

Epilogue 1

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Grace

~Six Months Later...

A lot can happen in six months.

Your life can change for the worse.

But you can also turn your life around, make it so much better that the past stops to matter.

Something like that has happened for me.

I have finally managed to turn my life around.

I am finally doing what I always wanted. I am studying for my Master's at a University near the Roberto mansion. I am living with the Roberto family, and Tristin can sneak into my room any time he wants.

He says that is the only interesting activity in his boring life. And I can't agree more.

He works like a robot but still comes back home to sleep in the same bed as me. He clings to me like a lost puppy and makes me feel like I am someone precious with his words and his actions.

"I don't want her to move away." Tristin mumbles, coming to stand beside me and breaking me out of the trance.

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I watch the perfect couple dancing in the middle of the dancing floor and sigh. It feels so...heart-touching to see Ania wearing a beautiful white wedding gown and smiling so brightly.

People still talk about her, just the way they talk about me. But they won't dare say anything to her face.

It's her happy day, her wedding day, and Tristin will annihilate anyone who tries to ruin it for her.

When she twirls around in Luca's arms, her eyes meet mine, and a smile spreads on her lips. It's strange that my one true friend is Tristin's sister—someone I would have never imagined as a friend.

But it feels like things were always meant to be like this.

I can go anywhere with her and talk about anything without getting judged for it. She has changed me into a little happier version of myself, and I think when she looks at me, she does realize that she is so lucky to have Alma and Tristin as her family.

I return Ania's smile, my eyes softening. I wish...she never spends a bad moment in her life and continues to shine like this.

"I really don't want her to move away." Tristin repeats when I don't say anything for a long time.

"Don't tell me you bought that mansion beside the Roberto mansion to gift it to her." I grumble, finally giving attention to the hungry puppy by my side.

Even his eyes are starting to resemble that of a puppy. He just can't

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leave me alone. He wants attention all the time, and if I don't look at him when he is talking to me, he continues to touch me or move closer until I do.

Tristin scrunches his nose. "It's the perfect gift. She can have her privacy right beside our house."

"You are not serious." I sigh.

"What makes you think that?" He grins, leaning in to kiss my lips without giving a damn about what people think about us.

"Tristin Roberto, get married already! You are older than Ania, and you are keeping me waiting." Alma huffs as she moves past us with a champagne glass in her hand.

Tristin draws his head back. "Mom, will you ever stop bothering us?"

"No." Alma giggles and continues to walk towards Ania and Luca.

I chuckle, watching Tristin sigh. "Let's go on a walk."

"And leave Ania's reception party?" I lift my brows.

"It's not like we will be gone for the whole night." Tristin takes my hand and starts to walk towards the garden behind the venue.

I glance back at Ania to find her grinning at me. I shake my head.

We are not going to do anything naughty, but Ania always has the weirdest ideas about me and Tristin because she knows how he sneaks into my room every night.

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I glance at Tristin's hand around mine and release a soft breath. I can never get used to him holding onto me. It's like my heart refuses to settle into a calm rhythm whenever he is this close.

My lips ease into a smile as we leave the chaotic party behind and stroll along the path surrounded by flowers. A flowery fragrance spreads into the air, relaxing my tense muscles instantly.

"Are you happy?" Tristin asks, leading me to the railing in the distance.

From here, we can gaze at the still lake. The moon reflects in the water, forming a beautiful silvery circle.

My heart flutters before settling in my chest. My eyes turn glassy, the emotions overwhelming me.

"I am...really happy." I whisper.

The past six months have been the best time of my life. At the start, I wondered if a problem would arise again, but my doubts cleared, and my anxiety subsided with time.

Because...they were always by my side. Ania, Alma and Tristin.

Even with all their flaws, they are the best people I have met in my whole life. They care for me in weird ways, and with them, life never gets boring.

Alma, who gets excited over little things and wants me to do what makes me happy...

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Ania, who wants me to loosen up and have fun so I can finally enjoy my life...

And Tristin...this man who is like a cold wall to others, but as warm as a soft blanket for me...a man who can forget his anger and vengeance for me, and a man who made me believe in love again...

I have never admitted it.

But they have become my family. The only true family I have ever had.

I have come to love them, and every day, I want to become stronger so I can fit in with them.

I no longer worry about what I will do if they ever disappear from my life.

The memories I have made with me, the love I have received from them, will be enough for a lifetime.

"How happy?" Tristin asks as we both stare at the moon's reflection in the lake.



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