

📌 PART.025 –Ready, Set, Hatch!

Susie's Big Day!

🏠 The Final Countdown Begins

January 24, 2021. The day Susie had been waiting for had finally arrived. In just a few hours, she would meet her little golden egg. Everything had gone according to plan—or as much as things ever could. She had been eating well, sleeping soundly, and following all of Rita's guidance. Even Hunter had—mostly—behaved himself.

Outside, the town lay under a thick, untouched blanket of snow. The rooftops, the narrow streets, even the old lampposts stood frozen in time, wrapped in white. A few early risers trudged through the streets, their breath curling into the icy morning air. The small-town hospital stood in contrast—warm, bright, and full of quiet urgency. Despite the chill outside, inside was a world of life.

The Hospital Marathon

The hospital was bustling. The muffled voices of nurses, the rhythmic beeping of machines, and the scent of antiseptic filled the air. Despite the activity, the maternity ward felt like a different world—one where new life was constantly emerging.

With the stork incident somewhat resolved, Susie made it to the hospital, where Rita was already waiting. She had prepared everything Susie might need—a small survival kit with cards, an iPod with her favorite songs, snacks, a pink stuffed doll, and, for some reason, a tiny kazoo.

Rita: "Just in case you need a dramatic moment."

Susie: "*I already have Hunter and Uncle Joe.*"



One of the nurses, a cheerful woman named Claire, helped Susie settle in.

"You're in good hands, sweetheart. I expect you'll be cracking jokes through the contractions."

Susie laughed, already feeling at ease. Rita gave her a reassuring squeeze on the shoulder.

"You're stronger than you think, Susie. And this little one is lucky to have you."

Determined to help speed things along, Rita suggested stair climbing exercises. Together, they marched up and down the hospital stairs TEN TIMES, while Susie chanted "I CAN DO THIS!" between contractions.

 And then... the moment arrived. At 6:50 PM, Susie welcomed her baby girl into the world. A perfect, tiny golden egg. 

The room was filled with a hush, the kind that only comes with witnessing something truly miraculous. Rita gently placed the baby in Susie's arms, and for a moment, time stood still.

She had Paul's nose. Susie's eyes. And a tiny pout that was entirely her own.

Her little hands curled instinctively around Susie's

finger—so small, yet already so full of life.

As soon as the baby let out her first cry, the door suddenly swung open—and there stood Paul.

✨ The Surprise Reunion

Susie gasped. "Paul?! What—how?!"

Paul, still in his work clothes, looked exhausted. A mask hung loose under his chin, and dark circles framed his eyes. His face was thinner than she remembered, the exhaustion of long shifts and worry etched into his features. How long had he been running on empty just to be here?

Paul, slightly out of breath, held up his hands in surrender. "I couldn't miss this, Susie. I was here the whole time, just waiting... I wanted to surprise you."

Tears welled in Susie's eyes as she looked down at their daughter. "She's here. She's perfect."

Paul moved closer, pressing a soft kiss to Susie's forehead before gazing down at their little girl, eyes full of emotion.


"She's even more perfect than I imagined."

Hunter, who had been standing quietly, suddenly let out a loud gasp.

"Dad?!" His face lit up, his excitement spilling out of him all at once.

"YOU'RE REALLY HERE?!"

Paul barely had time to open his arms before Hunter threw himself at him, squeezing as tightly as he could.

 END OF EPISODE 22 - BUT THE JOURNEY CONTINUES... 