



“Heck if I remember. I forgot it as soon as I opened my eyes!”

Percy shook his head then asked, “How did you find Owen?”

Owen squeezed her hand and gave her an encouraging smile.

Aliana took a deep breath, trying to calm her nerves, tightening her grip on his hand.

“I already told you my parents died two years ago. After their deaths, I was going through their files and found two copies of my birth certificate. One with my parents' names and another with the name of a woman I didn't know.” Aliana felt the pain rushing to the surface. “I looked through more of the files, and I found an adoption record from a lawyer here in London. It wasn't hard to put two and two together, and I realized I was adopted.” Aliana looked past everyone out the window, studying the lights of London.

“Your parents never told you?” Percy asked softly.

Shaking her head, Aliana put on her calm face, trying desperately to hide the sadness and betrayal she felt. “No, I confronted one of my father's closest friends, my godfather, and he told me it was true. I made it my mission to track down the woman on my original birth certificate, but all I found was an address here. So, I got on a plane and went to the address, but it was a cemetery. She had died after giving birth to me.”

Aliana bit her lip, forcing tears back.

“I found Aliana there that day,” Owen said. “The woman she had found was my aunt. I had gone to bring flowers to my mother and aunt's

graves and ended up bringing Aliana back to my place. We spent the night talking, getting to know each other. Luckily for Aliana, she now has a smashing cousin to look after her.”

“Whatever.” Aliana couldn’t help her watery giggle as Owen hugged her closer. “It’s more the other way around. I swear Owen can’t do a thing on his own. I don’t know how he managed to live to nineteen.” Owen retaliated, pinching her in the arm.

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