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Chapter 165 First New Year

Somewhere within the state of Virginia, there exists a picturesque vineyard upon which a magnificent estate is built. At this very moment, a vibrant New Year's party was in full swing. The evening air was alive with the sound of laughter and music, echoing through the meticulously manicured garden. Twinkling fairy lights adorned the lush greenery, casting a warm and inviting glow over the revellers.

As guests mingled and toasted to the promise of the new year, the scent of fine wine wafted through the air, tantalizing the senses. Tables adorned with elegant white linens were adorned with an array of decadent hors d'oeuvres and sparkling champagne flutes, inviting guests to indulge in culinary delights.

In one corner of the garden, a live band enthralled the crowd with their energetic melodies, drawing guests onto the makeshift dance floor. Couples swayed and twirled under the starry night sky, their laughter mingling with the sweet strains of music. The Rex family was hosting their annual New Year's party gathering all their relatives from all over the world.

At this moment, a family of four entered the back garden through the estate. They formed a beautiful picture together with the tall man and his son both wearing neat suits which served to enhance their looks. The tall man wore a neat black Hugo Boss suit which made him look rather dashing as it perfectly matched his black hair. Although he was one of the wealthiest in this gathering, he didn't wear much jewellery with the silver watch being the only indication of his wealth.

This was a contrast to his son who wore a similar black suit but instead of a white shirt and tie he donned a black turtleneck. A thin silver sterling chain hangs from his neck perfectly bringing his look together. That coupled with his clear face devoid of pimples and piercing green eyes he looked rather dashing.

The two females with them didn't fall behind in their appearance as they dressed up for the occasion. The younger of the two wore a red long-sleeved Christmas dress that reached just above her knees. The dress had little white snow flecks throughout it matching her white stockings. Unlike her brother and father, she didn't wear a watch instead wearing a snowflakes charm bracelet.

Her mother who seemed to be the older version of her shared in her beautiful looks. Unlike her daughter who wore a youthful look, she wore a mature black jumpsuit-like outfit. The little glittering materials that decorated the dress and a matching handbag gave full play to her charms. She had her long blond hair tied into a neat bun fully highlighting her long neck and turquoise-gold eye.

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"You guys are finally here" William exclaimed with a joyful smile welcoming the group of four. Ben promptly shook the man's hand as they all exchanged greetings with each other.

They hardly had enough time to delve into a conversation when the nearest of Lisa's family members joined them. William wasn't married preferring the bachelor life that his skills as a lawyer allow him to indulge in. The first to join them was his younger sister Lisa's aunt who was an equally good-looking woman like the rest of their family.

"My Mona Lisa," A blond woman in her forties exclaimed with a huge grin as he joined the group. She immediately pulled her niece into a hug and started scanning her as if to make sure she was healthy.

"Nice to see you too Aunt June, I've missed you" Lisa replied with a smile equally happy at seeing her only aunt. The two of them entered their own world as they started chatting with each other completely forgetting those around us.

While the two women were in their own world an elderly couple joined the rest of the group. The man who seemed to be in his mid 70's had a proud demeanour as he was dressed in a white royal navy suit. His left chest was decorated with various medals adding to his domineering presence. The elderly woman next to him was dressed in a mature dress that perfectly matched her features and enhanced her motherly presence.

"Hi kids, won't you greet your grandma?" The elderly woman stated with a warm smile as she spread her arms towards the two kids. Emma already excited upon seeing her gran immediately ran into her open arms. Rakim on the other hand seemed to be hesitating on what to do and simply stood rooted on the spot.

"It's alright kid come here and give grandma a hug." The old woman spoke as she gently patted the boy's back encouraging him to move. The young boy nodded and slowly approached his grandmother before giving her a soft hug.

After separating from her embrace the old man in the navy suit quickly pulled me into a hug as well before I could react. "we've wanted to meet you for some time now kid," he told me with a hearty smile as he lamented on his busy schedule.

"Come kids, let's get you something to eat," Grandma stated with a warm smile directly taking hold of mine and Emma's hands and leading us to a table filled with food. Like a proud mother hen, she handed the both of us a plate and started filling them.

She seemed to be trying to fill our stomachs to the brim despite Emma's protest. I didn't mind her actions genuinely grateful to be able to feel what it's like to have a grandma. Upon getting our food she led just to a long picnic bench where a bunch of other kids sat also enjoying their food.

Most of the kids here are Emma Cousins and I guess now they are mine as well. Mum's older sister's children were in the group with them being a girl at the age of 13 and a 10-year-old boy. They were nice enough with the older girl Mia being the most vocal on the table. Max the younger of the two kept to himself keeping his focus on his Gameboy.

Grandma surprisingly stayed with us happily interacting with her grandkids and the other children. We spent most of the night in bliss enjoying the gourmet food and interacting with people at the party. At some point, we even started playing games like tag and capture the flag with the rest of the kids. The vineyard was big enough for all of that since it's quite large.

Meeting the rest of my mother's family was also exciting, especially since her aunt June is basically a child at heart. She spent the most time out of all the adults with us. Heck, she even played tag with us and made flower crowns with the girls. I think most of the kids think of her as a beautiful big sister.

As the night wore on, laughter and joy filled the air, creating an atmosphere of warmth and camaraderie among the gathered relatives. The music from the live band continued to pulse through the garden, providing a lively backdrop to the festivities.

It was a night to remember, a moment frozen in time where family bonds were strengthened, and new connections forged. So, when the clock struck midnight, signalling the arrival of the new year, the gathered guests raised their glasses in a toast, their voices ringing out in unison, echoing the hope and promise of the days to come. For the Rex family, and all those gathered beneath the starry Virginia sky, the journey into the new year was filled with possibility and anticipation.