

## Chapter 170: Closer To Home

### Knox POV

Turning on the bed, my eyes came face to face with the cold white hues of the Moon Goddess. She glowed with an otherworldly splendour, her expression unreadable. I knew it was in my interest to keep my temper in check, but honestly, I wanted to rip the bitch apart. Rolling my lips together, I forced myself to look away, fearing I would make things worse.

I nodded to Kane, signalling him to take the lead. His voice was softer than I knew he wanted it to be.

"Which is?" he asked in response to her cryptic statement about another option. He didn't seem phased to see her here, and I guess I shouldn't be either. It wasn't like we had Astaroth here to keep her from listening in.

"Well hello, to you too, Kane Maddox." She chortled. "Is it not customary to bow to a goddess?" She taunted, and I felt myself tense as my eyes rolled.

"Maybe. When they are respected." Lottie snapped

from beside me, "And not using us for their own amusement." As usual, she couldn't help but say exactly what was on my mind, how fiercely protective she was had my lips twitching with pride.

"I am not cruel like you think, sweet Charlotte. I told you what the price would be to bring your Alpha back and stop your cousin from joining him. I would save your family, but you had to sacrifice something of your own. You agreed. It's the way of things, yin and yang so to speak."

The Moon Goddess floated into the room as if her feet were too good to grace our realm. She stopped before the bed and looked at Lottie, specifically at her belly. A flash of white light came from her eyes as she unblinkingly stared at Lottie's belly. The action silenced any reply the three of us might have.

"Would you truly consider making a secret deal with a demon?" She asked, her eyes still glued to the spot where Lottie's womb would be. Moving instinctively, I blocked her view of my little mate, my teeth curling over my lip.

"Back off bitch." I hissed my hand, reaching back to grab at Lottie, needing to make sure she was still there.

"It's not like we have much of a choice." Kane sighed, trying to defuse the anger in the room. My anger. "But if you mean do we want to deal with the devil... then the answer is, No!" He expressed soothingly, as if he were trying to prevent a child from having a tantrum. Well, fuck him. She was not a child that needed soothing. She was a bitch who needed a reality check.

"How did you know about the deal with Astaroth?" Lottie asked, pushing me out of the way so she could watch the Moon Goddess, and assess her response and explanation.

"His offer to help you should you pick to keep the babies over your mates by aiding you to raise your daughter." she snorted. "And in return, he gets her for a mate when the time comes."

"Go with it." I heard Astaroth whisper into my head, looking at Kane, my eyes wide in shock. I guessed he had heard the same deceitful thing given the nod he offered me.

"That is the one," Lottie announced, confirming she had not been left out on the secret message sent to deceive and trick the deity in front of us. "Why does it bother you, as long as I make the choice and

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pick to save either my mates or my children?"

"The child you carry will be more powerful than even me," she informed Lottie, not answering her question, but what she did say gave away more than I am sure she planned to. "I would be a fool not to monitor you all." Her voice echoed with an unsettling calm.

"And that scares you." Lottie declared, her resolve sexy as fuck.

"I never said that." the Moon goddess snorted, the sound seeming foreign coming from her pink lips, but my eyes remained glued on my blonde-haired princess.

"I wasn't asking a question, I was stating a fact. She scares you. Why?"

"I am not scared of a child." The moon goddess repeated, her tone less sweet and more severe than usual, but it did nothing to deter Lottie, she was on a mission. And that mission seemed to involve getting answers while pissing on the moon goddess parade. 

Looking between the two women in the room, I suddenly realised what the Moon goddess was so

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afraid of; losing control! Had Astaroth not given enough hints? 1

"That she will someday challenge you?" I asked, an idea forming in my mind.

"Well, if she has her father's tendency to be a disobedient little.."

"Careful, it's not very godly to curse now, is it?" Lottie cut in, her lips pursed in amusement.

"So you plan to sacrifice the mate bond, and keep the children?" Selene asked. Her aura was no longer light and airy but intense, angry and a little intimidating.

"What is the other option you speak of?" Kane asked, cutting off the argument between the three of us, clearly not comfortable enough to lie to the bitch. Well, fuck that! I was in a fighting mood!

"You would like that, wouldn't you?" I growled, looking at the Moon Goddess with unmistakable distaste. "To see us miserable." I added.

"Knox." Kane hissed his hand, making a move to grab me, but I pulled away from his grasp. "You know I grew up on stories of you. Hearing how you

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kept us safe, protected us with the gift of a wolf.."  
Closing my mouth, I licked my suddenly dry lips.

"Every wolf grew up on those tails.." She started to say, but I cut her off. 1

"But that's just it, isn't it? They were tales, bullshit and lies meant to trick us into worshipping some old decrepit woman, who actually just sees us as puppets to control and torment."

"Careful Knox." Lottie cautioned desperation in her voice.

"Take your mates advice, Knox Maddox." The Moon Goddess warned.

"Or what, you control us wolves.. But as you know, I do not have a wolf. You never gifted me with one. An Alpha's son, without a wolf... was that fun for you to watch?" I started to vent my anger bubbling dangerously as my unresolved mummy and daddy issues rose.

"Maybe if you had gifted me with a wolf, like my brother, my sister and everyone else within the pack, then my parents would have been forced to make a deal with a damn demon and shove some demonic creature inside me." I heard Havoc whine

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and closed my eyes to silence his plea for acceptance.

"THEN you wouldn't have these problems, would you?" I roared, my eyes meeting Kane's sad face as he lowered his eyes, unable to meet my gaze. He was ashamed. I got it. I was too.

"So don't come here saying this is on us, making us make an impossible choice, when let's be honest, this is a consequence of YOUR actions." I bellowed, feeling my body shaking with rage.

"I gave you a wolf, Knox Maddox. Your argument is not with me..." She sighed, her eyes glancing at the door behind her.

"But with those closer to home."

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