

King of the Underworld Chapter 361 - 370

Chapter 361

*Adrik ”

Sephie stood on her toes and whispered, “I’m gonna go take my contacts out for like ten minutes. I really need to rub my eyes for a few minutes where nobody can see me. I’ll be fine. You stay. I’ll be right back. Promise,” she said. She kissed my cheek, but was already heading toward the bedroom before I could protest.

I noticed Ivan catch her eye before she turned down the hallway. She made a motion like she wanted to rub her eyes, so he understood what she was going to do. He stayed with the rest of us, but it was obvious he had wanted to follow her just as I did.

I continued the conversation with Vitaliy and Trino, but kept an eye on the hallway, waiting for her to return. I glanced at my watch every few minutes. She said she needed ten minutes, so I wasn’t going to worry until ten minutes had passed.

When she didn’t come back after ten minutes, I started to worry. I caught Ivan’s eye. He was also starting to worry. Vitaliy, completely oblivious to my growing unease, called Ivan over to ask him a few questions.

Twenty minutes had passed and we still hadn’t seen Sephie come back.

Vitaliy and Trino were still in deep discussion, but I couldn’t think about anything but Sephie. I knew her eyes were bothering her, but I didn’t think it would take her this long.

After thirty minutes, I sent Ivan to go check on her. He was gone for just a minute before he reappeared in the hallway, indicating that I needed to come with him. I excused myself quickly and followed him back to the bedroom.

Sephie was sitting on the end of the bed, completely awake, but completely zoned out. She’d taken her contacts out, like she said. We could tell because her eyes couldn’t pick a color to stick to.

“I tried to snap her out of it when I came back here a minute ago, but she didn’t respond,” Ivan said. “I’ve never seen her like this before.”

I put my hands on her shoulders, talking to her, trying to get her to respond. She just stared blankly ahead. For twenty more minutes, she was completely nonresponsive. I couldn’t get through to her. Ivan couldn’t get through to her. We knew something

was happening, because her eyes never stopped changing, but we had no clue what was happening.

"Should we call Andrei or Misha? Maybe one of them can figure out what the hell is going on," Ivan said.

"They still don't know about her eyes, I'm liking keeping that a secret a little too much right now. I will if I have to, but not yet," I said. I knelt down in front of her, my hands still on her shoulders. "Sephie? Sephie, love. I need you to wake up. Please wake up. Please come back to me," I was really starting to get worried. She'd never been this unresponsive before. "She's not responding. She's never zoned out this completely before. I don't know what to do."

"Can you feel anything from her? I don't feel anything bad, at least, but I don't feel anything good, either," Ivan said. "Her eyes are going apeshit though."

Finally. She giggled. She still had a blank stare, but at least she made some kind of noise.

"Sephie??" I said. I was almost desperate to hear her voice.

She reached up, rubbing her eyes. She blinked, then rubbed her eyes again, saying, "I'm okay. I'm sorry. She's sorry, too. She said it'll never happen again." She finally pulled her hands away from her eyes, but it still took her a few seconds to focus on us both in front of her.

It took Ivan and I a few seconds to realize what she'd said. I stood up, feeling my anger coming on strongly. I glanced at Ivan, who was clearly bristled as well. "Who's she? And what won't happen again?" we both said.

She finally looked like she could focus. She smiled sweetly at both of us, standing up between us. "I'm very sorry. That's never happened before. I didn't even know it could happen," she said. "I'm very sorry I worried you both." She reached up and placed a hand against each of our faces.

"What happened? Did you zone out?" I asked. She shook her head no.

"This one is gonna be hard to believe. Your mother and I had a chat,"

"How is that possible?" I asked.

1

"Don't ask me. I can't explain the logistics. I came in here, took my contacts out like I said I was going to, then I sat on the bed so I could fully enjoy rubbing my eyes. I felt a breeze and when I looked up, she was standing in front of me, as clear as you two are

now. I heard her voice the other day, but this time I could see her,” she said. She turned to look at me, smiling her sweet smile up at me. “You have her eyes.”

“You heard her voice? When?” Ivan asked.

“When we took a walk with Vitaliy. Adrik’s mother has always known that he would find me. She’s also always known that he would find all of you, as well. She told Vitaliy so. She wanted me to tell him that she was right and he should’ve listened to her,” she said,

“That is the kind of petty passive-aggressive behavior that I will live for as a ghost,” Ivan said, laughing.

“That wasn’t all she wanted me to tell him, but I think the rest of it is for Vitaliy only,” she said, smacking his arm.

“What did she tell you this time?” he asked, as he grabbed her arm to keep her from smacking him again. He spun her around, facing away from him and holding her arms so she couldn’t smack him anymore, wrapping her up in a bear hug, obviously relieved she was okay. It gave me a chance to see her eyes change to green as she was laughing with him.

“She wanted to thank me. And she also made me promise that I would tell Vitaliy that he’s a cheeseball,” she said, still laughing with Ivan’s arms wrapped around her.

I couldn’t help but feel complete relief that she was okay, but I was still a little taken aback by what had happened. I could tell that Sephie was holding back, but I knew she was waiting until we were alone to tell me the rest.

“I’m glad you’re okay, princess. You had us worried,” Ivan said, finally letting her go.

“Because my eyes were going apeshit?” she asked, giggling as she walked to me.

“Ivan’s never seen them change as it happens before. They gave him a show. I was trying not to worry too much, because I never saw them go white, but it was still concerning,” I said.

She chewed on her bottom lip for a moment. “I’m only just beginning to get a handle on what each color means. I don’t know what it means when they can’t pick a color or why they won’t pick a color,” she said.

“Neither of us felt anything from you while you were zoned out. You were completely numb,” I said.

“That’s weird. Maybe it was like I was dreaming?” she said, shrugging her shoulders. “You only feel me if I’m having a nightmare. Good dreams don’t set off any alarm bells. Lena is a very nice woman. Not scary at all for a ghost.”

We heard a knock on the door. “That’s Misha. He’s worried too,” she said. Ivan went to the door and opened it, revealing a very worried Misha. “You guys disappeared. Is everything okay?”

Ivan turned toward Sephie, a questioning look on his face. “How did you know it was him and not one of the other guys?”

“I don’t know. I just did,” she said.

I looked at Ivan and Misha. “Everyone is okay. Give us five minutes and we’ll be out. They both nodded, Ivan closed the door behind him.

*Five minutes? Really? You couldn’t have said to give us an hour?” she said, a mischievous grin on her face as she slid her hands around my waist, grabbing my ass.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 362

"Sephie

I grabbed Adrik's hands and pulled him with me to the bathroom so I could put my contacts back in. "You were right. There is more to what your mother told me. I didn't know how much you wanted Ivan to know right now," I said.

He chuckled. "I thought you were holding back."

"It's nothing big, but I still think you should hear it before anyone else does," I said. I had stopped in front of the mirror, pulling his arms around my waist as he stood behind me. He rested his chin on my shoulder as I went about putting the contacts in. "She said she wanted to thank me for bringing you and Vitaliy together." I stopped and looked at Adrik in the mirror. "I know you're about to be shocked, but I argued with her and told her I hadn't done anything." He laughed as he moved my hair out of the way so he could kiss my shoulder. "She said that much of Vitaliy's light died with her and he was almost overtaken by his own darkness, but that I was the spark he needed to remember his own light. I told her that you were right and I was just really good at getting grumpy men to laugh."

"You're very good at that," he said, smiling as he continued to kiss my neck.

"I did ask her if she was special like Vitaliy and you. She said she wasn't. She said all your power comes from Vitaliy. Apparently all mine comes from my dad. But I think she's special in her own right. She said she accepted Vitaliy for who he is completely right away. He said something similar to me the first day we were here. It takes a very special person to be able to do that, especially with someone as complicated as Vitaliy."

I turned to face him, after finishing with the contacts. "She told me that Vitaliy has a giant heart for the people he cares about, much like you do. He just struggles to show it. Even more than you do. That's when I called him a cheeseball again and she made me promise to tell him I called him that."

Adrik laughed. "I would actually pay to see that as well. Did she say anything else?"

"She did." I stood on my toes and pressed my lips to his gently. "She said you worry about me the same way Vitaliy used to worry about her. Ivan is almost as bad. Then she said that you all were good men. She said you needed to know that the Universe

knows that you're good men."

I could see Adrik struggling with what I'd just told him. I watched as several emotions flashed across his face. I could see the internal struggle as he fought whether to believe her words or not.

"She's right, you know. You are good men. Anybody with half a brain knows you're good men," I said, my fingers lightly running over his cheek. His breath hitched as he looked at me, his arms wrapped completely around me, holding me tightly against him.

He didn't say a word, he just held me until our five minutes were likely up and we had to rejoin everyone else.

"We should go back out. They're going to come check on me again," I said, loosening my hold on him.

"Not yet," was all he said, as he pulled me closer to him. I rested my head against his hard chest. I felt his head resting on top of mine as his arms moved to keep me as close to him as possible. We stood like that for a few more minutes as I tried to help calm his storms.

We'd been back in the city for a few days. Trino was staying at the building while Viktor and Ivan helped him get a new security team setup, Gus, Oscar, and Chen were helping Trino with whatever he needed as much as they could as well.

"I'm taking the baddest motherf**kers in Colombia label away from them, Oscar. They're all pussies," I said, when we were talking about his former security team being scared of me.

"That's fair. Totally fair," Oscar said, laughing. "I did not expect them to wet themselves over the thought of you."

"I really want to say that I have that effect on people, but that would just be wrong," I said, laughing.

"Miha, don't take it personal. We all know the truth. Don't judge all Colombian men by the cowardice of a few," Trino said.

"Still trying to get her to come to Colombia, than?" Gus asked. He was both amused and surprised at Trino's words.

"A man can try," Trino said, laughing as they went to leave Adrik's office.

Viktor, Ivan, and Stephen had just left to the airport to pick up Vitaliy and his men, who were set to arrive that evening. I walked to Adrik, who still finishing up a few things. "I'm going to head upstairs to get started on dinner," I said, my hand running over the back of his shoulders as he leaned over his desk.

"Just a few minutes and I'll be done. Take the Wonder Twins with you," he said, looking up at me, a sly smile on his face. I

laughed at his use of new nickname for Andrei and Misha. I leaned down and pressed my lips to his. "I can wait on you, if you like," I said against his lips. He reached and grabbed the back of my neck as he groaned quietly. He sucked my bottom lip into his mouth, his tongue brushing lightly over it which made thighs clench in response. I heard him chuckle as he felt my response to his kiss. "I'll get done much faster if I feel like I have to chase you upsta he said.

I smiled as I stood up. "Then get back to work," I said as seriously as I could. He laughed and smacked my ass as I turned to leave.

I walked to Misha and Andrei's desks quickly. There were still plenty of people here, as the workday wasn't over yet and I could feel everyone's eye me as I walked from Adrik's office. Since Armando had taken me and Ivan, I'd garnered way more attention from the people in the office than I ever wanted to. It still made me uncomfortable.

They both noticed when I got to their desks. Misha stood up immediately and stood between me and any lingering eyes. "Are you going to start din gazelle?" Misha asked, shielding me from view.

"Yep. You guys want to help?"

"Don't ask stupid questions, spider monkey," Andrei said as he closed his computer and got up from his desk. He shot Misha a look as he turned away from me. Before I knew it, Misha grabbed me by my hips, picking me up so I could hitch a ride with Andrei.

"Close your eyes. Then you won't see them looking at you," Andrei said quietly.

I laughed quietly. "You two are my favorite. Don't tell the others."

Once we were in the safety of the elevator, Misha looked over at me. "Why does it still make you nervous when people look at you? You know that people generally tend to stare at beautiful women, right?"

I smiled at him. They were all so sweet to me. Sometimes it was overwhelming how much they cared about me. "I don't always get the feeling that they're staring because of that, my adorable Russian guardian. It always feels the same as when Sal was looking at my boobs and Armando was looking at me after he cut my clothes off. Even when I know it's not, that's what it feels like. I don't like it."

Andrei held onto my legs a little tighter. "Don't worry, spider monkey. You're so tiny next to us that they won't be able to look at

you. We'll protect you. I'll carry you everywhere so you can close your eyes and won't have to see them, if you want."

"Bubba, you're my favorite," I said, squeezing his neck a little tighter. Before Misha could protest, I added, "you are too, my adorable Russian guardian. Don't think I've already forgotten you just told me I was beautiful." His handsome wide smile stretched across his face as we walked off the elevator.

Andrei and Misha just nodded to the guards outside the penthouse. "Spider monkey," they both said as we walked past. It's a perfectly reasonable explanation.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 363

363

Sephie

"All of Vitaliy's guys are coming to dinner, too?" Andrei asked. I'd put him to work helping me and I think he was protesting at the amount of work in front of him.

"I assume so, but I don't know for sure. I never really asked, now that I think about it. But I figure if they don't, then there will be leftovers for you guys," I said.

"I'm going to tell him not to bring them, then," Misha said.

"Is it just because of the leftovers or you don't like his men?" I asked, curious.

"Mostly the leftovers, but I think we're all still unsure about unknown people since Trino's guys, Misha said.

"It's obvious that Aleksei is the only one that Vitaliy trusts completely. That makes me nervous for the rest of them," Andrei said.

"Did something happen that you're not telling me about?" I asked. I could understand they were nervous since having to deal with Trino's guys, but it seemed like they were overly nervous.

They both looked at each other like they were trying to talk the other one into answering my question. "You realize I can fish it out of your head if you don't tell me...." I said, stopping what I was doing and crossing my arms across my chest.

"I would like to see you try," Misha said, a sly grin on his face.

"Challenge accepted, my adorable Russian guardian." I walked over to him, searching his eyes the same way I would with Adrik.

It took me longer, but once I got past his very weak internal protests, I could read him like a book. He was still smirking at me, thinking that I was struggling, so I let him think he could shut me out for a few more moments.

When I turned to walk away from him, I caught Andrei's eye. He had picked up on what was happening and was waiting for me to tell Misha everything. Those two were like brothers. They enjoyed seeing the other one not be able to get away with something.

"It's not all his men. It's only the new ones. The guys that have been with him for years are still solid, but the two new guys are a bit too braggadocious for your liking. They targeted you and Bubba when we were in Panama since you two are the youngest.

That's why you don't like them. They're as sholes and picked on you when they don't even know you," I said. I was actually starting to get angry at the thought of them being mean to Andrei and Misha for no reason. I knew my eyes were going dark, but they wouldn't be able to see through the contacts. I took a deep breath, trying to stay calm, so Adrik wouldn't rush upstairs as well. "We have a couple of options here. Either I can find the perfect way to emasculate them in front of everyone, or I can tell Vitaliy they're not allowed to come, or you two put them in their places." Andrei chuckled. "You're mad that they picked on us, aren't you?" "Yes, I am. I didn't know about it when we were down there. Otherwise I would've put a stop to it then."

"It always happened when you were away with Boss and Vitaliy," Misha said.

"What kind of training do they have? Same as you guys?"

"I don't know. I know the guys that have been with him for a while have much the same training as we do, but I don't know about these guys. They -haven't been with Vitaliy for very long. They were with him the last time we saw him, but that was a couple of years ago," Andrei said. He was trying to be subtle about it, but I could tell he was watching my eyes as we talked. I knew it was only a matter of time before they noticed that my demon eyes had stopped making appearances when I got angry and I'd have to come clean about my untamed eyes.

I thought for a few minutes while I went back to working on dinner. "I think it'll stick if you two find a way to put them in their place.

In front of everyone. If they don't have the same training as you do, then it should be quite easy. That's the best way. Much like with Mike, guys like them respect brute strength more than anything. I also can't see Vitaliy putting up with them being disrespectful toward you guys, but he likely doesn't know about it yet."

Adrik walked into the penthouse, looking slightly concerned. I knew he'd felt my anger. I smiled at him. "It's okay. I was just angry because I found out a couple of your father's guys were a ss holes to the Wonder Twins while we were in Panama."

"Which guys?" he asked, as he walked to me. He immediately bristled as well.

"The new guys. The guys that have been with Vitaliy for a while are fine, as always. The two new guys were jerks to Bubba and Misha because they're the youngest," I said, leaning into Adrik as he slid his arms around my waist from behind. He softly kissed my neck.

"When did this happen?"

"Usually when you were gone with Vitaliy," Andrei said.

I could feel Adrik's anger rise another notch. "Because they know my father would never allow that so they did it while he was away. Did Aleksei or any of his other men see it?"

"Not that I know of. They were usually talking with the other guys," Misha said.

"They were just as sholes toward you two? Did they say anything else about anyone else?" Adrik asked.

Andrei sighed. "They never said it out loud. Does that count?"

"What did you pick up on, Bubba?" I asked. Andrei seemed nervous suddenly.

"I swear I wasn't poking around in anyone's head," he said. He looked legitimately worried we'd be mad.

I laughed. "I believe you, Bubba. Sometimes people's thoughts scream at me. It's hard to ignore."

"Oh, thank God it's not just me," he said.

"What were they thinking?" Adrik asked.

"Lots of animosity toward you, some toward Sephie. One of them thinks Sephie is going to make Vitaliy weak," Andrei said.

Adrik and I both stood silent for a few moments. I could feel his anger, feeding into mine. I knew he was more worried about them thinking anything negatively toward me, but I also knew he wouldn't stand for them disrespecting his men either. It didn't matter that they were his father's men.

"Gazelle, have you mastered keeping your demon eyes back now? I can tell you're angry right now, but your eyes are normal,"

Misha asked, clearly curious.

Adrik looked down at me, a small smile on his face. "She's wearing contacts," he said.

"I knew it!" Andrei said.

Both Adrik and I laughed. "Her eyes have been doing more than just going dark, but I was struggling with feeling jealous after she was hurt for so long, so we kept it a secret. Ivan is the only one who knows, because he felt her panic and saw them before she could hide it. We knew it was only a matter of time before the rest of you figured it out."

"What else are they doing?" Misha asked.

I looked to Adrik to explain, since he was the one that saw it happening.

"Much like when her eyes go dark, the other colors of

her eyes take over for different emotions. The only one that's completely different is when she's afraid. They go almost white when she's scared. It's scarier than her demon eyes and the reason we decided to get her contacts. She struggles with controlling her fear when it comes on. The other emotions she can control, much like her demon eyes," he said.

"Is it the same color for the same emotion each time?" Andrei asked.

I nodded my head. "So far, green means sarcasm, blue means I'm thinking about how much I love him, light brown means I'm sad, white means I'm

scared, and black means run." Adrik laughed as he kissed my temple.

"They also sometimes constantly change, like they can't pick a color to stick to. That's happened a few times recently," he said.

"You had the contacts when we were in Panama, gazelle?" Misha asked.

"Yep. I got them the day before we left."

Both Andrei and Misha exhaled loudly, looking at each other. "Good call.

We're glad you did that. I don't think it would've gone well if they saw your eyes change," Andrei said.

I couldn't help but laugh. I looked at Adrik. "See, I told you they would scare everyone."

"They don't scare us, gazelle. But everyone else is clearly not as smart as we are," Misha said, grinning at me.

"You make a strong argument, Misha," I said, winking at him.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 364

364

Sephle

Andrei looked at his watch, then looked at Adrik, then to me. "They're still not due back for a while. Can we see?" he asked, tentatively.

Adrik looked to me, but I put it back on him. "It's your call and only your call," I said, still working on making enough food to feed a small army. Adrik looked at me for a few moments, then smiled. I could tell he was sad to no longer have the secret, but he also seemed happy to show them. Like he was proud of how weird I was becoming. He simply nodded his head.

I went to take the contacts out, thankful to have a few moments without them. When I came back to the kitchen, I was still rubbing my eyes intermittently.

"The contacts bother you, huh?" Andrei asked when he saw me rubbing my eyes.

"Yeah, I can handle them for short periods but they make my eyes itch when I wear them for longer periods," I said. I walked to Adrik. It was easy to think about how much I loved him, which I knew would turn my eyes blue. The look in his eyes let me know it had worked. He wrapped one arm around me, but motioned for both Andrei and Misha to come to us.

He jerked his head slightly in my direction. "Blue means she's thinking about how much she loves me," he said, showing the Wonder Twins.

"That's your normal blue. It just took over the other two colors," Misha said. He was clearly fascinated by my new trick.

"I call them my mood ring eyes now, since they seem to change with my ever-changing moods," I said, laughing. I watched as Andrei and Misha's eyes got bigger, signaling that my eyes had switched to green.

"Green usually means sarcasm," Adrik said.

"But you still have the demon eyes, right?" Andrei asked.

I closed my eyes for a moment, trying to make them go dark. When I opened my eyes, they both laughed. "Yep, still there," Misha said.

"What were the other ones?" Andrei asked,

"White means I'm scared. I'd rather not have to show you that one right now. I don't know how far away it still works on Ivan, but he definitely feels it when I'm scared. I don't want to distract him right now," I said.

"The only other one we've seen is they turned golden brown, almost amber, when she was thinking about Trino seeing his mom for the last time," Adrik said. "That's only happened once, though."

"You don't have to try to show us that one, either. I can't wait until you start making up new colors. I want to see purple and orange next. Get inventive, spider monkey," Andrei said, teasing me.

"I would try if I had any clue it was happening. I was only just barely getting a handle on the demon eyes and they started doing this on their own. I don't have a clue when it's happening. It's not like I can feel it. I just see it in his expression that they've changed, but I still sometimes have to ask what color they are," I said, looking at Adrik.

"Are you going to tell Stephen and Viktor about it?" Misha asked. He couldn't keep the grin off his face when he asked.

"Might as well. They've both likely noticed the absence of her demon eyes, just as you did," Adrik said.

"Ten bucks says Stephen offers to turn you to a vampire because of it," Misha said.

"You're on," I said, laughing at him.

I managed to pull Adrik away from the Wonder Twins when I went to put the contacts back in before Viktor got back with Vitaliy and his men. He was standing behind me in his new favorite spot while I put my contacts in, his arms wrapped around my waist, his chin resting on my shoulder.

"You're okay with having told them?" I asked. I was fairly certain he didn't mind telling them, but I also knew how much he loved having a secret that was just between us.

"Of course, solnishko. I knew it was only a matter of time before they found out. I sometimes forget how observant they all are, especially of you. Ivan just has a leg up because he can feel your emotions like I can, but given what happened earlier, I think Misha might be tapping into that as well. You didn't look angry when he asked about your demon eyes. You never look angry, unless you're an absolute raging inferno and even then, you generally only look slightly miffed," he said, rubbing his stubble against my neck lightly.

I laughed. "I wasn't a raging inferno, but I was angry about them being picked on. I wish I would've known it was happening while we were down there. I would've put a stop to it," I said. I caught him smiling at me in the mirror as I put the second contact in. It was a strange sight to see my one seemingly normal eye and one demon eye. "You should only wear one contact at a time, just to f**k with people," he said, laughing.

"I don't think the guys are going to like how busy that's going to keep them, fighting off random people that think I'm possessed."

"Worth it," he said, still laughing, his lips against my neck. "As for the Wonder Twins' problem, I'll talk to Vitaliy. Those guys

haven't been with him long, but I won't stand for them disrespecting my men."

"Is that going to cause even more problems, though? If they already have animosity toward you and I, will that just make it

worse? What if Andrei and Misha give them an old-fashioned attitude adjustment? Do you think that will work? Do Vitaliy's guys

have the same kind of training that your guys do?" I asked.

"The other guys do. I don't know about these two. They haven't been with my father very long. Two of his guys retired a few

years ago, so he needed replacements. I don't know much about these two. Aleksei will know," he said.

"I know they're both bothered by it, even though they're trying to act like they're not. Misha made me fish it out of his head what

happened. He's really bothered by it. I'm sure Bubba is too. They're both the sensitive ones, but they also shouldn't have to deal

with this. It makes me want to punch both of your father's guys in the nose."

"If I haven't told you lately, you're extra adorable when your hackles go up," he said, turning me to face him.

"I don't have hackles," I said, matter-of-factly.

"Oh you do. They go up even when you don't like someone's tone with one of us. It's very endearing," he said. "I sometimes want

to make it worse and then turn you loose, just to see what will happen."

"You're a little bit evil," I said, laughing at him.

"That's a lie. I'm a lot evil," he said, pressing his lips to mine.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 365

365

*Adrik ”

Viktor, Ivan, and Stephen walked into the penthouse with Vitaliy, Aleksei, and the rest of my father's men. Viktor was especially happy to be back, as Sephie told him she would make his favorite meal since it was easy to make enough to feed the small army we had present.

“Sephie, that smells like I love you even more than the last time you made this,” Viktor said. She quickly freed up her hands, walking quickly to him and hugging his neck. It never mattered how long they were gone or what they were gone for, she was always incredibly happy to see them again. It made them want to come back to her as soon as possible.

“Papa Bear!” she said as he picked her up off the floor, his giant frame completely dwarfing her. He kissed her cheek, setting her back down. She walked to Ivan, hugging his neck as well. She said something quietly to him, which clearly surprised him, but she moved quickly to Stephen. While Stephen had always been shy about any kind of affection from her for the longest time, he now loved it as much as the rest of them. He wrapped his arms around her and picked her up just like Viktor did, telling her how happy his stomach was going to be in a matter of minutes.

Once Stephen released her, she caught Vitaliy watching her interact with them. She gave him her best smile. I watched him completely melt in front of her. She walked to him and hugged him. “Is it weird that I missed you, old man?” she asked as she hugged his neck.

He laughed. “Maybe it's you that needs to get out more this time,” he said.

“Fair. Completely fair,” she said. She grabbed his hand and led him toward the kitchen. It was hard to tell, but I think he was

almost embarrassed that I caught his silly grin as he dutifully followed her.

“Battista called yesterday. He has information. He'll be here in a few days,” Vitaliy said, breaking the silence as everyone did more eating than talking.

“Did he give any indications on what he found or he preferred to remain frustratingly mysterious?” Sephie asked.

“Net. He won't discuss anything over the phone,” Vitaliy said.

"I mean, I understand why. Doesn't mean I have to like it," Sephie said. I was finding that she was starting to dislike surprises almost as much as I did.

Vitaliy winked at her. "Patience was always difficult for me as well, *sladkaya*." After dinner, Viktor and Ivan got my father's men set up in apartments on the lower floors. Aleksei stayed behind with Vitaliy in the penthouse. I actually had plenty of room in the penthouse for all of them to stay there, but I preferred that no one came to the penthouse. I was torn about whether to allow my father and Aleksei to stay there, but Sephie practically insisted.

"I know you're not terribly close with him, but he is your father. And Alyosha is practically an uncle. He's known you your entire life. I don't want those two as *sholes* staying here, but it's a nice gesture for Vitaliy and Aleksei to do so," she had said when we discussed it the day before.

She had enjoyed teasing me when she found out I didn't want them in the penthouse because it drastically cut down on the options of where we could have *s*x* while they were here. It also meant she would have to be quieter while they were here, which I hated, and she was not very good at. Given that we were both addicted to each other, it was going to, well, *su ck*.

She laughed once she searched my eyes to find the reason for my grumpiness on the subject. She reached up, kissing my cheek. Then she put her lips next to my ear, whispering, "face down, a *ss* up it is." She took one step back from me to see my reaction, her wide smile across her face. As soon as she saw me lose complete control thinking about what she'd just said, she ran to the bedroom. Her laughter only serving to make me run faster to catch her.

I caught up to her just as she made it to the bedroom door. I grabbed her waist, picking her up off the floor and spinning her around just so I could hear her squeal. "You can't say things like that and expect to get away from me, *solnishko*," I said.

"Who said I wanted to get away? I just wanted to get to the bedroom very quickly. Mission accomplished," she said as I set her down. She turned to face me, wrapping her arms around my neck.

"I approve of this life choice," I said, pulling her shirt off and throwing it on the floor. I had the rest of her clothes off in under a minute. My lips found hers, then moved down to her neck. I could hear her breaths starting to come quicker as she felt my teeth

grazing the soft skin of her neck.

"You're very overdressed," she said. Her voice was breathy with desire. I felt her hands working to get rid of my pants. As I stepped out of them, she got two more buttons undone on my shirt. I quickly pulled it off over my head, immediately pulling her back to me. She moaned quietly as my hands roamed over her back, down to her ass. I grabbed her ass, pushing my hips into her, wanting her to feel exactly what she could do to me.

Her hands slid around my waist into the waistband of my boxer briefs, pushing them down to free my hard cock. She knelt down in front of me, sliding them off all the way. Instead of standing back up, she grabbed my cock with one hand. I exhaled, knowing what she was going to do. It never failed to make me cum quickly when she went down on me if she did it for very long.

Her cool hand wrapped around my shaft lightly. I felt her warm breath on the tip as she licked it. She loved to make me twitch as she teased me. I could feel her desire coming on strongly as she wrapped her lips around it, taking me fully into her mouth. My hands went to her hair as I closed my eyes, my head falling backward as I was lost completely to the feeling of her mouth on me.

She kept her rhythm slow, knowing I would be completely incapable of lasting very long if she went any faster. Just when she felt me starting to struggle to control myself, she stood up, a devious grin on her face. I wrapped one arm around her hips, pulling her legs around me as I picked her up. We were still just inside the door to the bedroom. I pushed her up against the wall as my lips crashed into hers. It never mattered what she did. I could never get enough of her.

I could feel the heat from her pussy and feel how wet she was. She reached down between us and positioned me so I could slide inside her. She leaned her head back against the wall, her eyes closed as she felt my full length inside her. It was my favorite sight. Every single time. She moaned quietly as she adjusted to my size.

I pushed my hips into her harder, enjoying her response to me. Watching her get lost in her own euphoria made me forget about everything but her. I would never tire of it. I pulled out of her slowly before slamming back into her roughly. I stilled as she

moaned loudly. I pulled out slowly again. This time, she knew what I was going to do. She opened her eyes, smiling at me as she waited for it. Her eyes were the deepest depth of the ocean blue, which had become my favorite out of all the changes they'd come up with. I watched her as her eyes rolled back in her head, another moan escaping as I slammed into her roughly again.

Her pussy clenched around me as she was climbing toward an orgasm. I teased her a few more times before increasing the rhythm. I felt her fingernails dig into my shoulders as she couldn't do anything but hang on as I pushed her to orgasm. Her moans were loud, her breaths quick. If I wouldn't be able to hear her scream for a few days while we weren't the only ones in my penthouse, then I was going to enjoy it as much as I could tonight.

I felt her legs start to shake as she started to push her pleasure onto me. She'd learned that she could essentially share her orgasm with me and I was completely addicted to it. It was so different from what I felt and lasted much longer. She was breathing heavy, her moans making it difficult to catch her breath. She breathlessly said my name and I knew I was done for. I thrust hard into her a few more times before I couldn't hold on any longer and found my own release.

I kept her pressed against the wall for a few minutes as we both worked to catch our breath. I still worried about her lung, as it still wasn't 100%, but she was continuously getting better. She seemed to manage through sex okay, but she hadn't been brave enough to go for a run yet. I still worried about pushing her too hard. I'd never been so scared as I was watching her struggle to breathe the few times it happened. It didn't help that I could feel her fear in that moment.

"Are you okay, love? Did I go too hard?" I asked when she still hadn't completely caught her breath.

She nodded. "It's calming down," she said, still trying to catch her breath. "I should run from you more often." She grinned at me, her fingers running lightly through my hair. God, I love her.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 366

366

“Adrik

Once Viktor and Ivan returned, I brought up the subject of my father’s men with Aleksei. Sephie had Vitaliy’s attention, along with most of the guys’ attention, in her usual entertaining way.

“The two new guys. What kind of training do they have?” I asked Aleksei.

“Not quite the same as what I’d like, but it’s difficult to find someone with that kind of training these days. People are getting soft,”

he said, half- disgusted. “I’ve been trying to work on their training to get them up to speed, but they complain. Never in front of

Vitaliy, though. They’re at least that smart.”

I thought for a few minutes. It might be a good idea to have Misha and Andrei put them in their places, after all. I explained the

situation to Aleksei. “They’re disrespectful of my men. I would like to remind them of their place. If Sephie were completely

healed, I would consider letting her loose on them. She’s arguably more pissed about this than I am,” I said.

Aleksei laughed. “She’s just as protective of your men as they are of her, then?”

I nodded. “You should see her go from zero to rage in a split second if someone takes the wrong tone with one of us.”

“I would actually like to see that, now that you mention it,” he said, thoughtfully.

“What do you propose for the little flowers?”

“I’d like for Misha and Andrei to teach them a lesson, since they seem to want to target those two. They’re both lethal, Andrei

even more so since he started training Sephie. It’s seemed to sharpen him up considerably,” I said.

“Teaching is always a good tool. It forces you to stay ahead of the student. I saw her at your father’s house. He’s working hard to stay ahead of her.”

“That was nothing. She’s still at maybe 60% of what she was before she was taken. Armando really did a number on her. The

only reason I didn’t kill him right then was because her lung collapsed and she couldn’t breathe,” I said.

“They were able to pull you off him?” he asked, surprised.

“They didn’t have to. She did. She put her hand on my back and told me she needed me. The bloodlust stopped instantly and I

was only concerned with her.”

Aleksei cursed under his breath. “I’ve never seen you stop. That’s impressive.” “It’s her. I don’t know how she does it, but I can’t live without it now,” I said. He was quiet for a moment. “Are you training in the morning?” he asked. I nodded my head. “We will train with you. It’s good to spar with new partners. We haven’t had anyone new in a while. I’m guessing your guys haven’t either. Misha and Andrei will get their chance then.”

Sephie had noticed me deep in discussion with Aleksei. She found a moment to step away from everyone else and walked to us.

Aleksei’s face softened when she smiled at him as she tucked herself into my side. “You two are scheming without me, aren’t you?” she said, grinning at both of us.

“The Wonder Twins will get their chance for a much-needed attitude adjustment in the morning,” I said.

“I’ll be grateful if they get their asses beat. Serves them right for not wanting to further their training.” Aleksei said.

Sephie smiled at both of us, but I could feel her mood shift quickly. She smiled through it, but said, “let’s hope it turns out better than the last time.” She said it quietly enough that Aleksei didn’t hear her, but I did. I pulled her in front of me, wrapping both my arms around her shoulders as she hid her face in my chest. I knew she was okay with what happened with Mike, for the most part, but she still had days where she struggled with it. Even though she did the right thing, even though we knew he was working for Anthony, she still struggled to accept it some days...

I caught Ivan’s eye as he felt her mood shift as well. Surprisingly, both Misha and Andrei also turned to check on her at almost the same time that Ivan did. That’s new. She held onto me tightly for a few moments, then sighed. She lifted her head from my chest, asking, “do they know this yet?”

“Not yet. Vitaliy isn’t completely aware of what’s going on with his men.” I looked at Aleksei. “Do you want to keep him in the dark or let him know?”

“He’ll enjoy knowing. He’s not fond of those two. They have big shoes to fill, granted,” he said, then didn’t finish his thought.

I looked down at Sephie. “Then we can tell them now,” I said, smiling at her.

“Good. The Wonder Twins are worried that something is wrong already. Ivan, too,” she said. She hadn’t taken her eyes off me

since she lifted her head. from my chest. She hadn't seen them checking on her.

"How did you know that, solnishko?"

"I don't know. I just did," she said, shrugging her shoulders.

I squinted my eyes at her. "New level unlocked," I said, as she laughed and hugged me tighter.

Andrei and Misha were standing next to Ivan in the kitchen as we walked back to everyone. Sephie walked between Andrei and Misha, hooking her arms through one of theirs. "When were you two planning on telling me that you could feel me now?" she asked quietly.

Ivan looked surprised as he looked at both of them, then looked to me.

Everyone else got quiet, as Viktor and Stephen had heard her as well. Andrei looked nervous again. Poor kid was overwhelmed with everything going on. I was surprised with how well Misha was handling everything. I think he'd had more practice at it than Andrei. Everything was so new for Andrei and he wasn't sure what to do with any of it.

I couldn't help but laugh at Andrei's expression. "We know you weren't snooping, Andrei."

His cheeks flushed slightly. "It started for me when we were in Panama. I felt her anger when you were gone with Vitaliy and I saw Ivan move to check on her. That helped me figure out what it was. Then when she disappeared for a while, I felt her get startled, but then it was like she was all over the place, then nothing. That's when Misha noticed it, too. That's when he came to check on you."

"And since then? Has it happened again?" I asked.

Misha nodded his head. "She doesn't like walking around the office by herself right now. It makes her really nervous. We could both feel it earlier when she walked from your office to come get us to come up here."

"You guys felt that? That's why you asked me about it?" she asked.

"Yeah, we knew you were on your way to us before we saw you. That's why Misha picked you up before you realized what he was doing. We were trying to get you out of there quickly. My computer was slow or we would've got you faster," Andrei said.

This was new for me. I knew she was shy about people looking at her, especially after being taken, but she never felt nervous in the office to me. I looked at her. "This is true? I haven't felt this."

“That’s because it doesn’t usually happen when I’m with you. I think people are scared to look at you. They’re more curious when I’m with the guys and it’s especially bad when I’m by myself,” she said as she walked to me.

Misha looked at me. “She said it feels like when Sal and Armando were looking at her. Even though she knows it’s not the same, that’s what it feels like.”

I pulled her to me. I knew she was still dealing with everything that had happened. “It’s okay. I can handle it. I just don’t like it right now,” she said.

“Can you feel them as well like you feel Adrik and Ivan?” Vitaliy asked, clearly curious how everything worked.

“Not as strongly yet,” she said, looking at both Andrei and Misha.

She seems to know what they’re doing though. She knew it was Misha at the door when he came to check on her,” Ivan said.

“She knew they both felt her mood just shift, along with Ivan just a few minutes ago,” I said.

In his quiet, serious way, Stephen said, “Vlad is going to be ecstatic when he hears about this development.” We all erupted into laughter.

Vitaliy and Aleksei both looked confused. “Who’s Vlad?” they asked.

“He’s an old friend. Don’t worry, you’ll love him. Looks a little grumpy on the outside, but has a great sense of humor. Just don’t bring up his strange eating habits. He’s very sensitive about it,” Stephen said, which caused even more laughter from all of us.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 367

367

Adrik

Once we had finished laughing, I looked at Vitaliy. "Your new guys. What do you think of them?"

He scoffed. "Mediocre at best. It was difficult to replace Yuri and Dmitri. Those two were the best we could find, which is not saying much," he said.

"They've been very disrespectful to my men. I didn't know about it until we had already left Panama. I'd like to teach them a lesson tomorrow," I said.

Vitaliy simply nodded his head. "I would very much like you to teach them a lesson tomorrow. They're too soft. Sladkaya could beat them, even though she's still not 100% right now."

"That's because I have the best trainer ever," she said, smiling at Andrei.

"From what I saw the other day, I will not argue with you," Vitaliy said. "You have my permission to do whatever you need with the little flowers."

I chuckled at both him and Aleksei calling his guys little flowers. I looked at Andrei and Misha. "You'll get your chance in the morning, then. Don't hold back," I said.

I felt Séphic stir next to me the following morning. I knew it was earlier than usual, as it was still mostly dark outside. She had one arm and one leg thrown over me and her hand was lazily tracing circles on my back. "Good morning," she said quietly when she saw my eyes open just enough to notice it was still dark out.

"You're awake earlier than usual," I said, closing my eyes again and pulling her closer to me. Not wanting to wake up yet.

"Mmm...I can't seem to get my brain to shut off."

I opened my eyes to look at her. I knew she had been forced to remember the situation with Mike after hearing about Andrei and

Misha's experience/ with my father's men. She was worried for them and what would happen this morning. As I ran my hand

over her back, down to her ass and thigh, I reminded her, "you did the right thing, solnishko. He was never going to walk out of

here that day. If that hadn't happened, there's no telling what he had planned with Anthony, either. He was a threat. An even

bigger one than we realized. You took care of it. You protected all of us."

She was quiet for a minute, her hands never still as she thought about what I just said. She was looking down, but when she looked up at me, I could see her eyes swirling. This time, however, there was white mixed in, so I knew she was trying to hold off on feeling her fear. While I knew she was struggling internally, I adored watching her eyes change. It was mesmerizing.

She finally smiled at me, her eyes landing on the deepest depth of the ocean blue. "Sometimes I need a reminder," she said quietly. She reached up and pressed her lips to mine, sweetly.

"I will remind you as often and as many times as you need it, love."

Andrei, Misha, and Ivan were waiting on us when we came out of the bedroom. Apparently, they were having trouble sleeping too. Andrei was making coffee for everyone. Vitaliy and Aleksei were still in their rooms. The sun had barely started to rise, it was still so early.

"Where's Papa Bear and Yoden?" Sephie asked as she walked to Ivan to hug him good morning.

"I think they're still sleeping," Ivan said. "None of us could sleep anymore, so we came up here."

"Same, Squish. Same," she said. She walked to Misha next, sliding her arm around his shoulders. "You're more bothered by this than you're letting on," she said, kissing his cheek. "Even Squish is bothered by the fact that those two assholes singled you two out." Misha tried to laugh, but it was clear on his face that she was right. She thought for a minute, continuing on to Andrei, who handed her a fresh cup of coffee. "This is why I waited until I had the six of you to protect me to show anyone how different I was.

As a general rule, people suck." She looked thoughtful for a moment, then she and

Andrei looked at each other like they'd both just had the same thought. He raised his eyebrow at her, but she shook her head discreetly. She would tell us whatever it was in good time. She leaned her head onto Andrei's shoulder, once again lost in thought for a few moments.

She stood up, walking to me as I finished making my coffee. "You all know that something happened when I disappeared at Vitaliy's house," she said. She turned away from me, leaning back against me as she held her mug with both hands. I slid one arm around her waist, watching the guys' faces. They all nodded. "It was a new one for me. It's never happened before. It may

never happen again, but I saw Adrik's mother. We had a chat."

"Like you see your father sometimes?" Misha asked.

She nodded. "Except he always comes in my dreams. This time, I wasn't dreaming. She was in the same room as me, plain as day to me. But it looked like I'd zoned out completely when Ivan and Adrik found me. They couldn't snap me out of it. That's also why I think I went numb to all of you. It was like I was sleeping."

"Her eyes were going crazy, though. I've never seen anything like it," Ivan said. He was still surprised at being able to watch her eyes change as it happened.

"We mostly talked about Vitaliy and Adrik, but she gave me a message for all of you, too. She told me that you're all good men. I know this. She knows this. But she said that you guys needed to know that the Universe knows how good you all are."

I watched as Misha clearly felt goosebumps over his entire body. He rubbed his arms, shaking it off. Andrei was looking down as he processed what Sephie had just said and Ivan looked almost like he was fighting back tears. I knew how they all felt in that moment.

She sighed. "Whatever happens this morning. I need you to remember that," she said, taking another sip of coffee. "Now, who wants bacon?"

It was exactly what was needed to help them break out of their own heads. Viktor and Stephen walked in shortly after she had started making breakfast. Vitaliy and Aleksei walked out soon after. I found myself grateful that we'd had a few extra minutes with those three. They clearly needed it.

We'd all been somewhat surprised at our reaction to Trino's men having a problem with Sephie being able to know things she shouldn't know. Finding out that Trino could've been killed by his men if they'd known about Misha and Andrei made it all the more real for us. People always fear what they don't understand and we had difficulty explaining what was happening to all of us. We were already wary of people we don't know. Now, we were extra cautious. Misha and Andrei being bullied like schoolchildren wasn't helping.

It was starting to feel like us against the world.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 368

368

Sephie

The two as sholes – I don't even know their names. I don't want to know their names. were the last ones to the gym. Viktor was sparring with one of Vitaliy's other guys that had been with him for years. They were well matched. Aleksei was right. It was good to get new sparring partners. When you constantly sparred with the same person, it was easy to fall into a routine. Since I had five to choose from, I hadn't reached a point where I needed a new partner, but there was sometimes a routine with a few of the guys. Mostly Viktor and Stephen, as they took it easy on me. They were still worried about hurting me when they sparred with me. Ivan used to be, but after he saw what happened with Mike, he turned up the pressure on me the few times we sparred before he and I were taken. I had to admit to enjoying the challenge. He was surprisingly fast for such a massive human.

everyone

The greatest part of the morning, for me anyway, was the way that the other guys would watch the two sparring. When they took a break, offered advice and brought to light areas that could be improved. It looked like they were fighting, but it was a learning experience for everyone. The same happened when Stephen got in the ring with another of Vitaliy's regular guys. I enjoyed seeing them being able to sharpen their skills even more. It never hurt that they were all chiseled, handsome men that generally took their shirts off at some point.

Because Vitaliy's men knew Ivan and knew that he'd had "extra" training, even though they didn't know the whole story, none of them would spar with him. Apparently, he had a reputation. I looked to Andrei, who was standing next to me. "They're really scared to spar with him?" I asked, completely surprised.

Andrei chuckled. "He still takes it very easy on you, spider monkey."

"And here I thought he wasn't holding back as much," I said, crossing my arms across my chest like I was pouting.

It made Andrei laugh. "You know he has more training than pretty much any human alive. He controls it with us, but he likes to challenge new people a little too much."

"That tracks," I said, laughing at the thought of Ivan getting enjoyment out of almost killing someone.

Adrik stepped into the ring, motioning for Ivan to follow him. This was new.

Adrik only sparred with the guys on very rare

occasions. I had asked him about it one night when we were alone, curious as to why he didn't practice. The next morning, he

sparred with Viktor, just to show me that apparently he did not need to practice. Poor Viktor. It took him a week to recover.

Ivan's devious grin spread across his face as he jumped into the ring. I also caught Vitaliy's smirk as he watched his son in the

ring. He was hard to read, but he was clearly proud. He knew of Ivan's training as well. He also knew Adrik had nothing to be worried about.

I had to admit to enjoying the look of shock on Vitaliy's men's faces as they watched Adrik agree to spar with Ivan. Those two

walked to the side of the ring, close to where I was standing with Andrei. I

heard Adrik tell Ivan not to hold back. "Might as well

give them a reason to be pussies," he said. He caught my eye, smirking at me as he knew I'd heard him.

I couldn't help but laugh. "I fully support this kind of passive-aggressive behavior," I said, making Andrei laugh with me.

While everyone had been insightful when it came to Viktor and Stephen and their two opponents, there was silence watching

Adrik and Ivan. There was nothing to critique, no improvements to be made.

They were so well-matched that it was almost like

they'd choreographed it beforehand. Both of them were breathing hard,

sweating as they each tried to outdo the other. Each hit

was perfectly countered, each kick was expertly blocked.

"Yeah, he's totally still taking it easy on me and I might love him a little more because of it," I said, my eyes wide watching both of

them. I could feel that they were both enjoying it, as well. There was almost a giddiness to both of them that I could feel. They

didn't outwardly show it. They looked like they were trying to kill each other,

But inside, they were both enjoying this.

I caught Vitaliy watching them. The look of satisfaction on his face was everything. I almost wanted to take a picture of it so I

could show Adrik later. I glanced at the other guys' faces, finally looking at the two asholes. They were shocked. Good. I hope

they're worried.

Ivan and Adrik went on much longer than the first two matches. There was no clear winner between them, they just decided to stop. Vitally's men stayed quiet, silently glad they'd refused to spar with Ivan. Aleksei walked up beside me and Andrei, as Adrik was climbing out of the ring beside us. He said quietly, "you might be solving the problem of the little flowers today and creating a new one for me."

Adrik raised his eyebrow, wadding his shirt up in his hand to wipe the sweat from his face. Aleksei chuckled. "They might quit on their own. Then

we're going to have to find replacements for them."

I looked at Andrei. He had been nervous, but now that his time was nearing, he was focused. I glanced at the other side of the ring where Misha was. He looked just as focused. They both knew that Ivan was the best out of all of us, but they also knew they could hold their own with him. I'd seen it. Those two as sholes didn't stand a chance if they weren't taking their training seriously.

Adrik said quietly, "don't hold back, Andrei. It's not your fault they haven't taken their training seriously. You're the wake up call they need."

Andrei looked at me, then Adrik. He nodded once before pulling his shirt off and stepping in the ring. Aleksei informed as shole #1 that it was his turn. He did not look as nervous as I thought he was going to be when he saw Andrei step into the ring. I looked at Adrik, "that moron still thinks he has the advantage over Bubba because he's so much younger. His day is about to be ruined."

Ivan walked up, handing Adrik a bottle of water. "Squish, I just want to thank you for holding back when you spar with me. You clearly love me and I'm here for it." I said.

He laughed. "I don't have to hold back as much as I used to, princess. You're making serious progress."

"I happen to have very good trainers," I said, smiling sweetly at him. I looked between both Adrik and Ivan, each standing on each side of me. "I could feel how much you two enjoyed that. You were almost giddy."

They both chuckled. They looked over my head at each other. "It's been a few years since we've done that. We should do it

more," Adrik said. "I forgot how much fun you are."

"It's the only time I get a challenge, Ivan said.

“Do you two want me to leave so you can bromance in peace?” I asked, smirking at both of them. They both laughed loudly, causing everyone to look at us. While I never cared that the guys were looking at me, I suddenly panicked when Vitaliy’s men looked at me. This was really becoming an annoying development in my life. Ivan and Adrik both stepped in front of me, partially shielding me from everyone. Andrei stepped back in front of me as well in the ring. I saw Misha walk from the other side of the ring to quietly stand behind me. Not a single one of them said a word, they just silently moved to make sure I felt safe..

“I love you all,” I said quietly.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 369

369

Sephle

Andrei's opponent took advantage of his momentary lack of focus when he was worried about me to launch his first attack.

Rude. He landed the first hit, which Andrei took like a pro. I could feel that he almost enjoyed it. He was calm, like he was feeling out the other guy's skills first.

Andrei might've been calm, but my anger was coming to the surface watching the other guy in the ring with him. He was so f**king smug it was irritating. I found myself wishing I could give Andrei some of my anger. Since I'd learned how to control it better, it was quite useful, especially when sparring. It amped up the intensity for me. I felt stronger and faster when I was using my anger.

Andrei pushed as shole #1 back, then I caught him looking at me, a look of surprise on his face. I saw it, but it didn't quite register as I was still busy thinking about how I wanted to share my anger with him.

We watched as Andrei played it safe with his opponent for a few more minutes, but then we all saw it happen. It looked exactly like what they'd been telling me happened when my switch flipped. Andrei's switch flipped and he went from defense to offense in a split second.

"Holy shi t, who knew he had a switch too," Misha said behind me.

Once he switched, I could feel Andrei's anger just as clearly as Adrik and Ivan. I could also clearly feel that his was feeding into

mine, the same way the other two did. There was a difference to him, too.

While both Adrik and Ivan felt like chaos personified,

Andrei's anger was quiet. Controlled, but no less deadly. I found myself happy to feel it.

I wanted to tell the guys what I was feeling, but I didn't want to interrupt

Andrei's focus, so I waited. While as shole #1 had started

the match thinking that he had the upper hand, it was very obvious that he was sadly mistaken. Andrei was on the attack and

that guy couldn't do anything but try to defend himself as best he could. He

kept trying to position himself against the ropes, but

each time Andrei would push him away from the ropes. They knew if someone got caught on the ropes, the match was

essentially done. He was trying to end the match without an obvious surrender and Andrei wouldn't give it to him. I was so proud of him in that moment.

As shole #1 gave out before he could get the match ended. His legs gave out on him and he tripped trying to step away from Andrei. He landed hard on the mat and stayed down long enough that we all knew he was done for. We watched him tap the mat twice, indicating that he gave up and was clearly admitting defeat. Andrei simply turned away from him, walking back toward us.

Once he was facing away from the others, we saw him smile. My heart might've swelled watching him take pride in what had just happened.

He climbed out of the ring, wiping the sweat from his face. He caught my eye and I knew he had something he wanted to talk about, but he stayed quiet as it was Misha's turn. Once Misha climbed into the ring, Andrei took his spot behind me. He leaned forward, quietly saying, "whatever you just did for me, do the same for him. It helped."

Adrik and Ivan both heard him as well. They turned to look at me and then him. I looked back at Andrei, somewhat surprised. "I don't know what I just did though."

"Whatever you were thinking about, think the same with Misha. You'll see," he said.

Misha pulled his shirt off, tossing it back toward us. He felt nervous, too. The same as Andrei did when his match first started. I watched as shole #7 climb into the ring. He had a little less bravado than his buddy, but he was still more smug than I would've liked. It suddenly hit me. I could push my anger to Andrei. It wasn't his switch; it was my switch that flipped.

I heard him chuckle quietly behind me. "Do it again," was all he said.

I started to think about the same things with Misha as I had for Andrei. I wanted to push my anger to him to give him even more of an advantage. It was clear with Bubba that he didn't need my help, but I wanted an extra "f**k you" to those two as sholes.

Misha was holding his own with his opponent, learning his moves just as Andrei had done. I concentrated on my anger, noticing that both Ivan and Adrik felt it this time, looking down at PE.

They looked back at Misha just in time to see the switch flip with him just as it had with Andrei. He switched to offense in the blink

of an eye. He was faster than Andrei, as Misha was a little leaner than the other guys. He was similar to Adrik's build. He probably had an easier time finding suits than the other four guys. But he was just as strong. Combined with his speed, it meant the other guy never had a chance.

Like Andrei, I could now feel Misha's anger. I wasn't surprised at all to find out that there was a feeling of f**kery in his anger. He was working to figure out how best to embarrass that guy in front of everyone, for maximum humor and maximum embarrassment. I fully supported it.

While Andrei drug out his match, emasculating his opponent by exhausting him in front of everyone, Misha made quick work of as shole #2. He took his legs out from under him, sending him to the mat hard and fast. It knocked the wind out of the guy. He almost lost consciousness, but managed to hang on. He was smart enough to tap out though. He didn't want a repeat of that fall.

Misha stood over him for a moment while the guy tried to catch his breath. He didn't say a word, he just stared him down as he watched him struggle to breathe for a moment. I don't think those two are going to be a problem anymore.

When Misha climbed out of the ring, he looked straight at me, his eyes wide. "How did you do that?" he asked quietly.

Adrik noticed the looks from some of the other guys. He said quietly, "not now. Not here."

We all nodded. Viktor and Stephen walked up, congratulating Misha and Andrei. They picked up on something, but didn't ask about it while we were still with everyone else. Aleksei walked over, clearly amused at what had just happened. "I'm going to get enjoyment out of this for a very long time," he said. The other guys that had been with Vitaliy for years were also clearly enjoying it.

Vitaliy walked up, a small smile on his face. "You've given me a treat this morning," he said before walking back into the gym to complete his own workout with Aleksei.

Adrik, smirking, told the guys to come to the penthouse before getting cleaned up so we could take advantage of having the penthouse to ourselves for a few minutes before Vitaliy and Aleksei got done. Once upstairs, Viktor and Stephen were curious about what happened, as they weren't close enough to hear Andrei after his

match. Andrei said, "I don't know how, but she managed to push her anger to me. It was like an insane power boost for me." He looked to Misha. "You felt it too, right?"

"Yeah, it was like Mario eating one of those magic mushrooms," he said, his wide smile stretching across his face.

Adrik looked at me, surprised. He'd been feeling me pushing things to him for a while now, but neither of us knew I'd be able to do it with anyone else. "Is it the same with them?" he asked, curious.

"I don't think so. It was more difficult. They feel different, too," I said.

"Your anger levels were off the charts, princess. I could feel that," Ivan said.

"I think I had to get to that level to be able to push it to them. I can do it much easier with you and easier still with Adrik."

"You guys saw the switch flip, right?" Andrei asked. Everyone nodded. "It wasn't my switch. I don't have a switch. Neither does Misha. It was her switch."

"It was exactly like watching Sephie when hers flips," Stephen said. "It was clear when it happened. I think everyone saw it, even."

"It was impressive. I don't think I've ever seen you two look that good in a practice match. When your life is really on the line, sure, but not when you know it's a practice match," Viktor said.

"They feel different to you?" Ivan asked.

"Yeah. You and Adrik are similar in that you're both very chaotic with your anger. It's controlled, but barely. Although, it's becoming more so lately. Andrei is quiet and very controlled, but just as deadly. Misha's might be my favorite, just because he delights in it. I can feel the f**kery increase with his anger," I said, laughing. Misha laughed loudly. "You knew I was trying to find a way to embarrass him as much as possible."

"Yep. You both did, just in different ways. I've never been more proud," I said. Viktor, ever the proud older brother, said, "I don't think those two will be a problem moving forward. They might quit after today."

His deep belly laugh filled the kitchen.

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 370

370

Sephie

The guys left to get cleaned up, giving Adrik and I the penthouse to ourselves for a few more minutes before Aleksei and Vitally came back upstairs. I couldn't keep my hands off Adrik. Normally, it was the other way around, but seeing him in the ring with Ivan was an unexpected major turn on.

"I'm actually glad I figured out that I could push my anger onto Andrei and Misha because otherwise, I would've been left thinking about how f**king hot you are. I mean, they might agree, but I don't think any of them necessarily want to feel that," I said, pulling my shirt off before trying to pull his shorts off as I also tried to drag him toward the shower.

He laughed, his lips still against mine, his hands pulling at my clothes just as feverishly. He walked into the shower, turning the water on, then quickly came back to me. He grabbed me around the waist, pulling me to him roughly. "I might've felt it while I was in the ring. You're very good motivation." he said, turning me in his arms so my back was to his chest, his hands roughly squeezing and running over my breasts. He walked us into the shower, stopping just before he pressed me against the wall. His hands ran down both of my arms. He grabbed each of my hands and placed them on the wall in front of me. "You're going to need this," he said, as he grabbed my hips and pulled them back toward him so I was slightly bent over.

"Need it why?" I asked, trying to turn around to look at him. He caught me and put my hands back on the wall with one hand. The other hand slid down my back, in between my ass cheeks to my slit.

"Because I'm going to f**k you," he said, removing his fingers from my pussy and slamming into me with his cock. I moaned loudly, now grateful I had something to brace against. I pushed my hips back into him, already wanting more.

He grabbed my hips, his hands holding me firmly as he slammed into me repeatedly. My walls clenching down on him as he buried his cock deep inside me. I pushed back on the wall, my hips meeting his each time he thrust into me. I couldn't contain the moans that escaped as I felt myself building to orgasm. With each thrust, it felt harder to stand up as my body was nothing

but pleasure. I felt his hand slide up my back, to the back of my neck. He grabbed a fistful of hair, pulling my head back as he thrust into me harder. I was breathing heavy, unable to quiet my screams of pleasure. I might not be able to walk later, but I still wanted more

“Harder,” I managed to say in between trying to breathe and moaning in pleasure. I heard him groan as he readily obliged. He let go of my hair, but held onto the back of my neck as he pulled me to him each time he slammed into me. I could do nothing but try to remain standing as he continued to f**k me.

Finally, just when I thought I couldn’t take anymore, I felt him find his release. He slammed into me one last time, exploding inside me. He wrapped his arms around me tightly, pushing me against the wall as we both worked to catch our breath.

He stood up, pulling us both back under the water. He kissed my neck gently. I was still struggling to catch my breath. I held onto his arms, my grip getting tighter the longer it took to slow my breathing. He felt my panic start to set in as I couldn’t catch my breath. He kept his arms around me tightly, holding me up. His lips next to my ear, he calmly said, “you’re okay, solnishko. Listen to my voice. You’re safe. You’re with me. You can breathe.” He kept repeating it over and over again until my breaths started to calm down slightly. My grip on his arms relaxed somewhat, but I didn’t let go.

He turned me to face him, still quietly repeating his calming words, trying to help me relax so I could breathe normally. I finally took a deep breath, closing my eyes. I felt his hands on either side of my face and felt him press his lips to mine.

He started to say something, but I cut him off, without even opening my eyes. “Don’t apologize for that. I very much enjoyed that,” I said, smiling at him.

He laughed. “I don’t like that you can’t catch your breath. I don’t like feeling your fear so close to feeling your pleasure. Those two should not be connected,” he said.

“I don’t disagree,” I said, resting my head on his chest.

“You had trouble catching your breath the other night too. Have you been having trouble other times?” he asked, his fingers massaging my scalp as he washed my hair.

"I don't think so. I haven't done that much though. It's easy to breathe when you're not doing anything strenuous."

He chuckled. "Then it's my fault for being too strenuous."

"But I like when you're strenuous. I need a nap now, but I love it," I said, finally opening my eyes to look at him.

"You need a nap because of me? That's not normal either, no matter how strenuous I get."

"Stop worrying about me. You're not going to break me," I said, reaching up to kiss him.

He clicked his tongue. "I'm going to have Andrei check to make sure you're okay. I don't like that you've struggled to catch your breath twice in a row. I still can't feel anything from your lung. I only feel your panic when you struggle to catch your breath," he said.

"I don't feel anything from my lung either. Except the panic when I can't catch my breath. You're not missing anything," I said. "I don't want you to worry that you're going to break me or be scared to touch me. I love it when you're strenuous when you f**k me," I said, grinning at him. I stood on my toes and ran my tongue slowly over his bottom lip as I sucked it into my mouth.

He squinted his eyes at me. He pulled me close, kissing me passionately, but quickly. "What am I going to do with you..."

Adrik had meetings that afternoon. Vitaliy informed us that he also had meetings elsewhere in the city, so he wouldn't be back until the evening. "It's been so long since I've been in the city that everyone wants to see me when I'm here. It's partly why I never come to the city," he said. He sounded almost grumpy about having to go.

"You can tell them to f**k off, Vitaliy. You know that, right?" I said. I wanted to see what kind of reaction I could get out of him.

"They're not the boss of you."

He laughed loudly. He pulled my arm through his, patting my hand. "If only everyone were as fun as you. I wouldn't mind meetings then."

"The world could not handle more than one of me, Vitaliy," I said, laughing. He surprised me by kissing my forehead. He simply smiled at me, telling us all he would return, then walked out of the penthouse with Aleksei.

Once he left, Adrik looked at Andrei. "Sephie has had trouble catching her breath twice now in the last two days. The second

time was worse than the first. I'm worried there's something wrong that she doesn't want to tell me about."

Andrei looked at me, almost like he was asking permission. I smiled at him.

"It's okay, Bubba. You can look. If there's something wrong, then even I don't know about it."

He studied me for a few minutes. He went to speak, but stopped himself. He was quiet for another few minutes, then finally said,

"her lung isn't as bad as when she had pneumonia, but it's not 100% either, but it's made worse because she has anxiety about it now. She's having small panic attacks when she has trouble catching her breath. That makes it harder to catch her breath. That's why you talking to her and repeating phrases to her helps calm her down. She's also still due for sleeping in, but she's fighting it because of everything going on."

"Have you had panic attacks before, Seph?" Stephen asked.

I shook my head no. "Not that I know of. I wouldn't have said me not being able to catch my breath was a panic attack though, so there's that."

"It's understandable. You've been through a lot recently. You're still processing everything," Viktor said.

Adrik was quietly contemplating everything, but he seemed mostly satisfied that I wasn't hiding anything from him or he wasn't missing anything on his own. I walked to him as he opened his arm for me. He pulled me to him, kissing my temple. "It appears it is my fault," he said quietly, with a smirk on his face.