

Chapter 147: A Fragile Truce

Kane POV

My body met with the floor with a resounding thud as Astaroth released his magical hold, leaving me battered and bruised but fueled by a seething hatred that burned hotter than any physical pain. Every bone in my body ached, while each muscle screamed in protest, but none of it compared to the fire raging in my chest— A hatred that refused to be extinguished.

"Brother!" Knox gasped, his face grimacing at me with concern. Did I really look like that bad?

"Yes." Rolo announced, making me frown. "But not for long." He added as his healing powers exploded to life inside me, making every nerve ending buzz with excitement. With his strength and Knox's support, I struggled to my feet, every movement getting easier with each passing second.

"Thank you, bud." I groaned inwardly as, together, we made our way to where Charlotte stood. My heart raced hearing her argue with the demon. "She is turning into such a little firecracker- I loved

it!" I mused to my wolf, his chuckle making me regret my words instantly.

"I will remind you of that when she is being a brat later." Rolo muttered before going silent, allowing me to catch the exchange between them.

"Brother, are you ok?" Knox asked, his hands releasing me as I stretched up, my bones clicking back into place, my aches and pains vanishing along with my patience hearing Astaroth express his concerns for our daughter.

"Is he right?" I asked Rolo, his whine all the answers I needed.

"She will be..."

"A Threat." I finished, my girl's eyes finding mine, relief exploding across her face. I opened my mouth to speak, but she was already crossing to me, her arms flying around me as she buried her face in my neck, inhaling deeply. I did the same, quickly sucking down her beautiful scent of honey and ash. As my heart recovered, my eyes remained locked on Astaroth, watching him curiously, but he did not attempt to step in between us and pull her away.

"Yes." He simply replied. "IF you don't believe me,

ask your wolf."

"I already have..."

"And?" Charlotte whispered, her hot breath fanning my neck.

"It made sense," I stated, looking over at Knox, whose eyes were glued to Charlotte with longing, I understood well. "If Knox's child will be as powerful as this demonic worm..."

"Astaroth." The demon cut in. "My name is Astaroth."

"If she is as powerful as HE claims, then surely she would threaten the balance of our world. And everything The Moongoddes stands for. I have heard of our kind mating humans on occasion... but demons..."

"I am not just a demon, I am a Duke of hell, actually." Astaroth cut in sarcastically. I watched amused as my girl rolled her eyes to the back of her head. As unimpressed with his title as me.

"No one cares." Knox spat, his eyes still watching our little mate carefully, his fingers flexing at the sides to get her in his arms. Chuckling, I untangled my arms from around her tiny waist

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and nodded for him to take her.

"But yes, the dynamics of your world will be brought into question." Astaroth informed us, his tone sharp with insult from Knox's snub.

"Personally, the world can go to fuck!" I shrugged. "It needs a shake up, and I have no doubt any child of Knox's will be up to the task of giving it just that."

"Of Ours!" Charlotte snapped defensively, a smile splitting my lips.

"Yes, angel. Of ours." Knox cooed, his eyes lifting to mine, a lump forming in my throat because my brother was the only person I had ever shared my desire for a daughter with, he knew what this meant to me. They both did. Nodding, unable to speak for fear, I would sound as choked as they had made me feel.

"I agree, I can keep her safe... here." Astaroth announced, getting the attention of Charlotte, Knox and I, as all three of us turned slowly to look at him with a mixture of astonishment and disbelief.

"She won't be staying here." I declared all vulnerability gone in its place, a firmness that

seemed to resonate with my mate and brother.

"We have years to work that out." Astaroth laughed, waving off my unease with a flick of his wrist.

"SO... your little mate here has agreed to consider my request if I heal you... Which I have done. I have also helped Chase, not that you three have given him a second thought in the last few minutes. Some family you are! When you return to your realm he will wake up... eventually." His grin made my stomach lunge with apprehension.

"And as for your other condition, that I do not harm your mates physically, mentally or magically and do NOT instruct anyone else to do so, I agree IF they agree to give me the same courtesy." He declared his eyes meeting Knox's, not mine.

"I said our family too!" Charlotte pipped up, a smile painting my lips. "No games? No loopholes? No tricks or scamming?" She added firmly. "I mean it Astaroth! I will remove your dick and wear it as a damn trophy if you mess with anyone I love again." Her demands rang out, bold and unyielding, and though pride swelled within me, there was a knot of fear twisting in my gut.

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I had obviously missed a lot but couldn't help but feel Charlotte was walking a dangerous path, playing a game of negotiation with a demon who thrived on deceit. But her courage, her uncompromising resolve, was a sight to behold, a reminder of the strength that lay within her.

"That's our pups," Rolo chimed in.

"She is not far along enough for that." I laughed, my eyes furrowing at my wolf's pride.

"Our Alpha genes are taking root inside her, that strength and need to protect... that's our pup's natural instinct."

"He is right," Astaroth spoke into my mind, my eyes tightening on the slimball.

"So do we have a deal? You will return by 3 pm, and then we will finalise plans." Astaroth's agreement hung in the air, a fragile truce born of necessity. I couldn't shake the feeling of concern that settled in the pit of my stomach, a whisper of doubt that spoke of hidden motives and lurking danger.

"You stay out of our heads..." I added as a condition of my own. Astaroth's lips thinned

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unhappily, making me chuckle. "What not keen on giving up your superpower?" I asked, raising a brow challengingly.

"Nope." He replied, popping the P dramatically, something I knew was born of frustration. My sister did the same thing.

But as Astaroth pledges not to harm me or Knox, on the condition that we do the same, a flicker of hope ignited within me. Perhaps, amidst the chaos and darkness, there's still a shred of humanity left within the demon's twisted soul.

"Knox any conditions?" Astaroth laughed, his lips curling, like he already knew my brother's answer.

"I want to speak to my parents. If everything you say is true, then I will agree. But if I find you to be lying on any account, if you have stretched the truth even an inch. I will not agree." Astaroth laughed, his smile widening.

"I don't.."

"I know you claim not to need me to agree, but rest assured if I find you to be the scumbag liar I suspect you to be, I will do everything within my power to make sure you do not get your slimy hands on our daughter."

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"Understood." Astaroth chuckled, his smile not faltering, telling me he was confident in the truth he had shared about our parents' betrayal and secrets. With a silent nod, I agreed to the terms of the truce, knowing that whatever we learned today, we'd face it together, bound by a fragile alliance forged in the crucible of conflict.



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