

Cesarhausen Residence, Amelia, Omega XI, Infinite Sacrifice, 06/21/2019, 0800

Yawning, I arise from my slumber and scan my surroundings. David, Akira, and Sam are cuddled beneath their blankets sprawled around me. "How long did I sleep?" Rising to my feet, I waddle toward into the hallway and air rushes under me seconds later. With another yawn, I scan the person who's arms I'm in, "Hello, Mrs. Cesarhausen. What time is it?"

She pokes my nose as she brings me into David and Alex's room, "It's 0800 and it's 06/21/2019. You four slept through the day yesterday. So, Utsukushi, Xavier, and I decided to let you spend the night." and sets me on my feet, "So, are you hungry, Caiden-kun?"

Scanning the room, I shake my head, "*Wow, it looks just like my room at the mansion except the wallpaper is red and Transformer's stuff decorates the walls, as well the beds.*" Smiling, I waddle around the room, getting a good picture of the surrounding area. Directly in front of the door rests two beds side by side. Turning to the doorway, a dresser adorned with a white changing mat greets my eyes. Facing the beds again, I find a rocking chair sitting at their feet. In front of the rocking chair rests a closet. My examinations complete, I walk back to Nielyra and raise my arms to her.

"Does somebody want to be carried?" She lifts me into her arms and places me over her shoulders before carrying me into the living room. She smiles as she sits on the couch with me in her lap. "Well, Caiden-kun, would you like to watch some cartoons?"

After she hands me the remote, I nod before turning the TV on and becoming lost in a *SpongeBob Squarepants* marathon, "Thanks for letting me spend the night, Mrs. Cesarhausen."

She tousles my hair and smiles, "You're welcome, Caiden-kun. While you here, just call me Mommy, alright? I don't mind, I realize what you're going through right now, and I'm happy to fill that gap for you."

Shifting in her lap, I scan her, my mind churning with her statement, "Really? You...you...want...want me...want me too...." Tears swim within my eyes at her statement, "I...I can call you Mommy and...and you won't be mad?"

She shakes her head as she hugs me close then releases me into her lap to continue watching TV, "No, sweetie. As long as you're here, you get the same treatment as Akira, Sam, and David do. You're my son when you're here, Caiden-kun. Now," She pats my shoulder, "Watch TV okay."

Smiling and reclining on her chest, I nod, "Okay...Mommy."

Nielyra smiles as she places me over her shoulder and hugs me while patting my back, "There, now was that so hard, Caiden-kun?"

Shaking my head, I cuddle into the crook of her neck, "Na...na...nopes. I...I...um..." Leaving her embrace moments later, I waddle to the center of the living room, "I um..."

Pacing the floor, my hand finds my chin as my mind scans it's innermost areas for a plausible thought. "I...I...um...I...um...where's Utsukushi, David, Sam, Akira, and Xavier?"

"They're out for right now, Caiden. I told them I needed some time to get to know you better. They'll be back later." She tilts her head after watching me pace the floor for the tenth time. "Caiden-kun?" Rising from the couch, she walks over and lifts me into the air, "Caiden-kun, what's the matter?" Smiling, she carries me back to the couch and sits down with me cradled in her arms, "Caiden-kun, you realize that you can tell Mommy anything right?"

A subtle nod is all I manage as tears swim in my eyes, "My...my...my Mommy and Daddy...they...they....they're gone! They...they...they're gone! I.....I just felt their biosignatures just disappear. They...they...they...I...I...I wan Utsukushi. I...I...I....WAAAH!" Squirring in her hold, a silent request to be held reverberates to her mind and I'm pulled into her warm, loving arms seconds later. "I WANT UTSUKUSHI! I WANT HER! I...I...I...I...WAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!" Burying my head in her chest, my frustrations and sadness pour into her dress, soaking the garment as she rubs my back.

"Caiden-kun, I'll always be your Mommy when you come to visit. Utsukushi told you that she'd care for you didn't she?"

"I did." Utsukushi smiles as her body rises from the depths of the floor. "Caiden-kun," She holds her arms out, "come here, sweetie."

Hearing her voice and sensing her presence less than thirty centimeters away, I hop out of Nielyra's lap and waddle-run towards Utsukushi, tears streaming down my face, "Utsu-nee-chan! Utsu-nee-chan!" Reaching her within seconds, I fall into her arms and my tears and frustrations stream out anew.

*"Why did they hafta die? Why did he hafta have a stroke during the I.C.C.E. meeting? What...what's Oniichan and Oneesan gonna do now? What...what...what...I can't believe this! It's all so sudden it's all just not...not..."* My thoughts break apart as my mind collapses under my emotional earthquake, "WAAAAAH! IT'S NOT FAIR!" Beating my hands against Utsukushi's chest, tears pour down my face as I bury my head, attempting to drown out the reality that's been forced on me. "WAAAAAH! WAAAAAH! WAAAAAH! HE SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT! MOMMY SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT! WAAAAAH! I...I...I....Utsu-nee-chan.....Utsu-nee-chan.....WAAAAAH!"

Utsukushi rubs my back as she faces Nielyra, "We're going to go home now. David, Sam, Akira, and Xavier are still at the amusement park. Just tell them I had to take Caiden home okay."

"Alright, Utsukushi, I'll let them know. You two are always welcome here."

"Thank you, ma'am." Utsukushi smiles and carries me outside. Strapping me into my carseat, she wipes my tears and enters the driver's seat. "Shh...Shh...don't worry,

sweetie.” She starts the car and pulls out the driveway, “Utsu-nee-chan will get you home soon.” Shifting into first and flooring the gas, she speeds down the road.

Thirty minutes into the journey, she scans me via the rearview mirror, *“I’m going help you feel better, I promise. I won’t let my little one be rendered a mess because of this. I’m your guardian, I’m your shield. I **will protect you, Caiden-kun,**”* “Caiden-kun, I’m so sorry that this happened to you. Utsu-nee-chan will do everything she can to help you cope okay.”

Whimpering and sniffing, I nod, “I wanna bottle, a bottle of warm milk when we get home. I wan yoos ta spoon-feed me and bottle-feed mez fa da west of da yeaw. I...I wanna be babied 36/7 every day for the rest of the year. I...I...I...” Whimpers tear my words apart and tears blur my vision as Utsukushi pulls up to her mansion.

Once I’m lifted into the air, I squirm and kick as she brings me over her shoulder and rubs my back, “It’s alright, baby, we’re home now, we’re home.” Sighing deep, she enters the foyer and heads toward the kitchen. With a warm bottle of milk prepared and tested, she carries me to my nursery and sits down in my rocking chair. Rocking and humming slow, she rests my head on her right shoulder and begins bottle-feeding me.

As the warm liquid slides down my throat and her warm smile hits me, my sadness melts away. Though tears still stream down my face, their cause is no longer known. My bottle drained, it vanishes as she places me over her shoulder. Rubbing my back and patting my bottom, a belch reverberates straightaway.

She ruffles my hair and smiles, “There we go, Caiden-kun, all done.”

Being set on my feet, I plop down in front of her, arms raised and tears swimming in my eyes, “NO! NO! NO! UPPIES! UPPIES! UPPIES! UTSU-NEECHAN! UTSU-NEECHAN! WAAAH! WAAAH! UPPIES! UPPIES! UPPIES! WAAAAAAAAAAH!”

Straightaway as my cries increase, I find myself held close and my back being rubbed, “Shh...Shh...” echoes her soothing voice, “it’s okay, sweetie. Utsu-nee-chan’s here. Utsu-nee-chan’s here. I will never leave you. We both have immortality and eternal youth. I will **never** leave you, I can’t, and I won’t. I will never leave, Caiden-kun.”

Purring, I cuddle into her warm embrace, sleep teasing me, “Utsu-nee-chan....sweepy...I...I’m sweepy. I wan nappies.”

“Alright, alright, just relax in my arms, little one. Sleep will come soon enough.”

Purring and cooing, she rocks me and hums, lulling me to sleep within minutes.

She sighs as she sits back down in the rocking chair and rocks me gentle to keep me asleep, *“This is going to be one long twelve months. I hope Caiden will feel a little better tomorrow. Thankfully, I can enter his mind and shut off those pain memories for a while. That will allow him to enjoy his life and forget that pain. I hate to see him like this. Ycatsaius and Nikoletta should have done more to save their father. Yet, they didn’t see*

*the signs. Zentalis in name alone the both of them. They had the abilities yet, they couldn't save David. Oh well, I'm caring for Caiden now, while they stay in the I.C.C.E. and care for the colonies with the other I.C.C.E. members."*

Kissing my forehead, she brings me closer to her embrace and rubs my back, "Caiden-kun, I promise you that I will **never** leave you. I promised you this when we first met and I will forever keep that promise."