

## Missing Chapter: Life After You

Grace

The last 10 years.....

Grace thought she'd never be able to bring herself to see her little Peach. But she did. Maya was angry at her mother for drinking and giving up on them and she didn't wanna see her. But she did. Joaquin was afraid Birdie wouldn't forgive him. But she did. Family is everything and Grace knows that. She didn't know the true meaning of family but once she met her sibling, it all made sense. Family isn't just blood, it's being loved and supported no matter what.

Grace is now 26 years old and has made a wonderful life for herself. She is so caring and her determination and motivation lead her to the job she has dreamed of. Growing up she didn't know what she wanted to do in life but after meeting her siblings and hearing their stories, she knew what she wanted to do. She thought about Joaquin and herself and Maya and knew deep down in her heart she was meant to help kids get put into good homes. She was adopted at birth and was put with amazing parents but her brother on the other hand did not have a good childhood. So she became an adoption social worker to help make sure kids were adopted into good families.

"Hey Rafe what time are you off work?" Grace said as she was walking to the door.

"5:00 why?"

"Beca-" Grace started to say but her phone started ringing. "It's Maya, give me a sec."

"Hey My how's my favorite niece"

"Haha she's your only niece, hey I have an idea" Maya said

"oh no"

"It's nothing crazy. I wanna do something special for Joaquin and Birdie since they have been together for 10 years. I was thinking we can make them a video with a bunch of pictures of them with their favorite songs"

"Omg sounds perfect, they'll love it. I'll send you some pics right now. Tell Claire I said hi" Grace Said

"Ok Bye"

She hung up the phone and immediately said to Rafe "Sorry-- Maya wants to make a video for Joaquin and Birdie for their anniversary."

Rafe said "That's nice, we should all go out to dinner tonight." Rafe got up. "I get off at 5, I can pick you up and we can drive there together"

"Perfect. I love you." Grace said

"Love you too."

Dinner was nice, they all caught up since they hadn't seen each other in a few weeks. With their conflicting schedules, it's hard for the whole family to get together but they made tonight work. Joaquin and Birdie loved the video, they cried the whole time. Joaquin is on a three way facetime call with his siblings that night and he says "I can't believe we were able to see the whole family. I've been thinking about us and maybe going on a trip together." Maya and Grace loved this idea and they talked for hours planning it.

All the siblings are happily married and Maya even has a daughter who is 1. Her name is Laura Grace and she was named after her two aunts, Lauren and Grace.

Every once in a while Grace thinks about how Peach is doing. She corrects herself how Milly is doing. She's about 10 now and is probably in 4th grade. She misses her and wonders what life would have been like if she hadn't given her up but with all this thought comes the reality of the life she would've had. She knows she made the right decision and after meeting Milly for the second time when she was a baby helped her realize that. She hasn't seen Milly but her adoptive parents still send her updates twice a year letting her know what Milly is doing and how thankful they are for Milly. She hopes that one day Milly will want to meet her and can understand the reasons for why she gave her up.

**Dear Grace,**

**Hi, we wanted to thank you so much for the greatest gift you could have possibly given us. Milly is the kindest, sweetest kid i've ever met. She brings joy into any room she walks into. Milly is in 4th grade and is learning so much. She is so smart and I guess she gets that from you. Each day my heart grows a little bit bigger with my love for her. She is amazing and I love what she has become and am excited to see what shell become. She looks so much like you. It's crazy the resemblance already. I tell Mily everyday what a blessing she is and how strong her birthmom, you, are. Aagin, I can't thank you enough for the bundle of joy that you gave us.**

*See File attachment here*

**Best regards,**

**Daniel, Catalina, and Amelia (Milly)**

Grace read it over and over again. She couldn't believe how much Milly looks like her. This is the latest letter that Danel and Catalina had sent. She loves reading the updates they send because they reassure her that she made the right choice giving her to them. She picked up the photo again and just stared at it for almost 10 minutes, smiling. Her little Milly was dressed in all pink and was hugging her new brother. Grace smiled even harder as she put the picture in her drawer. She is so proud of Milly and what she's become.

“It's vacay time! WAHOO! Maya said

Grace says “My relax, I love you but if you act to crazy im sending you home.”

“You would never”

“you wanna find out”

“Woah, you don't love my craziness. You would be the perfect parent, a great mix and chilled and strict.”

“Yeah, I guess I would have made a good parent when it comes to that. Can we just forget about this and move on.”

“Of course.”

Once they arrive at the vacation home, they all start unloading. Grace starts to pull something out of her bag and Maya sees her and says "Oh no not today" and starts running. But before she could get anywhere, all you heard was a splat. She was soaked, Grace had thrown a huge water balloon at her. Maya runs back angrily saying "Your gonna pay for this." And later that day she could Grace back, she got a plate with whipped cream and shoved it in graces face while she was chilling on the couch. That's when the food fight started. Joaquin was nowhere to be found, he ran once he saw Maya pie Grace. He knew it could get ugly.

#### Explanation:

I chose to add an extra chapter at the end of the book because I felt that I wondered where everyone would be years from now and I thought that I could add my thought nowhere they would be. I wanted the chapter to be far into the future so we could see them grow up, the careers they chose and how Milly is doing. So I chose for the chapter to be 10 years later and it would explain some things that were happening then and some things that happened over the past 10 years. The first choice I made was what Grace would have done career wise and I thought back to what Grace cares alot about. Her family. I thought she would want to help other kids find families and be loved just like her. Grace knows how messed up the foster system is so she thought she could do a little good. I also thought it could help her cope with giving up Peach a little more. The next choice I made was what would the siblings do now. I know that they would still be super close so I had Maya and Grace do something special for Joaquin and Birdie for their anniversary and they would go out to dinner with the whole family. Going out with the whole family was hard for them since there were so many of them and they had different schedules. I figured that the siblings would have married the people who they were with back in high school; Rafe, Claire and Birdie. I also chose for Maya and Claire to have a kid and name her after her two sisters.

Another scene that I thought would fit well into the storyline was Grace thinking about Peach a lot. She loves Peach so much and she knows she made the right choice but she still wonders how life could have been different. Peaches adoptive parents said that they would continue to send updates throughout her childhood so I incorporated that into the story as well. The last thing that I incorporated into the storyline was Mayas and Grace childish relationship. Maya was always very talkative and that would get on Grace nerves. They like to tease each other so I thought it would feel right if Grace did something and it made Maya flip out and get here back.

The biggest choice I made was who I chose the chapter to be about. I thought that Grace would be the best choice since we could talk about Peach and we could talk about her siblings lives through her and ultimately she is the main character.