

Chapter 99

I see the moment every word that Gabriella just spoke hit Kane head-on. I watch and wait for him to say something. Anything. I knew that he wasn't about to take this quietly. There would be plenty of questions, and there would also be a lot of denials. I could see that he didn't want to believe a word that she'd just said, just as we had suspected would happen. Kane would fight this until he had nowhere to run and hide. We already had the proof; when it was revealed, he would have no choice but to believe what was being said.

I think both Gabriella and me held our breaths when it looked like he was finally going to respond to her words.

"You're lying!" Kane roars. His voice rocks the quiet room. I flinch at his tone. He wasn't just shocked anymore; he was also angry. "You're not my sister. Ariana was my only sister, and she's dead."

He thinks Gabriella is trying to take him for a fool; I don't think he realizes yet that she has no reason to hurt him. They weren't enemies, and she's proven that she will go through hell to protect him, even when it means saving him from people she cares about.

I notice that Lucy immediately draws backward towards Austin at the mention of Ariana. Even Austin looks pissed that Kane just brought her up. It was safe to say that they still didn't like her even though she was dead. After everything I've heard, they had good reason to act this way. I would do the same. Kane's fake sister was an awful person and deserved everything that happened to her. It was time that Kane realized this as well. He had to see that they were using him; he had to see that their deaths were the best thing to happen to him. If they were still alive, they would have done something to make his life miserable. The fact that Eric had Kane's belongings as a child was enough proof that he planned on using them one day, just as Gabriella and Arthur had suspected. He would have used Kane's love for him to get Gabriella and her family under his command.

"You're a hybrid," Gabriella says, trying to remain calm. "So am I. As far as I know, Ariana wasn't one. How could she be your sister? You need to think about it, don't just listen to the lies Eric told you all these years; dig deep into your heart and see for yourself what it tells you. I know mine tells me that you are my brother and that I must protect you."

Kane's jaw clenched as his hands tightened into fists at his sides. He was trying his best to stay calm, but he was failing miserably. How long again before he completely snaps in front of us?

"We didn't have the same mother!" He hissed.

Gabriella pushes her hair back in frustration. Her forehead creases, and I know she's also becoming impatient with him. If they keep this up, they may clash physically and emotionally.

"Eric lied to you, Kane," Gabriella tells him as she throws her hands up in the air to show her frustration. "He lied to you. He was never your father. You may not believe me now, but when you see what I have with me, you'll understand that I'm speaking nothing but the truth. I have nothing to gain from claiming you are my brother. No money. No fame. All I can gain from this is my brother back, the same brother I've been searching for since I learned about him."

Kane takes a step towards her, and I notice the way Arthur tenses. The way he's standing tells me that he's ready to pounce on Kane if he tries anything crazy. "Tell me, what can you possibly have to show me today that will change my mind? It's true that you have nothing to gain from claiming that I'm your brother, but this isn't something that I can trust so easily. Anyone can claim that they are my sister. I need solid proof. Something that isn't made up."

Gabriella looks happy that he brought it up. I knew she was more than happy to show him what we had all found. She was waiting for the right opportunity to show it to everyone present here. I'm surprised that no one else has said anything up to now. I think this news has brought shock to everyone. They didn't know how to respond, and maybe they were just as skeptical as Kane was. But all of their doubts would disappear when they saw what Arthur was holding in his hand. No one had paid any attention to it yet. They didn't seem to find it weird that he was holding onto a blanket. Maybe they thought it belonged to Emma.

Gabriella nods suddenly, "I will tell you what you wish to know. We paid a visit to Eric's abandoned home. We searched and searched; I felt like giving up at one point and was lucky to have these two with me." She says as she points at Arthur and me. Kane again doesn't look my way, just like earlier. His actions are worrying me more than ever now. I was sure he was avoiding me. After being so open and honest with me, why would he completely shut me out right after? I don't have a chance to ponder that thought as I continue to listen to Gabriella, "because of them, I was able to find the evidence even when I thought Eric had possibly gotten rid of everything; we needed to prove that you are my brother and I knew that you wouldn't believe me unless I had evidence to support my claims. Remember I asked you if you ever had a locket like mine? Your answer was no, but that was because he kept it from you. I was disappointed with your response but soon realized that Eric wouldn't have kept it out in the open for anyone to see it and figure out who you were. He wasn't that stupid; he was crazy but definitely not stupid. He kept the truth, and he hid the evidence so that you wouldn't be able to find out who you were, not until he was ready to use it against you. He never got the chance to do it because he died. And I'm sorry that his death scarred you, but I'm f*****g happy that he's gone. He deserves it for what he put our family through. He deserves it for what he did to Austin and his family. He deserves it for what he did to you. I'm sure that he didn't treat you as his son; I'm sure that he made you suffer and sad at times. Suppose you've ever wondered why now you know. He never loved you because you were never his son. You were just another weapon that he didn't get a chance to use. You would have gone the rest of your life thinking this man was your father if I hadn't found you. Do you understand now how evil he was? Do you believe me now?"

Kane's eyes are wide, and he looks like he's about to go insane. I look at Maya, waiting for her to go toward him. I'm waiting for her to try and help him remain calm. She doesn't do any of that; if anything, she looks happy that this is happening. It's almost like she's glad to see him in pain. This is another sign that this woman was not the old Maya.

This was also another sign that I was his mate. I was the one that felt every shock and pain this news brought to him. His pain was mine. I felt like I was the one who'd just found out their whole life was a lie. And I'm the one that's dying to rush to him and remind him that everything will soon be okay.

"Stop lying!" Kane eventually roars as he glares at her. "How dare you say such nonsense about my father? He's dead! Dead! My sister is dead. They're both dead. Gone. They are no longer a part of this world. They're no longer here to prove that everything you say is bullshit. How can you try to make them out to be such villains? Why can't you just let them rest peacefully?"

Gabriella doesn't look surprised by his outburst. I'm not either. This may look bad, but we both knew he was beginning to see that she was telling the truth; it's why he's acting out more now. He's starting to realize that everything was indeed a lie, and it's taking a toll on him.

She looks at me, and I nod at her. It was time to show him the proof. There was no use keeping it from him now. He was ready. Without even realizing it, he was prepared to learn the truth.

Gabriella takes the blanket from Arthur; the locket is still wrapped inside. She's careful not to let it slip out.

She hands it to Kane, and even though he doesn't want to take it, he eventually does. His hands are shaking as he slowly unwraps it to reveal the locket inside.

His parents gasp as they recognize the blanket instantly. "Oh," his mother whispers as she stares at it lovingly. "I remember it like it were yesterday; I wrapped you in it. I remember. It was made just for you, my baby boy."

Kane swallows as his eyes scan the symbol in the blanket. He drops it onto the floor as he holds the locket in the air. I watch as the little thing swings in front of him. Kane is in denial. He's also in shock. He's now learning the truth, that his entire life was a lie. Everything he did for the people he thought was his family, all they did was betray him in the end. He gave them his heart, and they crushed it. And it may be even more challenging for him now that he knows they aren't here to fix the mess they caused. They aren't here for him to shout and curse at them. They're not here for him to get his closure for everything they've put him through. They died and got the easy way out, while he had to remain with all the nasty scars they left behind.

I want to hug him. I want to kiss the pain away. I wish it were never like this. I wish he were never taken away from his birth parents. I wish he didn't have to hurt so much. I wish things were different. And I wish there was a way for me to make this possible.

His eyes travel to the locket on Gabriella's neck. He stares at it for a couple of seconds before looking at the one in his hand. It looks tiny next to him, like he could crush it with the snap of a finger. He can see that the two of them are identical. I know that he knows she's telling the truth. I can see it in the broken way that he's standing. He knows. But he doesn't want to accept it. Not yet. He doesn't want to believe that the man he loved all his life was actually the villain in his story. He protected and fought for the honor of people that never loved him.

I bite my lips as I try to fight the tears that threaten to fall.

"This could all be a setup." Kane snaps suddenly. "How do I know you got this from his abandoned home? How do I know that you are telling the truth? Am I supposed to take your words for it? I'm not that stupid."

Gabriella's lips are trembling as she walks closer to him until she's standing close enough to hug him. "Look at me, Kane. What do I have to benefit from lying about something this big? The evidence is right here in front of you. If you don't want to believe the locket or the blanket or even the words coming out of my mouth. Take a second and dig deep within. Look inside. You can't tell me that you don't feel the connection. That you can't see that I'm your sister. Since the first time I saw you, I knew, I instantly knew that you were my brother. I didn't need this blanket or locket to tell me. If you don't accept this, I don't care, it will hurt, but you need to know the truth. I couldn't keep you in the dark. I needed you to know the truth about Eric and his daughter. I needed you to know because you deserved to know. You had to know how awful they truly were. They never deserved you. You must have known this. They never really loved you. You may try to believe otherwise, but I know deep down you can tell that everything I'm saying to you today is the truth."

Kane is quiet, and his silence is deafening. The entire room is quiet, not just him. It's a lot for everyone to take in. I know it took us a while to get used to all of this. I can't imagine how it was for everyone else around us.

"Again, you don't have to accept me as your sister. I want you to know that I will always protect you. I will always protect you because you are my brother. You are my twin, and I love you. Without knowing you for most of my life, I still love you with a fierceness that's hard to describe." Gabriella says as the tears continue to fall down her cheeks.

My heart breaks for the two of them. I want them both to be happy. How beautiful would it be if Kane finally accepted the truth? He would have this family that was waiting to accept him with open arms. A family that would actually love him and wants what's best for him. He wouldn't need to fight for their love or attention. They would happily give it to him without a second thought. All he had to do was let himself love them. He loved the wrong people in the past. This was his chance for a better life. He just had to allow himself to be happy. For once, I wish that he did what was right for him, no one else.

