King of the Underworld Chapter 411 - 420

Chapter 411

Sephie

"What's up, my girl?" Chen asked as he walked into Adrik's office.

"Chen! My favorite French person!" I said, jumping up to give him a hug. Shar Chen had been helping us out for so long, the guys no longer got overprotective of me hugging him. Not gonna lie, I miss

that. "Are you ready to just straight up lie to someone's face yet again?" I asked, laughing. Chen had discovered that not

but he was actually quite good at it.

"You know me so well. It's disturbing how much I enjoy this," he said, chuckling;. "Also, the three amigos say hi. Trino still wants to know if there's a chance you'll move to Colombia."

"One has to admire his tenacity," I said, rolling my eyes.

only did he love being able to lie to someone's face,

All the guys but Ivan got ready to go with Chen to meet the journalist. Ivan was staying behind with us at the building. Adrik and Ivan clearly had a plan, but neither had let me in on it yet, so I was waiting until everyone was gone to see what they'd cooked up.

I caught Andrei before they left. "Have you snooped in the journalist's head before?" I asked.

He shook his head no, looking at me quizzically. "No, do you think I should?" "I didn't before today, no. Maybe I'm just being paranoid, but I feel like you should snoop today. Just to be sure, if nothing else," I said.

"If you tell me to snoop, then I'll snoop. There's always a reason that something like this comes up for you. Let you know what I

find out," he said, his boyish grin on his face.

"Be careful," I said, hugging his neck before they left.

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"Always."

Once they left, I turned to Adrik and Ivan. "I know there's a reason we stayed behind. Are you two going to fill me in on that reason? Or are you enjoying keeping me in the dark?"

"We wanted to have a conversation about Viktor and how best to help him.

Without the chance of him finding out. We need your

brain, princess," Ivan said as he walked to one of the couches and sat down. I followed him, sitting next to him while Adrik

finished up what he was working on at his desk.

I thought for a few minutes. "I'm not sure how to help Viktor. I'm not sure how I helped any of you, if I'm being honest. It just sort of happened."

"I don't think you're giving yourself enough credit on that one. You were the 5st to call Stephen's mindf ucking ability, you called my ability to see demons, and you hyped Andrei up enough so he started trusting what he was seeing. The only one you didn't do much on was Misha. I know you've picked up on something with Viktor that hints at what his ability is," Ivan sald

"We're all somewhat opposites of each other, with the exception of Misha. You can see and feel when something is off, but I have

to touch someone to get the same. Ivan sees evil, Andrei sees good. Now, Stephen can mi ndf uck someone and trap the

demon. Viktor's ability should complement that somehow, if we're keeping to the same pattern," Adrik said.

I was chewing on my lip, trying to think of what it could possibly be with Viktor. They were both quiet, waiting for me to make the connection that I wasn't convinced was there.

"What about the nicknames you have for him? Or inside jokes with him?" Ivan asked.

"I don't have as many for him as I do for everyone else. I spend the least amount of time with him. He's always on master of schedule duty," I said. "I call him Papa Bear because he silently goes around making sure we all have what we need and he's kind of like the father figure of the group. He's arguably the most mature of all of us," I said, cutting my eyes at Ivan, unable to hide my grin.

Adrik, who had been quietly contemplating everything got up and moved to the couch. I leaned over on him, stretching one leg across Ivan's lap as we

1/3

all struggled to figure out this puzzle.

"So, master of schedule. I think you've called him the security master before as well. And he's like a father figure," Ivan said, rubbing his goatee.

"He's also the one that's most terrified of me, I think. Maybe that's why it's so difficult for me to get anything from him. He's gotten

quieter as things have gotten more weird. I used to get little things from him now and then that he needed to talk about, but since

you all know I can read your minds, that's stopped, now that I think about it.

Like Stephen, I don't think he likes the idea of me

being in his head," I said. "Does he have sisters?"

They both chuckled. "No sisters. Brothers. But he gets along well with them, Adrik said.

"Is he the oldest?" I asked.

"He is. He has two younger brothers. Both of them are much like Viktor. Both are still in the military, last I knew," Adrik said.

"His youngest brother wants out. He's trying to come here when his service is up in a few months. Viktor told him we could give him a job," Ivan said.

"I'm not surprised. He's such a helper," I said. I grabbed one of Adrik's hands se my hands could fidget as I thought about Viktor.

"Okay, what if Stephen breaks them, but Viktor somehow fixes them? That's what he's really good at. Squish, you said you can see demons riding around on people looking for ways in now, right?"

"Yeah, they're looking for weaknesses is what it looks like. Or trying to make their own weaknesses," he said.

"That's what Viktor's good at. He puts the systems in place to make sure everything runs smoothly and there are no outside

threats. Between you and Bubba, you can see where the weaknesses are. Viktor somehow fixes that and it's one less person

Stephen has to break. Because while I think. Stephen's gift is f u cking incredible, I can't imagine he's meant to just break half the world's population and leave them in a waking coma for the rest of their lives. That would be weird. Stephen is the last resort.

Viktor helps make sure Stephen isn't needed very often," I said.

As I was talking, Adrik showed me his arm, which was covered in goosebumps. had been looking down at my hands that were still playing with Adrik's hand, but when I looked up at Ivan, he had a silly grin on his face. He pointed to Adrik. "Show him, too," he said.

I looked back at Adrik, who smiled at me. "We knew you'd be able to figure it out," he said, kissing my temple.

"They're purple?" I asked, still somewhat confused as to what they were talking about. They both nodded.

"Still slightly weird, but much less alarming than the white, not gonna lie," Ivan said.

"She went from black to purple the other day. That might be my favorite color transition so far. It was incredible," Adrik said. I

could feel the familiar pull in my chest that meant he was thinking about how much he loved me.

"You're late to the party, Squish. When are you going to figure out you can strike even more fear into the hearts of regular people?" I asked.

He cut his eyes over at me, his sly grin creeping up one side of his mouth.

"Since your dad told me it was possible and I saw

Boss do it, I may have tried to make it happen when no one was around."

"Shut up. Did it work?" I asked, completely curious to see if he could make his eyes go dark now too.

He closed his eyes briefly, opening them to reveal his much darker eyes. His eyes were normally golden brown, but they were much darker when he looked at me and Adrik.

"Squish, you're barely angry right now, too. That's impressive," I said. "Did you have to get to insane levels the first time it happened?"

"I did. I kept trying to make it happen without going nuclear, but it just wasn't happening. I wasn't sure if you'd be able to feel it. I

didn't want you to come running downstairs, so I waited until I knew for sure you were asleep," he said, grinning at me.

"You did it at the ungodly hour of 4 am, didn't you?" I asked.

He laughed. "Yep. I know you're dead to the world then. It worked. I figured it out and you were none the wiser," he said.

2/3

411

"Well-played." I looked at both of them. "You're both going to need contacts now to keep from scaring the entire world. It's bad

enough when people see it on me. You two have an added intimidation factor. People are going to nin from you."

"I think that's kind of the point, princess," Ivan said.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 412

412

Sephie

"So, princess, how do you control yours so quickly? You can get your eyes to change from normal to black and back again in a second now, without getting ridiculously angry. What do you think about to make that happen?" an asked.

"Um, I don't know that I've ever really thought about this before. I just kind of do it. But I learned very early in life to think of my

anger like a living being, almost. Maybe what I think of as my anger is actually my demon? It's much the same as when I'm

sending stuff to you guys. I just concentrate on it and push it forward," I said. Ivan closed his eyes for a moment. When he opened them this time, they were

much darker than they were just a few moments

ago. I couldn't help but grin at him. "Clearly, that explanation worked," I said.

I turned to look at Alrik. "Have yours turned dark

other than that one time when we were

all in here?"

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He nodded. "I was talking to Ivan the other day and they changed. Like him it now, I was barely angry when it happened."

"You guys are learning much faster than I did. That's impressive," I said. Adrik closed his eyes for a moment, opening them to

reveal his almost-black eyes. "Yours are getting darker much faster, too.

How?"

"When you showed me how you control your anger, I started thinking about reine like a living thing too. Maybe we're just giving acknowledgement to our little buddies in there?" He smiled, his eyes still dark.

"Are you asking me because you think I have the answer? Because that's not a thing I have," I said. "Has anybody else seen this yet?"

"Not that I know of," Ivan said.

"I might've had it happen in one of my meetings. I noticed a look of surprise on someone's face and blinked when I noticed my mind was wandering to Ricardo," Adrik said. His eyes had returned to their normal blue as he laughed about scaring his business associate.

"All this time I've been worried it was me who was going to scare everyone off. Turns out it was you," I said, laughing.

"Told you that you're gonna need contacts too," Ivan said.

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Once the guys came back with Chen, Andrei caught my eye. He tapped his temple and raised one eyebrow at me. I took a peak in his head, looking through what he'd seen when he looked into the journalist's head. When I looked into people's minds, I could see what they saw, so I got a chance to see the journalist how Andrei saw him. I clearly saw his aura around him, but also saw it was broken in a few places. Dark spots, like holes were visible. Andrei felt nothing bad from him as he talked to Chen. I couldn't stop looking at the way Andrei saw him. It was fascinating. It also gave me an idea on how to help Viktor. "Squish, can you call the acupuncturist? Bubba just gave me an idea about Viktor. Also, I was able to see what he could see when I just went fishing in his head, so I'm gonna need to do that to you the next time you see a little demon riding shotgun on somebody's shoulder." Ivan laughed loudly, which made me struggle not to laugh, because it looked like he wasn't talking to anybody. "My bad," I thought. "What did you do to Ivan, solnishko?" Adrik thought. I caught his se

xy smirk on his face as he pretended to listen to Viktor.

"I have an idea on how to help Viktor. I also said I wanted to see what it looks when a demon is riding shotgun on a person and now I know how," I answered.

Adrik was much more in control. I could hear him laughing internally. When ooked at him, he looked like he was still listening to

Viktor, who was going through the information the journalist had given Chen on the mayor a the police commissioner.

As everyone started to pay attention to Viktor, the mood turned more serious. Our suspicions were confirmed by the journalist. It

was Henry, not the mayor, that was dirty. However, it appeared that he hadn't been on the take as long as we thought. From what

the journalist could find, Sal had only recently gotten to Henry. We still weren't sure what he was doing with the information on

Ricardo, but we could still get that information to the mayor, along with this new information on Henry, and get them both taken can of. Along with a win in the next election for the mayor.

"So how do we get to the mayor without Henry finding out?" Misha asked.

"Well, since you were gracious enough to take me on as a contractor on your latest building project, word has gotten around. I have a crew starting at job at the mayor's house next week. I'm meeting with him Monday morning before we get started. I can get information to and from him and no one will ever know."

"F u ck ing sh it, Chen. You've been a criminal mastermind this entire time and you're only just now telling us?" I said, trying not to laugh.

[&]quot;I might actually be able to help with that," Chen said. He looked somewhat nervous to interject.

[&]quot;How?" Adrik asked.

"I could say the same for you, my girl," he said, laughing.

The guys started to discuss the logistics of getting information to and from the mayor through Chen. What that looked like, how it

would work, and how he could get information to us. Once they agreed upon a plan, Chen said his goodbyes and left Adrik's

office, leaving the guys to discuss the latest information we'd received.

I was still frustrated with having to deal with yet another reversal of loyalty when it came to Henry. I was chewing on my bottom

lip, staring off into space while I thought about how irritating it was to not be able to trust anyone. I suddenly noticed that

everyone had stopped talking and they were all looking at me, with very amused expressions on their face.

"How many times do I have to tell you that spontaneous human combustion is a real thing, gazelle?" Misha asked.

"What? I'm not even that mad right now?" I said, somewhat confused.

"Your idea of "not that mad" and mine are clearly different," Stephen said.

"Your eyes say differently," Viktor said.

"That's not fair. You know these things have a mind of their own now, right? I'm just slightly irritated," I said.

Adrik walked to me, smirking. He wrapped his arms around my waist as he stood behind me and rested his chin on top of my

head. "She's not lying." This is barely anything for her. You guys are just becoming really sensitive to being able to feel her now.

You'll soon get used to it. This is like a 1-2 on her scale. Once you feel her 10 a few more times, you'll be able to differentiate,"

he said. I could hear him smiling as he talked.

"I still don't understand how you don't kill everyone," Stephen said quietly. "I beginning to wonder if Vlad learned his scorched

Earth policy from you."

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane Chapter 413

413

Sephie

Ivan arranged for the acupuncturist to come to the penthouse. It had been a while since she'd worked on me. My lung was continually getting better, but I was still struggling with controlling my panic if I struggled to catch my breath. I was more interested, however, in asking her questions about Andrei's gift and how it could pertain to Viktor.

Once she and I were in the room alone, she said, "your connection with all of them is much stronger now. But there's one that's still resisting?"

I smiled at her. She always knew. "That's actually why you're here. He knows that I'm the one that's been helping people discover what their gifts are, so he's been avoiding me. He's also very careful what he thinks around me since he found out I can read his mind. He's been grieving the loss of his wife. I keep saying that's why he's resisting, but now I think he might just be scared."

She held her hand out for mine, gently pressing on the spot in between my thumb and forefinger. She closed her eyes, reading all the information she would need from me like she always did. She had a small smile on her lips when she opened her eyes again. "Your connection with Ivan is much deeper this time. You can communicate with him much like you communicate with your fiancé, no?"

I nodded. "We haven't told the others yet. We've almost been caught already because I can't help myself from saying st upid stuff that makes them laugh."

She laughed softly. "The others won't mind. They know there's a special bond with you three, even if they're not aware they know

it. The one who is like you he's seen me for who I really am?"

don't think he saw your wings, but he sees auras. I have questions about that, actually. We think Viktor's gift has something to do

with fixing people or healing people, since they all seem to be opposites of each other in some way. We just found out that

Stephen breaks people, so it makes sense that Viktor would fix them. The only one that's truly different is Misha, who can see the future and the past," I said.

She started putting the needles where they needed to go as she thought about what I'd just said. She put her hand over my ribs.

"You're still struggling to catch your breath sometimes?"

I nodded. "It also makes me have a panic attack when it happens, which makes it worse. I've never had to deal with that before so I don't know how to control it. They all feel it, too."

She looked at me, then looked at the door, then back to me. She said quietly, your ribs are still not completely healed either. It's a constant reminder of the pain you went through. It's hard to heal from something when you get to relief from it. I will fix it." She silently went to work, putting more needles over the area than usual. Once she was finished turning me into a pin cu shion, she said, "the one who is like you can he see the holes in people's auras?" I nodded. "I've seen what he sees. It looks like dark spots."

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"There are ways to heal one's aura, but none of them are quick fixes. All of them require the person to do deep work on themselves. While you might still be right about the last one's gift, I'm not certain how it would work, without him needing an extra boost from us," she said.

As soon as she said that, she noticed my eyes turning what I assumed were puple, as I had goosebumps rising over my entire

body. Her eyes went wide, just as mine did. I suddenly remembered another detail about Viktor I had all but forgotten. "He's the

only one other than my fiancé that can calm my shaking after it starts. He just did it one day, without a second thought."

She was quiet for a moment. "It's not unheard of, but it's rare. It means he has someone in Heaven helping him. He would need an angel's grace to make it happen, but he could do it."

"His wife," I said.

She shook her head no. "She's already reincarnated. It's his unborn child." She inhaled deeply, smiling at my confused look. "A

soul can clear a tremendous amount of karma when they sign up for tragic ends. His wife was still pregnant when she was killed,

which is one of the most tragic endings for a life not yet realized. People tend to mourn the unknown even me. That little soul

cleared much of its karma and is now helping him in this lifetime. They'll be linked forever now, as well." She was quiet for a

monjest, then added, "that soul has chosen not to come back, just so it can always help him." She looked at my eyes for a moment. "Your eyes say this is the truth."

1/3

We heard a knock on the door. "Spider monkey, I don't want to bother you, but are you okay? You're kind of all over the place right now. It's worrying me and Misha."

I laughed. "I'm good, Bubba. Thank you for checking, though."

The acupuncturist walked to the door, opening it far enough that she could stick her head out. "It's resetting her emotions when this happens. They're going to feel stronger as they recalibrate and her body goes back into alignment. I can show you, if you

like?"

I giggled, knowing Andrei was terrified at the thought of getting tiny needles stuck in his skin.

"Uh, no. No, I'm good. I just wanted to make sure she was okay," he said, nervously.

"She's fine. She'll be done in a few minutes," she said. She had a wide smile across her face as she closed the door and turned

back to me. She said quietly, so he couldn't overhear, "I might like messing with him more than Ivan, which is saying a lot."

I laughed. "You've been hanging around my father, haven't you?" She didn't answer, but her smile grew even wider on her face.

Adrik had come to the penthouse with Vitaliy and Aleksei while I was talking with the acupuncturist. As soon as we walked out of

the spare room, his eyes landed on me. His wide, handsome smile stretched across his face. Before we got to them, I pointed to

Vitaliy and said to the acupuncturist so only she could hear, "let that man shake your hand. You'll make his day if you do."

She gave me a knowing smile. She surprised me by walking right up to him, putting her hand on his shoulder, and whispering

something in his ear. His eyes went wide, but his cheeks turned as red as my hair. Even his ears were red. He stammered for a

reply, but she just smiled at him as she walked to Ivan to be escorted out.

We were all left trying not to laugh at Vitaliy's flustered state after she left.

"I might like her a little more each time she's here," Adrik thought. I finally couldn't contain my laughter any longer and a small

giggle escaped. That was all it took for the rest of them, even Aleksei, to start laughing.

"No idea what she told you, old man, but it clearly made your day," I said, grinning at him.

He grumbled something under his breath, but he also laughed along with everyone else.

"Who was she?" Vitaliy asked, once everyone had gained control. I knew he wasn't interested in hearing about her acupuncture skills, but that's the route I took anyway.

"She does acupuncture. She's amazing," I said, grinning at him. He knew I knew more than I was saying, but he didn't push it further.

"Perhaps I should get this acupuncture. Your light is very bright right now, sladkaya. Come, let me feel," he said, extending his hand to me. I walked over and put my hand in his. "You will tell me more later," he whispered as he took my hand. I nodded my head, smiling at his softening expression. He looked from me to Adrik. "Everything feels stronger. That woman does this to you, too?" he asked.

"Not every time. She has in the past," Adrik said.

"You need it every time," Vitaliy said, frankly.

Adrik chuckled. "Noted."

"The old man has spoken!" I thought, making Adrik laugh a little harder.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane Chapter 414

414

Sephie

I asked that Stephen and Ivan stay behind while Viktor, Andrei, and Misha were gone Monday morning to make sure Chen was okay while he met with the mayor. No one suspected anything other than a contractor meeting with his client, but since Chen had been so instrumental in helping us, we all wanted to make sure he was okay. He was also delivering very sensitive information, so it was worth our while to make sure he was good and had backup, should it be needed.

"So, this must be important since I'm most responsible for Chen's bravery when lying to people's faces," Stephen said once the others were gone.

I laughed. "Technically, he's not lying to the mayor this time. I think he can live without you just this once," I said, sliding my arm around his shoulders as he sat at the kitchen island..

"You know something more about Viktor, don't you?" Ivan asked.

"I do. That's why I wanted to talk to both of you while I was sure he wasn't around. I think I have it figured out and also why he might be so resistant to it," I said. I walked back to Adrik, who was leaning against the counter. He opened his arm for me, sliding it around my waist as I stepped closer to him.

"The acupuncturist helped you, didn't she?" Stephen asked. I could tell he was putting as many pieces of the puzzle together as he could already.

"She did. We were starting to suspect what it might be, but she confirmed it. You realize that everyone complements each other somehow, right?" I asked Stephen.

He nodded his head. "It makes sense that Viktor would somehow be opposite either me or Misha and it doesn't make sense for

him to be opposite of Misha. That's just a normal person who can't see the future or past. That's not helpful in the least," he said, grinning.

"You're so smart, Yoden. Viktor, we think, is opposite of you. While I think your gift is f u cking amazing and quite possibly the most bad a ss thing that any of us can do, I can't wrap my brain around you needing to do it very often. It doesn't make sense that your life's purpose is to just break half the world and leave them as a dribbling mess for someone else to care for. Much like your sn iper skills, I feel like your gift is highly specialized and only meant for a select few," I said.

"While you are capable of breaking a person, Viktor is capable of healing thern Adrik said.

"After I break them? Because I can tell you right now, that's going to make me go harder in the paint when it comes to breaking them. I can't help it. I'm competitive," Stephen said, his sly smile creeping across his face.

I laughed. "No, before you're needed. There are going to be those that Viktor can't do anything about. I'm sure there's a point where his services are useless and yours are needed. His gift should prevent people from getting to the point where you're needed as much."

"Andrei can see auras. He can also see where there's holes in the auras," Adrik said.

Ivan put it together in his head. "I can see when they have demons trying to get in through those holes. Viktor can help ensure that doesn't happen."

"You're needed, Stephen, when the demon has already gotten in and has taken over so completely that there is no other choice.

You're the last chance that soul has at surviving," I said.

Ivan glanced at Stephen, who was looking down at the counter during this conversation. He nudged him, causing Stephen to

look at him. Ivan pointed to me. "Her eyes," was all he said.

Stephen glanced over at me, an immediate look of wonderment on his face. "I thought the black was difficult to get used to, but

the purple might be even stranger. Can you do red next? I feel like that will make Vlad feel more confortable once he makes it

out of customs." When I laughed, they changed to green. Stephen hadn't seen them as they changed yet. "Whoa. I just saw that,

but my brain is freaking out trying to convince me I didn't just see that."

Adrik turned me to face him, so he could see what color they were. "That's not even the best transition. When they go from black to one of the other colors, it's incredible."

1/2

"Speaking of, I think he needs to know about your eyes and Ivan's eyes. His presence is going to bring out the violence in any demon we meet, which will also bring ours forward. It's going to freak him out if he's not prepared," I thought. I was trying to talk to both Adrik and Ivan at the same time.

I wasn't sure it had worked, until I heard Ivan say to Stephen, "so, there's something else you should know about, since your presence is going to really irritate all demons from here on out."

I turned to look at Ivan, who had his eyes closed. I could feel his anger, just under the surface. When he opened his eyes, they

were just as black as mine. I grinned as Stephen's jaw hit the floor.

"It's not just him, either," I heard Adrik say. I turned to look at his eyes, now also just as black as mine.

"I've never regretted not wearing adult diapers so much in my entire life as this moment here," Stephen said, completely shocked.

Both Adrik and Ivan closed their eyes, turning them back to normal. "Allow me to explain," I said, walking to Stephen. I slid my arm across his shoulders, as he sat in the kitchen. He wrapped one arm around my waist like he was holding on for dear life.

"Battista was correct when he said that my black eyes were a warning to other demons that I owned them, but he didn't know the full specifics of it. He also didn't know that Adrik and Ivan were the same as me in that respect. Remember when I told you the best way to defeat your demons was to make friends with them?" I asked, looking down at Stephen.

His eyes got wider. "You're working with your demons."

"Mostly correct. They work for us. It's virtually unheard of, which is why Battista couldn't fully explain it. When our eyes go black,

it's our demons stepping forward, but we're still in complete control of them.

While I can't say for sure it's happened to other,

normal people, I've got memories of my uncle with black eyes when he would beat me. I just don't know if it was real or not. Also,

the guy that attacked me on the sidewalk when I was out with Misha. I'm guessing that once someone gives in completely to

their demon, their eyes are also capable of going black. They're just no longer in control. The demon is," I said.

"You needed to know we could do this before you see it happen on someone else. I have a feeling that seeing someone else's eyes turn black is going to bring our demons forward, whether we want them to or not. You need to know that we're in control when it happens," Adrik said.

"Not because we think you'll try to break us. Just so we didn't freak you out. We've been told that now that you know your gift,

we're going to see increased aggression from the demons that are controlling people," Ivan said,

"They're going to know what I can do?" Stephen asked.

"We think so, but we're not sure yet. They're going to be scared of you, but if they all act the way Armando did, they're likely going to be aggressive," said.

7

Stephen was quiet for a moment. He sighed, then looked up at me, a very snill grin on his face. "Is it wrong that I'm looking forward to them being

scared of me?"

"Not at all, Yoden," I said, laughing.

"It's about time you felt it from the other side," Ivan said.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane Chapter 415

415

Nephe

"So, how does Viktor's gift work? Does he know about it yet? Mephen asked Adrik and I exchanged a glance. I looked to Ivan, then to Stephen. With a sight said, "he doesn't know yet. We're not totally sure of how it works, but I know why he's been so resistant to it. It's going to be tough for him to handle

"What do you mean? It seems like it would be a good thing, right?" Stephen 16ed, more confused than

"It is a go d thing. It's going to be difficult for him once he learns how he's able to do it. If his gift works the way I think it will, he needs to have help to make it happen as quickly as we will need it to happen," I said.

"The same way I used your help and Misha uses you? Why would he have a joblem with that?" he asked.

"Not the same way. I can't help him with what he's going to do. He needs eve more of a power boost than I can give him, if you will. He needs to have angelic help.

Ivan was starting to put the pieces together in his head. "His wife," he said. I smiled at Ivan. "That's exactly what I said, but it's not her. She's already started her next life." I paused to see if Ivan would figure it out, but it was Stephen who did.

"His child," Stephen said.

"And I thought your gift was heavy," Ivan said looking at Stephen.

"No sh it, man. Mine was a breeze next to this," he said.

"So how does that work? Did his child die on purpose to make this happen? Ian asked.. "I don't think that's necessarily the case. Apparently, a soul can clear a tremendous amount of karma by signing up to die either tragically or before they're born. His unborn child is now helping him as a way of thanking him for helping to clear the karma," I said. I looked to Ivan and Adrik. "I have, no idea how you two are going to tell him about this. Or if he'll even believe you when you do."

"You're not going to tell him, Seph?" Stephen asked.

"He knows I'm the one that's helping everyone figure out their gifts. He's been avoiding me and he's careful about his thoughts around me, as well. Much like you, he does not appreciate me in his head," I said. "I also think he's the most freaked out about my eyes. He's going to sh it himself once he sees it's not just me anymore."

We were all quiet for a few moments, trying to figure out a way to help Viktor. We all came up empty for the moment.

"I've got nothing right now," Ivan said. He looked at his watch. "They should be back soon, though, so we should probably change the subject anyway."

"Oh, they're here. They'll be walking in right about...now," I said as we all heard the penthouse door open.

"Okay, you're going to have to tell me how you do that now, princess," Ivan said.

"How she does what?" Misha asked as I walked to him. I would never get over feeling relieved when they came back safely. I

hugged his neck before moving to Andrei and Viktor.

"She said you guys were back, right as you walked into the penthouse. Only she didn't hear you first," Ivan said.

"You have been doing that a lot lately, spider monkey. How do you do it? Like can you hear us coming?" Andrei asked.

"Do you get notifications that you have thoughts to read like normal people get email notifications?" Misha asked, laughing.

"No, it's not like that. I'm not in any of your heads either, for the record. I keeji telling you that I don't go looking without

permission. It's more of a feeling You all feel different to me. You always have, so it's easy for me to tell you apart, especially now that I'm hyper-sensitive to each of you," I

"But you knew that Boss's meeting was irritated the other day when it was just Viktor downstairs and you're not as connected to

him as the rest of us yet," Andrei said.

"He's not as connected as the rest of you, but that doesn't mean I can't still feel him. Viktor is probably the most even of all of us,

so when he's amused about something, it comes through strongly. He was amused that they was irritated, so it was easy to feel,"

I said.

said.

"Nice save, princess," Ivan thought. He flashed me a quick grin when no one was looking.

"Shut up. I'm not lying. I've always been able to feel you guys. It's just next el now."

"What about when Andrei was looking in your head? How did you know that was happening?" Misha asked.

"She can feel it. Just like I can feel it when she does it to me," Andrei said.

"I didn't feel anything when she looked in my head. Am 1 brain-damaged? That's a distinct possibility now that I think about it,"

Misha said, trying to

sound serious.

"No. Well, maybe. I'm guessing it's unique to us. No one else seems to notice when we do it," Andrei said.

"How did it go with Chen?" Adrik asked Viktor, thankfully changing the subject for now.

"Everything's good. The mayor is interested in what we've got. He wasn't surprised to hear that Henry has been framing him. He said he heard bits and pieces from the two police chiefs about it, but Henry is keeping his cards close to his chest. He hasn't said too much to anyone else about what he's got. So we just need to make sure that the mayor moves first on the information on

Ricardo," Viktor said. "The mayor was surprised that Chen was bringing him information, but he said he appreciated the

discretion and he agreed to use Chen for the duration. He said he had more work for Chen once this project was complete, just to keep anyone from getting too suspicious."

"This works out well for Chen," I said, smiling. It made me happy to see him doing well enough that he didn't need to deal any longer.

"The mayor was going to take a look at what we have from the journalist about Henry and get back to us. Everything will come through Chen," Viktor said.

"Did you two see the mayor today?" Adrik asked Misha and Andrei. They both nodded their heads. "Did you get anything from him? Good or bad?"

"I didn't feel anything bad," Misha said.

"I didn't either. I couldn't see him when he was talking to Chen, which always gives me more accuracy. I didn't feel anything off,"

Andrei said. He glanced at me, tapping his temple discreetly, indicating he wanted me to look in his head again. When I looked,

he showed me what he could see when the mayor was leaving after meeting with Chen. I could see his aura, but he also had dark spots, or holes.

I suddenly had an idea. "Misha, come here," I said, extending my hand to him. "Who are we looking for?" Misha asked.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 416

416

Sephic

"You're not looking for anybody. F'm trying to show you something I want to and think of a blank movie screen," I said, I grabbed

Misha's hand and tried

but finally he saw it.

"Whoa! That's what people look like to you?" Misha asked Andrei.

"Not all the time, but yeah," Andrei said.

it this will work. Don't think about anything, if you can. Maybe try roject what Andrel could see into Misha's mind. It took me a second,

"Holy sh it, that's awesome. Is everybody the same color?" Misha asked, complely enchanted by what he was seeing.

"No, different people have different colors. I'm not sure what the colors meat, to be honest," Andrei said.

I let go of Andrei, then extended my hand to Ivan. "Squish, you're next in my little experiment. Come here."

"I think I know where you're going with this, princess," he said as he took my band.

Misha looked at me, confused. "Now what am I supposed to do?"

"I need you to replay what you just saw for Ivan," I said.

"I can do that?" Misha asked, completely surprised.

"We're gonna find out," I said, grinning at him. He started to replay what Andei saw in his head. I could see it clearly right away,

so I tried to push it to Ivan. I felt Ivan squeeze my hand, so I knew he was seeing what I was seen. Once I felt like he had the

video clip in his mind, I let go of Misha to see if I could see what Ivan sees.

I saw the same short clip of the mayor, walking outside his house. His aura was visible, just like Andrei had seen, only now, I

could see the outline of something else hovering just behind him. Wherever the mayor moved, it move with him.

I grinned at Ivan. "It worked," I said. I looked back at Misha, asking, "want to see what Ivan sees?"

"Don't ask st upid questions, gazelle," he said as he took my hand. He was quiet for a minute, while he watched. I could feel

Misha's nausea as he saw what Ivan saw. "Is that what it always looks like?" he asked, still watching what I was projecting into his head.

"No, this one is actually faint. Some of them are really well-defined. This one doesn't look firmly attached, either. Like it's moving with the mayor, but it's also hovering away from him. Some people have them literally sitting on them, or holding on to them,"

Ivan said.

"Blink, Ivan," Adrik thought. Ivan quickly shut his eyes. When he opened then again, he was normal.

"I can feel your nausea though, Misha," I said.

Stephen stood up, walking to me. "Okay, I want to see. It might not work on in, but my curiosity is overriding my aversion to having you in my head,"

he said.

"I want to see what Ivan sees, too," Andrei said.

I grabbed both of their outstretched hands, trying to project the final picture to both of their heads.

"I'm reevaluating my entire existence now," Stephen said. His eyes were wid he was watching what no one else in the room could see. Andrei was quiet for a moment as he looked. I had stopped projecting, thinking he was done, but he said, "wait, no. Show me again." Stephen dropped my hand, so Andrei grabbed that one too. When he did, I could see what he was focusing on. It was difficult to see, unless you were looking for it, but 1/3

416

you could clearly see the demon focusing on the dark spots in the mayor's aura. Because the mayor was moving, it looked like the demon was just moving with him. But Andrei managed to slow it down so I could actually see the demon was not only staying with the mayor, but was constantly trying to force its way inside his auric field. "How did you see that? I totally missed that, Bubba," I said.

"I just remembered where the dark spots were. That's gotta be how they get then," Andrei said, taking a step away to lean on the counter.

I caught Adrik's eye. Since my little idea had worked, I was feeling co cky. Instead of needing to touch him, I just pushed the images I'd just shown everyone else by touching them to him from across the kitchen. He looked surprised initially, but just as intrigued as everyone else.

"Blink, Boss," Ivan thought quickly.

"Well, now we know that seeing other demons is going to bring both of yours to the front. Did mine do that too? Is this something you guys can eventually get a handle on?" I asked both of them, silently. "I didn't notice yours, princess, but I wasn't paying attention. We're going to have to keep an eye on it," Ivan replied..

"I couldn't see your eyes when you saw it, so I don't know either. For now, though we at least know that seeing other demons makes ours get a little too excited," Adrik thought.

"So. Many Dirty, Jokes." I replied, trying not to laugh...

Viktor's curiosity finally got the best of him. "Okay, somebody explain what you all just saw."

"See if you can show him too, gazelle. I bet it'll work. I'll help if you need a boost," Misha said.

I looked hesitantly at Misha, then looked at Viktor. "It's up to you, Papa Bear, I know you don't like me in your head."

"Only because I know you're going to force me to deal with things I've been pitting off dealing with. This is not that, so let's try,"

he said, walking to me. He very timidly took my hand. "What am I supposed to do?" he asked.

"You don't have to do anything. Just try to clear your mind. She'll show you, Misha said. He took a step closer to me, in case I needed a power boost

to let Viktor see.

I concentrated on pushing the short clip of the mayor to Viktor. Nothing happined for a few moments, so I grabbed Misha's hand.

Once I did, suddenly Viktor's eyes went wide. He was seeing what everyone else had just sen.

Except that wasn't the only thing that happened. Misha took over the movie.

He fast forwarded until we were no longer watching

the mayor. Now, we were watching Viktor with someone I didn't recognize. I didn't want to interrupt, so I didn't ask for specifics.

The guy was younger than Viktor and actually looked vaguely similar to him.

They were talking quietly, but it was difficult to hear

the conversation. The other man looked upset; he looked older than what he should have. He looked worn down, tired, like he

had been put through the ringer.

Viktor, in his calm, paternal way, put his hand on this man's shoulder. It seemed like an innocent thing to do, but when he did, we

could clearly see the aura around the man become visible. The dark spots were everywhere. It was dim. This man was

struggling. Viktor took his hand off his shoulder, but remained close to him.

We watched as a white light came down from

somewhere above them and hovered above them both. Neither of them saw it in the movie, but it was visible to us watching it.

It stayed still, hovering above them both for a moment, then we watched Viktor open his palm upward, toward the light. It landed in his palm. When it did, Viktor touched the man's shoulder once more. This time, his aura lit up. We watched as all the countless holes filled in. As his aura got brighter, he looked stronger, younger, more vibrant..

Viktor took his hand off the man's shoulder, once again turning his palm upward. He released the light upward, all of us watching as it disappeared above them. The man in front of Viktor looked stunned for a moment, but the he broke out in a huge smile. He grabbed Viktor, hugging him tightly.

as the movie ended for us.

Misha looked down at me, somewhat confused. I looked at Viktor, who looked so stunned I wasn't sure he was going to be able to speak.

[&]quot;Did you know that man?" I asked:

[&]quot;That's...that's...my brother," he said.

Home / King of the Underworld by RJ Kane / Chapter 417

Home Love romance werewolf Billionaire

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King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 417

417

Adrik

While Andrei and Stephen were watching Sephie and Misha show Viktor what we had all just seen, Ivan caught my eye. "What

do you want to bet she's about to unlock his gift for him?" he thought.

"You might be right. She just unlocked a new level for us. Might as well unlock Vikfor while she's at it," I replied, unable to hide my smirk.

"What now?"

"She just showed me everything everyone else saw from across the kitchen. She didn't need to touch me to make it happen.

That's been happening with thoughts and emotions, but never images."

"Can you see what she sees now?"

"I really want to look, but I also don't want to f u ck it up. She'll show me later."

"Coward."

"As shole."

We saw Misha look down at Sephie. He was clearly stunned with whatever the just saw. She looked at him, her eyes wide. Then

she looked at Viktor. "Did you know that man?" she asked him.

"That's...that's...my brother," Viktor said. He was completely stunned at what he'd just seen.

Clearly they had just seen something new..

"What happened?" Ivan asked.

"Viktor just saw his gift in action, but I think we broke him," Sephie said silently to me and Ivan. "I don't know what to say to him.

He's completely numb"

Ivan walked to Viktor, standing in front of him, trying to get Viktor to focus on him. "Sephie and Misha just showed you your gift,

Viktor. I don't know what it looked like. She can show me, if you want her to, but I can tell you that you're the one that makes

sure we don't need Stephen very often," he said. Viktor just stood there for a moment, not moving, not saying anything.

"Did he see his child?" Ivan asked Sephie.

"No and yes. It looked like a ball of light to me and Misha. It might've looked different to Viktor though, but he saw that he got

help from something else

besides us."

Ivan reached out and put his hand on Viktor's shoulder. Viktor looked down at Ivan's hand, then back at Ivan's face. "This is

going to be hard to hear, Viktor, but the help you're going to get isn't from any of us. It's from a soul you weren't able to meet, but

one that is forever linked to you now. You've spent so much time focusing on the tragedy that you've missed the happy ending."

We could see Viktor look down for a moment, then back up to Ivan. "How is this possible?" he asked quietly.

I walked over to Viktor, hoping to help Ivan out. "Your unborn child cleared so much of its karma by signing up for that ending to

its almost life. That soul is so grateful to you that it's willing to help you with your gift. Your gift wouldn't be possible without it.

You're what can help fix people to prevent demons from getting in. You're the other end of the spectrum from Stephen. When it's

too late for you to be of any good, then Stephen can still save the soul. But you're the first line of defense for people who haven'tt

let the demon all the way in. You're doing what you always do, Viktor. You're making sure people are safe and taken care of."

I felt Sephie walk up half beside me, half behind me, holding onto my arm." had to go through all of that to make it here, Papa

Bear. It was horrific, but you wouldn't be here without it and you wouldn't have a sweet angelic gift without it,"

1/3

"And apparently you're going to save your brother, which is also the complete other end of the spectrum from Stephen," Misha said. We heard Stephen laughing quietly behind us..

Viktor finally started to get a handle on himself. He turned to look at Misha.

"How did you know that my brother was coming here in a couple weeks?"

"I didn't. I don't always control the movie. This was one of those times where was not at all in control," Misha said, shrugging his shoulders.

"You saw what you needed to see, Viktor. You've been avoiding this, but Bubba and Misha created a scenario where you couldn't avoid it any longer. They likely didn't know they were doing that, but their souls knew. It's become obvious to all of us that you've been avoiding me for quite some time," Sephie said quietly.

"Totally didn't know I was doing that," Andrei said.

"Me either. I stand by my earlier statement that I am not in control of the mbie at all times," Misha said.

We could see that Viktor was still struggling with accepting everything. "Ivan why don't you two go downstairs. Or go to the gym.

Just get him away from everyone for the day. He deals with things better when he's not in front of everyone"I thought. Ivan nodded his head. Without a word, he just slid his arm around Viktor's shoulders and walked him out of the penthouse.

"Did we break him?" Misha asked. He was obviously worried about showing Viktor something he shouldn't have seen.

"I don't think so. We knew this was going to be hard on him. I think he's doing better than I expected him to, honestly," Sephie said.

"Okay, so explain his gift since I didn't get to see it," Andrei said.

"Viktor is the opposite to Stephen, much like you're the opposite to Ivan," I said. "You can see where people are weak in their

auras. Viktor's able to fill those holes in, basically. But no human can do that so quickly without some kind of angelic help. So

Viktor's unborn child is helping him."

Andrei looked to Stephen. "And I thought your gift was heavy, man." Stephen laughed. "Same, Andrei. Same."

"Viktor is like the first line of defense against demons. Stephen is the last," Sephie said.

"So Andrei and Ivan are like visual detection systems, you and Boss are the tichy-feely detection systems, Viktor fixes those who are still able to be? fixed, and Stephen is everyone's last hope? And I'm just here for entertainment? I feel like that sums it up nicely," Misha said, trying to keep a straight face.

"I'm not sure I could have said it as succinctly as you, Misha," I said, laughing at him.

"Somehow, I feel like it's slightly more nuanced than that, Misha," Andrei said.

"He did leave out a few details, but he got the broad overview. He's a big picture guy," Sephie said, shaking her head, laughing.

"You're right. We also have Sephie's demon warning system," Misha said. "I did forget that one. Good lookin' out, bro."

"You know, Vlad's been talking about hiring a new chronicler. His last one met with an unfortunate end. Misha might be perfect

for the job," Stephen. said, in his normal, completely serious manner.

Read King of the Underworld by RJ Kane Chapter 417

Read King of the Underworld Chapter 417

The Read King of the Underworlde series by RJ Kane has been updated to chapter Chapter 417.

In Chapter 417 of the King of the Underworld series, Sephie wakes up and prepares for her job as a waitress. She interacts

with her neighbor, Mr. Turner, who jokes about finding her a perfect man.

Sephie heads to work at a restaurant where she

serves a meeting of crime bosses. Despite disliking the arrogant sons of the

bosses, she tolerates the job for the generous

tips. Sephie is privy to inside information but keeps it to herself.....

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 418

418

Adrik

We didn't hear from Ivan or Viktor for most of the day. Finally, that evening an let me and Sephie know that he had taken Viktor to the house.

"He's okay, but he's now having to deal with everything he hasn't dealt with since his wife died. He mourned her. He never mourned his child. I decided to just get him completely away from everyone." Ivan told us.

"Are you there now?" Sephie asked him.

"Almost. We're on our way."

"I want to know if this still works even when you're that far away from us," she replied.

I could tell what she was thinking. We'd never tested how far away the guys could be from her and still be able to feel anything from her.

"If he manages to fall asleep before you do and this still works, let us know. It's act often we get a chance that you're away from

Sephie and not working."1

told him.

"You guys want to know if I can still feel her, don't you? That's a solid plan. I'll let you know."

Sephie looked at me, her eyes swirling. I could feel she was worried about Viktor, but I could also feel that she was curious about how far away Ivan could be and still feel her and talk to her. I walked to her, pulling her against me. I loved watching her eyes swirl, but I hadn't seen them do it since the addition of the purple. It was even more mesmerizing than before.

"When are we going to tell the Wonder Twins about your eyes?" she asked me. I sighed. "I don't know. They'll figure it out eventually. I think they'll be able to handle the surprise of it better than Stephen would have. He's more overwhelmed than those two are about everything happening right now."

She giggled softly. "They have been good about taking everything in stride. I think Andrei likes it when I snoop through his head now. I think Misha might be helping him deal with everything better." "How did you know you'd be able to show Ivan what Andrei sees?" I asked, resuming my eternal battle with her curls.

"I didn't. It was a hunch. When Chen went to meet with the journalist, I asked Andrei if he'd snooped through the journalist's head before. He hadn't. I told him to do it this time, but I didn't know why. When they got back, he let me see the journalist how he sees him and that's what gave me the idea to call the acupuncturist. When they got back from the meeting with the mayor, he told me to look again. Since Ivan wasn't with them, I was curious whether his gift would be able to work like that, so I wanted to try it figured I would need Misha to make it clearer for them," she said. She was fidgeting with my shirt collar as she talked. Her eyes were still an ever-changing kaleidoscope of color.

I watched her for a few moments, a grin slowly spreading across my face. "And when it worked, you felt co cky so that's when you discovered you could share it with me without having to touch me?" She slowly raised her gaze, looking me in the eyes. Her eyes landed on green as her wide smile stretched across her face. "I

mean, might as well have fun with it, right?" she said, hiding her face in my shoulder as she started to laugh.

G od, I love her.

Later that evening, once the other guys had gone back to their apartments for the night, Sephie and I were alone. I was just

about to ask her if she'd heard anything from Ivan, when we both heard him.

"Viktor finally went to sleep. More from exhaustion than anything, I think.

He's talked more today than he has in the past ten years," he said to both of us.

"Poor guy. How is he handling everythir

Is his

*I think he'll come around. He might need another day or two here, though. It helped tremendously to come here. He stopped

thinking about everything he's not doing at the bullding once we got here."

"Keep him there as long as he needs. We can manage without you both for a few days," I replied.

"Bright side, we know this works from a distance now," Ivan said. We could both hear him chuckling as he said it.

"You're sure he's asleep?" Sephie asked.

"I'm sure. I went to get a glass of water a minute ago. I could hear him snoring. Han said.

Sephie looked to me. I sent a quick text to the other three, telling them not to worry about whatever they felt from Sephie in the

next few minutes. Once it was sent, I gave her the okay.

"Okay, Squish. I want to see if you can still feel me even when you're far away," she said. "Tell me if and when you feel anything."

I felt her anger starting to rise. She always impressed me with how controlled the could keep it when she was consciously using

it. Her eyes turned black, which I still found to be incredibly hot. I tried not to think about that, snice Ivan was privy to my thoughts at the moment.

"I can feel your anger, princess," Ivan said, laughing. "I can also feel how your demon eyes turn Boss into a h o rny little boy."

Sephie looked at me, a look of surprise on her face, but she immediately burst into laughter.

"I can also feel your happiness right now. That one comes through strongly. You weren't that mad, so it was faint. I might've missed it if I hadn't been looking for it."

Sephie walked to me, pulling my arms around her. "Okay, last one, Squish, just because I'm curious," I could feel her panic starting to rise, her eyes changing to white. She hadn't panicked in a while. This time was different. It felt like she had more control over it. It got to the level that previously would have made her start hyperventilating, but she stayed outwardly calm.

"I can feel it. You can stop now. Please stop now. That one is the worst," Ivan said.

"I agree," I said. She looked up at me, a look of surprise on her face.

"It turned his eyes dark. Can you check to see if your eyes are dark now too, Ivari she asked.

There was silence for a moment, then Ivan came back. "Yep. Black" I held her tighter against me. "I think it's because when we feel your panic, we hint to destroy whatever is causing it," I said.

"Yeah, even from the first night we felt it, nothing will put me into kill mode faster than feeling you panic," Ivan said.

My phone beeped, then beeped again, then beeped a third time. I went to check it, as I rarely got messages, especially this time of night. It was Misha, Andrei, and Stephen. They all said the same thing: "I know you said don't worry, but I felt her panic and it made me freak out too."

I couldn't help but laugh. "Apparently everyone else also hates feeling her panic warned the others we were doing this, but they still sent messages checking on her because of her panic," I told Ivan and Sephie. Sephie walked to me, asking for my phone so she could reply to them and apologize.

"I'm so high maintenance," she said, rolling her eyes.

"I'm not sure you understand what those words mean, princess. I would not use those words to describe you. But now we know that the connection is still there, even over shorter distances. I don't know if we'll have a chance to, but now I'm curious how it works for even longer distances," Ivan said.

"I agree. This is quite a convenient trick to have. At some point, we're going to have to let the others in on this, as well as our eyes, but for now, I'm enjoying this," I said, chuckling. "Keep us informed on Viktor. Let us know if there's anything we can do to help. Keep him there as long as he needs, too."

2/3

418

"Will do, Boss," Ivan replied, as Sephie was still busy typing replies to the guys on my phone. When she finished and looked at me, her eyes were completely black once again. She wasn't angry in the slightest. This was completely for my benefit.

"So, h o rny boy, what should we do now?" she asked, her sly grin stretching slowly across her face.

G od, I love her.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane Chapter 419

419

Adrik

I could tell from the look on Sephie's face that my eyes had turned dark in rosjonse to seeing hers go dark. "I'm beginning to understand why you have a hard time controlling yourself, even more than usual, when my eyes go dark. It's surprisingly hot," she said, chewing on her bottom lip as she looked at me. She hesitated for a moment, making me wary. I knew she'd been struggling with her fear and even though her eyes had been going black for a while, she'd never seen it. Knowing it happens and

She studied me for a moment, like she was memorizing every detail. Her grin crept slowly across her beautiful face. "You're not angry in the slightest. right now. I'm really impressed," she said.

"I can say the same for you," I said.

seeing it happen are two different things.

"You've been doing this for a much shorter period than I have though. You mastered it much faster than I did," she said, as I took a few steps toward her. As I got closer, I could see her eyes were still mostly

black, but also swirlin

"Is it alarming?" I asked, still not completely sure she wanted me to touch her yet.

She looked up at me, confusion evident on her face. "Why would you think that?" she asked.

"Your eyes are swirling. They're still mostly black, so I'm guessing mine are st black as well, but I can see the other colors swirling in the background. I can see the white mixed in."

"Do I feel scared to you?" she asked.

"No, I wouldn't say that. Cautious, maybe," I said, watching her chew on her

She cut her eyes up at me. I could see her cheeks flush and even feel the embarrassment she was feeling. "Because I know I'm about to be out of breath and I'm wondering how I'm going to stay quiet enough that Vitaliy and Aleksei don't hear."

She didn't even give me time to respond to her before her lips were on mine. She practically jumped on me, wrapping herself around me. The desire 1 felt for her was overwhelming on a normal day. What she hit me with was even stronger than anything I'd ever felt. It was primal.

She felt it just as strongly as I did. She ripped my shirt open, pushing it off my shoulders, as her lips never left mine. Seeing her

lose control only served to turn me on more than I thought possible. I groaned into her mouth, my hands feverishly ridding her of

her clothing while she helped. Once she was naked, I pushed her onto the bed. She moved farther onto the bed as she watched me pull my pants off and take the last two steps to her.

I ran my hand up her leg, enjoying watching her reaction to my touch. Instead of climbing on top of her, I grabbed her leg and

flipped her over. I heard her gasp in surprise, but she didn't protest. I pulled her hips up as I climbed on the bed behind her. She

sat up on her knees, pressing her body to mine as she twisted around and her lips found mine once more. She moare softly as my hands roamed over her body..

She pressed her hips back into mine and that was all it took. I pushed her shoulders down as I kept a hold of her hips. She arched her back, granting me access. I wasted no time, shoving myself inside her. I heard her mu ffled moon as she buried her face in the mattress. I could see her hands grabbing the sheets as I felt her pu ssy pulsating around me.

The tiny amount of control I had managed to maintain was now completely gone when she pushed her hips back into me harder.

All I could think about was ravaging her. I didn't care how loud she got or who heard us. I wanted to make her scream.

I could feel her push her hips back into me, her legs spreading wider, trying to hit the perfect spot that she knew would send her

flying over the edge. I grabbed onto her hips, pulling her back into me with each thrust. It wasn't long and I could feel her

euphoria building. I reached up and grabbed her hand, guiding her to touch herself while I drilled into her. Her moans were even

louder as she pushed herself even higher. I was sure if her face wasn't in the mattress that the guards outside the door would be able to hear her from here.

I felt her org asm start as she worked her hips against me. I wasn't sure how long I could draw it out as she was absolutely

driving me crazy. She shared her waves of pleasure with me as she felt them, bringing me into her complete euphoria. I could

feel her start to come down from one or ga sm just as the next one was building. It was like nothing I'd ever felt before whenever

it happened. It just kept going until her moans finally pushed me over the edge with her. Even mu ffled, her moans were

something I wanted to hear as often as possible for the rest of my life.

419

We were both breathing heavy, but I was worried about her catching her breath. I moved beside her so I could flip her over. She had a lazy grin on her face as she worked to catch her breath. Her eyes were closed and I couldn't feel her panic, so I was surprised when she opened her eyes and they were white.

"You're okay, solnishko. Just breathe slowly. You're with me. You're safe," I started repeating. She normally closed her eyes

when she would panic, but she kept them open this time. I started to feel her panic, but it was at a much lower level than it

normally was when she couldn't catch her breath. She was trying to breathe slowly, as she held onto my arm and held my gaze

Finally, she was able to take a deep breath and a small smile crept across. her face.

I watched as the white in her eyes faded to the deep blue that I adored. "That was better. Have you figured out how to control it?

I could barely feel your panic when it first started this time," I said, kissing her lips gently.

She reached up, her hand running lightly over my face. "I'm trying to get a hardle on it. I actually think seeing your eyes go dark in response to my panic helps calm me down, even though that sounds really

weird to say out lid."

"I don't think it's that weird. Like I said earlier, feeling your panic makes me want to destroy whatever is causing it." I got up,

pulling her up with me toward the shower. "Maybe you've needed something to focus on visually instead of only listening to me,"

I said as I walked us into the shower, turning the water on.

She wrapped her arms around me, resting her head between my shoulder black. "It all helps." I felt her sigh as she hugged me

tighter. I turned toward her, pulling her under the warm water with me. Her eyes were still de blue as she smiled sweetly at me.

I found myself completely lost in her for a few moments. It was these moments, those seemingly insignificant moments that were some of my most favorite with her. Little moments where I knew she was just as overwhelmed with the love she has for me as I was with the love I have for her.

Her smile grew as she rested her head on my chest, her arms wrapping around me tightly. I held her just as tightly as we both

felt my pull in our chests and her warmth throughout our bodies.

"I could stay like this forever," I thought, not wanting to break the peaceful silice between us.

"I find myself thinking about how many times we've had moments like these, not just in this lifetime, but in every lifetime we've spent together. I hope you never get tired of them, because I don't think I ever will," she responded.

"Never. I love you. Always and forever."

"I love you. Plus infinity. Plus one."

BOST

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane Chapter 420

420

Ivan

Viktor was exhausted last night when he finally went to his room, so it didn't surprise me that he didn't get up at a normal time this morning. It was strange to be at the house without Boss here. It was nice though. The house hid become our sanctuary. The place we could go where we didn't need to constantly be on guard. The place where we could just relax for a few days. We were always happy when Sephie wanted to come here. It gave us more of a break than it did her. I think.

1

I think she knew that. I think most of the time when she asked to come here she was asking more for us than she was herself.

This situation with Viktor really bothered her. She knew he'd been avoiding het for weeks. It was hard for her to not take that

personally. I still wasn't completely convinced that Viktor was as happy about finding out he had a gifts everyone else was. Even

with the way Stephen's gift happened and the back story that went along with it, he was much happier about it than Viktor.

It felt like Viktor was an outlier now. We all had very close connections with Suphie. I had an even closer connection with Boss

now, too. I can't be sure, but I think somehow Misha and Andrei are becoming even more connected with each other as things

progress. But Viktor. He's wanted no part of it. It has me worried.

He finally woke up after I was done with my workout and on my way back to shower. He looked like he hadn't slept well, even though he was pushing 10 hours by the time he decided to get up. If he drank,

I'd say he was hungover.

"You don't look like you slept very well, man," I said when he stopped in the hallway.

"I didn't," he grumbled. He just turned and walked toward the kitchen. After my shower, I decided to force him to go to the lake, after a short conversation with Sephie.

"I'm not sure what to do with him, princess. He's hella grumpy this morning. He said he didn't sleep last night, even though he didn't wake up until late this morning."

She was silent for a few moments. Almost long enough that I was worried she hadn't heard me. I could feel her emotions all over

the place, at least, so I knew she was trying to come up with a solution.

"Take him to the lake. It's not the best time of year for it, but at least it's sunny today. I don't know why he needs to go there, but he needs to go there. That spot is magic."

"No arguments from me there. I'm honestly not sure if he's even been there. Step either."

"I don't think they've been there. They rarely stay at the house with me when we there. But I feel like it will help. No idea how, so don't ask me details."

I chuckled. "If I haven't learned to trust you yet, then there's something seriously wrong with me, princess." I could hear her laughing, as well as feel her happiness. Since I had paid attention to the connection last night when we were experimenting, it now felt stronger.

since our experiment last night."

Clearly, it was that way for her as well. I was quiet for a moment, still worrying over Viktor, when she said, "there's something else, isn't there? You're worried about him?"

I laughed. "Of course, you'd notice. Side note, the connection feels stronger

"It does for me too. We should check Adrik later. I can feel you the same way I do when you're in the room with me this morning."

"Same, princess."

"Now tell me why you're still worried about him. Did something happen? I've never fished in anyone's head from this distance, but I'll give it a try if you make me."

"No need. Nothing happened. I just caught myself thinking about him this morning when I was working out. He's like the outlier of the group now. It used to

420

be Stephen, but he seems like his connection has gotten much stronger with you. I think the Wonder Twins are building their own connection between the two of them, as well as having stronger connections with you. Viktor seems like he hasn't wanted any of that. Like, he almost feels like Stephen, before Stephen told us all he was g ay. Like Viktor is hiding something he doesn't want the rest of us to know."

"I think you're right, Squish. He definitely hasn't wanted to be a part of it. I don't know about him hiding something though. He might just be sp ooked when he learned what Stephen had to go through for his gift. He probably suspected he would have a similar experience and was trying to avoid it. If Misha was right, though, Viktor will at least use it on his little brother, so maybe we have to wait until he comes before Viktor finally wraps his head around everything."

"Great. He said he's not coming for a few weeks. I don't know if I can deal with himpy Viktor for that long. He's an a ss when he's grumpy,"

She laughed, her joy once again coming through the connection strongly. "I might pay to see that. I'm not convinced it's possible."

"Oh, it's possible. You'll be glad he's avoiding you once you see it." I was hit with her sadness once I mentioned him avoiding her,

but she tried to quickly hide it with laughter. "Don't be sad about it, princess.

He still loves you. What's happening with him is all

him. It has nothing to do with you."

She was quiet for a moment, then she sighed. "I know. Thanks for the reminder. You're my favorite."

Viktor protested going to the lake, so I told him I'd kick his a ss if he didn't.

"You don't have to talk, man. Just trust me. You need

to go there. Get your da mn coat alteady."

He grumbled as he walked back to his room to get his coat, but he came out with it a few minutes later.

We walked in silence all the way to the lake. While I didn't mind the silence, I did find myself wishing that Sephie was here. She

always knew just what to say. I didn't have the first clue on what to say to Viktor. This was going to be the quietest trip to the lake

I'd ever had.

We sat by the lake for longer than I was expecting. Viktor was very much lost in his thoughts. He didn't make a move to go back

to the house for almost two hours. It was me that finally broke the silence.

"When does your brother come? Which one is it?

Aleksander or Ilya?"

Ilya. Sasha is still in Germany. Ilya is done with his service. He wants to come here, at least until he figures out what to do next.

He didn't sound so good when I talked to him last. I'm the one that talked him into coming here. He was going to go back home

when he got out, but there's nothing for him there. So I talked him into coming here," he said.

"Give him a job. We could use the extra help," I said.

"That's what I was thinking. I'll see what he's like when he gets here. He's still getting over some girl. I think she did a number on him. Young love, 1 think," he said, shaking his head.

"When does he get here?"

"Next week. He said he had something to take care of before coming here, but he actually texted last night and said he's coming

here earlier. Whatever it was he was taking care of isn't important anymore. I have a feeling he was trying to save whatever was left with the girl, but that must be off the table now."

"It'll be good to get him to a new place, then. It's been a long time since I saw him. He was just a little sh it the last time I saw him."

"He's not anymore. He's as tall as me now. He's still a skinny sh it, but he's strong. Like Misha, it gives him a speed advantage.

The last time I saw both of them, him and Sasha got into it. Aleksander did not fair well."

I laughed. Viktor's middle brother, Aleksander, was shorter than him but just as wide as he was tall. Nobody ever messed with

Aleksander. "Sometimes it's good to be humbled," I said, still laughing at the thought of his brothers fighting.

"He might not agree with you, but Ilya definitely does," he said. He finally laughed. I could see some of the tension he'd been carrying around since yesterday morning melt off him. Sephie was right. This place is magic.