

120 Wedding gift.

Jason and Jacob exchanged glances when they saw how effortlessly Aiden catered to Arwen's preferences. It had started with just pulling out a chair for her, but now it was about every detail—from slicing her steak just the way she liked it to pouring her water before she even asked. 1

Even Arwen was surprised. She thought it was normal until she realized his attention to her was instinctual. His hands moved with such a natural grace and care that it made her feel adored.

"Though I knew he always had someone in his heart who meant a world for him, but still I didn't peg him for the doting type. Seeing him like this, feels like I am seeing a complete different person," Jason whispered. 2

Jacob chuckled, shaking his head. "Guess we all underestimated this side of him and the influence Arwen had always held on him," he murmured, watching as Aiden leaned in to ask Arwen if she wanted something else.

When Arwen caught their looks, she gently elbowed Aiden and then raised her brows as if she couldn't understand why they are being

stared. "Is something wrong?" she asked.

Jason grinned, waving his hand. "Not at all. We are just ... admiring the change," he teased, lifting his glass to toast. "To Aiden, who is proving that even he can be tamed." 1

Aiden only smirked in response. His eyes glanced over Arwen, who looked both amused and slightly embarrassed. Biting her lower lips gently, she was ready to stand up for him, but before she could, Aiden placed his hand gently over hers on the table, making her turn to look at him. "It's not taming if it's my choice," he said quietly, his gaze never wavering from hers.

Arwen's cheeks warmed, and she couldn't help but let a small smile escape. She held his gaze, feeling the warmth of his hand over hers.

Jason snorted softly, exchanging another look with Jacob. "Well, I think I have seen it all. Now, even if I died now, I won't have any regrets."

Arwen pushed a dish towards him and prompted him to try it. When Jason picked it up to serve himself, she said, "Dr. Clark, it's too early to talk about regrets. After all, you have yet to get married; you never know."

Jacob chuckled, and just when Jason would have

said something, he cut him off, saying, "Sure, it's way too early for regrets. After all, the entire Clark family is waiting to see him settle down. Isn't that right, Jason?"

Jason rolled his eyes. With a smirk tugging at his lips, he tried to brush off the teasing. "Oh, there is no pressure. I can take my time. Some of us don't need to be in a rush, right?"

Jacob stared at him with amused interest for a moment, laughing out unfazed the next second. "Taking your time? That's one way to put it. But I am sure your mom must be calling it 'stalling' at this point. As far as I have heard, she has got a whole list of 'lovely, respectable prospects' for you."

"Let her keep her lists," Jason shot a glare before adding, "I am pretty sure that half of those 'lovely prospects' of hers don't even know what I look like."

Arwen joined in smiling, finding all these very interesting. "Maybe then it's your time to surprise everyone, Dr. Clark. Imagine the look on your mom's face if you showed up with someone completely unexpected!"

Aiden smirked, his hand still gently resting over

Arwen's. "Or maybe you just need a bit of motivation," he said, sending a knowing glance to Jason. "Find someone who makes you want to slice their steak and pour their water without a second thought."

Jason feigned a dramatic shudder, earning laughter from everyone. "I don't know, brother. You make it sound like an illness," he teased. "I think I would rather be cautious around this 'motivation' business."

Jacob clapped on his shoulder with a grin. "Then you will keep hearing from your mom about those 'lovely candidates', buddy. And we will keep waiting — at least someday someone will finally tame the good doctor."

Jason turned and raised an accusing finger at his friend. "You —" and everyone once again started laughing.

And as the laughter and teasing continued around the table, Arwen felt a warmth she hadn't known in years — a sense of belonging, of home, wrapped in Aiden's gentle yet steadfast attention.

After a while, the wholesome dinner finally came to an end. While Aiden settled the bill, Jacob

pulled out a file he had brought with him earlier. Pushing it towards Arwen, he said, "Arwen, this is for you. From both of us."

Arwen looked down at the file briefly before furrowing her brows in confusion. "This ..."

"The one that's been pending for a good while now, I guess" Jason replied, adding, "Your wedding gift. Being Aiden's friends, this was something we owed you."

Arwen's gaze darted to look at Aiden, not knowing whether it was even right to accept. The way the file was compiled, she could already tell that it was something very expensive.

Aiden nodded to her. "Accept it. When the time comes we will also be giving them the gifts as well. It's just a matter of time."

Arwen was speechless. But with that said, she could anyway not refuse it. Glancing up, she shifted her gaze between Jason and Jacob before accepting the file. "Thank you," she said, though Jason prompted her to open and see.

Taking a breath, she nodded and opened the file, her eyes widening in surprise.

Inside was an intricately bound portfolio

containing an array of exclusive documents and certificates. The first page held a beautifully written letter, addressed to her from Jason and Jacob –

"To Arwen,

As friends to the man who treasures you, it's our honour to gift you with something we hope will support and inspire you in all the ways you deserve. May this be the beginning of a life filled with freedom, wellness, and security, knowing you are as valued by us as you are by Aiden." 9

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