

Epilogue 2

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Grace

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

My loose, wavy hair sways with the cold breeze, and my heart swells with peace.

"I don't know. I just know...I can feel the happiness deep in my heart, and it's not a kind of happiness that's fleeting. It's a kind that will settle into my bones and become a part of me. Whenever I remember these moments, I will always smile, Tristin." I whisper, my eyes beginning to burn with the intensity of emotions.

"Do you remember what you said to me?" Tristin grins, turning to face me.

I take my eyes off the beautiful view and look at him, my heart fluttering at the sight. "What?"

"You said I should ask you when you are really happy, and you will say yes." Tristin smiles, the gesture reaching his eyes and brightening them like two stars in the dark night.

My breath catches in my throat. Instinctively, I take a step back from him, my heartbeat escalating until it's all I can hear drumming in my ears.

"So...if you are really happy..." Tristin steps back, just like me.

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My eyes widen as he lowers himself to his knee and pulls something out of his pocket. I cover my mouth with my palms, heat surging throughout my body.

"So..." He opens the small box, showing me the ring sitting inside. The ring is made of white gold. Small diamonds line up the band and highlight the blue diamond in the middle. The blue jewel is the color of his eyes.

"Will you marry me, Grace?" Tristin stares at me, a small, nervous smile on his lips.

I open my mouth to say something, but nothing comes out. I need to say Yes. I need to tell him that I really—really want this.

But my throat is too clogged, and my eyes are already welling with tears.

"Technically, you already said that you will, so you can't go back on your words." Tristin blurts when I don't say anything for a long time.

That makes me laugh and nod. He knows how to get me to talk when things get hard.

"I really won't go back—on my words." I choke on my breath and push my left hand towards him.

"Is it a yes?" Tristin grins.

I throw him a watery smile. "Yes."

Tristin grabs my hand and slides the ring on my finger. My heartbeat

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finally eases into a calm rhythm, and everything around me brightens until I feel like I am the center of this world for once.

We both stare at the ring on my finger. I don't want this moment to end.

A loud noise in the sky startles me and makes me look up. Tristin rises and stands beside me, his hand holding onto mine.

Fireworks explode, painting the dark sky with bright colors. The colors reflect in the lake, accompanying the lonely moon.

My eyes fill with those colors, and they slowly etch into my soul. The cold breeze turns warm against me because he is standing close to me, and instead of watching the colors in the sky, he is watching me.

"We should...really get married before my tummy starts to show." I mumble and turn to Tristin.

His eyes reflect the colors that are exploding in the sky, and I have to admit that I can not find anything more beautiful in this world than him.

"What?" My words finally register in his mind, and his grin drops.

I smile, stepping closer so I can wrap my arms around his waist. "I said...it's better to get married as soon as possible. I don't want to struggle to fit into a wedding dress."

"Are you..." Tristin trails off, his heart beating too fast against my chest.

"Yes, I am...pregnant." I nod, my throat clogging.

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Tristin opens his mouth, but no words leave. Someone else beats him to it.

"You are pregnant?" Ania shouts from behind Tristin, startling us both.

I glance over his shoulder to find Alma, Ania, and Luca standing there. Instead of feeling dread, I feel giddy.

"Yes. She is! Mom, you can finally stop nagging me. As the older brother, I am far ahead of Ania." Tristin blurts, making me giggle.

Now, it's going to get chaotic again.

Ania and Alma ignore Tristin, who is smugly smirking at them and Luna. They rush towards me, and before I can understand what's happening, they pull me to them and embrace me from both sides. 1

"I am so happy." Ania screams.

"He has finally done something good." Alma adds.

And as usual, they are more jumpy than me. They can't contain their happiness, and Tristin can't contain his jealousy as he grabs my arm and pulls me back to his chest. 1

"Don't bother my wife." He grumbles, his hands sliding to my back to hold me to him.

Ania, Alma, and Tristin are still bickering back and forth...But my ears are good at tuning them out now.

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I rest my chin on Tristin's chest and stare at his grinning face. I was scared of telling him, as I wondered what he might feel about it.

But with him, I don't need to fear anything. As much as he loves me, he will love our child too.

This time...nothing bad awaits me when I have my family by my side.

As the fireworks continue to explode like a rainbow in the sky and my family surrounds me, I let go of the last hurting piece of my heart.

Now, I am filled with light and a love that makes me happy.

I smile and laugh and dance with delight because my family is there to catch me if I ever fall. 1

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