

Chapter 3

Sam POV

"You wanna play? Let's play!"

The creature's lips twitched up at one corner and his brows lowered as he looked at me. His smirk was lecherous and arrogant. His foul stench lled the air. It was putrid, like he was decaying from the inside. He lunged toward me so I moved back, giving myself some room to move with the stupid fucking chains that were wrapped around me. As soon as his rotten stench got closer, I grabbed my chain, waiting. He's a simpleton and lunges head first. I take my chain and wrap it around his neck and pull tight. His spider's legs try to claw at me and push me off, but I pull the chain tighter. I can hear the sound of his skin tearing as the chain digs into his esh. His legs ailed, striking at me. I can feel one brush against my leg. It feels spiky and makes my skin crawl. I slam my foot down hard. The sound of the bone snapping is like music to my ears and I'm positive if he didn't have my chain wrapped around his neck, he would be screaming in pain. The creature begins to claw at his neck, trying to loosen the chain. A searing pain punched into my side. I looked down to see one of his spider legs stuck inside me, my own blood dripping onto the stone oor below my feet. Thanks to Eris throwing me in the River Styx, it doesn't kill me. That's right, the goddess made me immune to death. I wasn't like Achilles, though. I wasn't dipped into the river, leaving a weak point. I was fully submerged, even swallowing some of the water.

"I thought you wanted to play!" I whisper.

I can feel the creature's strength diminish as I pull the chains tighter. His blood lls the cave and his body goes limp, but I don't let go yet. Training with Moros has taught me to never expect the expected. I yank the chain hard. It bites into my skin because I'm pulling against the chain, but it's worth the pain. The creature's head pops off and rolls across the oor.

I hear Voluptas whimpers turning to sobs and feel rage ignite inside my heart.

"Hey, you dirty piece of shit over here!"

I can hear the sound of it panting and moaning and my heart shatters. Voluptas cries out in pain as the sweetest-smelling blood ever imaginable drifts toward me. I feel my fangs elongate as the scent sweeps over me, consuming me. I take a deep breath and let the frenzy that was building up inside pass. Another thing I have Silas to thank, because he starved me, I was able to push past a blood frenzy. At rst, it was torture. When a blood frenzy hits you, you can't see anything other than the blood. All you can smell is the blood. It consumes you. You would kill your nearest and dearest for a taste of the crimson ambrosia. But because of his cruelty, I had to learn how to control it and now I only feed if I have to and I would never feed on a human. When I was in the underworld, Moros would bring me blood when he had to go up to the surface and I learned how to survive off actual food, only using the blood to help me heal.

The piece of shit doesn't budge. He's not remotely interested in me. I look around and pick up the only thing close to me. The creature's head. I pick it up and close my eyes, listening to the two heartbeats in the cave. Voluptas' heartbeat is racing, but the creature's is unsteady and sounded like someone has put a shoe in the tumble dryer. I throw the head toward his heartbeat. I hear the thud and an ear-piercing screech. I drop to my knees and cover my ears. It feels like an unimaginable pressure inside my head, like my eyes are going to explode out of my head. I can feel the vibrations on the oor moving toward me. The creature bursts out of the darkness and lifts me up off the oor by my throat. I grab ahold of his lth-covered hands as he holds me in the air. His jaw dislocates and his mouth becomes wide. He pulls me closer to his mouth. I push my chin down so he can't squeeze my throat anymore than he already is. I have to think fast if I want to get out of this, I'm not sure how immune I am to having no head. I pull my arm up and over his, bringing my elbow down against his arm that is holding me in the air, and with my other hand push the palm of my hand up and hit him under the chin, making his head snap back. I think I have startled him and drop to the oor. I do a back handstand, kicking the creature in his face as I go back and over. He stumbles backward, but his spider legs kick in and stop him. He lunges forward. I can see the anger simmering in his eyes. His teeth are sharp and staggered and the skin around his mouth looks like it's pushed back, revealing them all. The man part of the creature is hovering in the center of the spider legs, one of the spider legs sweeps across the oor so I jump up over it, but he must have been expecting that as another one swings through the air, hitting me hard and making me crash against the cave wall. I see the leg moving fast toward me and slide across the wall to avoid getting hit by it, but I didn't see the other leg that pierced me through my right shoulder. Another leg hits my left shoulder and the creature moves slowly forward. This one smells just as bad, but I can smell something sweet mixed in with his festering stench. He has Voluptas' sweet scent all over him.

"I like it when they ght back," he whispers as his tongue licks out and he runs it down my face.

I hit him hard on the bridge of his nose with my forehead. The man cries out, but I'm still pinned to the wall. I grab the leg in my left shoulder and pull it out, but the creature slaps me hard with the back of his hand, making my head spin. I feel his lthy hands running down my body and grabbing the bottom of my dress, he pulls on it, lifting it up. I kick my leg out, hitting him in the dick, and quickly grab the leg in my right shoulder and snap it in half. The creature cries out as an acid like blood oozes out of his leg burning my body. I roll to the right, but the chains are restricting my movements. I can hear the creature's heart rate increase. He's pissed. He runs forward, so I charge forward and jump up. I grab ahold of the creature's neck and dig my nails into his skin, using him as an anchor as I spin around his body so I'm behind him now. The spider legs all come from his spine. I push his head to the side and bite down with my fangs into his carotid artery. His blood tasted foul, but I can feel the burn on my skin healing. He tries to throw me off, but I'm attached to him now. I feel myself being slammed against the wall, but there's no way I'm letting this piece of shit live. His body begins to weaken. I can feel the blood ow slowing. Instead of releasing him, I pull my head back, pulling the large vein from his neck. His blood gushed out like a fountain drenching me and the cave wall.

"What the fuck have you done to my cacodaemons?" The goddess hisses as she storms into the cave.

I pull the piece of leg still stuck in my shoulder out and drop it to the oor, but don't say anything. I can feel her pushing her power out, but I don't back down. Moros would push his power out every day to help me learn a tolerance for it and at this moment in time, I'm truly grateful I don't want the goddess to think I'm weak. The goddess ies toward me and pins me against the cave wall.

"You killed my babies!" She hisses in my face.

"Your babies tried to rape me and I'm pretty sure they have been doing whatever the fuck they wanted to with Voluptas!" I growl.

The goddess looks at me and smiles, dropping me to the oor.

"I like you, Sammy, but step out of line one more time and I will kill all 3 of your children. Do you understand me?"

I nod my head.

"Good."

She walks over to Voluptas and begins to whisper something. I can't make out what she says, but it doesn't stop me from picking up a few words. Eris is telling Voluptas that Silas will die soon and if her mother does as she is told, she will release her. I lean against the wall, thinking about what the goddess just said. If Silas is going to die, then what will she do with me? The only reason I'm here is so Silas doesn't have to worry about me and so she can make him do as she says. I don't quite understand why though, he has no feelings for me. He kept me locked up and beat the shit out of me. Her footsteps echo as she moves toward me again. She stops and turns around so she is looking into my eyes.

"Your punishment will be your servitude. You killed my babies, so you will serve my other children." I feel the chains drop from around my wrists and waist as the wind begins to swirl around me again.

I'm standing in a dank and dingy room, snarls and growls ring out around me. I glance around and feel my blood run cold. The room is a mess hall of some kind. Different monsters of all shapes and sizes stare at me. Some have eyes that glow like the res of hell, and some have horns and claws. The spider monsters back at the cave look like pussy cats compared to most of the monsters in this room.

"This is Samantha. She is important to us, my loves, so you will not hurt her. She is here to pay her penance by serving you, but you will not touch her. If you do and she gets hurt in any way, then I will send you to Moros for punishment. Do you understand?"

The room erupts into grunts and roars. The goddess walks away and I feel the chain still around my ankles pull, so go with it. She pushes a large door open and the re within the room lights up, casting an orange glow across the oor. It's a round room and in the center are four pillars. A platform sits in the center of the four pillars with steps leading up to a large bed that is in the center of that. The bed looks like it's t for royalty, a large bed crown sticks out above the bed, it's golden with an intricate design carved into it, beautiful purple sheets hang down from the bed crown creating a beautiful canopy over the bed, the sheets on the bed look like black silk and large plush cushion sit at the head of the bed. A large golden chandelier hangs down above the bed, with a purple light glowing within each of the small glass balls. There's a large dressing table that sits against one of the walls with a large mirror above it. Fancy bottles sit on top of the dressing table and a hairbrush that looks like it's made from solid gold. A black leather chaise longue sits on the other side of the room, it has a round arm and high back with a gold trim running along the edge, and it has exquisite carvings of what looks like a golden apple in a crown and solid gold legs.

Large pictures hang on the wall of Eris and I can see the goddess denitely has an obsession with herself.

"If you step one foot out of place, I will bring your children here and let my babies have fun with each of them until they beg for death. Now go."

I'm pushed from the room and the large door slams shut in my face. The wind from it brushes the hair off my face. I can feel a chill creep up my spine as I turn to see the monsters all watching me.

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4 years later...

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I drag my feet along the cold stones as I carry the pile of dirty dishes back to the kitchen to be cleaned. My feet are bare and blistered and the sound of metal scraping along the oor echoes in my ear taunting me that I am a captive here but Eris doesn't give a shit about me and my suffering, to her I'm just a means to an end, she is gone more lately and I can feel it in my bones that something big is happening, you can feel it in the air. I place the pots on the side and quickly scan through them, looking for any scraps that have been left. The food is bland, but the morsels of scraps left by the monsters are the only bits of food I get. I place the small amount of food that was left over and wrap it in a napkin and shove it in the back of a cupboard so I can eat it later. If anyone catches me with food, I will get the crap beaten out of me again and without blood, I can't heal. The last time I tasted blood was the monster in the cave. It was the most disgusting thing to ever cross my taste buds and made me sick for a week. My body is now full of scars from the monsters and their retribution. I just keep telling myself that I am doing this for my children, the three most important people on this earth. I quickly wash the rest of the dirty dishes and put them away and clean up any mess left from cooking all day and make my way back out to clean up Eris's room. I despise the goddess, but I will do anything to make sure my children don't get dragged to this place. As I'm cleaning her room, chaos erupts outside. I stand by the door and place my ear against the wood so I can listen, even though I have impeccable hearing. The door is thick, and not much sound gets through. The door suddenly ies open, hitting me in the face.

"It's time to go and see daddy." Eris cheers with a loud and sickening grin on her pale, but beautiful face.

Her purple eyes icker with delight as the wind picks up, and I know I've been taken somewhere else.

I look around and see small camps scattered around. Large trees reach up into the night sky and I take a deep breath of the fresh mountainside air. I can't remember the last time I got to breathe fresh air. It seems like a lifetime ago.

"Is she with you?" I hear a man ask Eris.

The man is large and hulking, but I feel a strange connection with him. He walks closer and I can feel the bond inside connect.

"Do you know who I am?" He asks.

I know it's Silas, but he's in a different body, a body that looks so familiar. He looks like a younger version of Max, Cam's sister's mate.

"Silas!" I snap, feeling my hatred for him reignited.

"Well, it will do for now. I'm sorry I had to keep you locked away like a wild animal for so long. I couldn't have anyone knowing about you and you almost ruined my plan all them years ago. This was the only way it could work. It is time for you to rule by my side."

"I will never help you, you fucking bastard." I snarl.

His hand reached up and came down hard across my cheek. His blow was strong, I could feel a bigger power behind it.

"You will help me or I will kill everyone you ever loved."

I could feel the tears building in my eyes and hated myself for looking so weak in front of him but seeing him even though he was in a different body brought up a lot of feelings I had pushed deep down inside myself. I could feel the disgust swirling around my stomach. I hated Silas more than I ever thought possible, but I loved my children more than anything else in this world. Everything I have endured so far is to keep them safe and I'll be damned if I let them down now.

"Fine!" I ground out through clenched teeth.

"Good," Eris shouted.

I felt the weight around my ankles disappear and the wind picked up again. I stood looking at the man in front of me, waiting.

"I have a tent for you. There's a river you can get cleaned up in and I will get you a human to feed on."

"No!" I snarled.

"What do you mean, no?" He moved closer, leaning into my face.

"I won't feed on a human," I answered.

I looked back into his eyes and could see turmoil pulsing inside of them. He seemed to shake it off and his eyes no longer looked full of pain and confusion, but disgust. I didn't give a shit what he thought of me. I refuse to be a monster and feed on an innocent human.

"Fine, I will send one of the wolves into town to get you some blood. Get cleaned up, you smell like shit." He hissed.

I watched as he walked away leaving me alone. I could hear the river not too far away, so I walked in the direction the sound of the running water came from and stood admiring the beauty of the nature I was submersed in, I didn't think I would see the real world ever again and here I was surrounded by its beauty. I slipped the dirty and tatty dress off, wading into the water. It was freezing cold, but it made me feel alive. I sank down, letting the water engulf me, and I felt it soothing my tired body. I emerged from the water to see a she-wolf watching me. I stood up, gauging if she was a friendly wolf or an enemy, when I saw her place a pile onto a rock. I strolled toward the rock and saw some soap, shampoo, and my clothes.

"Thanks."

"You're welcome." She whispered.

I grabbed the soap and shampoo, but kept my eyes on the wolf. I could smell the fear leaking from her.

"I won't hurt you." She nodded, but she didn't trust me.

I didn't care. These people here were trying to hurt my family, and I wasn't interested in making friends with any of them. I turned and went back into the water. Having actual soap made me feel the cleanest I had in a long time.

After spending what felt like an eternity scrubbing all the grime and lth from my skin, I picked up my clothes and felt empowered as I put them on. These were the clothes Moros gave me. It was a pair of black skin-tight pants with straps and buckles on for holding my smaller daggers in. The top was also black and also skin-tight with long sleeves. I wore a black leather corset that goes over the top and sits just below my breast. Not only did it make me look more badass, but it also protected my abdomen and held my weapons in place at the back. My boots are black leather and go to my knee and my hooded coat was black also and ts me like a glove. I have no problem hiding in the shadows when I wear this. I strolled back into the camp, feeling all eyes on me. Well, I suppose I look the part now.

"Very nice. This is for you and I have another treat for you. Call it a gesture of goodwill." Silas smugly said as he threw something toward me.

I caught it with my hand and immediately recognized the familiar feeling in my hand. I tore the bag open with my teeth and devoured the blood bag I had been given. It felt so good to nally have some. I could feel it pushing power back into my body. Making my muscles strong and giving me energy.

"What's the treat?" I asked as I sucked the last drop of blood from the bag.

"The wolf that went to get the blood for you saw an old friend of yours in town. I thought you would want to go and pay them a visit."

I could see the evil glint in his eye and knew I didn't really have a choice. I was going to have to do whatever he said.

"Ok where?"

"The wolf will take you."

A wolf stepped forward. He wouldn't look at me, though. He kept his head down. I followed him down the mountainside. He had shifted into a brown and white wolf and was running through the trees. I felt incredibly jealous. I missed my wolf terribly. I had no problem keeping up with him, though. We made our way through the town and I could hear the beat of music getting closer with every step we took.

"In there." The wolf said before slipping back into the shadows.

I looked up and saw it was a bar called the Moonlit Wolf, and found it quite appropriate. The Dark Moon territory isn't that far away from here and I can imagine a lot of the pack members come here for a drink. In fact, I think me and Alisa used to come here, but it had a different name then. I slip inside, but stay back in the shadows. The bar is open and large, but the room has booths that run along both sides. A scent that is burnt into my brain lls my nostrils and I feel my heart rate increase. It's a scent I will never forget for as long as I live.

It's Mason.