

Back to Jack

by Posse Gal Sue

Erica sat on the bench staring at the gravestone in front of her. The warm breeze blew gently across her cheek as crickets could be heard chirping in the distance. Erica felt a calm pass over her. It was the first time in months that Erica felt as if she could breathe. Detox had been even harder this time as she had been alone until Ryan and Kendall had shown up. Kendall had been the one that was finally able to reach Erica. Erica's mind flashed back to the moment she realized just how badly things had gotten.

"For god's sake Erica. While you have been prancing around in a costume and boozing it up here in Vegas, your family has fallen apart. Bianca struggles each and every day not to fall in that deep hole that keeps pulling at her. Reggie feels abandoned by you. Lily ran away from school and is now living with Jack, who by the way is trying to be strong for all of us, when all he really wants to do is come save your ass. You're killing him Erica. It is little by little, but every time you walk away from him, the knife twists a little further. Yet still he loves you. I truly thank god that he didn't come here for sure."

After Kendall had stormed out, Erica started breaking things. Anything she could pick up was tossed at the walls until not a single thing remained intact, except the large mirror above the bar. Her eyes moved to look at the person standing in front of her. The woman that Erica was looking at bore no resemblance to Erica Kane. Picking up the already broken chair, Erica slammed the wood into Desiree's reflection. The glass shattered into thousands of pieces; thousands of pieces that would never be able to be put back together again. "This is what I've become," she whispered.

"I'm scared mom. What if he doesn't want me anymore? What if this time I pushed him away for good?" Erica's head dropped into her hands; she couldn't help the tears that began to fall down her cheeks.

"I told you I'd be here when you came home."

Erica heard the words but hesitated, knowing that the possibility existed that the words she had heard were only in her head, and not

wanting to feel the disappointment when she looked up to find herself alone.

“Erica, look at me, sweetheart.”

Feeling as if her heart was going to explode, Erica gathered up every ounce of courage she had, and raised her head. Her tear-filled eyes slowly made eye contact with Jack’s.

“I told you I’d be here when you came home,” he repeated.

Erica knew then what she had to do. Not caring about the broken glass at her feet, Erica moved across the room to her purse. She emptied the contents onto the floor and reached for her cell phone. With trembling hands she dialed the numbers to her lifeline, praying silently that he would be home, and that he would listen to what she had to say. It seemed to take hours for the rings to start, and Erica closed her eyes, waiting for him to pick up.

“Jack Montgomery,” was what she finally heard. She almost hung up, but knew that if she did, she would never find her way back. She couldn’t help the tears that came, but managed to choke out his name. “Jackson?”

Jack’s heart leapt at the sound of her voice, but was instantly concerned as he heard her sobs. “Sweetheart, what’s wrong? Is Ryan with you?”

“Jackson, I need help,” she whispered, “I can’t stop drinking.”

Jack closed his eyes and said a silent thank you, and then opened his eyes, knowing that this was Erica’s first step in coming back to him. “Erica, come home and we will get you the help that you need. We can fight this together baby, but you have to come home.”

“No,” was her simple reply.

“Erica, I can’t come to Vegas. Lily is here and I can’t leave her. Everything is too new and she needs time to adjust. Please, just let Ryan bring you home.” Jack waited nervously for her to speak.

“Jackson, I have to do this on my own. I just needed to hear your voice. I needed to feel your strength before I get help. And I needed to tell you that I’m sorry.” Erica’s sobs came harder as she repeated the words, “I’m so sorry!”

Jack’s heart broke as he heard the agony in Erica’s voice. He wanted so badly to hold her in his arms, kiss away all her tears. He knew that what she was about to go through would be one of the hardest things she had ever gone through in her life and he wanted to be there to help her do it. But knowing that she had to go through this alone, he said the one thing that she needed to hear most of all.

“I’ll be here when you come home.”

Erica sat glued to the bench, the calmness she had felt when she had first sat down was gone, and her hands clenched together nervously. Jack slowly made his way towards her and carefully sat down next to her, wanting to pull her into his arms, but knowing that the move had to be hers. “I love you Erica,” he whispered.

Erica began to tremble at his words. Her head was spinning as the familiar self-doubt entered her mind. “You hurt him again Erica. That’s all you ever do. You’re not worth it. You don’t deserve him.”

Jack could see the turmoil in her eyes. Knowing her better than anyone else, he knew that she was doubting herself and knew that he had to make her see just what he felt about her. He gently touched her face and lovingly said, “Erica Kane, I have loved you from the very first moment I was blessed to lay eyes on you. You mean absolutely everything to me. When you are away from me, it’s as if my heart actually stops beating, and it doesn’t start again until you are back in my arms. The last few weeks have been torture for me, knowing what you must be going through, and not being able to help you through it. We have so much to work out between us but I think you are worth it. Erica, I think that we are worth it. And I pledge to you right now that we will work things out together, hand in hand. I will be in your life and by your side from this moment on. You are my heart.”

Erica watched as a single tear made it’s way down Jack’s cheek. With trembling fingers she reached up and wiped it away, knowing in that instant that she was ready to take the leap off that cliff. She knew

that Jack would be there to catch her and she knew that from this point on she would never be alone again. She still had months of therapy and years of AA meetings ahead of her. She had relationships that needed repairing and knew that things were never going to be the same for any of them ever again. But she was finally going to listen to her heart, and she was no longer afraid. "You are my heart," she whispered as she moved closer to him, "and I love you."

Jack's arms closed tightly around her small waist as hers wrapped around his neck. Two souls once again joined together, two hearts became one. "Welcome home Erica," Jack said through his tears, "welcome home, my love."