## Lottie POV

I knew I was being rude to my Alpha. A male who had always demanded but more importantly, earned my respect. However, as I stared up into the eyes of the only male role model I had growing up, the only male to have continuously shown me support and encouragement, I waited for him to answer Kane's question. Desperate for him to tell Kane he was wrong, on all accounts.

"Char, tread carefully. You may be angry, and I understand why, but he is still your Alpha." Sage cautioned. Chewing my lip, I considered Sage's warning for a whole five seconds before I shook my head and crossed the room to Knox, who was looking at the parents he once adored. If I could not truly speak my mind, why was I even here?

"Charlotte, it's complicated." Alpha Leigh tried to explain, turning to look back at him. I frowned seeing Kane had stepped in his path, blocking his view of me. "Son." He blurted out, pain tainting his voice. "I would never hurt.."

"No, you would just sell her to the highest bidder,

tell my father how you are any better than your
Beta?" Knox growled from beside me, his fingers
snaking through mine and giving me a gentle
squeeze.

"It was part of the marriage contract for your sister,
" Luna announced with a sigh that felt like it was
weighing heavily on her chest. My mind exploded
with questions. Why was it on Lilly's marriage
contract? Why would either party care who I ended
up with? The Alpha and Luna were not my real
parents, as much as they had helped raise me, they
had their own children to consider and marriages to
fight for. And the Royals had never met me, at least
not until yesterday. I was not even a spec on their
radar. Why would they give a shit who I was? Or
who I marry? I was nothing, a nobody to them.

"That is not true." Sage sighed.

"Pardon," I asked, stepping back into the room, with Knox quick on my heels as I ignored Sage, not needing her 'you are important' pep talk right now.

"Baby..." Alpha Leigh cut Luna off, his eyes meeting Laura's with an almost pleading gaze. "We can't."

"We must..." She nodded her hand, stroking her mate's shoulder. I watched as something more than affection and warmth passed between them. "Or we lose the boys and our grandchildren in one fell swoop. No more secrets please." She nodded to her partner as she headed back to the seat she had occupied moments ago and nodded for us to do the same.

"Promise?" I heard Kane ask, his tone laced with youthful hope and optimism that I, unfortunately, did not share and, given the look on Knox's face, I wasn't the only one.

"Sure, why not lie to our faces this time." Knox scoffed arrogantly. It wasn't his words that had me worried, it was the look in his eyes that concerned me. I could already tell that their relationship was beyond saving, and I got it, I truly did. Having found out that my dad was a traitor working with demons to kill my Alpha was a shock, but to find out he had been willing to sacrifice me in the process, sucked and would forever taint any relationship I had with the man who had raised me.

"Let's give them a chance, hey brother." Kane offered, nodding to the seat beside him. Sliding into the seat between them, I patted the empty seat for Knox.

"Please, son." Laura begged, the sadness that clung to her tone had even my heart thawing a little. With a dramatic sigh, he lifted off the wall he had perched against and came to sit with us.

Outstretching my hand for him to take, I smiled, seeing him reach out to me, sliding his fingers between mine and enveloping them with his warmth.

"Let's get this over with then." Knox muttered as Kane slid his hand onto my knee and gave it a reassuring squeeze. Turning to look at him, I frowned, seeing his eyes drifting to his brother, glossed over as in conversation with Rolo. Quickly snapping my head to the other side, I saw Knox too, was lost in communication, the pair of them cutting me out.

"That's rude!" I barked through mind link with the pair of them.

"Sorry angel, Kane is just panicking." Knox replied through the link, keeping our conversation private.

"I am not. I am just preparing for the worst." Kane grunted, his tone gruff and sexy as fuck.

"And that would be?" I asked with a slight smirk as

I looked over at Kane. His handsome face twisted with apprehension.

"That you freak out with the news you are about to hear." He replied somberly.

"Why would I freak out? Do you know what they are about to tell us?" I asked, pulling my hand from Knox's and shoving Kane's hand off my leg, already sensing the answer to my question through the bond.

They did!

They knew something, and it was big!

"So when the alliance was discussed with the Royals, it was made with Sebastian's father. We met him a few times over the years." Leigh began to say, his eyes locked on mine. "We always had a good relationship."

"My sister spent a lot of time with the Royals for training, as did your mother Charlotte." I smiled hearing them talk of my mother- it wasn't something people did often enough if you asked me.

"So you see... we had history with them." He nodded to me, the look on his face telling me he

was teetering around the truth and the reason for this heart-to-heart.

"Anyway, before your mother went away, Lottie, she was mated to your father... To Anthony." She corrected herself, her eyes moving to Kane's before she continued. "But while she was away, she found another mate."

Sitting back in my chair, I nodded, because I had guessed as much from my father's rambling about her being a whore. Women rarely cheated on their fated mates, so the only reason fathomable for my mother to be labelled a whore, by my father, was if she had found a second mate. Which then my father's comment 'It runs in the family' confirmed my suspicions and made sense.

"Ok." I nodded, not sure what they wanted me to say, but I wished everyone would stop looking at me like I was about to break. "Cool, my mother had two mates. Lucky her! I hope she was able to suck two dicks at once because I sure as shit am finding it difficult." I groaned, rolling my eyes.

"Charlotte." Laura gasped as a rasp of laughter escaped Leigh's lips before he blushed scarlet and looked at the table unsure of where to look now.

"Practice baby, you'll get the hang of it." Knox grinned, trying to grab at my hand.

"OR bite them off." I snapped, letting his hand go and nodding to Laura to continue.

"That mate was Sebastian's uncle," Laura announced somewhat nervously.

"Pardon," I asked, realising slowly who that was. " Which one?" I added, needing to hear them say it.

"The Lycan King." Chase's voice bounced off the walls, getting everyone's attention.

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