

King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 33

Chapter Thirty-Three

Sephie

I was in my own little world, working on dinner, humming to myself, sometimes dancing to a tune in my head, but mostly really trying to listen to what was being said in the next room while not being obvious about it. She hadn't slapped him and stormed out of the room yet, so I was taking that as a good sign. I turned around to wash a knife in the sink, glancing in the direction of the front of the house,

Adrik was leaning against the doorway to the kitchen, still out of sight of Andrei. I immediately grinned at him. I quickly glanced at Andrei, who was now fully paying attention to something Tori was saying. I motioned for Adrik to be quiet, but to look toward the back room. Just then, the rest of the boys walked in behind Adrik. I motioned for all of them to be quiet and to look toward Andrei and Tori.

They each quietly peeked around the corner to spy on Andrei. There was discussion amongst them, but it was quiet enough that I couldn't hear it.

Adrik, smirking, pointed to me and then pointed in front of him, signaling me to come to him. With one quick glance toward Andrei, who still wasn't paying attention to me, I ran quickly to Adrik's open arms. As soon as I was with him, they all dispersed and hid in various places. Adrik pulled me with him, his finger over his mouth to keep me quiet. He took me to a spot under the giant staircase in the entryway. He pressed me to the wall, his body pressed against mine. He whispered, "I've been waiting to do this," as he pressed his lips to mine. "But first we must scare Andrei."

"Don't be mad at him," I whispered back. "It was all my idea. Technically I put him up to this, because Lord knows he never would've made a move without me."

He smiled at me. "I'm not mad, solnishko. The opposite, really. But he doesn't need to know that right now."

My smile grew wide. I loved seeing this impish side of him. I couldn't help but think back to what Tori had said about him earlier. This was clearly not a man who had anger issues. I was happy I got to see this side of him.

We heard Andrei in the kitchen, calling for me. He cursed and yelled my name again. When he walked toward the front of the house, the other guys came out from their hiding places as he walked past them. We could hear them all jump on him, poor Andrei yelling and cursing each one of them.

Adrik stayed pressed up against me, his eyes never leaving my face. I looked in his eyes, still expecting to see a change. He raised his eyebrow and asked, "why do you look confused, solnishko?"

I looked down, not realizing I had given myself away. I felt my cheeks blush. "It's nothing."

He clicked his tongue, but let it drop. He leaned down and pressed his lips to mine. The guys were laughing now, "Come, we will witness the aftermath of the carnage."

"Ohhh, I love good carnage in the evening," I said clapping my hands.

When we appeared from our hiding spot, Andrei's face was so red I was worried he was going to have a heart attack. He caught sight of me, "you're going to be the death of me!"

I tried to look as innocent as possible. "Tomorrow is never promised, Bubba. You have to seize the opportunities when they arise," I grinned at him.

The other guys all laughed, walking back toward the kitchen. Andrei looked toward Adrik, still worried he was in trouble. Adrik held his hand up saying, "she already told me she basically forced you to do it. You were fighting a losing battle." He patted Andrei on his shoulder. "Go. All is well."

Adrei exhaled and smiled at me, before turning to quickly return to Tori. I turned to Adrik. "Thank you."

"For what?"

"For not yelling at him." I paused, then added, "for coming back to me...and for not looking at me differently."

He closed the short distance between us and held me close. "Why would I ever look differently at you, Persephone?"

I caught my breath. He was really the only one that ever used my full name, and I loved the way it sounded rolling off his tongue. I looked at him, somewhat sheepishly. "It happens almost every time someone finds out about...you know, my scars."

He inhaled sharply. He started to speak but stopped. He just wrapped his arms tighter around me and held my head against his chest. He exhaled. "Never."

hugged him a little bit tighter, wondering to myself how I deserved him. Then I remembered I was supposed to be cooking dinner.

"Oh shit. Dinner." I ran quickly into the kitchen to find Tori keeping a watchful eye over the food, while Andrei stood close by, keeping a watchful eye on her.

"Oh, thank you, Tori. I got...distracted," I said glancing back at Adrik.

"I should be thanking you," she quietly said, blushing slightly. I looked around the kitchen. It was just the two of them.

The guys had all disappeared again.

"I will help her finish this up. You've done plenty tonight," Andrei said with a wink.

"Are you sure? I don't mind finishing up. I like to cook. I'm nowhere near as good as Tori, but I enjoy it anyway."

I felt Adrik slide his arm around my waist from behind me. "Why don't we give them a little more time. I have something to discuss with you anyway," he said, pulling me out of the kitchen. Andrei simply waved as I disappeared.