Lottie POV

Standing outside Knox's bedroom, my heart pounded with a mix of dread and disbelief. I pressed my ear against the door further, desperate to discover that my mind was playing tricks on me and that my mates were not planning to fucking lie to me and force this bullshit upon me.

"You know I have super hearing, right?" Sage asked, her voice infuriated, but I knew it was not aimed at me.

"I know." I muttered back to my wolf harshly."
Now shhh."

"Then why are you straining to catch every word?"

She grunted "Instead of going in there, and letting me bite their cocks off. Let's see Connie want a piece of them when she realises I have given them their own kind of designer vagina." Sage demanded angrily. Sighing, I shook my head, to silence her.

"Not helpful." I remarked, her scoff, angering me further. "Because, honestly, I am hoping you have heard wrong." I whispered back as Knox and Kane's

voices lowered to a barely audible hush, their conversation punctuated with a conspiratorial tone that made my stomach churn.

"We have to do it, Knox," Kane tried to explain to a rather pissed of Knox. "If we can fool the Moon Goddess, maybe we can buy some time and work out a way to fix this mess."

"I hate this plan, Kane. Cheating on Lottie, even pretending to... it feels wrong. But if it's the only way..." Knox moaned heavily.

"Bastards." I roared inwardly to Sage. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. My mates, the two people I trusted most, were plotting behind my back to deceive the Moon Goddess AND me.

"Designer vagina time?" Sage asked hopefully, as I rested my hand on my stomach and processed all I was hearing. Their betrayal cut deep, not just because they were planning to 'cheat', but because they hadn't trusted me enough to include me in their plans.

"No." I whispered as anger surged through me, hotter and more intense than the hurt I had ever felt. I had always expected to be hurt or betrayed by my father or Mike, but it coming from Knox and

Kane was soul-crushing. Without thinking, I pushed the door open, fury propelling me forward.

"Are you fucking kidding me?" I roared, my eyes scanning the room, half expecting to find Connie already in here lapping up the attention.

Both Knox and Kane turned to face me, shock and guilt written all over their faces. Knox's mouth fell open as if he wanted to speak, but no words came. Instead, his eyes searched mine.

"Charlotte!" Kane uttered, his eyes widened in disbelief, his lips tight with what I could feel was vexation. Not at me but at the situation. Well, fuck him and the situation. I could see the panic in their expressions as they realised I had heard everything.

"Let me explain, angel." Knox started to say, but I shook my head and stepped into the room, letting the door slam shut behind me with a resounding thud.

"Don't you dare angel me, you fucking shithead." I seethed, my eyes, flashing with Sage's presence, boring into them, conveying the depth of my distress and wrath.

"How could you?" I demanded, my voice trembling

with rage. "How could you even consider such a foolish plan? And worse, how could you not tell me? "Kane took a hesitant step forward.

"Charlotte, we were just trying to protect you—"

"Protect me?" I interrupted, my voice rising. "By lying to me? By making decisions behind my back? With that skank of all people! That's not protection, Kane. That's a betrayal!"

"We thought it was the only way to—" Kane tried to interject, his voice softer.

"To what? Fool the Moon Goddess?" I scoffed, my anger boiling over. "You think deceiving a deity is a good idea? Fine.. I support you! But to fool ME, your mate and the mother of your fucking pups. And you really think doing it without my knowledge is the right way to go about it?"

They both looked down, unable to meet my gaze, their guilt palpable. I took a deep breath, trying to rein in my fury.

"If we're going to face this, we face it together. No more secrets, no more lies or secret plots. Do you understand?" I commanded, feeling my eyes glow with the intense purple of Sage. They nodded,

chastened and remorseful. Knox stepped closer, his eyes pleading.

"We're sorry, Lottie. We were wrong not to tell you.

"He admitted with a glare over at Kane that told me exactly whose idea this was. "We should have trusted you, but Kane is right in his plan."

"I am sorry." Kane added, his voice earnest. "I wish I wasn't, princess, but I didn't..." Pausing, he sighed and continued. "I don't see any other way" The sadness in his voice mirrored the look in his eyes and I knew without a doubt that he truly believed this to be the case.

"There has to be." I uttered as I looked at them both, my anger slowly giving way to understanding. "We will face this together as a fucking team." I barked, moving to sit on the bed, my bare legs pulled up to my chest as I yanked Knox's comforter over me. I had rushed out of the room earlier, hearing the commotion and sensing my mates were upset, only throwing a shirt over my naked body thinking I was facing some kind of threat.

"So what exactly is your plan?" I asked when I was finally comfortable. Knox wasted no time climbing on the bed beside me, but my stern gaze kept him at

the foot of the bed. I loved them, goddess knows I do, but I wasn't ready to forgive them, not yet.

"And so help me, Kane, if you try to hide anything from me, try to 'protect' me, I will let Sage at you and be warned I am all that stands between you and the life of a eunuch." I declared with resolve.

"Got it." Kane nodded, understanding the gravity of my words. He started to explain his plan, being careful not to leave anything out.

As I sat there, my mates before me, I knew that this was a turning point. We would either emerge stronger, united against the darkness, or we would fall apart. But one thing was certain — I would no longer be kept in the fucking dark.

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