

# Wynton

Wynton stands at the edge of a revelation he has long buried within himself, knowing that once spoken, it cannot be taken back. He hesitates, unwilling to shatter the fragile sense of normalcy he has managed to hold onto, so instead, he veers into the past. Rather than confronting the painful truth directly, he chooses to tell the stories of his ancestors, drawing upon the lives of those who came before to illuminate something far more significant than mere history. The room is quiet as he speaks, his voice carrying the weight of generations, each word weaving a tapestry of past struggles, betrayals, and destinies intertwined with his own. What begins as a tale of long-forgotten relatives soon transforms into something deeply personal, something that strikes closer to home than anyone could have anticipated. The stories are not just about the past; they hold up a mirror to the present, exposing wounds that have yet to heal.

As Wynton recounts the tale of Hector, an ancestor whose life was shaped by jealousy and resentment, an unsettling realization begins to take root. The similarities between his story and his own are undeniable, and as much as he wants to deny it, he feels the weight of that connection. The more he speaks, the more he understands that the echoes of Hector's struggles still live on, manifesting in his own fears, insecurities, and relationships. He tries to push the thought aside, to convince himself that he is nothing like the villainous figure whose name has been whispered through generations, but the resemblance is impossible to ignore. The jealousy, the longing for something just out of reach, the bitterness that festers in the absence of love—these are not just Hector's burdens; they are Wynton's, too. The realization is a sharp blade, cutting through the layers of denial he has carefully constructed around himself.

As the stories unfold, the room seems to shrink, the air growing heavier with each passing moment. Wynton's words carry an urgency now, as though he is desperate to

reach some kind of understanding before it is too late. He speaks of the patterns that have shaped his family—of betrayal passed down like an heirloom, of love lost and found again only to be lost once more. He sees himself reflected in these narratives, sees his own mistakes and shortcomings woven into the very fabric of his lineage. He wonders if it is possible to escape a fate that seems preordained, if he can break free from the cycles that have ensnared those before him. The thought terrifies him, because the answer is unclear, and for the first time, he is forced to confront the possibility that he may not be able to change what has already been set in motion.

When Cassidy finally speaks, her voice is steady but tinged with emotion. She reassures Wynton that despite everything—despite the weight of their shared past, despite the pain that lingers between them—they are okay. The words are simple, but they hold power, grounding him in the present even as the past looms over him. For a moment, it is enough. But then, just as suddenly as it came, the moment is gone. The scent of flowers that had lingered in the air dissipates, replaced by something colder, something emptier. Wynton realizes that while he may have found solace in Cassidy's words, the battle within himself is far from over. The past is still there, waiting, whispering, urging him to acknowledge the truth he has yet to speak aloud. And until he does, the weight of history will continue to press down upon him, a silent reminder of the choices that have yet to be made.