

Chapter 149: The Sordid Truth

Knox POV

"Can you relax?" Kane laughed, slapping me on the shoulder, but my eyes remained leveled on the door my father had just left through. Since we had asked for time alone with him, he had been on edge. Insisting he needed to check that Anthony and Mike were being secured correctly, apparently, he did not want to risk them getting free before he got the answers he wanted.

"Please!" He added as he stepped away from us. Our mother had followed my father, tail tucked between her legs. Unlike Kane, I had noticed the way her eyes wouldn't meet mine, the slight scatter of crystal-like sweat forming on her brow and the nervous twitch of her lips.

"Not that easy, Brother." I snapped back. Given the way Lottie turned and raised a brow at me, my tone had been harsher than I intended it to be. "Sorry." I sighed, holding my hands out to her. "I am just frustrated," I admitted as she stepped into my waiting embrace.

"I know." She whispered, and I knew she did.

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Family betrayal seemed to be the running theme for her family too. "But don't take it out on Kane, he is on your side.." She cooed, trying to soothe the beast inside me waiting to explode.

"Is he?" I whispered to her, that pretty dark blonde brow of hers rising again in question.

"What do you mean?" she asked, but she knew exactly what I meant. She had heard everything Astaroth had said! She knew his claims that Kane would beg him to mate our daughter, that he would beg him to take her off our hands. But if I was honest, it was more than that... The fact he seemed to want to defend our parents and put his faith in them got on my nerves. How could he trust what Astaroth was saying about the moon Goddess if he did not truly believe that some part of me or Havoc even, was demonic?

I was not a child and wished he wouldn't treat me like one.

"He loves you! He just wants to protect you." My girl whispered, clearly reading the darkness swirling within me and understanding.

"You have spent too much time in that demon world." I mused, leaning down to press my lips to

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hers gently, melting the second the sweetness of her tongue pushed its way into my mouth.

"Why is that?" She laughed against my lips as I tightened my hold around her waist.

"Because you are picking up some of that demons' tricks like reading my mind." I admitted, pulling her and those sultry lips back against mine and devouring them hungrily. Needing the comfort she offered.

"She didn't need to read your mind, brother. Your feelings are clear." Kane replied from behind us, making me jump. I hadn't heard the door open and him enter.

"Perv," I mused, not really wanting to argue with my brother, Lottie was right, in her own way, he was just trying to protect me. I got that I just wished he didn't feel he had to. My anger wasn't truly aimed at him.

"You love it." He laughed, coming towards us, his hand landing on my shoulder as he slowly lifted Lottie's chin to meet his lips in an embrace that I knew was much gentler than he actually wanted it to be.

"Is that all I get?" she moaned as he pulled away.

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"For now, we have company." He smiled against the curve of her neck, his eyes meeting mine with a nod. "I am with you brother. Whatever happens here... I am with YOU." Nodding at him, feeling my throat tighten with unspeakable affection, I smiled at Lottie, seeing the words playing on her lips.

'I told you so.'

"Kitty is always right." Havoc purred, making me smile hearing him return to me, but the jittery edge to his voice was not lost on me.

"Like Kane said, Havoc.. We have your back." I repeated to my wolf, hoping it would ease some of his nerves. It didn't.

"Ok, I need answers... like where did you go? Why are you mixing with demons? And why all of a sudden The Sparrow Brothers are your BFF's?" My father announced as he walked back into the room, his form large and intimidating to most, but I spied the way it trembled softly, the tension in his shoulders and arms. He was bracing himself for something... Or Someone.

"Answers?" I asked, arching a brow, my lips pursing into a smug smile. Like we owe him fuck

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all right now.

"We do not know if Astaroth is telling the truth yet.

"Lottie pleaded into my mind, surprising me. I had thought Sage was MIA.

"We would like some answers too," Kane interjected, trying to remain the peacemaker.

"Of course, but can they wait?" Mother asked as she motioned towards the table and took a seat herself.

"No," Lottie replied firmly, getting everyone's attention.

"And why is that?" My father and Lottie's Alpha asked, his features softening as he stepped closer to our mate, his hand stretching out to land on her stomach. "Should you be getting worked up?" He added, trying to change the subject.

"If you do not tell Knox the truth right here and now, then I will be forced to make a decision that will cost these." She replied, placing her hand over his. "Their future." Her eyes remained locked on my father's, determination written behind her eyes.

"Pardon?" Our mother asked, her eyes widening. "

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"You can't be serious."

"She is. We are." Kane cut her off, moving to stand beside Lottie, his arm circling her tiny waist and pulling her against his chest and away from our father's touch. As grateful as I was for him sheltering her, I felt a pang of jealousy twist in my stomach, it had been so long since we had gotten any real time together. I craved it, and her!

"I don't follow." My father announced, his eyes awash with confusion.

"We told you we had to make a choice, as per the Moon Goddesses demands, yes?" Kane started to say. I decided to stay silent, not trusting myself to handle it as gracefully as he was. Instead, I walked over to where he stood, hogging our girl. Sliding my hand between them, I peeled her from him and lifted her to me as I sat at the table, nestling her in my lap. She looked exhausted. I knew she wouldn't sleep, but I could take some of the burden and let her rest safely in my arms.

"I do." My father replied, having the decency to sound sheepish at least.

"You told him?" Lottie's asked into my mind. Smiling at her, I nodded once. "He is going to be

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angry." She added before dropping her eyes to where my hand rested on her lap.

"I don't give a shit," I answered, pressing my lips to her temple. "You chose to save me... I will forever be grateful for that. As he should be." I reminded her, feeling better seeing the corners of her lips twist into a small smile.

"The terms state she has to choose between giving up the bond she shares with Knox and I. Or giving up the pups."

"I can't imagine having to make such a decision." My mother whispered. "I am so sorry Charlotte." My mother lowered her eyes, not able to look at Lottie.

"Well, we have been given an alternative option..."

"From the demon?" My father questioned, his tone tight and laced with apprehension.

"Yes. He can save our pups,, and keep us together... but it will cost us in the long run," Kane replied. Ultimately, I was grateful for him taking the lead, but I knew that wouldn't last forever.

"You can't make a deal with a demon." My mother snapped. "You can't trust a demon with your pup's

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future..."

"Why not? You did!" I growled, cutting her off, my eyes meeting hers, in a challenge. Or rather a pleading stare... wanting her to look surprised, confused and ask me what the fuck I meant.

"Knox." She whispered, her eyes saying everything her lips evidently couldn't.

"Tell me I am wrong mother?" I implored her, but her eyes dropped to her hands. Looking over at my father, I narrowed my eyes on him too. "Pops? Tell me I am wrong... please!"

"We can't!"



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