

Chapter 54

~MAYA~

"I don't care what you say," I tell him. "I'm going to stay and help you today. I'm not taking no for an answer."

I meant every single word I just spoke. I was tired of him pushing me away when all I wanted to do was help.

He runs a hand through his hair and sighs. Before I have a chance to react, he grabs me by my waist and pulls me against him. "Hold on to me," he whispers. I wrap my arms around his neck, and before I know it, we're moving at an incredible pace.

I can never get over how good it feels to be like this in his arms, especially with the wind blowing against my hair.

I wish I could stay like this, I don't want to have to let go, but soon enough, I do. We stop by a river, and Kane slowly let's go off me. It's not like I can beg him to keep holding onto me. If I did, he would put more distance between us. I had to act like this did nothing to my weak heart, even though my red cheeks may be enough to tell him that I wasn't unaffected by being so close to him.

I rip another part of my dress and move towards him.

"I can do this myself." He tells me.

I shake my head in disagreement, "I came with you with intentions of helping, not watching while you do it yourself. I told you that I'm not taking no for an answer."

He looks on edge when I get closer to him, but he doesn't try and stop me again. I don't know why my presence bothers him so much, but I wish he could learn to relax when I'm near him. Maybe it's because of my voice; maybe it bothers him that I sound like the girl from his past.

There is still blood on his face, and it's the first place that I start to rub the cloth on. Just like before, Kane remains perfectly still while I remove the blood from his face.

My hand accidentally touches his lips, and we pause from the contact. I should move my fingers, but it's hard when I desperately want this. I take a deep breath while Kane stays still like a statue so that I can gently wipe the blood from his lips. I notice that his body shudders for a second, but he quickly tries to hide his reaction from me. He wasn't fast enough; I was sure of what I saw and felt.

Why did he have such a reaction? What was he thinking right now? I was desperate to find out, but I'm sure that he would never tell me. He will never want me to know what he thinks of me. Maybe that's for the best because I doubt that he likes me. Though, it is strange that he always comes to my rescue. But the way I see it, he's such a good person who will rescue anyone he realizes is in danger. That's just the type of person that he was. I don't think that even Kane realizes that he's such a good person. He tries to pretend that he's terrible, but I can see straight through his pretense. He cares for people even though he doesn't want to.

I think that he's easily mistaken by others as well. I've never actually seen him interact with many people other than Giselle, but I can see it in him. I'm glad that I can see straight through him, it made me feel closer to him, and that's all I want. I want to know him better than anyone else ever did, maybe even more than the woman from his past knew him. That can only happen if he allows me to get closer to him.

I dip the cloth into the water and move closer to him as I continue to wipe the blood off his face. I'm surprised that he's letting me do this for him. He always tries his best to keep a great distance between us. Maybe he's trying to be nice since I almost had a terrible experience earlier. I'm not sure what his reason is, but I'm happy that he's at least letting me do this for him.

I don't want to overstep, however. I'm not sure where I should stop. There was blood all over his body, and so far, things were already tense between us. Kane didn't look like someone who was used to having someone take care of him like this. He doesn't seem like he knows how to react. That makes me feel sad. What kind of life did he have? Why did no one care for him? Did he have a difficult life? Who were his parents?

And what happened to the woman that he couldn't forget? What happened to her that caused him to agree to marry Giselle? He had already confessed that he didn't want to marry her, I had my doubts before, but it was finally confirmed. He didn't want to marry her. Just like I had suspected since the beginning.

I let my hands travel down his neck and gently rub the cloth there. I move closer to him to get a better look; I want to make sure that I get everything off his body.

"You don't have to do this." He says in a hoarse whisper.

My body shivers at the tone of his voice; it's unfair that just a few words from this man make my body react this much.

He doesn't realize how much I want to do this for him. He thinks that he's burdening me, but he isn't. I want this.

"Stop saying that." I scold him. "You are hurt because of me. You keep putting your life at risk to save mine. You don't know anything about me, yet you continue to protect me. Then why don't you let me do the same for you, Kane? It's unfair that you keep trying to help me, but anytime I try to do the same, you push me away. Do you know what it means to have a friend? Do you have any? What is so wrong if I try and help you? I'm only returning the favor. I don't see anything wrong with that. So please, stay back and let me do what I must. You are hurt, and I want to at least get all this blood off your body. I hate seeing you like this. I hate seeing you hurt."

