

## Chapter 160: Get Things Moving.

Kane POV

"So, you rang?" Astaroth asked, looking directly at me. Bloody snitch!

"Rang?" I questioned, because I had most certainly not called for this prat to arrive and antagonise those whose support I needed.

"Well, you were thinking that you needed to talk to me." Astaroth muttered, clearly feeling a little embarrassed.

"I was thinking I would like a wank, doesn't mean I am going to pull my dick out and tickle my turkey neck. Does it?"

"You can if you want... but given your sister is asleep less than five feet from you, I think there should be some kind of register for you to go on, if you do." Astaroth remarked, his tone playful for change.

"Dick!" Chase grunted, evidently flustered.

Looking around the room, I found myself wondering if the Moon Goddess would or could be

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watching. I would guess so, knowing her apparent need for entertainment by her little puppets. I imagined she was hovering just beyond the veil. I just hoped she would not appear at the same time as Asatroth.

"We can talk, I have soundproofed the room, but the spell will only last a few minutes." Astaroth explained, his brows lifting telling me to hurry the fuck up, all playfulness gone.

"Is there a way to return everyone's wolves?" Chase asked, making me sigh the second he finished speaking. This wasn't why I called him here.

"Yours is back, what more do you want?" Astaroth rasped, dismissing Chase with a wave of his hand. The flinch from Chase not going unnoticed.

"For my brothers to have theirs, it's not like you can't do it. You have given Mike his wolf back, right? Although fuck knows why you did that he is a little prick who should be stomped on, not aided."

"I have my reasons." Astaroth admitted, but you could see he was upset at the fact his secret dealing with the traitor had been exposed. I wanted to know why he had given Mike his wolf back just as badly as Chase did, but I had to prioritise my time with the

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red-eyed chaos feigned. 1

"Charlotte won't be able to keep the pretence up, not for as long as I think you will need her too." I blurted out, Knox's eyes darted to mine, rage flaring in his blue hues.

"We need to talk about this.. Alone." Knox started to say, but Astaroth interrupted him.

"A few weeks, maybe months." Astaroth remarked, his brow lifting as he looked over at Charlotte like one might peek into a newborn's stroller. "She is stronger than you give her credit for, Kane."

"For once, I agree with the demon. Kane, she is strong, she is loyal and fucking hell. She is already a protective Mumma. She will do anything for you, Knox and those babies." Chase interjected, but I shook my head, because he was right, and I knew that, but at what personal cost?

"She is not the only one who will have to make a sacrifice, Kane. You and Knox will have to pretend the bond is severed and.."

"Go back to our old ways? With Knox fucking everything in reach. That is going to kill her!" I whispered, looking over at Knox, who was starting

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to follow. If he didn't have the bond with Charlotte - we were fucked!

"I don't like this. But it was Lottie who changed you, you said that yourself, mate." Chase sighed, sitting on the edge of the bed beside Charlotte, giving Knox a sympathetic nod.

"If we agree to this, how do you plan on making sure others believe the bond is severed?" I asked Astaroth plainly, after not hearing a reply from Knox.

"I am heavily relying on your acting skills," He scoffed.

"You are fucked!" Chase moaned deeply.

"There is the problem, I might be able to keep my distance, but do you genuinely think he.." I asked, nodding to Knox, who was making googly eyes at our mate. "Will be able to keep himself composed and act like he has no feelings for her?"

"No. Which is why I planned to have Lottie make the sacrifice and.."

"No. We need her to hate us, for a time. She needs a reason to not allow us anywhere near her, to make

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her think she is rejecting us.. For real." I sighed, getting up off the bed to pace the room and work through the tension forming behind my eyes.

"A ruse... So we are not only fooling the moon goddess but your mate." Astaroth asked with a small glimmer of excitement tainting his words.

"It will be worth it in the end, if it means we get to keep her safe and our pups. As long as I have your assurance when all this is done, and her heart is broken.. You will keep her safe because she will have to leave the pack.."

"NO!" Knox spouted, his eyes meeting mine in a challenge. "This isn't just your relationship, Kane! You can't control everything."

"YES, Knox! I am not trying to control things, I am trying to find a way to keep her safe! Keep our babies safe! Fuck can't you see how hard this is going to be for her? She can go with Chase, Adam and Liam to learn about her family. It gets her away from Anthony, away from my family and that scumbag Mike."

"You are throwing her out of the frying pan and into the fire." Chase snapped, glaring at me.

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"I thought you said she was strong!" I reminded him with a firmness I had been holding back on out of respect for his relationship to Charlotte, but if he thought he knew her well enough to make decisions for her, he was wrong.

"I DID but this is suicide." He seethed loudly as his anger got the better of him.

"Shh, you'll wake her." I hissed, but Astaroth waved his hand again dismissively.

"She isn't waking up. Magic perk." He winked, as my face twisted with rage "I mean right now, she will when I leave." He added his hands in the air in surrender.

"Well, I have a plan... I will discuss it with Knox and if he agrees, can you promise to keep her safe?"

"You are really putting your faith in a demon?" Chase demanded, looking at me with hatred.

"I was talking to your dipshit." I groaned. 1

"Adam, Liam and I would never let anything happen to her." Chase sighed, crossing his arms over his chest.

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"He is angry at you but excited to get some alone time with her." Astaroth nodded over at Chase as he read his mind. "However, this one... is debating punching you in the face." He added looking at Knox, who had remained deadly silent.

"She will never forgive us if he is thinking what I think he is." He finally uttered, his heart heavy with worry. And I got that, but it was a risk we needed to take for Charlotte.

"She will... When she learns it was all a ruse." I tried to reason with everyone.

"No, she will be hurt that we didn't have faith that she could do what was needed. She is independent, Kane, I know you like to wrap her in cotton wool, but shit brother, has she not already proved that she can hold her own." Know pleaded with me openly, and I knew to some degree he was right.

"Yes, and she has made many sacrifices to protect us... it's time we made some of our own."

"This is bullshit!" Knox growled, his eyes filled with tears as he looked down at her. "And I am not taking any credit for it, Kane. If you want to do this, then fine... but don't expect me to be OK with it OR

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stay away from her because that is like asking the sun not to shine! It's impossible."

"Times up... I will see you in a few hours, I will get things moving on my end." And with that, he was gone in a puff of dramatic red smoke, and given the look on my brother's face, so was his respect for me apparently.



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