

## Football 164

### Chapter 164 First Christmas (2)

Now awake Emma and I made our way towards our parent's room ready to wake them from their sound sleep. We were already dressed in our Christmas PJs since Emma insisted stating that it was a family tradition. That is how I ended up in a green elf outfit reminiscent of a better-looking Grinch.

Sneaking out of my room together we tried to be as silent as possible to cause the highest amount of shock to our sleeping parents. Right now, it is 7 in the morning so they should be asleep since they went to bed later than us. After all played board games and watched Christmas movies until one in the morning.

Although the two of us tried to remain as silent as possible Zeus didn't seem to care barking excitedly as he followed us. Luckily, their room wasn't too far from us located at the end of the hall. Emma lightly opened the door just enough for her head to fit through. Quickly poking our heads in, the inside of the room became visible to us.

The sight of our sleeping parents that we expected didn't appear before us well not quite. There was only one figure sleeping in bed soundly enjoying his travel through dreamland. Mum's side of the bed was empty which was odd since she usually got up later than Dad.

Confused about what to do now that one of our parents was missing Emma and I shared a questioning look. Zeus who had also poked his head through didn't seem to care about our hesitation in sneaking into the room. "Zeus wait," Emma called out in a whisper trying her best not to wake our sleeping Dad before making up an attack plan.

"Yeah, come back before you wake Dad," I also whispered trying my best to get his attention which worked as he came to a stop. With his body still facing the bed he turned his neck our way making eye contact with us.

I could have sworn that he smirked in our way for a second before excitedly jumping up on the bed barking in joy. Seeing this I did the only thing I could think of I snuck away leaving the dumbfounded Emma at the door. Manoeuvring on my tip toes I quickly made it to the stairs crouching behind the rails.

Not even having time to catch my breath Dad's startled exclamation bellowed out of his room. "What's going on!" Emma at the door remained rooted not moving in the slightest as she remained in a daze. Feeling bad for leaving her I debated whether to go back for her, but it was already too late.

"Emma is that you? boy calm down," Dad spoke up again finally snapping Emma out of her trance but it was already too late for her to escape. "Ahem, you okay there son," Mum's questioning voice sounded from behind me startling me as I slowly turned my head.

What met my sight was Mum's questioning gaze looking down on me with both hands at her hip. She had on a yellow apron covered with white flowers and her left hand was clutching a silver spatula. Looks like karma didn't wait long to come and bite me in the back.

We held eye contact with each other for a moment trying to peer in each other's mind. I knew that she had likely guessed that I had caused some sort of trouble, she just didn't know what yet. That was exactly why she hadn't started berating me yet instead choosing to stare me down into confessing my sins. When other adults do this to me, I don't feel much pressure but for some reason when it's my parents I do especially when it's Mum I start sweating buckets.

"Emm, did you do something with your hair it looks prettier," I nervously answered her in an attempt to redirect the conversation. It worked as a small smile bloomed on her face and her free hand subconsciously twirled a strand of her hair. However, my Jedi mind trick was promptly dispelled as Emma's disgruntled voice came from behind me.

"I can't believe you left me," she exclaimed clearly pissed off which I guess is justified considering. Getting up from the stairs I spotted the sleepy figure of Dad just exiting his room with Zeus in toe. Knowing that no matter what excuse I made she would still be mad at me.

"Something smells nice we should eat before it gets cold," I told them reverting to my tactic of changing the subject directly dragging her along with me leaving a stupefied Mum. It seems like she had just realised what happened, but it was already too late to change things.

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We spent Christmas Day Morning as a family drinking hot coco as we watched another volley of Christmas movies. Ella and Dad were obsessed with Christmas movies from all walks of life, and we got dragged along for the ride. Home Alone was by far my favourite and the Air Buddy series was for sure a wholesome thing to watch.

After breakfast, we opened presents right after with both of us getting a lot of clothes and five new pairs of shoes. From the looks of it, Dad raided one of his stores getting us a bunch of workout clothes but I'm fairly sure that the regular ones have got Mum's touch on them. For some reason, although he runs a chain of clothing stores his sense of style isn't as good as Mum's.

Speaking of her She got us a camera from Sony called the NEX-VG10 which looks a bit like the ones used in movies. She said were going to use it to record both our practices and games/performances. I wasn't as psyched for the camera as I was for the new pair of Nike total 90 laser football boots. Emma on the other hand was pretty excited about the camera wanting to use it right away.

Uncle Williams came by in the afternoon stopping by to say hello and saying something about a family gathering. Each new year the whole family would travel to London to their family home for a New Year's

party. However, this year he was hosting the party at his winery in Virginia since I can't travel overseas yet.

We were expecting my passport to have come through by now but it's taken a little longer than expected. We realised this too late and by the time we wanted to apply for a visa for me, it was already too late. It has been a little harder than expected for me to get the same nationality as my parents but we've had to be patient throughout the process. Mostly due to the German Embassy taking its sweet time processing my documents, they're not as efficient as advertised.

The good thing is that I managed to get US citizenship rather easily because of my parents holding dual citizenship. It doesn't help when travelling though as I still need a visa to travel to Europe. Uncle Williams said it should come through in the new year, which is good for me, I guess. Although feeling bad for ruining family tradition it means a lot that the whole extended family is willing to come over and spend it with us.

I've spoken over the phone with some of them especially my grandparents who called once every weekend. They are a fun bunch although they live a different life from the rest of us for sure. Grandpa was knighted by the queen for God's sake for what I don't know but he got the title.