

**Chapter 0175**

Knox POV

"Because it matters! Everything happens for a reason! That is how fate.. Or Destiny! Whatever, it's how that shit works. You think I want your daughter for my ends? No. She is meant to be my mate, like I am meant to be hers. Now ask yourself why! Why would a demon like me be a fit consort for her?"

"You wouldn't!" Lottie barked instinctively, her voice tinged with sadness, but the unmistakable edge of defeat wasn't lost on anyone. My lips pulled into a frown, hating seeing her so hurt.

"I am not arguing with you. I am telling you simple facts. It's up to you if you believe me or not!" He laughed with a lazy shrug that infuriated me. "But what you need to believe is that I am the only one who can help you out of this sticky situation- of your own making, I may add."

"Our own making?" Lottie seethed as she crouched in front of Chase. "We never asked for this!" She counted her hand pressing Chase's cheek with affection that I knew made her uncomfortable.

"Didn't you?"

"NO! Chase never asked you to torture him this way.  
" she spat, her lips tight with unrivalled hatred.

"He willingly followed you into a demonic realm with a Duke of hell. He made his choice, he knew the risks!" Astaroth continued to announce, clearly enjoying the fire he had ignited within my little mate.

"That's.." I tried to say, finding speech difficult all of a sudden.

"Not true?" Astaroth laughed, his brow rising with questions as he looked at me. Curling my lips, I shook my head. I had wanted to say unfair, and he fucking knew it.

"Not the point." Lottie snapped, ignoring Astaroth and the point he was trying to make. "Alpha Leigh never asked to be attacked and killed."

"Really?" Astaroth laughed. The sound truly starting to grind on me.

"NO!" Kane bellowed through bloodied mouthfuls of spit. Lottie's eyes shifted to my brother, pain etched in her beautiful blue hues.

"Try not to speak, Brother. You need your strength!" I whispered through our link, instinctively hoping for a private moment with my brother.

"Yeah, Kane. Not like you have your brother's hidden strength is it?" Astaroth mocked, side-eyeing us, but his attention remained on my little mate. Something that seemed to make her more uncomfortable than anything. Her hand lowered to her stomach, protectively.

"Such a good mamma bear!" Astaroth ridiculed nastily, my girl's cheeks puffing with anger.

"Anyway, back to Daddy dearest - You think he didn't suspect his Beta was up to no good? You think he didn't have a reason to doubt his intentions. The man was pushing his daughter on a male everyone knew was going to make her miserable! Why? Do you think Leigh wasn't curious? You think his Luna hadn't questioned him?"

"She raised you right?" Astaroth asked, his eyes narrowing on Lottie. "She cared for you like her own child! Wanted the best for you?"

"But..." Lottie started to say, her voice wavering as

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tears filled her eyes.

"But that doesn't mean he deserved to die? No, true!  
" Astaroth acknowledged, finishing the sentence that was clearly on the tip of Lottie's tongue.

Kane grunted, getting my attention as he nodded towards Astaroth, and for a moment I thought I saw regret on his features while he looked at my girl. The pain of his confession evidently weighed heavily on her delicate shoulders. And I understood her pain, she adored my father, and to find out that he knew that she was being used and treated like dirt and had done NOTHING.

Well, that would not sit well with her! And nor would it with Kane and I.

"Fuck!" I seethed inwardly to Kane. "Do you buy this?" I asked, my brother's silence speaking volumes, but I trusted my father, I trusted he wouldn't let Lottie suffer. "He had to have a plan. He had to!" I whispered to my brother, but even I could hear how weak it sounded.

"He doesn't," Astaroth announced with resolve.

"He knew he couldn't trust his beta. I mean he hasn't exactly been loyal lately. Your father had

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harbored suspicion of his betrayal for a while... And what did he do about it?" Astaroth laughed, shaking his head. "Your father is weak. In denial; and there are consequences for making such mistakes when you have a pack that needs you."

"Consequences? Yes! Murder? No!" I snarled, fighting the magic that weaved through me, needing to get closer to my mate. I could see the impact Astaroth's words were having on her without using the mate bond.

"My point is that your father took a risk." Astaroth laughed bitterly. "I visited him before last night, you know. I might not have been wearing this face, but I told your father I had seen Anthony in the woods talking with a shadow, whispering. Plotting. You know what your Alpha said?"

"STOP LYING!" I fumed, anger ripping me apart and finally getting some sort of reaction from Havoc. Astaroth, sensing my wolf's outrage, smirked his magic amping up, clawing at my bones and locking me in place.

"Havoc help! I can't fight this swine on my own." I begged my wolf, knowing he was hovering just below the surface, but something was stopping

him. Something I suspected was his own fear!

"I am not lying. Leigh said that I had imagined it!" Astaroth replied, his lips curling at my attempts at communicating with my wayward wolf.

"What has this got to do with anything," Kane spluttered through a wave of pain that ripped at my heartstrings. Never before had I wanted to be in two places at once, more than I did right now.

"That everything happens for a reason. I gave your father chances to redeem himself before I agreed to Anthony's plan. It isn't my fault he failed my test. What happened next was on him." Astaroth boasted with a shrug while he rolled the sleeves of his suit jacket up.

"Just like your decision to save Knox and that weak Alpha you adore was on you, sweet girl!" Astaroth added, turning to scowl at Lottie. "You chose to save him knowing there would be a price to pay, AND correct me if I am wrong, but didn't you know about the babies then?" He asked, raising a perfectly even brow at my girl, pinning the blame for this bullshit on her with a stare that infuriated me.

"Did you not consider for a second that they would

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be the price you had to pay? Whose fault is that, Charlotte?" he smiled evilly.

Lottie's lips tightened and she dropped her head. I could see the shimmer of tears welling in her eyes.

"Exactly. my. Point. We all make a choice!" Astaroth announced with a smugness that rubbed me the wrong way and snapped whatever resemblance of fear Havoc had. With a snarl, I lunged forward with strength I didn't realise I had and ripped from the wall. Shattering the magic hold that this demonic scum had on me, in the process.

"Enough!" I roared, my feet landing on the ground with a thud that sent pain shooting up to my knees, but I pushed through it, taking a step towards Lottie, my arms millimetres from her, but she didn't seem to notice, or even look up. No one did.

It was like I was invisible.

