movement, her mind struggling to comprehend the impossible truth before her. Amber was awake. Conscious. And she had been aware of her

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Chapter 136

presence all along.

Up to **30%** off

Before she could react, Amber surged forward, pulling a syringe from under her back. With a swift motion, she plunged it into Marlene's neck, the sharp sting piercing through her haze of shock, much to Amber's satisfaction.

## Their Secret Obsession (A Reverse Harem) by Pippa Moon Chapter 135



Chapter 135: Always A Loophole

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Lottie POV

I stood in the heart of the demonic world, surrounded by the eerie beauty of the cathedral. It felt like time itself had paused within its gothic walls. My nerves prickled beneath my skin, but I couldn't deny the strange allure of the place- or the demon who lurked in the realm.

Then, I heard his voice behind me, clenching my jaw, I fought the surge of hatred that coursed through me and turned to face him, Astaroth, the demon who had caused so much pain. The memory of leaving Chase behind on that hilltop to heal alone twisted my gut with guilt.

"What do you want?" I demanded, my voice tinged with bitterness. I felt my gut twist with anxiety when he didn't respond immediately, instead striding up to the altar with an unsettling grace. He hoisted himself onto it, his gaze fixed on me with an intensity that made my skin crawl.

Astaroth's appearance shifted in front of my eyes, from a casual hoodie and jeans to an expensive suit that oozed

sophistication. His tie matched the deep red of the pinstripes, and for a moment, I almost forgot the darkness that lurked within him and mistook him for a gentleman.

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Chapter 135: Always A Loophole

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“I want to help you with your little Moon Goddess dilemma.” he finally replied, his voice smooth and unsettling.

“How?” I asked, my worry bubbling beneath the surface. I knew I shouldn’t entertain his offer, but desperation gnawed at me. Time was running out, and the looming decision hung heavy over my head. My hand rested on my flat stomach as I wondered if I could give up the two lives that I held inside of me.

“There is always a loophole, I believe the terms of her deal where you give up your fated mate’s, or your children... correct?” he asked, his eyes searching mine.

“Two bonds of the heart!” he added with a wink when I didn’t speak. Licking my dry lips I nodded.

“Well there we go, you give up your fated mate bond.” He expressed, resting his elbows on his knees as he looked at me with intrigue that made me uncomfortable; like I was standing before him naked and he could see my vulnerability.

“That. Is. Not. An. Option.” I barked, shaking my head slowly.

“Why?” He asked casually, my eyes popping wide as I glared at him unable to fathom how he thought I would ever agree to such a stupid suggestion.

“Because you don’t just abandon family and those that you love!” I insisted his lips twisting into a smirk that made me want to

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Chapter 135: Always A Loophole

punch him in the jaw.

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“You abandoned Chase?” He reminded me, my lips thinning into a hate-filled line while my eyes bored into him, suggesting he choose his next words carefully.

“Anyway....” He laughed with a shrug. “Who said anything about abandoning them? I just said you should sacrifice the fated mate bond. That is what you are right? Fasted mates?”

“Yes!” I replied coldly, silently still seething. I hadn’t wanted to leave Chase but he had given me no choice.

“And what other mate bonds are there?” he remarked, in more of a statement than a question. I arched my brow and processed his words, confusion weighing heavy on me. When I didn’t speak he continued.

“Second chance, Chosen mates, Contracted mates, Twin flames... F uck the list goes on.”

“Your point?” I asked, growing irritated with his bulls hit.

“That the moon goddess has requested you sacrifice the fated mate bond... She said nothing about a second chance bond. And I don’t know if you have noticed but those baboons of yours are hardly going to be out there looking for another mate while you still draw breath. Even less so while you carry their pups. So once the bond is broken, and the moon goddess is content...”

“They are not baboons!” I interjected to hide the truth that I

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Chapter 135: Always A Loophole

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was pis sed off at the fact he had come up with a way through all this cra p, with something so simple nonetheless.

“It’s not simple.” He announced, making me still at the cold reminder he could read my thoughts. Pursing my lips I motioned for him to continue.

“You see, the idea of a fated mate bond is that it is in place until death or rejection... and once you have rejected them, a new mate will be generated. And I have a feeling after the way your mates insulted the moon goddess, that mate would be on the sidelines waiting to take her place as their mate and Luna or... well you get the gist of what I am saying.”

“She can get f ucked if she thinks anyone will take my place.” I snapped, my lips curled over my teeth at the idea of having another girl even looking at my mates in that way. They were mine, forever!

For always!

“So, we trick the moon goddess, we use my powers to make her think

that you have rejected them and stop any other bonds from springing up.”

“She knows I would never do that!” I interrupted him, which earned me a sigh of annoyance.

“I am aware. So we will have to be creative and make it seem

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Chapter 135: Always A Loophole

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like you would. Once the bond is ‘broken,’ the moon goddess will be satisfied with your sacrifice and the babies will be safe! Then and only then, will I lift the illusion and let a bond snap back in place.” he smiled, like he wasn’t asking me to trust him- a demon, with my future happiness.

“No!” I answered, softly but my tone betrayed me, and given the curve to his lips he knew that and that I was considering his offer. “How am I meant to trust that you will keep your word?” I asked, tears pricking my lashes.

“Because if I don’t, you won’t have to pay me.” He admitted with a shrug his eyes trailing over my features and for a minute I thought I saw regret dance through his eyes.

“Pay you?” I asked naively, of course, he would want payment, a demon like him wouldn’t just offer to help, out of the kindness of his heart.

“Yes. But do not worry your mate has already agreed to the price.” he winked my heart sinking, knowing nothing good would come from this agreement. But also what had Kane or Knox agreed to, because they hadn’t said anything!

“Do they know about your offer?” I gasped, worry eating at my brows.

“Kinda.” He replied. A Lie, somehow I knew that.

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Chapter 135: Always A Loophole

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“I want to speak to my mates, you can’t expect me to make this decision on my own, we are a team! It affects all of us. Take me back to them.” I

requested, hopefully. It would be hard for him to manipulate me into agreeing if we stood together.

“No can do, sugar t its! You see back on that earthly realm the moon goddess can see everything we do. Why do you think I brought you here? We could hardly plot against her holiness herself if she is earwiggling. Can we?” He laughed, my lips thinning nervously.

“Then we..” He cut me off jumping from the altar to stand before me. His finger resting on my lip to shush me.

“But, I can bring them to you!” He winked, and just like that... he was gone!

Author Note: Hey guys, thanks for the feedback from chapter 133. I waited a few days to give those who wanted to give their opinions a chance to comment. It seems most are in favour of a few weekly updates. Which is fine, but for those like on the last chapter A who have moaned already keep in mind I am a single mum to very needy kiddos, who works 3-4 24 hour shifts a week, it is also half term and I am recovering from my SECOND surgery in a month with on more to go in the next 2 weeks. So I highly suggest you find books with authors without a life and sh it going on if you can not be patient as I only promise a few updates a week! However for those of you who want to wait and read in one go. The last chapter in this book will be called: The

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Chapter 135: Always A Loophole

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End, For Now! When it is up I will comment on your comments so you know that book 1 is done! TIA Much love Pippa X

## **Their Secret Obsession (A Reverse Harem)** **by Pippa Moon Chapter 136**



Emergency calls only u

Chapter 136: The Better Question.

Chapter 136: The Better Question.

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Knox POV

Lifting my eyes to my father, who was pacing back and forth at the head of the table. I sighed, I could feel the weight of Kane's truths weighing heavy on him. Kane had filled everyone in on the fact that Lottie was pregnant, that she had bargained with the moon goddess to save Pa and Sebastian. That I had been infected by the demon and the scum was who was responsible for Lottie's kidnapping. He had left out the part about the hit on Bash, and all the info on Anthony and Mike. Because Kane felt that would overshadow Lottie's rescue. And given my father's rage right now, I would say it was a good call on his behalf.

"Pops, it was Lottie's choice." I reassured him the best I could and my heart sank seeing his eyes rimmed with red, his eyes glossed over with the threat of tears.

"From what your brother has just said, she chose to save me... and him.."  
He snapped, looking at Sebastian, who had the decency to look at the tabletop. "Before she knew she was pregnant! Before she knew the cost."  
My father seethed, his fist flying into the closest wall, as rubble crumbled to the floor.

"No, Pops. I made that choice to save everyone with Charlotte, after. We knew the risk. But you didn't see Knox." Kane admitted

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Chapter 136: The Better Question.

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sheepishly, his eyes moving to meet mine with regret. "Sorry brother."  
He added, slapping my shoulder.

"No, you are right. Pa, I thought I had killed you. I was inconsolable. Ma hated the very sight of me, and everything was crumbling in on me." I admitted with a deep sigh that felt like it weighed a ton. "I was not in my right mind, thanks to the fucking demon's magic that he had somehow invected me with. Kane did what he did because it was the only way to reach me and pull me through the darkness." I admitted, feeling embarrassed. "It wasn't an easy decision, I can't imagine how hard it was for Kane and Lottie!" I added, swallowing the lump in my throat.

"Pussy!" I heard Lilly mutter under her breath. My teeth clenched, so tightly I thought they might shatter at her disrespect.

"Lilliah!" My mother scolded her. "Perhaps you should leave and let the

grown-ups talk if you are going to act like a child.” She added with a firm rise of her brow.

“Really? You’re all buying this bull sh it. You truly think the moon goddess approached Char like she is something special?” She laughed, sitting back in her seat.

“I mean, come on! It’s just a cover-up, a story to hide the bull sh it. Sebastian wasn’t at death’s door. It was our doctors that saved him, his wolf. Not Char and some secret pact. And daddy... Maybe you were just...”

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Chapter 136: The Better Question.

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“Sleeping?” My father asked, his eyes harshly meeting his daughters, and for the first time, I saw anger flash in his eyes. “You think the pain your mother suffered was because I was sleeping?” He asked, holding his finger up to silence my mother from speaking. I watched her purse her lips, but ultimately she obeyed.

“Now that is a trick, Pa will have to teach me because our girl is a fucking nightmare when it comes to doing as she is told” I remarked to Kane through mindlink.

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“Speak for yourself, she’s always a good girl for me.” Kane boasted, his eyes flicking to mine with a slight sign of a smile, before quickly returning to our father, who was still waiting for our sister to reply. But given the way her lips were tightly sealed, she had nothing further to add to the conversation.

“I suggest you keep those wise-as s comments to yourself, daughter, I am allowing you to remain in this room out of respect for your mate, but make no mistake, I have no issue throwing your as s out if you keep disrespecting your brother’s mate.” My father warned, before turning to glare at Kane and I. Unlike Kane, I didn’t bother hiding the satisfaction I wore at seeing her knocked down a peg or two.

“So how do we get her back?” My father asked plainly and straight to the point.

“I would say the better question is who killed you and attempted to kill me? And why? I don’t buy that the demon did it!

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Chapter 136: The Better Question.

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What reason did he have to take us out? We are at peace with the underworld!” Sebastian finally piped up, apparently finding his voice and balls. Closing my eyes, I sucked down a sigh. I had hoped we could deal with that later, but Sebastian clearly had.

other ideas.

“I don’t see how that is important right now. What is, is getting my daughter-in-law, and future Luna of the pack back in one piece.”

“I disagree. If her ex-lover and her father, who also happens to be your beta, are traitors, like the Sparrow Brothers suggest, perhaps Lottie had something to do with it... and if that’s the case..”

“I suggest you select your next words wisely, Lycan.” I warned, already rising from my seat to slam my fists on the table. “Before I pull your spine out through your throat.” I couldn’t believe what I was hearing. The wrath inside me was like a raging inferno, threatening to consume everything in its path.

“Are you threatening a prince of the blood?” The stuck-up po nce asked, sitting back in his seat.

“No,” I replied, my eyes shining with the blood-red of Havoc. “I am promising you.” Sebastian smirked, his eyes glinting with malice.

“Oh, come on, Knox. Don’t play dumb. We both know that your

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Chapter 136: The Better Question.

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mate is capable of more than you think.” I clenched my fists, feeling the urge to lunge at him and wipe that smug grin off his face. But before I could act on my impulses, Kane’s voice echoed in my mind.

“Stay calm, Knox. Don’t let him get to you.”

“We ain’t all made of stone, Kane! Some of us give a s hit what is said about our mate!” I snapped back, wanting to kick him from my mind, but his reply beat me to it.

“You think that I don’t want to tear his skin from his bones. I do! And I will! But I see him and his game and I will be f ucked if I let him get his way.” Kane’s voice urged me through our mind link.

“Are you going to let him talk to me like that?” Sebastian asked, glaring

at Adam and Liam like they had grown a second head.

“Yes.” They laughed, answering in union.

“You are meant to protect me and my interests. And I want to know who tried to kill me before I invest both time and resources into finding the girl.”

“The girl?” I asked, my lips curling around my teeth, all sense and reason gone.

“Yes! The girl who might or might not be pregnant. Who has conveniently been kidnapped by a demon, a demon you claim

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Chapter 136: The Better Question.

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infected us and more importantly you.” Sebastian added as he sat forward, resting his elbows on the table to look across at Kane and I.

I opened my mouth to speak but a low and deadly cackle ripped through the room, making my blood turn to ice, recognising it instantly.

“I tried to kill you! And if you keep moaning like a little bitch I will not fail a second time!” Astaroth announced, his smooth and silky voice that seemed to be on my side did nothing to soothe my nerves. I tried to turn my head to look in the direction that the voice came from but found myself frozen to the spot.

Author Note: Only update tonight guys, works insane, had to write this in my break. More Tomorrow. Unless I get time to finish it! X

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### **Chapter 137: The Problem!**

Panic clawed at my insides, threatening to consume me, sensing the demon’s powers invaded my mind once again. It was like being trapped in a nightmare, unable to move or speak, while

the world moved around me in slow motion.

“So this is the A– team that wants to try and knock the crown off my head?” Astaroth laughed, clapping

slowly. “A Lycan and his... bitch! A few Alphas and A Luna who frankly I think has bigger balls than most of the men in here and... of course, a couple of traitors!” He asked as he strode into the room, exuding power and dominance, and it wasn’t just because of the fancy suit he wore or the air, of authority he carried. It was the dark energy pulsating from him, wrapping around me like tendrils of darkness, rendering me immobile.

“Kane, Pops?” I tried to **say**, but my lips refused to work, and nothing came out. I could still see them, could still follow Astaroth’s movements with my eyes, but everything else was frozen.

“They can’t answer you, buddy!” He laughed into the room, but his eyes remained locked on my panic-fueled **face**. “They are all frozen, like you! So how about **we** have some fun!” He grinned, malice painting his lips from where he stood behind **my** father, tall

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Quiet!,

and proud, his hands resting on my Pops’ shoulders while he eyed me through his own set of fire-red eyes. I wanted to tear through the room, despite the dread I felt eating at me, but my muscles refused to obey my commands, leaving me helpless in the face of his overwhelming presence.

“What, nothing to say now, Lycan?” Astaroth laughed into the room, his attention shifting from me to Bash. “Cat got your tongue?” My eyes found Sebastian’s fear-stricken face, I wanted to ask the cocky shit if he believed me now? But I knew now wasn’t the time for I told you so’s.

“Ah yeah, you can’t speak. Probably not a bad thing... I get the sense you were about to be kicked off the team, and we wouldn’t want that now, would we!” Astaroth grinned. Desperation clawed at my throat as I struggled to break free from his hold, to regain control of my own body. But it was like trying to move through molasses, every movement sluggish and heavy.

“Brother, if he is here, where is Charlotte?” Like a lifeline in the darkness, Kane’s voice echoed in my mind. Relief flooded through me at the sound of my brother, a beacon of light in the suffocating darkness, until his words registered.

“She’s **safe**! And unharmed. Although blondie, not **so** much,” Astaroth replied, into the room. His head snapped around to look **at** Adam, and I knew from his reaction that Adam’s thoughts had riled Astaroth up.

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## Chapter 137: The Problem!

“Why? Because he is too good-looking for a start, it was unnatural, I needed to fix that to give us ugly fuckers a chance.” Astaroth grinned slowly as he approached Adam, but he paused, side eyeing Sebastian, before flicking his wrist in Sebastian’s direction, his grin growing.

“Why don’t you share that with the group?” Astaroth laughed, his eyes locked on Adam, clearly observing his response.

“Do I have to force it out of you, Lycan?” He laughed, squeezing his hand in the air in union with the scream that left Sebastian’s lips followed by blood spluttering down his chin.

“Good! One less for me to kill later!” Sebastian choked out his eyes heavy with guilt as they met Adams’s furious gaze. “But what do you expect, Adam, you are meant to protect ME! Your loyalty should be to ME! The next Ruler!” With another flick of his demonic wrist, he silenced Sebastian and turned to face the group.

“Trouble is angry pants, you’re not the heir to the throne, not anymore.. The girl is! And then her pups. And then any pups they have... So unless you can wipe out her entire line...” His lips were pursed tightly as he looked between Sebastian and Lilly. “Which is what you’re thinking.” He nodded, his lips twisting into a **frown**. Before they fell on Lilly. “Well, aren’t you a jealous bitch!” He added, making me wonder what **Lilly** had thought.

“Damn, even for me, a Duke of Hell! That is brutal!” He sighed, sitting on the edge of the table beside Mike. “But **you see**, there is

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## Chapter 137: The Problem!,

the problem. I can’t let anything happen to the girl!” Astaroth chewed his lip and looked over at Anthony with a sly smile teasing the corner of his lips.

“Kane,” I managed to choke out mentally, my thoughts tumbling over each other in my haste to communicate. “I’m trapped. I can’t move.” I could feel Kane’s concern through our mind-link, his presence a comforting presence in the chaos raging inside me.

“Stay calm, Knox,” Kane’s voice urged me, cutting through the fog of panic threatening to overwhelm me. “We’ll get through this together.”

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With Kane's words echoing in my mind, I forced myself to focus, to push aside the fear and panic threatening to consume me. Whatever was happening, whatever dark forces were at play, I knew that as long as I had my brother by my side, and my girl was out there somewhere breathing air and protecting our future, I could face anything.

“So I know you all want answers, and I am happy to give them to you, but **first** things first... I need to borrow the twins.” Astaroth announced, my heart lunging at the prospect of being with my girl again. No matter where that was.

“Oh, Alpha, **I am sorry** big fella, you don't have much of a choice or say in this... But I promise, **I** will return them in one piece.” Astaroth's announcement sent a shiver down my spine, but not out of fear. **No, it** was the anticipation of being reunited with my **mate**,

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Chapter 137: The Problem!

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“It could be a trap!” Havoc whimpered, announcing his presence as Astaroth approached us. His eyes glowed with the red of his demonic powers, yet I couldn't help but feel a surge of excitement. With a nod, he opened a portal, its swirling vortex reminiscent of the one he had used to kidnap Lottie.

“Could be, might be, most likely is! But let's not pretend you won't come with me, regardless of the threat. “Astaroth laughed, and with a wave of his hand, he unfroze Kane and me, giving us a choice: “Go through the portal willingly or be forced. Either way the outcome will be the same.”

“The pack... unfreeze my family and I will come, but I am not leaving them defenseless.” Kane hesitated, voicing his concerns about leaving the pack unprotected. Which is why he was the better leader, he considered everyone's safety... Me, I would let them burn if it meant keeping her safe!

Astaroth laughed, his voice dripping with amusement. “Oh, don't worry, Kane. I'm taking the biggest threat with me,” he said, nodding in my direction. I felt a surge of pride at his words,

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## Chapter 138: The Problem!

Knox POV

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Chapter 138: The Problem!,

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Chapter 138: The Problem!

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Chapter 138: The Problem!

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## Their Secret Obsession (A Reverse Harem) by Pippa Moon Chapter 139



Chapter 139: Play Our Part!

Kane POV

**Chapter 139: Play Our Part!**

“You insulted the Moon goddess, and there will be

consequences for that.” Astaroth announced, making my jaw clench, because I knew he was most likely right. She would have to make an example of us. “I imagine the second Lottie here rejects you,” he declared, stepping toward us, as I instinctively stepped back. “The second she is out of the picture, your second-chance mates will suddenly pop up, and you will be powerless to fight that bond.”

“You dare suggest such a thing?” Knox’s voice ripped through the room, with a low and dangerous edge to his tone that made me **more** than a little nervous. “No one could ever replace her!” he spat, and I felt Charlotte tighten her grip on my chest. I agreed, **of course**.

“Personally, **I would force you** two to watch as Lottie here found her **second** chance mate. **Fell** in love and raised **those pups without you**.” Astaroth **announced, setting** a fire under the **simmering pot of Rage** I was **trying to control**.

“**There is no one else for me, just Kane and Knox.**” Charlotte declared with resolve that left **no doubt in my mind she meant it. At this moment in time, she meant it!**

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Chapter 139: Play Our Part!

“But, maybe she isn’t THAT pissed at you! OR petty!” He added with a wink that only fueled the inferno inside me, but, as much as my anger burned bright, I couldn’t help but see the twisted logic in

the demon’s words.

“How can you stand there and listen to this shit!” Knox roared,\* Charlotte’s eyes darting between us filled with unshed tears. I hated seeing them like this, but we needed to stop burying our heads in the sand and face facts! Our union might not be what was for the best for Charlotte!

“The fated mate bond has brought us nothing but pain and suffering, Knox,” I admitted with a sigh, feeling Charlotte tense in my arms. I leaned down and kissed her forehead, needing to reassure her that I loved her without question, but the bond itself was the issue. “This bond keeps trying to tear us apart. Time and time again. Perhaps severing it is the only way to end

this cycle of torment.” I admitted with a sigh that wore heavy on my soul.

“No!” Charlotte growled, shoving my chest to get away, but I held her tight, refusing to let her go.

“I don’t like **it** either,” I admitted, my **voice** barely above a whisper. “But he’s right. It’s the **only way** to protect **you**, to keep **you** and **our** children **safe from** the dangers that come **with** being **tied to us.**”

“And **you tied** to me! **A traitor’s daughter!**” **Charlotte** uttered, **pain** etched **in her tone**. I was about to reassure her, but **Knox’s jaw**

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Chapter 139: Play Our Part!

tightened, his gaze flickering between me and the demon. I could see the conflict raging within him, torn between his love for Charlotte and the desperate need to keep her out of harm’s way.

“We can’t trust him,” Knox finally said, his voice strained with emotion. “He’ll double-cross us the moment it suits him.” His words mirrored my own fears, the nagging doubt that chewed at the edges of my mind. But I failed to see what other choices we had.”

Given the way Chase vibrated in Knox’s arms, my silence apparently said more than anything I could have said.

“There has to be a way!” Knox snapped weakly.

“There is, we sacrifice the pups or each other! Those are our choices, Knox! And I refuse to give up on my kid, or yours! And I refuse to let her go!” I demanded, holding her to me tightly to prove my point. “This way we **MIGHT** get to keep it all.”

“**Might!**” Knox repeated with wide eyes. “It’s a gamble!” Charlotte’s eyes dropped to the floor then slowly lifted to Astaroth.

“**How sure are you that this will work?**” She asked, her lips wobbling in fear.

“This **is** insane, **Kane**, you are not listening to his shit are **you?**” Knox growled angrily, his **arms** tightening around Chase.

“**I will use my powers to fight any** bond **the** Moon **goddess** tries

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Chapter 139: Play Our Part!

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to spark if it is indeed her plan to make you all suffer. That is easy enough. But you will have to let me stay close by, and you will have to play your part.”

“Kane!” Knox seethed, my eyes snapping to my brothers in warning. How could he not see this was our only choice?

“Do you have a better plan, Knox?” I asked, hating myself almost as much as I am sure Knox did me, right now. “It is worth hearing him out.” I nodded to Astaroth, Knox’s eyes flared with rage before he walked off to lean up the far end of the cathedral, evidently needing to put space between us. I watched him carefully lay Chase down, so he could pace gently, no doubt trying **to** soothe Havoc.

“Play our part?” I asked, my eyes narrowing back on Astaroth.

“Well, for one, the rejection has to be believable, as does the reason for her rejection.” Looking down into Charlotte’s eyes, I saw the tears paint her lashes and knew she was as scared as I was.

“So, how are your acting skills?” He smirked, my blood running **cold** as fear set in my bones. **In** this treacherous place, where **all** **iances** shifted like shadows in the night, trust seemed to be a fragile **thing**, **easily** shattered by the whims of demons. But there **was more** **at stake** than our bond... Something **Knox** seemed to be missing.

“**Our pups!**” Rolo **noted, for the first time in a while**, letting his

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Chapter 139. Play

Pall!

voice be heard.

“Our future!” I replied.

“We have to try,” I announced, my eyes meeting Knox’s, my voice steady despite the turmoil raging within me. “For the pup’s sake, we have to try, Knox.” Knox’s gaze softened, a flicker of understanding flashing in his eyes. Slowly, he nodded, his **resolvé** weakening with each passing moment.

“Alright,” he sighed, his voice firm yet exhausted. “We’ll do it. But we’ll be watching you every step of the way. One wrong move, and you’ll regret it.” The demon smiled a twisted grin that sent a chill down my spine.

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## Chapter 140: A Bargain With Chaos

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Lottie POV

As Astaroth’s words hung in the air, a chill swept through me, freezing my thoughts in place. ‘I want your daughter.’ The very idea seemed absurd, impossible even. Yet, there he sat atop the alt

ar, the picture of innocence, as if he hadn't just demanded my firstborn. His crimson eyes burned with an unsettling intensity, his offer dangling before us like a forbidden fruit.

I glanced over at Knox and Kane, my mates, never needing the reassurance of the mate bond more than I did at this moment.

Their faces mirrored my shock, their expressions a mixture of disbelief and rage- something I understood.

How could we possibly trust a demon? Even if he claimed to be on our side!

But then, amidst the whirlwind of emotions, Astaroth's next words sliced through my turmoil like a knife.

"I will be her mate!" he murmured, his voice a sinister whisper in the depths of this hell-like world, "So, you see... I ask that you promise her to me when the time comes."

"Not a chance!" Kane spat the words, bouncing around the

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room like an angry wasp.

"Daughter." The word echoed in my mind, sending shivers down my spine. A day ago, I hadn't even known I was pregnant, let alone that it was a girl. And here was this demon, casually

informing me of the gender of my unborn child as if it were a trivial detail and requesting I hand her over to him and his blood-stained

hands.

"Something else, ask for something else." Knox demanded when I was unable to find my voice. I stumbled backwards, my gaze darting between Knox and Kane. They were already on the verge of exploding, their fists clenched, their jaws tight with fury. I knew I needed to say something to defuse **this** situation. Or pray to the Moon Goddess who currently hated me, that he was joking!

"Maybe you would be better praying to god!" Astaroth laughed into my mind. "Because I am not joking. I need this to happen!"

When I couldn't find the words to answer or force my body to move and be a comfort to my mates. I sucked down the remaining bit of air my lungs could handle, seeing Knox and Kane lung forward to confront Astaroth. Tears filled my eyes as a wave of

dread washed over me because I had seen Astaroth throw Chase around like a ragdoll with a simple flick of his wrist. I knew the damage he could cause.

"No! Not like this!" I gasped, finally finding my voice as my eyes found Chase lying motionless on the ground, a silent reminder of

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the power Astaroth wielded. His strength was incomprehensible, his influence undeniable. And in the midst of the chaos, I found myself grappling with a single, haunting question.

Why my daughter? Why her when he clearly had so much power?

"Why?" I finally managed to choke out, my voice was barely above a whisper. But amid the chaos, my question was lost, drowned out by the clash of flesh hitting flesh, bones breaking and the almighty roar of anger.

Kane had lunged himself at Astaroth, pulling him from the altar while Knox pummelled him with punch after punch of solid muscle. It was a brutal attack, and one I knew Astaroth was allowing to happen—further proof of his sick and twisted ways.

"Stop! Please!" I screamed as the battle raged on. I couldn't help but wonder if there was any truth to Astaroth's offer. Was he my daughter's one-day mate? Because he sure as hell was going to a lot of trouble to get us to agree, including taking one hell of a beating.

If so, maybe there was some hope of bargaining with the devil himself.

"If he really is our daughter's mate, then there is every possibility we can get her to reject him, refuse his advances!" I screamed through mindlink to my mates, hoping they could hear

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1. me. My eyes widened with the first trace of hope, seeing Kane freeze a little.

"If we school her on his true nature, the evil that resided in the very foundation of his bones, we can guide her. Help her to make the right choice! IF he really is her mate!" I added, but, Kane had already joined his brother, the pair taking it in turns to punch a bloodied and battered Astaroth to the ground. Shattering any hope I had that I could reach them privately.

“She will be allowed to make her choice!” Astaroth protested into the buzzing space of my mind, as if Knox and Kane were not launching a brutal attack on his body.

“That is all I ask, that when the time comes you allow her to make her own mind up, you do not stand in her way.” As Astaroth’s chilling words echoed in my head, I felt a shiver race down my spine, sending icy tendrils of fear snaking through my veins. The notion that our daughter held the key to his future happiness seemed unfathomable, yet there was an undeniable truth lingering in the depths of my mind, a truth I couldn’t bring myself to accept.

I shook my head in denial, muttering a soft ‘no’ under my breath while I instinctively placed a protective hand over my stomach as if shielding our unborn child from his sinister intentions. Tears welled up in my eyes as I glanced desperately at Knox and Kane, silently pleading for support, for a shred of hope in this dark and twisted situation.

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But before I could find solace in their eyes, Astaroth moved with a flick of his wrists, pinning both Kane and Knox against the wall with a force that left me breathless. Irritation crackled in the air around him, his impatience palpable as he took slow, deliberate steps closer to me.

With a heavy sigh, he spoke again, his voice carrying the weight of his words like a leaden cloak. How could I stand idly by and allow our child to be bound to such darkness?

“Lottie, honey. Have you considered that I too am drawn to darkness... that we will be a perfect match.” But even as I grappled with the horror of his words, I couldn’t shake the inexplicable pull I felt towards him, towards this realm of shadows and secrets. It was a sensation I couldn’t explain, a longing that tugged at the edges of my consciousness, blurring the lines between reality and illusion.