

10 Years Later

Grace

10 years later... Grace and Rafe have been dating for over 2 years now. Joaquin went to art school and now he has his own studio to showcase his art. Maya is back with Claire and they both live in an apartment not too far from Maya's parents house. Woahhh, hold on there, I'm going too fast aren't I? Okay, I will slow down.

Here's a little recap, after meeting Jessica and finding out about her biological mother's story, Grace's feelings for Rafe became obvious to her. She did not like it. Everytime Rafe would text her she would smile, and not because of his corny jokes. "Uh oh, I'm doing it again, ugh noooo." she said. They continued to hang out as "friends" but there was always that little voice telling her, *I wish we could be more*. Grace was very good at hiding her actual emotions so Rafe didn't figure out about her true feelings towards him.

Maya

Finding out about Maya's biological mother made her question if her breakup with Claire should stay like that. It made her realize that she was using Claire to comfort herself. Maya knew she had to apologize to Claire for being selfish and wanted to confess her love for Claire. She wanted to do something meaningful that would forever be remembered. Maya had made an appointment at a rock climbing place for her to go with Claire. Claire just thought it would be a fun and adventurous thing to do so she of course agreed to go. They both started climbing at the same time and when they got to the top Maya went closer to Claire.

"I want you to know I still love you! I am aware of my selfish actions and I am sorry for using you. I called you to come do this activity with me to let you know that I want to climb back into a relationship with you except I will be leaving my selfishness behind. Now I will be there for you just like you were for me." Maya said.

Claire was in tears, tears of joy. She said, "Oh Maya, you didn't have to do all this. I love you too." "I wanted to make this memorable for the both of us." Maya said. "I will remember this for the rest of my life." Claire said.

“Will you be my girlfriend?” Maya asked. “Yes yes yes, a hundred times yes!” Claire said excitedly. Everybody at the rock climbing place heard everything and they were cheering with us.

Joaquin

After learning about Joaquin’s biological mother story and why he was left for adoption, Joaquin decided that he wanted to do something for himself. Mark and Linda knew that he was a good artist so they suggested going to an art school. He applied to a couple of art schools but the one he wanted to go to was Pratt Institute. It is a private university in Brooklyn N.Y.. At the time he wasn’t worried about Birdie or if she was actually going to go to New York. A couple months later he received a letter from the Pratt Institute and it said that he was accepted! He immediately gave a hug to Mark and Linda. He also told Grace and Maya and they were so excited for him. August came and he said his goodbyes, then he was off to New York

Grace

Grace and Rafe continued to be friends throughout the last few years of high school. Rafe really liked Grace but thought that she just wanted to be friends. Clearly he was wrong. They finished high school as nothing but close friends. They began to become distant even though they still lived in the same city. Although they became distant, they didn’t really date anyone. Rafe began working in construction with his dad and Grace was still in law school to become a lawyer.

After meeting Jessica, Grace didn’t want to just end it at that so she continued visiting her. She always asked Maya and Joaquin to go with her and most of the time they would. Especially Joaquin. He always loved going to see Jessica and learning more and more about their biological mother.

Grace was now 26 years old. She wanted desperately to get Milly back but was worried she wouldn’t want to be with her. Milly’s adoptive parents tried to have children of their own and ended up with twins! Grace told Jessica about this situation. Grace had also told Jessica about her crush on Rafe before. Jessica could see Grace really liked him and could tell he also liked her. She suggested to Grace that she find a man before getting Milly back.

“I think you still like that boy, um what’s his name?” Jessica said. “Rafe?” Grace asked. Jessica said, “Yup that kid. Maybe you should try and reconnect with him and see if you guys

still have that spark.” “Ugh, I don’t know. I can try but he most likely already has a girlfriend.”

Grace said not so excitedly.

As soon and Grace got home she tried texting Rafe.

Hey, um I don’t know if you remember me, it’s Grace. How are you, it has been so long since we last talked. I was wondering if maybe we could talk or go out for some coffee.

Heyyy Grace, yea of course I remember you. I’m doing great and we should go out for some coffee. Or maybe a burger at that place we used to go to?

Yea, except I will only get fries. I still don’t eat burgers.

Looks like someone didn’t change. Ok we can both meet there tomorrow at 1 pm.

Sure.

Maya

Maya and Claire are stronger than ever. Maya listens to Claire, opens up to Claire, while also letting Claire open up to her. Maya didn’t go to college. She thought it wasn’t necessary. Though, her mother going into rehab for drinking inspired her to want to be able to help people like her mother. Her and Claire decided to open up a place for people to go when they are trying to get sober or even after rehab like Maya’s mother. It would be like a group to discuss and open up about difficulties pertaining to getting sober or just difficulties in general. This would always remind Maya to listen to other people and also made her realize that she is not the only one with problems.

Maya and Claire have been dating since high school. Maya wanted to take the next step and move in together however Claire was a little iffy about that idea. However, she considered the fact that they have been dating for a long time and agreed.

The next day Maya and Claire went looking for apartments. Their requirements were to be near both their parents' house, one bedroom, a living room, a bathroom, a kitchen, and of course within our budget. They went to see three apartments and liked only one. They continued to look the day after that and, “Oooo, I think this is one. What do you think, Maya?” Claire asked. Maya said, “It has all our requirements and is close to both our parents’ house. If you like it then I like it. This one is the one.” “Yayyyyyy” Claire happily said.

They bought the apartment and moved in three days later. Maya's mom and Claire's mom both helped immensely. They helped pick out which furniture they should buy and with the kitchenware. By a week later they were officially moved in.

Joaquin

After art school, Joaquin liked New York so he decided to live there. Since he was technically alone with no family, he would go back home to visit Mark and Linda. Whenever Grace and Maya had time, all three of them would either go out to eat or go to see Jessica. Everytime he would go back he wanted to spend as much time with all of them because he would only visit them during the weekends.

He saw that Maya and Claire opened up a business of their own and he wanted to do something like that. When he got back to New York he immediately began his project of opening up his own art studio. He had some of his friends from school help him and also hired someone to help him design and construct the studio. Mark and Linda wanted to send money to make things easier for him but he never accepted it. He wanted to do this on his own. He was aware that there would be problems but that comes with everything in life. He saved up some money to buy an abandoned store and six months later his art studio was now opened.

Joaquin thought that he could do a fancy opening by inviting people to see his art. He invited everyone back home and told his friends to invite some people from school. Grace helped him create flyers to hand out to the people walking at the sidewalk.

On opening night, Joaquin's studio was filled with people. Even some of his old professors. "Wow Joaquin, really liked what you did with this place. I could tell you were a great artist from the beginning and that you were going to make great things out of it." One of Joaquin's most critical professors said. "Thank you so much Mr. Limestone, you don't know how much that means to me." Joaquin said.

Joaquin's art studio was so full that he went to grab a drink and accidentally bumped into a young woman.

"Oh my gosh, I'm so sorr-"

"Wait, Joaquin?"

"Birdie?" Joaquin asked.

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