

CHAPTER 63: GRAYSON

Grayson, along with his sisters Savannah and Gigi, arrives at Kimberly Wright's home—their estranged aunt—after obtaining her address with ease. Nash and Xander wait outside, giving Grayson space to confront this familial encounter alone. As they approach the modest yellow house with barred windows, Grayson reflects on his growing acceptance of the twins as his sisters, despite lingering doubts about their bond. The trio is greeted by Kimberly, a brusque woman in a bathrobe, and her overweight dachshund, Cinnamon. Kimberly immediately recognizes their resemblance to her brother, hinting at the unresolved tension surrounding their father.

Inside the cluttered den, Gigi's forced cheerfulness masks deeper emotions, while Savannah remains composed. Kimberly observes Gigi's resemblance to her brother, Shep (later known as Sheffield Grayson), stirring mixed feelings in Grayson. The conversation turns somber as Savannah reveals their father's disappearance, clarifying he abandoned the family voluntarily. Kimberly reacts with shock, questioning why the police weren't involved, but Gigi insists their father chose to leave. Grayson notes Gigi's pain, reminding himself of his role in maintaining this narrative to protect the twins from darker truths.

Kimberly shares a framed photo of Shep as a teenager with his younger half-brother, Colin, offering a glimpse into their father's past. She recounts how Shep lived with her after their mother's death, caring for Colin while she worked. Grayson focuses on the name "Shep," avoiding deeper scrutiny of the photo. Kimberly reveals Shep distanced himself after college, abandoning his roots and adopting a new identity. Her bitterness is palpable as she describes his neglect of her family, though he remained close to Colin. This revelation adds layers to Grayson's understanding of his father's fractured relationships.

The chapter underscores Grayson's internal conflict as he navigates newfound family ties and the weight of his father's secrets. Kimberly's candid storytelling forces the siblings to confront their father's flaws and the impact of his choices. Grayson's protective instincts toward Gigi and Savannah clash with his own unresolved emotions. The visit leaves them with more questions than answers, highlighting the complexity of family bonds and the lingering scars of abandonment. The chapter closes with a sense of unfinished business, setting the stage for further revelations.

