Lottie POV

"Ooo fun times! I have never removed a tongue before. Could I do it?" I heard Chase ask from behind Knox.

"I thought you were checking in on Adam and Liam?
"I asked, arching a brow at my newest friend and...

"Brother." Sage bounced excitedly. Feeling my throat tighten, I swallowed hard to clear the emotions brewing.

"I did. They are alive." Chase expressed, looking over at me with a toothy grin that made me smile despite the exhaustion rippling through my body. "That's all I needed to know."

"Do you not want to spend time with them?" Knox asked, his words dripping with hope and I knew exactly what he was hoping for. I had sensed his arousal back in the room with his parents. And honestly, it sounded like a perfect escape from the shit we found ourselves wading through.

"I have spent years with them, I have missed out on

too much of Queenie's life, I won't miss anymore!"
He replied, but even I could hear the challenge that
lingered in his voice as he looked between Kane and
Knox. "Is that going to be a problem?" He asked
firmly.

I wanted to say something, to tell them to park the bullshit because we had enough going on right now and Connie was undoubtedly earwigging. But that lump had formed in my throat again, swelling it closed with the emotions that threatened to drown me.

"It's OK with me." Kane replied, his eyes on me as I steadied my feet from the crippling sensations washing through me, sensations I had no doubt my mates were feeling through our bond.

"Me too." Knox smiled over at me, his face as handsome as ever as he eyed me with pride and a tinge of sadness.

"Cool, but honestly I wasn't asking." Chase grinned at me like the fucking fool he was. And goddess knows I loved it!

Zero!

That is how many times a family member has ever

fought for me, has ever put me first, or demanded to spend time with me. Zero. And honestly, I wasn't sure how I felt about it.

"Yes, you are." Sage remarked "And it's OK to be scared. It's OK to fear the unknown." She comforted me and all I could do was nod. Nod at Knox, at Kane and at my Wolf.

"Who are you?" Connie asked, interrupting the bonding moment we all were sharing, her tone grinding on me as she laced it with fake charm but very real desire. Rolling my eyes. I looked at Chase, knowing he would fall for her bullshit like every other male did! After all, who could resist Connie? He would probably fall head over heels and into her fucking bed.

"I am her.." He announced the pride evident in his tongue as he nodded over to me. "Brother. But more importantly, I am the man who will be removing your tongue if you so much as look at her again." He grinned, stepping into Connie, his large chissled physique swamping hers.

"Do you know who I am?" She gasped, looking between Kane and Knox and then at me.

"I would guess, given the smell of you, maybe the

court prostitute. What is that cheap perfume and an even cheaper fake tan." He asked, looking over at Knox. "Am I right?" He asked, to which my mate nodded to hide his amusement.

"Kinda, she doesn't charge for her services. So she is just a whore!"

"Cool, my brother likes whores. I will introduce you to him later." Chase winked, making my whole body tense.. Brothers... Adam and Liam were his brothers. They were bastards too. They might not be my brothers, but they would be my family too... A family that seemed to be growing by the second.

"Am I ready for this?" I asked Sage as I zoned out of the bickering surrounding me.

"Only one way to find out." She reminded me as Kane's voice filtered through the hallway.

"That's just because no one would pay her." Kane laughed, his hand finding my back.

"Are you actually going to let them talk to me like this?" Connie asked me, her voice riddled with entitlement as she looked over to me in disbelief.

"Guys..." I started to say, and all three of them

turned to face me. I could read what was on their minds before they even said it. 'Seriously, you are going to protect her?'

"Don't get too close... You don't know where it's been." I shrugged before turning to walk towards my room. Although, never had the walk from the ground floor to the alpha floor felt like such a chore. I just wanted my bed, my mate's and to wake up to find this had all been a bad dream.

"Charlotte..." I heard Connie squeal as I pushed the door open and slipped inside, no longer caring for her, or her desperation.

"Are you seriously going to leave them out there with her?" Sage asked, her voice filled with jealousy.

"If Connie wants to make a pass at our mates- then let her go for it! I trust them." I admitted because they had never, ever given me a reason not to trust them... unlike me and my mistakes. Mistakes I would regret forever.

"And what about.."

"If she wants to try her luck with... Chase... who am I to stop her? Or him?" I finished Sage's sentence.

"You were going to say your brother." Sage remarked, her voice filled with excitement.

"I was. But it feels..."

"Strange?" she questioned, finishing my sentence this time, but I shook my head, because she was wrong, for once.

"No, the opposite, like it's right, but I am not sure that I am ready to process that just yet. It doesn't feel right celebrating the gift of family when my own little unit is at threat."

"Connie is dealt with." I heard Kane announce as the door flung open. Turning to face the three large males who walked through the door, I smiled, wondering how I got so lucky.

"Chase.." I asked as I narrowed my eyes on the blonde god-like creature.

"Yes, Quennie." He replied, walking into my room and flopping down on the bed like it was his.

"I thought you didn't like to hurt women?" I asked, remembering Adam's words yesterday.

"THAT.." He asked, pointing to the door. "Was a

girl?" He grinned, offering me a lopsided smile that I had no doubt had broken many hearts. "So what movie are we watching, guys?" He grinned sprawling out on the bed and placing his hands behind his head.

"Well actually, we wanted some alone time..." Kane sighed. "I know you want to spend time with her, and you can, of course, but it's been a long morning, and we need to make some hard decisions.

"Plus, I am about to bend your sister over that bed and fuck her until she forgets her name." Knox shrugged, deadly seriously. "Not sure if that's the kinda movie you want to watch?"

"KNOX!" I roared, looking at my mate in outrage.

"Nope." He grunted, jumping off the bed and landing on his feet with the grace of a cat. Walking over to me, his arms snaked around my waist, pulling me to him in an embrace I had only ever got from Knox and Kane. I felt the instant tears well in my eyes from the sudden need to hide in his arms forever.

"I always wanted a sister! Just so you know." He beamed down at me, his lips pressing to my forehead with such affection that my heart melted and broke all at the same time.

"UGH!" Knox groaned from behind me and I could sense through our bond that he, like me, was torn between emotions... He wanted to do as he had promised, but he wanted me to be happy more... Which is why I loved him.

"I would say any notion of bending her over needs to be put on hold." Kane announced with a belly laugh. I heard him flop on the bed and grinned up into the eyes of the brother, I couldn't believe I was lucky enough to have.

"No shit!" Knox laughed as he stepped closer, his hands tilting my head towards him to kiss my blonde hair. "Raincheck baby...cakes." He whispered, Astaroth's words clearly sticking in his mind. "We can watch a movie, but I am picking!" He demanded with a playful wink because we both knew he would let me pick... they all would.