

Chapter 100

~KANE~

My mind and heart are spinning out of control. I don't want to believe a word coming out of Gabriella's mouth. At first, I thought this was just a cruel game being played on me. But when I realized that no one around me was laughing and that everyone seemed to be just as shocked as I was, I knew that this was real. This was happening. She was claiming that my whole f*****g existence was all a damn lie. She was claiming that my father was a bloody liar. That he wasn't my father, to begin with.

I've loved that man with everything in me. I did everything for him. I looked up at him. I saw him as my bloody hero. Despite everything he put me through, despite locking me in basements without any food, despite all of that, I saw him as my father.

I thought that he was hurting me to make me stronger. I felt that he was doing it to make me a man. Those were the words he'd said to me. When I was young, he hid me from everyone. Was this the reason? Because I had been stolen from my real family, and he didn't want anyone to find out what he had done? That would make plenty of things he'd done in the past make so much sense. It would give explanations to questions I've had all my life. Questions that he never willingly answered, even when I asked.

The evidence was difficult to ignore. I could deny all I wanted, but I couldn't forget the words Gabriella had just spoken to me. She was right. She had nothing to gain from claiming I was her brother. None of them had anything to gain. I had nothing to offer anyone here, at least not anymore. Almost everything of mine had been destroyed.

She was also right about the connection. I never paid attention to it before because of everything happening in my crazy love life. But now that it was out in the open, I felt the connection she was talking about. I also had a strong urge to protect her and keep her safe. I knew I wouldn't stand back and watch anyone try to hurt her. And this connection that I felt was nothing like I thought for Maya. It was different; it was a brotherly affection.

f**k.

She was telling the truth, wasn't she? I was her long-lost twin. We were both hybrids. We were the same age, no doubt. My supposedly birth parents recognized me the moment they saw me for the first time. My heart was telling me that I knew them even though I hadn't met them before today. All of the signs are there. I didn't need the blanket and the locket to prove anything; I would know the truth in my heart without having those things as proof. I hate that this is happening to me, but there are no more chances for me to run from this.

Even though I knew now that this was my real family, I had no idea how to accept them. How did I forget about my past?

The closest people in my heart were my enemies without me even knowing it. They destroyed my life while they were alive, and they managed to do it when they left this earth also. They never gave me a chance. It's like they lived to see me suffer.

How could I have believed them all this time? Why hadn't I realized before that it was all a lie? All I had to do was dig deeper, all I had to do was search inside of me, and I would have gotten the answer I needed to stop myself from making so many damn stupid mistakes.

They made me do things that I now thoroughly regret. I hurt the one woman that I was supposed to love. I hurt her, and I hurt her for the man I thought was my father and the girl I thought was my sister. I thought that I was avenging their deaths, and I felt that I was doing the right thing.

I don't think I've ever met a person dumber than I am. To do the things I did for people who hated me. They were good at masking the truth. They fooled me till the very end.

There is one person that I need to beg forgiveness. For my foolish and heartless actions. One person that never deserved all the wrong I've done to her.

I never deserved her. I never deserved Maya. And after knowing who I was, knowing that the man I fought for, the man I hurt my mate for, was never actually my father, it was enough to shatter everything inside of me. All along, I thought that I was fighting for a good cause, that I had to do this for my father, that it was what he would have wanted me to do. This entire time, he was a liar, someone that caused my real parents pain.

Before finding this out, I already felt guilty for everything I did to Maya. Now, I felt a thousand times worse. I hurt her for a man that never loved me. I hurt her for a sister that was never even my sister to begin with. The signs were always there, and I ignored them. I ignored them like a pathetic fool. I should have known that Ariana was the only one that he truly cared about, and that was because she was actually his daughter. And I was never his son.

My mind is racing with everything wrong that I've done in the past. All this time, causing pain to others because I thought it would make my father proud. I did so many things that I regretted, and all of them were because of him. I was always trying to make him happy, to make him proud of me. No matter what I did, he never seemed to love me more. I was punished by him, tortured. And after it all, I loved him still. I loved him because I thought that he was my father; I thought that he was doing everything for my own good. I thought that he was teaching me to be stronger. Now I knew that it was all a lie. All this time, he enjoyed hurting me, he enjoyed torturing me, enjoyed seeing me fight for his affection.

How stupid could I be? How could I have not known? He's never loved me. He's never loved me the way a father loves his son. And Ariana never treated me as her brother. She treated me like another one of her pawns. And still, I loved her more than anyone; still, I loved father more than anyone.

Why am I still referring to him as father? He never was one to me.

MOTHERFUCKER!

What had I done? I destroyed everything with Maya and hurt her over and over again, all because of people that never loved me to begin with. She was probably the first woman to love me, and I let her down. I let her down. I hurt her. I made her cry. I was never there for her when she needed me the most.

What was wrong with me?

How could I have done so many things to hurt her? There were no excuses anymore. The only reason I had turned out to be bullshit. I fought for people that didn't care about me. I was a f*****g lunatic.

I know that Gabriella is saying something to me. I know that my birth parents are trying to get my attention. But none of them have my attention.

Maya is the only one that does. I'm looking straight at her. I don't even deserve to see her pretty face. I don't deserve to look her way.

All I can think about now is begging for her forgiveness. The guilt was eating me alive. After everything, knowing what I did now, I knew I couldn't let her down again. I was done messing things up for her. I was done hurting her. I don't care if I had to break my heart to treat her right, but I would. For her, I would do anything once it meant that she would be happy again.

Anything.

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~MAYA~

I can see how much this new information is killing Kane. I can feel his pain from all the way over here. I could feel it so strongly. And I was sure more than ever now that we were mates. Kane was my mate. This man, he was mine. But he was also Maya's. And he felt like he owed her his life more than anyone else in this room. I could tell this by the way he was looking at her. I should have known that he would feel more guilt towards her after learning that the people he fought for were never his family, to begin with.

"Kane?" Gabriella calls his name. "Please say something. We want to help you. Telling you this was never my intention to hurt you. I wanted to be honest with you. I wanted you to understand that you have a real family. A family that will be there for you the moment that you need help. We will always be by your side. We will never let anyone take you away from us again. Never."

Kane doesn't look like he's hearing a word she's saying to him. And it goes the same for anyone else that tries to grab his attention. I'm worried that he was so shocked that he wasn't aware of what was happening around him. I don't think that he doubted Gabriella anymore. I think he knows that she was telling the truth. He knows that he is her brother. He knows that these people are his parents. He knows the truth. After all these years of thinking that Eric was his birth father, he finally learns the truth. The secret was finally out. And it was destroying him.

My lips part when he begins to move. At first, I thought that he was about to leave. However, I'm shocked when I realize who he's walking towards.

Maya.

The air seems to knock right out of me as Kane drops to the ground beside her. Everyone is confused by his actions. But none as much as I am. He'd just found out that Gabriella was his sister, that he had parents, brothers, a family, one that was ready to welcome him home. Yet the first thing he does is bow his head in shame in front of her. Why would he do it? Why didn't he try to hug his parents instead? They were waiting for a chance to hug him and hold him close. They weren't the only ones; I can see how much Gabriella wants him just once to admit that he is her brother.

He's still kneeling in front of Maya with his head bowed. He hasn't moved for a good few seconds. I'm beginning to think that he isn't even aware of his actions.

My body shakes with an unknown emotion as he whispers her name. Why does it feel like he's calling out to me instead? Why do I think his actions were meant for me, not her? Am I crazy for thinking this way?

This was not the time for my body to react this way. This was not the time for my heart to confuse my mind.

I felt like someone was purposefully squeezing my heart as he lifted his arms and hugged her to him. "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry, Maya. For everything. I never deserved you. You were always too good for me, even from the start. I beg you; please forgive me, sweetheart. Please forgive me. I will never do anything to hurt you again. Never."

