

Chapter Thirty-Three



After agreeing to coming back at night to search the well, we all head to the Chateau. John B is to go to Tannyhill, and I had a feeling that he was going to get Sarah.

JJ and I sat in the recliner, him in the actual seat and me on the arm, Pope sat in the wicker chair, and Kiara was pacing back and forth across the floor.

I heard John B and Sarah's voices from outside the porch and nudged JJ with my elbow.

"This is gonna be good."

It was dead silent as the two join us on the porch, and Kiara is glaring daggers at the blonde girl as her and John B sit on the couch. She exploded when John B said something about Sarah coming with us to check the well.

"No fucking way! You brought her here? So what? She's in on this now?"

There's an awkward pause, and John B looked to me. I put my hands up and shook my head.

"You're on your own dude."

"Look," JJ said, leaning forward in the chair. "All I care about is her cut comes out of your share."

I nodded in agreement, and the blond put a hand on my back.

"You know, I don't remember taking a vote. This is our thing. A Pogue thing."

"I gotta say," Pope jumped in. "I'm just a tad uncomfortable with all of this."

"Thank you!"

"When are you not uncomfortable?"

"I dunno. I rode here on the back of JJ's back pretty comfortable."

"It's true. Most relaxed I've ever seen him."

I tried to hide the laugh by placing a hand over my mouth and shaking my head. JJ started tracing random shapes into the skin, having lifted the hem of my shirt up slightly.

"That's cute, guys."

"You know, we were all extremely comfortable until you brought her."

"Stop talking about me like I'm not here!" Sarah spoke up for the first time, and I had to applaud her for not taking Kiara's shit.

She can get pretty scary when she's mad.

"Then leave!"

"I told you."

"Told him what, exactly? That you're a liar?"

"No, that you're a shit-talking bitch."

I just became very uncomfortable.

"Oh, shit."

"My money's on Kie."

I ignored the rest of the girls' banter as I watched Pope and JJ exchange money and felt a headache building behind my eyes.

"Everybody shut the fuck up!"

I stood as I yelled, pressing a hand to my forehead. I felt everyone's eyes on me but just gestured towards my brother.

"Say what you have to say, bro, and let's move on before my head explodes."

John B sent me a grateful look before turning towards Kiara. Arms wrapped around my waist, and JJ pulled me into his lap, resting his chin on my shoulder.

"Kie, you are my best friend, right?"

The girl nodded, albeit a little reluctantly.

"And Sarah, you're... You're my.."

I watched Sarah smile so ly at my brother, tilting my head as I noticed for the first time how my brother looked at her.

He looked at her like she was a wave and he was desperate for a ride.

"Say it."

"You're my girlfriend."

"Oh, that's new," Pope muttered.

Kiara faked a gag.

JJ squeezed my torso with his arms.

I smiled.

"She's your girlfriend now? What was all that talk about you were just using her for information? Get a map, cut her loose."

I pursed my lips, feeling awkward as Sarah suddenly turned to John B.

"You said you were using me?"

"No," he tried to deny.

"Yeah, you did," Pope corrected, and I nudged his leg, trying to tell him to stay out of it.

"Look, love just walked in, okay?"

"Oh, vomit."

"I didn't expect it. It just, it kind of happened. And I'm not gonna deny it."

There's a long pause before Kiara glares back at my brother.

"Look, cut the bullshit, John B. If she's in, I'm out."

"I'm not doing this."

"You are gonna decide."

"I can't!"

"I'm very interested, actually. Me or her?"

"Both."

"Went for the Hail Mary," JJ muttered as Pope whistled.

Kiara didn't say anything, just stormed to the porch, making sure the screen door slammed behind her on her way out. John B once again looked to me for help. I just shook my head.

"It'll be cool, right?"

Sarah nodded to herself.

"I'm gonna leave. Gonna let y'all chat. Let me know."

Part of me felt bad as she walked out the door. She came in here thinking that everything was gonna be honkey dorey, but instead got screamed at and everyone was against her.

"I'd just like to say, you handled that beautifully," JJ said, pushing me up from his lap as he stood up.

"Shut up, JJ. Look, John B. As your sister, I'm gonna tell you to do whatever makes you happy, alright? If that means dating Sarah, you date Sarah."

"But, Jo-"

"JJ, I'm not finished," I glared at him as Pope went after Kiara and turned back to my brother. "But as a Pogue. I'm telling you, you just crossed a line."

I walked up to him, poking him in the chest.

"Kiara has issues with Sarah. They're pretty dumb and easily resolvable, but she was hurt my Sarah. You, saying that you'd rather have both of them even though you know Kiara doesn't like her, just basically told Kiara to go fuck herself."

"But I didn't."

"It doesn't matter if you said those words or not, John B! That is what is going on inside of her head right now. As a Pogue and Kiara's best friend, I swear to God if she doesn't end up coming back here, I am going to personally kick your ass and throw you to the sharks!"

With that, I stormed into the house, not bothering to listen to anymore of his excuses.

I groaned as I heard someone follow me and rested my hands on the counter, leaning my weight against it. I let my head hang down and felt hands slide up my sides.

"Relax, sweetheart. It's just me."

I took a deep breath as JJ leaned his chin on my shoulder and whispered in my ear.

"I just feel like John B is so clueless," I whispered, knowing my brother is right outside.

"I know."

"And I know he's your best friend, but, dude, how do you put up with him?"

I turned around in JJ's arms, his hands falling to my hips as he leaned back slightly, a grin plastered on his face..

"Well, he does have a pretty hot sister..." He trailed off as my cheeks went red.

I pushed JJ away as I heard the door open. We both tried to look casual as John B came in, grabbed a bottle of water and sat on the counter next to me.

The silence felt slightly awkward, JJ and I casting each other glances, but John B just drank from his water and looked bored from his position on the counter.

"So..." I trailed off, scratching the back of my neck.

The door opened again, and I let out a sigh of relief as Pope walked in.

"Oh thank God," I muttered under my breath, catching JJ sending me an amused glance out of the corner of my eye.

"What'd she say?" John B asked Pope, tossing him a bottle of water.

"That you're an idiot."

I scooped.

"We all knew that already."

"It's a no-brainer," JJ said, picking up a beer and handing one to John B and me. "You're picking Kie."

Pope and I hummed in agreement.

"Look, I can't make a decision."

"So what? We're just dead in the water because you're pussy-whipped?"

I choked on my beer, causing John B to glare at me.

"We can't do this without Kie," JJ continued, patting me on the back as I coughed. "And you know it."

"And," John B said, taking a sip from his beer. "I can't do it without Sarah. Okay? They both have to be in on it."

I sighed, biting the inside of my lip as I thought of something.

"Well, good luck with that."

"You know what? I know this was my fault, alright? But it's our problem."

"I've got a plan."

All three heads turned towards me.

"And neither one of them is gonna like it."

JJ grinned while Pope shook his head.

"And I'll need all three of you shitheads to help me out."