

### Chapter 3 - Reminisce II

Tobias invited his dad and his brothers to his house for a family BBQ. Johnathan arrived first,

“Yo, i brought some orange and grape juice, still trying not to drink alcohol heh” John said,

“Hello uncle John!” Elias said as he goes over to John,

“Welcome, glad you could make it.” Toby said,

“How can i miss it? My little brother begged me to come after all” John replied jokingly,

“What! Shut up John” Toby replied,

“I was just kidding..” John answered.

After a while, their dad and Derrick(their youngest brother) finally arrives,

“WOOO, they’re here now, come lets eat, I didn’t eat breakfast so i can eat a lot this lunch hehe” Johnathan said,

“Don’t worry, Tyson’s almost finished cooking. Here, eat this first” Tobias replied as he hands John some oranges.

“Im happy to see you laughing together again” their dad said, “I just wish that your mother’s here so she could see us laughing, smiling together.”.

“Yes dad, don’t make us cry now.. Im pretty sure she’s watching over us, she must be happy seeing us like this again.” Derrick said,

“Yeah.. Come now, Tyson just finished cooking, its best not to let the food get cold” Toby replied.

\*They ate and spent the rest of the day talking and relaxing beside the lake\*

The day is almost done and they sat down by the bonfire, Tobias calls Tyson and John inside the house, then Tobias asks him about Daemiel, but John looks like he’s getting uncomfortable so Toby just said, “Fine.. i won’t pry anymore if you don’t want to tell me..”,

“Wait..” John says “Fine, i really didn’t want to talk about this to anyone.. atleast, not until i’ve made up with ‘him’.. but i guess it’s time to share it with you..” and he begins telling his side of the story.

“One day, i was sitting on the bleachers reading a book, i had an exam the next day and i almost forgot to study for it. I saw someone looking at me, and he looked familiar so i called him, then I remembered that he was in the top 3 of the exam before. He approached me and I asked him for help, and he agreed to help me. After that, I asked him to help me with my studies more, he said yes and invited me to the library. We studied a lot together and we grew closer, i started to treat him as one of my friends. He would sometimes scold me about bullying others because i might get expelled, and i mean he had a point you know.. He was also very thoughtful and would remember little details about you even if you said something only once about yourself, he would remember it. Oh and this one time where it was raining and i forgot my umbrella, and he shared his with me, then he walked me home. I still remember those times, when we were either in the library or hanging out at the pool bar.. I was never able to beat him in pool, or any other board games actually, he somehow managed to beat me in every single one.. hah”,

“Wait really? But you’re so good in pool, you keep beating me in it.. And he doesn’t look like the type to like those games” Tobias said, “Hehe.. Nah, he likes them, he also likes video games, we used to play a lot too..” John replied and he continues with the story.

“After we finished high school, we went to the same college, so we grew much closer to each other and I.. started to open up to him, he was the first person i ever told someone about my true feelings about you and other people in the family.. while i was pouring out the feelings I stored for such a long time, he listened and comforted me.. I was so happy that I was finally able to share it with someone and that they took it warmly..”

“After that, my other friends noticed that i hanged around with Dae more so they told me that they would bully Daemiel if i don’t stay away from him And i know that Dae hates being teased so all the more being bullied, and of course, I chose to be with the wrong people again.. to try and protect Dae, but that.. was such a terrible mistake.. The next day, Dae came looking for me since i didn’t go to my classes that day.. but my other ‘friends’ heard that he was looking for me so they came to my dorm first. They waited patiently, and then Dae arrived. He knocked on my door and I answered it. Then there I was, in front of him, while those idiots were watching me on what I would do..

‘Hey, why didn’t you go to school today.. did you get sick?’ Dae asked,

‘No, I didn’t feel like going..’ I answered,

then Daemiel replied, ‘Oh, i thought you got sick hehe, good to know you’re ok. Here, these are the assignments for today, i will help you through them, and i need to tell you someth-’,

‘get lost’ I said to him,

‘what..? Hey, are you ok?’ He replied,

‘Are you deaf? I said get lost. Don’t act like we’re close’ I said,

'Haha.. that's a good one John, never knew it was April 1 today' he answered,

'Do i look like I'm kidding? Pfft, you really thought that I would be YOUR friend? I-.. I was only using you to get my grades back up and get to the college i wanted to go to.. Now that i'm here, i don't need you anymore.' I replied. My voice kept shaking when I said these to him..

Then those idiots went out of my room, laughing at Dae,

'you heard him, get lost. He doesn't need you anymore so scram!' They said while laughing and snickering.

'I- is that true Johnathan..?' Daemiel said trying to hold back his tears..

My other 'friends' pulled me back inside the dorm room and they slammed the door in front of him.."

"I regretted that decision.. I couldn't sleep that night.. I was tossing and turning around the bed thinking and feeling guilty about what i did to him.. The next day I immediately went to the campus, wanting to see him again.. i was hoping that he would forgive me.. i was such an idiot.. the same thing had happened again, i gave in to those type of people again.. I was looking for him and asking people where he was but they said that they haven't seen him."

"After my classes, i went to his dorm. I knocked on their door and his roommate answered it. I asked him where Dae was and he answered,

'Oh, you haven't heard? He's going to a different country now.. Aren't you Johnathan? You're his best friend right? Didn't he tell you?'

'w-wait.. are you serious..?' I replied,

'Yea, he went to your dorm room yesterday, and he left right after visiting you' he said,

'so he isn't here anymore?' I replied,

'Yeah.. I was sad when i found out that he was going to leave.. he helped me a lot despite being roommates with me for just a month. I wish i could've been friends with him sooner like you' he added,

'Yeah, I see.. bye..' I replied then I went back to my dorm room."

“I went inside my room and thank god my roommate wasn’t there because.. i started to cry so much, thinking about how foolish i was to do that to him.. I was devastated.. that one moment, where i pushed him away.. was actually our last.. I wanted to punch those idiots, i wanted to blame them.. but the more i thought about it, the one at fault, always leads back to me.. if only i was never ‘friends’ with those idiots, if only I didn’t bully other people.. then we would’ve parted ways much differently.. and the one thing i regret the most when it happened was.. I was never able to tell him that I loved him..” John says as he concludes his story.

“Wait, WAIT.. WHAT DID YOU SAY?? REPEAT THAT” Toby and Tyson exclaimed.

Johnathan answered, “That i loved him.. yes i know.”,

“You know you could’ve told me this before, and we would’ve 100% supported you”. Tobias said.

“Yes i know, but.. it was kind of embarrassing.. that I bullied gay people and then love someone of the same gender..” Johnathan replied,

“Then the other day, when I saw him in the winery.. I wanted to go up to him, i wanted to apologize for what i did, i wanted to hug him for the pain I made him felt.. but I froze when i saw how much he was trying to ignore me.. I was sad yes, but I deserved it you know.. I deserved to be ignored and hated by him after what i did”

“Well.. actually, he invited Tyson and I to dinner last week, and he told us everything.. hopefully he wouldn’t mind me telling you that.. he doesn’t hate you for what you did..” Tobias replied.

“He.. doesn’t hate me..?” John said,

“Yeah, and that.. the day he visited you in your dorm, was the day he was going to tell you that.. never mind, I think Daemiel should be the one to tell you, not me.” Toby said

“Come on, tell me” John replied,

“Nope, you need to ask him yourself if you want to know” Tyson added,

“But.. I don’t know if he’d talk to me.. I’ve hurt him badly when I did that to him.. i don’t know if he would still forgive me..” Johnathan replied.

Well.. You won’t really know till you tried right?”,

“So.. do you think i still have a chance?” Johnathan asked,

“Well, you know him better than we do so.. What do you think?” Tobias replied,

“Hopefully.. i guess we can never know unless I try.. Thank you, Toby and Tyson.. I was able to get this guilt off my chest.. Maybe i can finally sleep well tonight haha..” John stated,

“No problem, oh and.. Ask us if you need advice, we’re here to support you ;)” Tyson replied.

\*They went back to the bonfire outside\*

“Hey Toby, Tyson thanks for today, but i think i need to get going now, it’s getting quite late and I promised my wife that I’d go back home after 9pm heh..” Derrick said,

“Ok, goodbye Derrick, tell your wife and kids I said hi. And how about you dad? Do you need to go back home? It’s getting quite late so i think its best for you to sleep here, and you too John..” Toby said,

“Ok son, but let me stay here beside the bonfire for a little longer, it’s great watching the stars from here.” their dad replied.

“Me too, how often can i sit like this and talk with my old man” John added as he sat down beside his father,

“Ok, I’m gonna go back inside and help Tyson with the dishes” Toby replied.

\*Tobias went back inside their house, and he walks toward Tyson, but he doesn’t seem to notice him\*

“Hey, you good? Your mind seems to be in the clouds heh” Toby stated,

“O- oh hey, I was just thinking about what Johnathan shared us.. It’s still a real shock to me tbh.. I kinda want to make them meet up but i feel like Daemiel wouldn’t like that..” Tyson said,

“Yeah, me too.. I would love to see the both of them together again..” Toby replied.

\*An hour later, Johnathan and their father went back inside the house\*

“Dad, it’s getting late. You should get some rest, i can sleep on the couch.” John said,

“Are you sure..? I’m ok with sleeping on the couch, you can sleep on the guest room instead,” their dad replied,

“No, I insist” John stated,

“Ok then, if you insist.. Where’s Elias?” their dad asked,

“He’s in his room, preparing for bed” Toby answered,

“Alright, Im gonna go check on Elias and then I’m going to bed, goodnight.” their dad said,

“Goodnight” the three of them replied.

“Tyson and I are heading to sleep now as well, goodnight John” Toby said, “Ok, goodnight.” John replied.

Johnathan slept on the couch. But, it’s the best sleep he’s ever gotten in days.

The next morning, as Tyson and Elias were making breakfast, while Richard(Johnathan and Tobias’ father) greets them,

“Good morning Elias, Tyson. Is Tobias and Johnathan still asleep?”,

“Toby should wake up soon and as for Johnathan.. Elias, can you go check uncle John?”  
Tyson said,

“Sure” Elias replied, “Yeah, he’s still sleeping.. should i wake him up?”

“No, its better if we finish cooking first.” Tyson said as he cracks an egg.

Tobias woke up and greets his family in the kitchen, “Good morning, where’s dad and John?” Toby asked,

“Your dad went out to get some fresh air and Johnathan’s still sleeping. But I’ll ask Elias to wake him up since we’re almost finished cooking.” Tyson replied,

“I see.. Anyways, I’ve been thinking on how can we make them clear their misunderstandings” Toby stated then he shared his ideas...

\*A few minutes later\*

“...How about we invite Dae to somewhere but Johnathan will be waiting there instead of us?”, Toby suggested, “No, no.. if it doesn’t go well, we might lose Dae’s trust too.” Tyson replied,

“That’s- a good point actually.. let’s keep thinking.”, Toby stated.

“Good morning”, Johnathan says as he meets them in the dining room. “Good morning John, did you sleep well?” Toby replied,

“Yeah, It’s the best sleep I’ve gotten in days! And what were you guys talking about?”, John asked,

“We were just thinking of ways on how to reunite you with Dae. But we aren’t sure about what his likes and dislikes are so we haven’t really came up of something.” Tyson says,

“But, you know him better than us so why not tell us what he likes?” Tobias added.

“Like I said yesterday, he likes to play pool and he would always beat me in it.. Oh and board games too, he likes to play games where he thinks, and he likes them more than actual sports.. But its been a decade since i last saw him so.. im not sure anymore.. maybe he likes different things now?” Johnathan answered.

“Ah, i see.. What food do you think he will like?” Tyson asked.

“If I remember correctly, he likes desserts and sweets a lot, i always see him with a bar of chocolate inside his pocket.” Johnathan answered.

“So why not invite him to a cafe or a cake shop? And play pool with him afterwards? Then you can explain everything to him”, Tobias says.

“You know what... its a simple but a great idea :D” Johnathan replied.

“Ah, good morning Johnathan, Elias told me that the food is ready, what were you guys talking about?” their dad said as they sat down to eat,

“Well.. Johnathan here finally found someone and is asking us for some advice heh” Toby said,

“SHHH” John said nervously,

“Really? Is that true John? Have you finally found someone you want to be with?” their dad asked,

“Well.. kinda..? It’s complicated.” John replied.

“Tell me, who you love is your choice so there’s nothing to be embarrassed about.” their dad said,

“Well..” John said and told him everything,

“Ah, i see.. Don’t worry, we’re here for you. You can ask me for advice too, don’t you know your old man had the skills in my younger days heh B)” their dad said,

“Well i guess now we know where we got it from eh?” Toby replied and they all laughed,

“Thank you.. I don’t know how to face him after what happened.. But now, i feel like i can do it.” John said,

“No problem.. Just keep us updated k?” Tyson stated, “Yes, yes i will” John replied.

\*They finished eating breakfast and after an hour John and their dad decided to leave\*

“Thanks for letting me stay the night and giving me delicious food :D, I’ll try the ideas you gave me, see ya.” John says as he and his dad gets on his car,

“Bye, have a safe trip! Goodluck with Dae, oh and call us when you need help ;)” Tyson and Tobias said.

“Yes yes, i will” Johnathan answers,

“Bye Tobias, Tyson and Elias. Thank you for inviting us, come visit me at my house some time” their dad said.

\*Johnathan starts the engine then they drove off\*

“Bye grandpa! Bye uncle John! Thank you for visiting us! Have a safe trip!” Elias said, waving them goodbye.

\*A few days later\*

Daemiel was walking in a busy sidewalk, but his mind seems to be on the sky. He wasn’t looking on where he was going so he accidentally bumps into someone, his phone fell out of his hand but the person he bumped into catches it,

“Sorry.. i wasn’t looking on where i was walking.. and thank you for catching my phone” Dae says as he looks up to see the person, and he was surprised to see that it was Johnathan.

“Hello Daemiel, how have you been? Can we talk?” Johnathan asked, “Ah, yes hello Johnathan, I’m okay... Im sorry for what happened at the winery and I’m kinda busy at the moment.. Goodbye now”

Daemiel answered as he carries on his way, moving past Johnathan,

“Wait, I-” Johnathan says as he grabs Daemiel’s hand.

To be continued..

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Daemiel Acre

Species: Snow Leopard

Gender: Male

Age:

17(When he became friends with Johnathan)

20(When he left for abroad)

28(Current Age in this chapter)

33(in future chapters)

Height: 6'3(190cm)

Weight: 198lbs(90kg)

Eye Color: Dark Gray

Orientation: Bi

Fur Color: Traditional Snow Leopard Pattern

Occupation: Future Chairman of the Acre Brand

Personality:

A smart and quiet guy, but despite being smart, he tends to act recklessly when challenged/ underestimated.

Hobbies:

Cooking, Pool, Making architectural drawings, Working out, Swimming, modeling for his sister's fashion designs

Favorite foods:

All kinds of desserts/ sweets, Burger, Steak, Grape juice

Fighting Styles:

Hapkido, Jujitsu, Taekwondo

Likes:

Playing games, reading novels, making architectural drawings, swimming, cooking, cleaning, staying in bed/ couch when it's raining(even more so if it's a sunday too), taking a bath, hugs, his tail.

Dislikes/ Hates:

Fighting/ Violence, Bullies/ Bullying, anything bad for your health(drugs, cigarettes, etc.), A dirty house, different kinds of crawling things(Spiders, Centipedes, etc.)

Unique Features:

Even though Daemiel is a snow leopard, he only got the fur color from his mom(A pure snow leopard), while the thickness of his fur came from his dad(A normal leopard).

Daemiel also has tattoos, the first one being a black line wrapped around his left upper arm while the second one is a black line wrapped around his right upper thigh.