

What Happens In Vegas - Free Novel by C. Qualls

Epilogue

Fredrick's POV

Julia smiles as she's wheeled into the operating room. I wink at her. "I'll be right behind you, love." The nurse hands me a funny looking cap and gown. I slip it on and follow the nurse into the room. Julia is laid out.

The anesthesiologist opens an alcohol wipe then runs it over her arm. "Is this cold?"

She nods, "Yes."

He moves to her abdomen. "Do you feel anything?" She shakes her head. "No."

Doctor Burns points out a stool to me. I sit near Julia's head. I take her hand. "Are you ready?"

She nods. "Of course. This isn't anything new, you know." I smile. I'm a little nervous, I'm not going to lie. Julia can tell. "Deep breaths, Fredrick." I chuckle and kiss my wife.

Doctor Burns announces as she works. "She is definitely breach. We got a little butt." She works on pulling the baby out of Julia.

The baby is tiny. Doctor Burns gets her out and puts her in a nurse's arms. The baby begins squawking. Julia has a tear in her eye. I kiss her head. "She's here, love. She's just as beautiful as her mommy."

Julia smiles. The little bundle is placed in my arms. I kiss her pink cheeks and lay her on Julia's chest. "Olivia Rose." Julia kisses her little cheeks.

"Rose?"

Julia nods. "Look at her perfect rosy cheeks."

I kiss my wife. "It suits her."

Julia has the best room in the hospital. She's taking a nap as I bounce our newborn in my arms. This is one of my favorite parts. Olivia is as sweet as candy. I know this little angel already has me wrapped around her finger, just like her mommy. A knock sounds at the door. "Enter."

Shannon waddles in with Corey, my two boys Miles and Adam, and their son Chet. Miles rushes over, pulling his little brother behind him. I squat down so the boys can see their sister. "Daddy, can I hold her?"

I walk to the chair. "Come on, bud." Miles and Adam climb up and sit together. I lay Olivia in their outstretched arms. I hug Shannon and Corey in turn. "Shannon, how much longer does Olivia have to wait for her new best friend."

She huffs and sits in the chair next to Julia's bed. "This girl is even more stubborn than Jules. I'm already a week over due, and this lucky brat goes into labor two weeks early. So unfair."

Corey and I both chuckle. "In all fairness, she did have a c-section."

Shannon rolls her eyes. "Like I said, lucky brat."

Julie's stirs. "Hey. Who you calling brat?" I lean over to kiss my beautiful wife.

Olivia starts to quietly squawk. I take her from Miles and Adam and hand her to Julia. Julia presses the baby to her breast. I'm reminded of a dream I had a long time ago, when we were first married. I can't believe it's already been seven years. So much has happened since then. Miles came to us because Shelby got a life sentence for her roll in our first child's feticide along with attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Miles is our son. Shelby doesn't even know where he went. Adam came three years later just like Olivia, backward.

For our first wedding anniversary, Julia and I got re-married the right way, with family and friends there as witnesses. It was a magical day. The sky and the waters were clear, the flowers were fragrant, and my Angel in a flowing white summer dress was radiant. I remember how her dress and hair danced in the gentle breezes. It was a perfect day. We were married on the beach of St. John Virgin islands. I had the officiant from Vegas, Marcia perform the ceremony. It was actually a double wedding. Corey and Shannon tied the knot right after we said our vows.

A knock sounds at the door. I look to Julia. "Are you good?"

She smiles. “Yep. She’s all done. Do you want to burp her, daddy?”

I take my daughter and rub her back. “Enter.” Brianna and Anthony walk into the room. Brianna steps up to give Julia a hug and a tiny pink blanket.

“Bree, it’s beautiful. Did you make it?”

She shakes her head. “No way. I don’t have the time or talent. Mama made it.”

Julia wraps the baby into a fluffy pink burrito, then hands her to Brianna. “Fredrick, did you call Daddy?”

I nod. “Of course I did.”

We spend three days at the hospital before Julia and Olivia are released. Tom greets us at the door. “Where is she? Where’s my granddaughter?”

Gerry smacks his shoulder. “Babe, let them get through the door first, goodness.”

Julia laughs. “Gerry. Don’t beat him too much, he’s old and fragile.” Gerry gives Julia the stink eye, the same way she does every time Julia comments on their age difference. They got married two years ago. Tom was hesitant because he didn’t want Gerry to feel like a nursemaid to him. They live in the guesthouse because they wanted to be close by for the grand kids and still have space. Julia loves that Gerry is her stepmom. She’s told me many times. I set the carrier on the ground then get the baby out. I place Olivia in his arms. He sheds a tear as he looks at his precious granddaughter.

All the guys and their significant others come over for a barbecue to celebrate the arrival of baby Olivia. After Brianna joined the group, I added two more guys, Beans and Corey's brother Casey. And two more women, Sasha and Mila. Corey is my best friend. He walks with a limp now, ever since getting shot in the leg. He has retired as my head guard, but continues to work as Head Security. Darius took over his responsibilities. Mitchell took over the PR department. He got married and is no longer a guard. Anthony made a near-full recovery. His knee never fully healed. He wasn’t happy about Brianna becoming a guard, but in the end, it was her decision. Everyone else is still around.

Mrs. Bailey helps Gerry bring the food out. The kids are in the pool with a few of the guards. Julia is seated at the table with Shannon and Brianna while I

play host. Julia is eating a Popsicle. I lean over her shoulder and steal a bite. "Hey, get your own."

I kiss her cheek. "I don't eat sweets."

She rolls her eyes. "That's because you don't know what's good for you, food snob."

I pull a chair up and sit beside her. "Are you okay?"

She lays her head on my shoulder. "I'm good. Just a little sore."

I kiss her head. "Where's the baby?"

She points down the table to Mr. Harvey. "Roberta has her."

Shannon sets her drink down on the table. "Where's Corey?"

I look around. "He's getting Chet out of the pool."

"Fredrick, would you mind getting him for me please, my water just broke."

Her face is flushed and she's breathing hard. I stand up and whistle. Everyone stops what they're doing. "Corey. Hand Chet off to James. Your wife needs you to take her to the hospital." James takes Chet from Corey. Corey hustles over to the table.

Julia hands Shannon a towel. "Don't worry about Chet. He can hang out with the boys." Shannon nods and lets out a breath.

Corey takes Shannon away and the get-together continues long into the evening. Julia's phone rings. Everyone quiets down. "Hey Corey." Everyone waits. "Awesome. Love ya." She hangs up. "Little girl. They named her Callie Julianne. Seven pounds twelve ounces. Mom and baby are fine." Everyone cheers. After a while Julia stands up. "All right you guys. You know I love you all, but mamma is tired. You all gotta go." Most of the guys were already packing it up, but they all still jeer and boo anyway. Julia gives out hugs and kisses then takes the baby inside. I shake hands and follow in behind her.

Mrs. Bailey has already given. The boys their baths. Julia is in bed nursing Olivia. I lay down on my stomach beside her. I kiss my little Angel's head then my beautiful Angel's breast. "Fredrick. How did I get so lucky?"

I shake my head. "I'm the lucky one." Julia hands the baby to me. I burp her and lay her in her bassinet.

"Mommy, read story." Little Adam toddles into our room with his favorite book clenched in his chubby little arms. His light brown hair is still spiky from his bath. I pick up the little guy and lift him high in the air. He giggles as I set him on the bed next to Julia. He cuddles up to her and she begins the story.

In no time at all, I'm carrying him back to his room and tucking him in, and kissing him goodnight. I go to the next room where the two older boys are still playing. "Okay boys. Bedtime." I pull out the trundle for Chet. He's used to sleeping here. He's just a few months younger than Miles, and they're the best of friends. We like to tease Shannon and Corey about how they got pregnant on their wedding night too. I tuck the boys in and kiss them goodnight, then return to my perfect wife.

She's already asleep with my pillow in her arms. I chuckle to myself and shake my head. I carefully adjust her off of my side just enough to slip in beside her. She automatically readjusts so she's laying on my chest. I kiss her head. "Goodnight, love."

Writers note

I want thank you all for taking the time to read my book. I hope you enjoyed it. I have many ideas for more stories and I hope you continue to share my various worlds with me. You all inspire me to continue sharing my thoughts.

If you enjoyed the book, please take a moment to leave a comment, feedback, or rating. This helps so others can find the story. It also helps me become a better writer.