

Chapter 85

"I don't know where to start," I say.

"Do I want to know what this conversation will be about?" Arthur asks in the front seat.

"You do," Gabriella tells him. "I'm sure this will affect all of us in the days to come. From what I've seen so far, those two cannot control themselves around each other."

"Those two?" Arthur asks, not aware of what was happening. He didn't listen to our conversation before, he wasn't around, which would explain why he was so lost right now. It didn't seem like Gabriella would waste any time explaining it to him either. She appeared impatient to hear the story from me.

She points at me, "she and Kane."

He quirks a brow, "you're not making any sense, Gabriella. How can't they control themselves?"

"Maybe if you let her tell the story, you'll understand."

He shrugs his shoulders, "go ahead. I'm listening."

"Kane and I first met when Giselle introduced him as her fiance," I explain. "From the moment I first saw him, there was this instant connection. My heart and body both felt like they belonged to him. I know it's crazy to say that, considering he loves Maya, but the feelings was definitely there."

Arthur looks puzzled in the front seat, and I don't blame him.

"Keep going," Gabriella encourages me.

"I could see how sad and miserable that he was. I didn't know that he was in love with Maya or that she was presumed dead. All I knew was that he always looked depressed, and I wanted to be the one to make him happy. Kane knew that I had no memory of my past, and he knew that Giselle never really liked me by how she treated me. There were many times where he protected me from her."

"I'm not sure I like where this story is heading," Arthur says. "It seems like there may be trouble ahead from where it's going. Trouble loves following us."

"Shhh!" Gabriella shushed him. "I want to hear the rest of this."

She waits for me to continue, and I take a deep breath before speaking again.

"Soon enough, I realized that I might be pregnant. With no memory of my past, I wasn't sure if it was possible. I asked Kane to help me since I didn't trust anyone else. I knew Giselle would probably get rid of me if she knew I was pregnant, and Kane was the only one who's always been kind towards me. I knew that he was my best and maybe only option at the time."

"And did he agree to help you?" she asks me.

"Look who's interrupting now," Arthur says dryly.

She waves her hand at him and waits for me to continue with the story.

"I knew that Giselle couldn't find out what we were up to, and so we slipped something in her drink so that she would fall asleep long enough to do what we had to. It worked, and Kane was able to carry me by a doctor who happens to be a close friend. The doctor confirmed that I was pregnant with twins. That day, something happened with Kane. He didn't seem happy with the news; it bothered him. Now I know he reacted that way because Maya was pregnant when she disappeared. It's sad now that I know her baby didn't make it. There were times when Kane would say weird things; he didn't want me calling his name because he said it reminded him of someone. I later found out that he was referring to Maya. My voice reminds him of hers. Despite everything that was happening in his life, Kane always protected me. He saved me from one of Giselle's friends who tried to take advantage of me, and he also saved me when I almost drowned another time."

"I never thought of Kane to be that kind of man. He seems like someone to only care about family. People close to him. Not someone he barely knows," Arthur notes.

"Did he protect anyone else as strongly as he did you?" Gabriella asks me.

I shook my head, "not that I know of."

She nods and tells me to continue.

"This is where things got a bit more serious," I warn them. "Giselle announced their engagement suddenly. Kane was devastated while she was overjoyed. It was hard for me to watch. It broke my heart to see him so helpless. I knew that he didn't want to marry her; I knew that he loved another woman. That day Kane got extremely drunk, and he did something that I can safely say scarred the both of us."

My body shivers at the memory of our kiss. It still affects me today. And I wish that I could kiss him freely without caring about the consequences.

"I'm afraid to find out what you mean by that, but I'm in too deep already," Gabriella confessed.

"I need you to remember that Kane was drunk and didn't know what he was up to. He was devastated that he had just gotten engaged to a woman he didn't like. I tried to comfort him because, as I said, it was breaking my heart to see him like that. Kane has always been to me, a knight in shining armor. He's always made everything better for me. I wanted to do the same for him. He kissed me that night, thinking that I was Maya. He called me by her name, and it was then that I was able to find out the name of the woman he was so deeply in love with. I knew that I had to stop the kiss before it was too late. I knew Kane well enough to know that he would blame himself for kissing me while he was drunk. And I didn't want him to do that to himself. He always blames himself for everything that goes wrong. I was eventually able to stop him, but the next day, he remembered everything and questioned me about it."

"Anyone wants a snack?" Arthur asks. "I was carrying this back for Emma, but I think we can take a few for storytime."

Gabriella grabs the snack from his hand, "will you stop interrupting? It's just getting good."

"Says the one nibbling on the snack right now," Arthur says as he shakes his head at her.

"Ignore him," Gabriella says to me.

"I tried to lie to him. I wanted him to believe that he hadn't kissed me. I was only trying to protect him, but somehow, he knew the truth. He didn't believe me, and he was angry that I had lied to him even though it was apparent that I only did it to protect him. That same day Giselle planned for him to attend a football game with her. I believe she said that it was the Angelites Academy. One of the wealthiest schools around, but I assume you probably already know that since it's a famous school for all the rich kids from what I heard Giselle say. She dragged me along to the game with her, and that's where I met three lovely girls. They were very nice to me, just like you are. But that's not a part of this story. Giselle found Kane and me standing very close, deep in a conversation. She couldn't handle seeing us like that, but I knew she wanted to get rid of me from the beginning; she just used this as an excuse. She locked me in a cold cell. One that her father had helped build at their abandoned castle. She wanted me to freeze to my death. I don't know how Kane managed to get away from her long enough to save me. When he finally got to me, I was freezing my ass off. I was so cold that I was sure I would have died if he didn't get me warm. Kane realized how cold I was and tried to warm me with his body. It wasn't enough; he eventually removed his clothes; mine was already gone since Giselle had stripped me while I was in the cell. She just wanted me dead."

"I don't think the next half of this story is appropriate for kids," Arthur cuts in. I know he is trying to lighten the mood.

"There aren't any kids here," Gabriella points out.

"Yes, our baby in your belly and the twins in hers."

Gabriella rolls her eyes, "what exactly happened next?"

My cheeks are flaming as I continue, "things got heated between us. Kane was only trying to save me; he had no hidden intention. We did something we shouldn't have; it didn't get as far as sleeping together, but it was intense and more than a kiss. We eventually stopped because we both knew that if we went any further, there was no going back. I was also warm enough to survive; there was no need for him to go further. Everything that happened next, I believe you already know since you entered the picture."

Both Gabriella and Arthur looked shocked by this new information. Arthur, who was making all these playful comments before, was unusually quiet.

"I hope that you don't think poorly of Kane after this. None of that was his fault. The first time he was drunk, and the second time, he was only trying to save me. He's done nothing but love Maya with his whole heart. The things he did for me must still haunt him because I'm sure he thinks that he has betrayed her. If there is anyone to be blamed, it is me; I knew from the start who he loved. But whenever I'm around him, I can't seem to control myself. I'm not happy that I'm so weak around him, but I also won't change anything between us. Every moment that I spent with him, I plan on treasuring it till the day I die."

Gabriella rocks back against the seat, "this entire thing is insane. I know you said Kane isn't to blame, but I don't think anyone could say that he is innocent either. What doesn't make sense to me is his reaction towards you."

"What reaction?" I ask. "He hasn't been anything else but kind to me. Everything that he has done is because he has a good heart."

"I can assure you that it's not just because he has a good heart," Arthur clarifies. "It sounds like Kane is just as attracted to you as you are to him. And nothing good can come from trying to ignore those feelings or pretend like they aren't there. Just ask Gabriella. We know what it's like to try and ignore strong feelings like the ones you just described. Eventually, it blows up in your face, and neither of you will be able to control your emotions."

"But we are mates, Arthur," Gabriella points out to him. "It's expected for us to behave that way around each other, but they aren't mates. There is nothing that has tied both of them together. And what makes this even weirder is that Kane already has a mate. Maya. She's his mate. Let's assume that he thought she was dead and got close to you because you somehow reminded him of Maya. What can explain his reaction to you now that Maya is back?"

"I don't know what you are talking about," I say. "From what I've seen so far, he's still crazy about her. If he weren't, he wouldn't have attacked me for what I said to her. She is still the most important person in his life."

"I'm not referring to that," Gabriella tells me. "I'm talking about tonight. I saw the way he was looking at you. He didn't even look at Maya that way tonight, and she was there! He even glared at another guy to stop him from dancing with you. He was jealous!"

I shook my head, "I'm the one that told him I didn't want to dance with anyone else. He only did that because he respected my wishes. I said to you before that he always protects me."

"I'm pretty sure that he was also jealous. Even if you didn't ask him to do this for you, believe me, from what I saw, he would have done it either way," Gabriella assures me.

I'm not sure if I agree with that. To me, Maya was always his priority. He wouldn't have danced with me today if he didn't have to. It was all a part of the game.

"I think you're wrong about this one Gabriella," I try to tell her.

"Whether I'm right or wrong, you have to be more careful around my brother. He has a mate, and she has dangerous brothers. I don't want to have to defend him again. Like I said before if they catch the two of you, I'm not sure that I will be able to protect Kane from them. There is only so much I can do. They have more power than Arthur and me at this time. Austin and his family are wonderful people, but they don't mess around when it involves their family. And since Maya has already been through so much, they will be extra sensitive when it comes to her," Gabriella explains.

I did understand what Gabriella was saying to me. And the last thing I ever wanted to do was cause more problems for Kane. I kept telling myself that I would keep my distance from him. But whenever I was around him, everything changed. I lose all control over my body and its emotions. And when that control is lost, there is nothing I can do to bring it back.

The only thing I can think about is avoiding Kane, but even that would be hard to do because when I don't see him, I tend to miss him to the point that I feel I can't breathe. I don't know what I did to have these strong feelings for a man that could never be mine. And I don't understand why our fate seems to be intertwined for some reason. We're always finding a way to be near each other, whether intentional or not. I keep finding myself back to Kane. And my body always wants to stay by his side even when it knows it's just not possible.

"I don't think you're getting through to her, Gabriella," Arthur tells her as we pull up to the house. "I think you know just as much as I do that it isn't exactly easy to ignore feelings as strong as hers."

She sighs, "I know, but I also know the trouble such strong emotions bring. We need to find out what's causing it because something has to be wrong. Why does Kane have feelings for more than one woman? He's only supposed to have eyes for Maya. Why is he straying? Something just isn't right."

.....

~KANE~

How could I let myself become so weak around another woman while Maya was there? I purposely joined the dance to get a chance to dance with the girl. I didn't participate for a chance to dance with Maya. I wanted to dance with her. She was the one my eyes were on for the entire night. I couldn't look away from her. She was the center of my attention. I always thought that when I found Maya, my attention would be back on her, but I was proving myself wrong.

Giselle's maid was on my mind more than Maya was. At this point, I was thinking about seeing a damn psychiatrist because clearly, something was wrong to me. I had no one to go to, no one to tell my feelings. Who would understand what I was going through? They would think that something was wrong with me, just like I felt about myself.

There I was missing and wanting Maya by my side for days, and when I finally have her, I want to be around another woman that's not her.

"You look like you need a beer," Hunter says as he throws one at me.

I grab it and don't think twice as I take a big gulp. This wasn't the best time to be drinking, but at least I didn't have to worry about me doing something stupid since the girl had already left with Gabriella.

Even Gabriella had acted strangely today. Did she happen to see what the girl did to me? I was practically begging to touch her on the dance floor, using the dance as an excuse to get closer to her.

My hands felt like they were in control; my entire body kept disobeying me when it came to her. I don't know what Gabriella said to her, but I hope it was for her to stay away from me because damn it if she didn't, there was no f*****g hope for me.

Hearing her say that she didn't want to dance with anyone else but me had fed something inside me. I felt pride and joy and a will to claim and take what was mine. A part of me wanted to tell everyone in the room that she belonged to me. I wanted all of them to know that I would kill anyone that tried to even touch her.

And I almost did just that when I saw her dance with the first guy. Seeing her with another man was like losing a damn finger. It f*****g hurt.

"Take it easy," Hunter says. "I know you're having a hard time. Losing a baby is something I won't wish on anyone. I'm sorry what you and Maya have to go through."

The guilt was intense after hearing his words.

Maya.

Maya.

Maya.

She's the one I'm supposed to be daydreaming about. She's the one that needs me more than anyone else right now. After everything I've done to get her back in my life, how can I let her down over someone I barely knew?

The answer was simple. I couldn't. I was done with this. I was done being a weak, pathetic mate.

Maya has always had to go through a lot of emotional trauma because of me. I had to be f*****g strong for once and do what the right thing for the both of us was.

And the right thing was to forget about the girl.

I'm not going to do this to her a second time.

Maya will always come first. I don't care what I have to do to make that happen.