

# King of the Underworld by RJ Kane

Chapter 174

## Chapter One Hundred Seventy-Four

### Viktor

She walked back to Adrik, who opened his arm for her to step into. It's like she fit perfectly next to him, like they were made for each other. He kissed her temple pulling her closer. He was so different around Sephie. For the better, really. In his younger days he was more of an asshole to the girls he would date. It always seemed like he was trying to get away from them. He was never outright mean to them, but he never thought about them the way he does Sephie. He's consumed with Sephie.

I knew he was in love that very first night at the restaurant when we walked outside the restaurant to find her after Anthony had smacked her ass so hard. After Adrik ripped Anthony a new one in front of everyone, he got up and walked to the back of the restaurant. He walked through the kitchen, like he owned the place. One of the cooks tried to stop him, but Adrik just glared at him. He was imposing in his own right. He was just as tall as the rest of us and only slightly smaller. I think he stayed leaner because it was easier to find suits that fit him that way.

As soon as he told Sephie his name, I knew she was the one. He never told anyone his name. He'd had girlfriends that he dated for a year or more that still don't know his name. He knew Sephie for under two hours and he told her his name.

I saw what he saw in her the next morning at her apartment. She was so funny, but so genuinely concerned that we were taken care of, even though her neck was a shade of purple that I'd never seen on a human and she was hoarse from Anthony trying to crush her windpipe. I knew she was special and that Adrik would do whatever it took to keep her around for a very long time.

Once he made his mind up on something, there was usually no going back.

We were all grateful that she was in our lives and that he had seen her for who she is right away that night so many months ago. She'd changed him for the better, but she'd also changed all of us. There was no doubt that we would do whatever it took to make sure she was always safe and always looked after, no matter what happened.

Adrik kissed her temple again, then said, "I need to call Trino. I want to see if Anthony and Lorenzo are still down there or if they got tired of waiting and left." He walked away from the kitchen to make his phone call.

Sephie started to wash the dishes from dinner as she asked, "how did it go with Team America? Did they pass the test?"

I chuckled. "They did. Mostly. They're still getting used to working with each other. It takes a while to learn how each guy operates in situations. Stephen really did save Keith's ass."

She looked to Stephen, her eyebrow raised. He just shrugged his shoulders. "It was an honest mistake, but I fixed it."

"He said the wrong code word, huh? He said mayonnaise instead of whatever code you guys gave him, didn't he?" she said, grinning. Stephen laughed, just shaking his head at her. "So, that's one for Team Russia, zero for Team America because you saved his ass? I feel like this should make it to the white board, along with the bet pool for Armando and Giana. We should have a running tally of how many times you guys have to save their asses before they get their shit together."

More laughter from all of us. Most women would've avoided this conversation. They would've avoided training with us, learning how to defend themselves, learning how to shoot. Not Sephie. She poured herself into training with us. I laughed to myself as I remembered her telling me early on that the more she trained, the more she could eat. She was starting to get good enough that she killed more of Massimo's guys that day they tried to grab her than the rest of us. It helped me worry about her less. It also made me wish I had taught my wife a few things. She might've had more of a fighting chance.

Adrik walked back into the kitchen. We all looked expectantly at him, wondering what he had found out from Trino. "Trino met with Anthony and Lorenzo today, just to keep them down there a little longer, to help us out. He tried to get more information out of them on what their plan is, as well. Dario and Massimo are still waiting, but he assured me Massimo will no longer be a problem once he meets with him."

"What other info did he get from Tony and Enzo?" Ivan asked.

"We have time. Not much time, but we have time. They're still working on producing enough brawn to completely replace the supply. Then they have to distribute it. They conveniently left out the part where they were replacing the entire supply with it when talking to Trino. Many of the dealers in the city are loyal to him. That's how he gets his information on the bosses. He's making calls to find out if they've been approached or not," Adrik said.

"What if they're just going to replace the product and not tell the dealers? Maybe they don't know. Didn't Andy say they were trying to package it like other drugs?" Sephie asked. She was a smart girl, who caught on very quickly. It used to surprise me in the beginning that she could catch on as quickly as she does, but now I've come to expect it from her. Adrik walked back to her, standing beside her as she continued to clean up from dinner. We all noticed how he couldn't stand to be apart from her. It was like there was an imaginary force pulling them to each other at all times. He had to be next to her, but he was also fine with her goofing around with all of us. It was like they were in orbit around each other. Each one could leave, but they always came back to each other. He was always confident she would come back to him, so he never minded when she would leave to show affection to one of us.

"That's a possibility. Trino said he would check with his dealers and get back to me as soon as he knew something," Adrik said. She turned the water in the sink off, grabbing a towel to dry her hands as she moved closer to him.

She looked lost in thought for a moment, then grinned and looked at Ivan. "We also need to add potential outcomes for Dario and Massimo to the white board. I vote on some dramatic ending for Massimo, like Trino lights him on fire and throws him off a cliff. I feel like Trino has a flair for the dramatic."

Once again, we were all laughing in the kitchen as we were discussing very serious, life-threatening topics.