

# THE LOST BROTHER

## CHAPTER 4



ELSEWHERE IN TOWN...





ALEX?




HEY  
SAPPHIE.

HOW ARE  
YOU DOING?


NOT BAD...

ACTUALLY...  
TERRIBLE.






I'M SORRY,  
ALEX.  
THEY'LL PROBABLY  
BRING YOUR BROTHER  
BACK SOON.



I CAN'T EVEN FIND  
OUT WHERE THEY'VE  
TAKEN HIM.  
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...  
WHY HIM?!

I MEAN,  
THERE WERE  
OTHER PEOPLE WITH  
HIM AND MOST OF  
THEM ARE STILL  
HERE.




WERE  
THERE ANY  
OTHER KIDS  
TAKEN?

YEAH, TWO  
OTHERS. BUT THE  
ADULTS AND THE REST  
OF THE KIDS WERE LEFT  
HERE...I DON'T GET  
IT.



THE POLICE SAID  
THEY'RE NOT EVEN LOOKING  
FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WERE  
TAKEN. THEY SAY IT ISN'T A  
MISSING PERSONS CASE  
BECAUSE EVERYONE KNOWS  
WHERE THEY WENT.






ALEX, I HATE SEEING YOU LIKE THIS. YOU HAVE TO NOT WORRY ABOUT THIS. BELIA AND THEREON SAID THAT EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE BETTER MOVING FORWARD.

THE WHOLE WORLD'S FULL OF HOPE NOW. YOU JUST HAVE TRUST THAT IT'S ALL GOING TO WORK OUT.

WHO'S THEREON?!



LEO THEREON.  
THEY JUST ANNOUNCED IT.  
HE'S THE NEW LEADER OF THE  
EUROPEAN REGION. HIS REGION  
IS GOING TO BE IN CHARGE OF  
ALL THE GLOBAL  
REGIONS.



THEY'RE PROMISING *PEACE*,  
ALEX!




I WISH THEY'D  
BRING PEACE TO MY  
HOUSE!

MY PARENTS HAVE BEEN AT EACH  
OTHERS' THROATS, THE BUSINESS  
ISN'T GOING WELL, THE PRICE OF  
COPPER IS DOWN, AND MY DAD'S  
WORRIED HE'S GOING TO HAVE  
TO START SELLING OFF  
ASSETS.



BUT...THERE ARE NEW THINGS, ALEX. WE HAVE TO START LOOKING AT HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER...WORK WITH THE PLANET...WORK WITH EACH OTHER!

THIS PLANET ISN'T SOMETHING TO HAVE DOMINION OVER AND USE FOR OUR OWN PURPOSES. IT'S SOMETHING TO BE TREASURED AND WORSHIPED. IT GIVES US LIFE...WE'RE CONNECTED TO IT.



IT'S BETTER  
THIS WAY, ALEX.  
LOOK TO YOURSELF TO FIND  
PEACE, TO FIND HAPPINESS...  
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE IT  
ON YOUR OWN. YOU DON'T HAVE TO  
RELY ON YOUR PARENTS. GO DO  
WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.  
ACCOMPLISH WHAT YOU WANT  
TO ACCOMPLISH.

SHE'S RIGHT,  
ALEX.




OH!  
IT'S YOU.

IT'S TIME TO  
START LOOKING  
FORWARD, ALEX. IT'S  
GREAT THAT YOU CARE ABOUT  
YOUR FAMILY, BUT WHAT  
ABOUT YOU. WHAT DO  
YOU WANT?






I JUST WANT TO  
KNOW WHERE MY  
BROTHER IS.



ALEX, YOU  
KNOW WHERE HE IS.  
HE HAD TO BE TAKEN  
AWAY. WE HAVE TO UNDO  
ALL THAT DAMAGE THAT  
WAS DONE TO HIM. ALL  
THOSE WICKED THINGS  
HE WAS EXPOSED  
TO.


A 3D animated scene set outdoors. On the left, a woman with short purple hair and green eyes sits at a wooden table, her hands clasped. She wears a dark red sweater with a diamond pattern. In the center, a woman in a dark brown hooded robe stands with a neutral expression. On the right, a man with dark hair is seen from the back, gesturing with his right hand towards the woman in the robe. A white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned between the man and the woman in the robe, containing the text "YOU MEAN, CHURCH?". The background features a white building with a balcony and a stone wall with a window box containing yellow flowers.

YOU MEAN, CHURCH?

A 3D animated scene showing two characters sitting at a wooden table in the foreground. The character on the left has short purple hair and is wearing a dark red sweater with a diamond pattern. The character on the right has dark hair and is wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt. In the background, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark hooded robe, stands in front of a stone building with a window box containing yellow flowers. The scene is set outdoors during the day.


YES, ALEX.  
TERRIBLE PLACES!  
PLACES OF WASTED  
OPPORTUNITIES.

THESE PLACES  
COULD HAVE BEEN USED  
TO BRING PEOPLE  
TOGETHER BUT INSTEAD  
THEY FOSTERED  
DISSENSION.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. OUR CHURCH ISN'T LIKE THAT. WE'RE AN INCLUSIVE CHURCH. WE ACCEPT PEOPLE FOR WHO THEY ARE. WE DON'T JUDGE THEM. WE TELL EVERYONE THAT GOD DOESN'T JUDGE THEM EITHER.

WE DON'T DO ALL THAT "FIRE AND BRIMSTONE" STUFF. WE TALK ABOUT HOW GOD WANTS TO HELP US REACH OUR GOALS AND ACHIEVE OUR DREAMS.

A 3D animated scene showing three characters. On the left, a woman with short purple hair and a red and black checkered sweater sits at a wooden table, her hands clasped. In the center, a woman with long dark hair in a black hooded robe stands and gestures with her right hand. On the right, a man with long dark hair and a white shirt is seen from the back, also at the table. The background features a white building with windows and a stone wall. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the scene.


AND BELIA WILL  
HELP YOU WITH ALL  
THOSE THINGS. HE'S  
PUT THEREON IN  
CHARGE.

NOW YOU  
DON'T HAVE TO GO  
PRAY TO AN INVISIBLE  
GOD. YOU CAN ASK  
THEREON AND HE'LL HELP  
YOU...WE'LL ALL HELP  
YOU.



SEE ALEX, IT'S  
BETTER THIS WAY.  
IT'S LIKE SEEING  
GOD IN PERSON...


AND YOU CAN SEE  
THAT HE CARES ABOUT  
YOU AND THE THINGS  
YOU WANT!



BUT I STILL DON'T GET  
IT. WHY ARE ALL THESE  
PEOPLE FROM MY CHURCH  
STILL HERE BUT MY  
BROTHER'S GONE?!

WAS THERE  
ANYONE ELSE WHO  
TALKED TO YOUR  
BROTHER ABOUT  
GOD?






JUST OUR  
GRANDMOTHER. SHE'D  
TELL HIM BIBLE STORIES  
ALL THE TIME.




I EVEN REMEMBER  
WHEN OUR MOM WAS  
PREGNANT WITH HIM. MY  
GRANDMOTHER WOULD READ  
THE BIBLE TO HER STOMACH  
SO HE'D HEAR ABOUT  
JESUS.

MY BROTHER COULD TELL  
YOU THE CHRISTMAS STORY  
JUST ABOUT AS SOON AS HE  
COULD TALK!




WHEN...WHEN SHE  
DIED, SHE LEFT HIM HER  
BIBLE. HE KEPT THAT THING BY  
HIS BED AND READ IT EVERY  
NIGHT BEFORE HE WENT TO  
SLEEP.




I'M SURE HER  
INTENSIONS WERE GOOD  
BUT I'M AFRAID SHE  
CAUSED HIM GREAT  
HARM.

THE OLD STORIES  
IN THAT BOOK WERE JUST  
MEANT TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM  
KILLING EACH OTHER. BUT AS  
YOU EVOLVED, YOU BECAME  
MORE CIVILIZED. YOU DIDN'T  
NEED THAT BOOK  
ANYMORE.




WE GAVE YOU GREAT SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO USE THOSE THINGS FOR YOUR BENEFIT...TO PLEASE YOURSELVES AND ACHIEVE THE THINGS YOU WANTED. UNFORTUNATELY, THOSE WHO HELD ONTO THOSE OLD STORIES WERE LIMITING ALL OF YOU, AND THEMSELVES.

IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU WERE A SMALL CHILD. YOUR PARENTS TOLD YOU THAT YOU CAN'T DO CERTAIN THINGS. THEY DID THIS TO PROTECT YOU. BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE OLDER, YOU DON'T HAVE THOSE RESTRICTIONS ANYMORE, BECAUSE YOU'VE LEARNED HOW TO DO THINGS YOURSELF. YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT AND YOU GO GET IT!




HOW LONG DO YOU  
THINK IT WILL TAKE TO  
UNDO THE DAMAGE? I  
MEAN, COULD HIS  
BROTHER BE BACK  
SOON?




WE'LL JUST HAVE TO  
SEE HOW HE RESPONDS TO THE  
THERAPY. IT SOUNDS LIKE HE HAD  
A DEEP BELIEF IN THESE THINGS.  
IT TAKES TIME TO UNDO ALL  
THAT.

IT'S SAD TO SEE WHAT  
PEOPLE PUT THESE KIDS  
THROUGH...




SORRY, ALEX. I'M  
SURE YOUR  
GRANDMOTHER WASN'T  
**TRYING** TO HURT HIM.  
SHE JUST DIDN'T  
KNOW.




THAT'S WHY WE'RE IN  
THE SCHOOLS NOW.  
WE'RE TRYING TO PREVENT  
ANY OF THESE OLD  
SUPERSTITIONS FROM  
TAKING HOLD AGAIN.

WE'VE GONE  
INTO THE RELIGIOUS  
SCHOOLS TOO, AND  
REMOVED THEIR BOOKS.  
THE TEACHERS THAT ARE  
LEFT, ALREADY KNEW THAT  
EVERYONE'S BEEN  
WORSHIPING THE SAME  
GOD ALL THIS TIME  
ANYWAY.

BUT THAT GOD IS HERE NOW. THEY  
DON'T HAVE TO RELY ON THOSE OLD  
BOOKS. THEY CAN LEARN FROM BELIA  
HIMSELF, THROUGH THEREON.




SEE,  
ALEX. ALL THIS  
STUFF IS GETTING FIXED.  
THEY'RE GOING TO GET US  
THROUGH ALL THIS. YOUR  
BROTHER WILL BE BACK  
BEFORE YOU KNOW  
IT.



I KNOW IT'S  
HARD, ALEX. UNFORTUNATELY,  
THIS IS WHAT THE WORLD HAS TO GO  
THROUGH. IT HAS TO BE  
CLEANSED.

THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF  
DAMAGE DOESN'T GET FIXED  
OVERNIGHT...BUT IT *IS* GETTING FIXED.  
JUST HANG IN THERE...



IT ISN'T ABOUT THESE  
OLD SUPERSTITIONS  
ANymore...  
IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU!