

Summary: 4 years later, Brian's in a coma, Brian's lawyer shows up at Dom's garage with a little surprise.

Categories: [Fast and the Furious](#) Characters: Caleb - OMC, Dom/Brian, Dominic Toretto, Ensemble, Jesse, Leticia "Letty" Ortiz, Original Character(s), Vince

Genres: Gen, Slash

Warnings: Adult Situations, Angst, AU, Brain-Insane, Complete, H/C, Kid Fic, m/f, m/m

Challenges: None

Series: None

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Story Notes:

Brian let Dom go and destroyed the evidence

so that the FBI and cops had nothing more then what they had when they started. Dom refused to see Brian or talk to him whenever Brian tried. Eventually he stopped trying...

## 1. [Chapter 1](#) by lydkiya

Chapter 1 by lydkiya

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4 years later

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"Dominic Toretto?"

"Yes?" Dom looked the man over. Three piece business suit, a Benz in the parking lot. The man had money, arrogance and actually acted like Dom should be intimidated.

"My name is Anthony Sedrick, I'm an attorney representing the O'Conner family." Anthony waited for Toretto to be impressed. Instead Dom merely raised an eyebrow.

"And?"

"Yes well. Brian O'Conner was involved in a car accident some months ago. He is currently in a coma at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Until recently the doctors held out hope that Mr. O'Conner would eventually regain consciousness due to the fact that he is breathing on his own..."

"Fascinating. Really. But I don't see what it has to do with me. I haven't seen or heard from Brian in four years." Dom interrupted.

"It is my duty to fulfill the requirements of Mr. O'Conner's estate now that the doctors have determined that he will never wake. In fact his organs are slowly shutting down. To that end you, Mr. Toretto, are to receive 30 % of the value of the estate. 60% of the estate is to be held in trust until the 25th birthday of your son Caleb. Mr. O'Conner has also left you sole custody of Caleb."

Dom was in shock. A son, he had a son with Brian. It explained why Brian had seemed so desperate to talk to him four years ago. It had only been one night. Letty had announced she was in love with Leon and as soon as they made the last heist the two were going to Puerto Rico to live. One sympathetic shoulder and too many beers later and he was making love to Brian. And it had been Love. Despite the pain

that Letty had caused Dom had known that he had been falling for Brian ever since he started showing up at the store ordering his tuna with no crust. He just hadn't been able to deal with the fact that Brian was a cop. Not even knowing what he had done for the team, throwing away his career, risking prison to destroy evidence had been able to soften Dom's sense of betrayal.

"Is he here?" Dom looked across the parking lot at the car the lawyer had shown up in.

"No he has been staying with his grandparents. They have cared for him for the last 2 months. To be honest Mr. Toretto you should expect a fight. The elder Mr. O'Conner was never very good with money, more interested in social extravagances than practical purpose. Knowing this and pleased with his Grandson. Nearly the entire estate, including the family home, was left to Brian O'Conner by his grandfather. Having access to the 30% that was set aside for you to raise Caleb is the only way to continue their life style. They have been living on a small allowance that Mr. O'Conner insisted on giving them. Were it not for his generosity, they would be broke. That allowance does not continue after his death. 10% of the estate has been set aside for legal expenses as Mr. O'Conner did expect that if something were to happen to him prior to Caleb's 18th birthday they would attempt to take custody. There is some paper work and then we can set a date for you to take physical custody of Caleb, since the family home has been left to Caleb it is within your right to live there with your son. However Mr. O'Conner has provided that his parents may live in the family home until their death or physical health prevent it."

"Where do I sign?"

Sedrick took out a stack of papers and began pointing out the pages that required signatures. After agreeing to turning over the child the next day Anthony began stuffing papers back into his briefcase.

"You will receive a small stipend until Mr. O'Conner's death at which time the entire amount of your inheritance will be dispersed to you. I'll bring Caleb here tomorrow after school. Have a good day Mr. Toretto."

"You to." Dom said distracted.

The lawyer turned back and regarded Dom for a moment before he added "he's in room 204."

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Hospital  
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"Hey." Dom reached out and took hold of Brian's hand. "Your attorney came by to see me this morning, told me about Caleb. I'm sorry I didn't give you a chance to tell me. I'm sorry I held on to my anger and sense of betrayal for so long." Dom reached up and stroked Brian's curls before sitting in the chair. "You need to keep holding

on, you've been doing it for two months, you can beat this, whatever it is, Brian. Caleb needs you. I'm going to need you I don't have the first clue how to be a father to a three year old." Dom fell silent watching Brian lay so unnaturally still on the bed. The beeps and hum of hospital equipment filling the silence with sound.

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Next day, Hospital  
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"I need to know what was different about yesterday, you're nurses, and you're supposed to record this stuff."

"I'm telling you nothing happened, doctor, same routine, same medication." The nurse said.

"Well something's happened he's starting to stabilize." The doctor replied as he glanced over his shoulder. Noticing the large bald man entering his patient's room he moved forward to find out who this new person was. "Excuse me..." he said as his hand landed on Dom's shoulder.

Dom turned to look at the doctor and raised an eyebrow in question.

"I haven't seen you before. You know Brian?"

"I'm the father of his son, I wasn't aware that anything had happened to him until yesterday. Why is there a problem with me visiting him?"

Ignoring the question the doctor asked one of his own "did you visit yesterday?"

Dom simply nodded his head not understanding what was going on.

"Mr. ...?"

"Toretto, Dominic Toretto." Dom replied.

"Mr. Toretto, can we talk for a moment?" The doctor gestured towards one of the private waiting rooms.

"Yeahhh... I guess." Dom moved with the doctor to the room.

After closing the door the doctor addressed Toretto. "I believe that coma patients can hear and to some extent are aware of their surroundings. I am a firm supporter of touch therapy. Brian has been breathing on his own and has brain wave activity meaning he is not brain dead. However he has been on a steady decline, organs shutting down. It's been nearly impossible to stabilizing any of them."

"Yeah ok, I don't understand why you're telling me..." Dom muttered. He just wanted to see Brian and he didn't have much time. He had to be home by 2:30 so the lawyer could drop his son off. He would have come earlier but getting a room cleaned out and painted had taken a large portion of his day.

"I'm telling you Mr. Toretto because as far as I can tell you are the only thing new to the situation. Brian's vitals are stable. While his organs aren't great they no longer seem to be shutting down. He's doing better and I have a renewed hope that he may make it back from this. In short he's fighting harder to survive. I've always thought if someone important to him was visiting him, talking to him, asking him to fight that he would do better. I've asked his parents a number of times to let his son visit but they've always refused." The doctor said.

"I wasn't aware that small children were allowed to visit." Dom said in shock. Brian was doing better and this doctor believed that it was because Dom had visited.

"In ICU we have different visitation rules and hours. 85% of the patients admitted to this unit die, Mr. Toretto. We try to make sure their families, no matter the age, have a chance to say goodbye."

"I can bring Caleb by tonight." Dom said; determined to do anything that they thought would help Brian get better.

"As wonderful as that would be I don't want this to cause problems between you and Brian's parents."

"It won't cause problems. I will be taking custody of Caleb today. The lawyer is bringing him by after his preschool this afternoon; speaking of which I'd really like to visit Brian a bit before I need to leave to meet with the lawyer." Dom said.

"Of course, of course, I just wanted to make sure you knew your visits were helping and to encourage you to continue to stop by."

"Everyday." Dom said as he left the room and headed towards Brian's.

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Brian's Room

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Dom sat down in the hard orange plastic chair and took Brian's hand in his own.

"The Doc seems to think my visit yesterday helped. I hope so. I've missed you... a lot. By the time I let go of the anger it had been almost a year since I had heard from you. I figured you had moved on with your life and there wasn't room in it for me. I'm sorry Brian. If I had just given you those five minutes you wanted everything would have been different. I need you to fight this Brian... for me, for Caleb. We need you." Dom leaned forward and placed a soft kiss against the hand he held. "Your lawyer is bringing Caleb over this afternoon so I can't stay as long today. I would have come by earlier

but I had to clean and paint one of the rooms for our son. But I'll be back tonight and I'll bring him with, ok? Get better soon. I miss those baby blues." Dom stood up and placed a second kiss against Brian's hand before laying it back on the bed and letting go. To his amazement he felt Brian's hand clench around his briefly.

Snapping his head up he was disappointed to see Brian's eyes still closed, wrapping his hand around Brian's again he asked "Brian? Baby, can you hear me? Open your eyes Brian. Show me those baby blues." Dom watch Brian's face anxiously for any movement but nothing happened. "Please Brian... You can do this, squeeze my hand again. Anything please..." Dom begged and then let out a loud whoop when he felt Brian's hand contract again.

The nurse came rushing in at the noise. "Mr. Toretto this is a hospital! Please keep your voice down." She hissed.

"He squeezed my hand!" Dom said excitedly.

"It was probably just a reflex Mr. Toretto. Brian is in a coma he has no conscious control over his extremities." The nurse replied kindly.

"Well then why'd he do it a second time when I asked him to?" Dom demanded.

"He responded to a request?" The nurse asked as she made her way to the other side of Brian's bed. When Dom nodded she picked up Brian's other hand and asked him to squeeze it. Brian's fingers twitched slightly in her hand but Dom grinned and help up his hand showing that Brian was holding on to it. The nurse gave her own grin. "I'll be right back with the Doctor." She told him as she hurried out of the room.

When the nurse returned with the doctor, Dom was asked to leave the room. Glancing up at the clock Dom knew the he would have to leave now to get his son anyway. He leaned over Brian and gave him a kiss on the forehead.

"I have to go now. I have to meet the lawyer to get Caleb. But I'll be back in a couple hours. Keep fighting Brian; Show the doctor what you can do." Dom told him then pressed his lips against the hand curled around his before laying it back on the bed and leaving.

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Dom's House

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Anthony Sedrick walked up the cracked concrete steps with Caleb in tow. He was anxious to get this over with and get out of this neighborhood before some punk stole his car. He couldn't believe that Mr. Toretto wasn't even interested in living in the O'Conner home. It was a lovely old Victorian mansion. There was more the enough room although he had to admit that living with the elder O'Conner's would probably be strained and very annoying. Sedrick took a deep breath before knocking on the front door.

Dom opened the door and looked down at his son, immediately dropping to his knees so he wouldn't seem to imposing. "Hello Caleb" he whispered.

"Mr. Seder-ick says you're my other daddy. Grandfather says that you just want my daddy's money." Caleb told his father in that innocent way that all three year olds seem to have.

"Well Mr. Sedrick is right I am your other daddy but I didn't know about you until yesterday. Your grandfather is wrong. I would very much rather have you and your daddy then all the money in the world." Dom said very seriously looking into his son's eyes. Caleb cocked his head to the side as if weighing the truth of Dom's words before giving a decisive nod of his head and holding out his arms to be picked up. Dom lifted his son into his arms and held him close. Looking over at the lawyer he asked where Caleb's belongings were.

"I'm afraid that Mr. O'Conner refused to let me remove anything from the home. He said as far as he was concerned this was a temporary thing and he's sure a judge will return Caleb to their care. Since you are Caleb legal guardian and I do not actually represent you, I was unable to legally force them to allow me to remove property from the home. Because the home technically belongs to Caleb they can't refuse you entry. If they do you can call the police. I did manage to get him a change of clothes. And all of his preschool information is in there. I wasn't sure if you planned to keep Caleb there or not so I told them you would call them. Will there be anything else Mr. Toretto?"

"No I think I got it." Dom growled then turned and walked back into his home letting the door swing shut behind him without another glance, leaving Anthony Sedwick standing on his porch.

Dom sat down on the couch with Caleb in his arms and gave him a small smile.

"We need to talk buddy."

"'bout what?" Caleb asked as he played with a hole in Dom's wife beater.

"Your other daddy, what did your grandfather tell you about him?" Dom asked trying to figure out how to explain to his son so that he wouldn't be scared when they got to the hospital. He was not prepared for the answer.

"That he had to leave me and go to heaven." Caleb answered. In a small whisper he added "he didn't even say bye."

Shit! Shit, shit, shit was all Dom could think. Now he had to explain not only that his father wasn't dead but that he was very sick and could still die. No wonder those asses wouldn't let Caleb visit. What kind of grandparent tells a kid his dad's gone to heaven before the man dies.

"Well buddy, we need to talk about that. See your daddy's not in heaven. He's in the hospital. He still might have to go to heaven. He doesn't want to though; he wants to stay here with you. Only he's very, very sick, but the doctors think that if we, you and I" Dom gestured with his hand between his son's chest and his own "visited him and asked him to get better that maybe he would. Do you understand that?"

"UH huh... Daddy needs Hugs! Hugs fix everything. My daddy told me so."

Dom smiled and gave a small chuckle before commenting. "Yeah, son, he needs \*Lots\* of hugs." Dom said as he tickled his boy's belly. "We're going to go visit daddy at the hospital tonight but we have to be very careful because the doctors have a lot of tubes connected to your daddy. They have medicine in them to help him get better."

Caleb clapped his hands and smiled at his new daddy. "We go now?" he asked with a little bounce.

"Don't you want to see your new room first?" Dom asked his son.

Caleb whipped his head back and forth "nuh uh. We go see daddy."

"Right then, let's head out." Dom said standing up and tipping his son upside down. They headed out towards Dom's Mazda RX-7 amid shouts of laughter and giggles. Stopping at the car Dom set Caleb on his feet and stared at the back seat of his car. "No car seat. Shi... uh, never mind." Dom muttered glancing down at his three year old.

Caleb smiled and pointed to the porch. "My seat there."

Dom glanced back and sure enough in the corner of the porch sat a child's booster seat. "Ok then, Wait right here ok. I'll be two seconds." With that said Dom sprinted back up his porch for the car seat. It took Dom a couple minutes to figure out the car seat but after that they were ready to head out to the hospital. With the stereo turned down Dom listen to his sons chatter with a smile all the way to the hospital.

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Hospital  
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Dominic Toretto was amused at his son's babble. The little boy had not stopped chattering once on the ride to the hospital. Dom now knew that Caleb thought Dom's red car was neat but not as neat as his other Daddy's silver one and that neither were as cool as his own blue one, which he could drive himself. He learned about swimming lessons, the puppy he was going to get as soon as he was a `big boy' and his son's apparent dislike for cooked carrots but not the raw ones.

"They's mushy that way. Peas is mushy to. I don't ike peas neither."  
Caleb stated as they walked down the hospital corridor.

Dom gave a chuckle before scooping Caleb up in his arms and setting him on his hip. "Ok kiddo, we're just about there so we need to talk about some rules. There are lots of sick people here so we can't be loud." As Dom spoke he looked his son in the eye to gauge how much of this his three year old was taking in.

Caleb gave a sharp nod "no yeing. What else?"

With a smile Dom answered "no running and you have to be very careful of the tubes and wires that are hooked up to your daddy ok. They tell the doctors how sick he is and give him medicines to help him get better."

"no prah-blemo." Caleb gave his father a sly look before adding "I's be a good boy... a big boy!"

Once again Dom found himself laughing at his son's antics. "A puppy is something that we have to talk with your other daddy about, my boy. But I could do a happy meal for you." Dom finished with a grin.

"Is this na-go-she-bull?" Caleb looked at his father with what passed for a calculating look on a three year old.

"Sure we can negotiate." Dom said as he tried to keep a straight face while hold back his laughter. He was pretty sure this was one time that laughing would not be appreciated.

"How about pesaw? It's a long time I have pesaw. Grandfather says its icky for you." Caleb gave a little bounce as he said this. Then taking a second look at his dad's face added "and maybe a toy puppy?"

"I think we can do a toy puppy and pizza. But you have to be on your best behavior." Dom said with mock sternness just as he stopped in front of Brian's room. "Here we are kiddo."

Dom slowly pushed the door open, only to find an empty room. He blinked a few times before turning on his heel and with a frown marched over to the nurse's station.

"Where is Brian?" He demanded of the nurse on duty.

"Brian... Room 204?"

"Yes! Brian O'Connor room 204! Where is he!" Dom was close to panicking. He knew that Brian was doing better but he was still in critical condition. The doctors had been convinced it was only a matter of time only a couple days ago.

"Dialysis treatment, he should be back in about fifteen minutes or so. The nurse said with a soft smile. She could understand the mans panic when he got up to the ward only to find his friend missing. "Is this Brian's son?"

"Yes the doctor said it would be ok?" Dom was trying to convince his heart to relocate back to his chest and not take up permanent



residence in his throat.

"It sure is." She said with a smile as she ruffled Caleb's hair. "Would you like some juice while you wait for your daddy?" she asked.

Caleb gave a quick shake of his head and shyly ducked his face into his daddy's shoulder. Daddies were one thing strangers were something else.

Dom walked back into Brian's room with Caleb still resting in his arms and sat down to wait.

Twenty minutes later an orderly wheeled Brian back into the room. Dom was starting to think that he should have said something more to Caleb about how his father looked. There were deep bruises on Brian's arm from the dialysis treatment, not to mention the fact that he was tube feed and had not been out of the bed for the last two months. Brian over all did not look good.

Dom whispered to his son that everything was ok and watched as his son reached slowly to touch his other father's face. After a few minutes of silence Caleb began to talk... and talk... and talk.

Brian really wanted to open his eyes. He could hear Dom and Caleb in the room talking to him. But he felt disconnected from his body; neither his eyes nor his mouth would obey his commands. After awhile he gave up and settled for listening to his son. A voice he hadn't heard in two months.

"... and Mr. Seder-ick kept looking back at his car. Why did he do that daddy? It's not a very nice car. Not like yours or daddy's red one. Although my blue one is still the best! I told daddy all about when I get to be a big boy I get to have a puppy. I told daddy I would be a big boy here but he says we still gots to ask you fore I can have one. But if I be on my best be-haver then I can have a toy puppy now. Do you think they have toy puppies what will bark and do tricks?"

Brian wanted to grin. Nobody in the world could make him smile like his son. Brian could feel his son curl up on the bed and lay his head next to him. He wanted more then anything to pull Caleb into his arms and feel him rest against his chest. To feel the silky black hair that curled wildly atop his head. He felt his arm twitch as he struggled to move it.

He felt Dom take hold of his hand and he wanted to scream in frustration. He had been so close. Just a little longer and he would have gotten his arm to move he could have touched his baby.

"Hey babe, that's some little man we got there. He hasn't stop talking since he got here. I really thought it would be harder to deal with him but it's like he's always been there. The only thing missing is you. I really want you to wake up Brian. I know I fucked up, but if we try, we can work this out and be a family." Dom voice was low and warm as it rumbled through the room.

It caught at Brian's mind and evoked memories of his summer with Dom and the team. It had been a summer of cars, races and falling in love

with Dom. He often ignored the fact that he had been an undercover cop, sent in to catch Dom and his team in a heist.

"Excuse me." A nurse stuck her head in through the door. "Visiting hours for non critical or fatal patients is over now. And since Brian has been upgraded I am afraid I'm going to have to ask you to leave."

Dom looked back at her and gave a small smile. "Give me five to say goodbye and then we'll be out of here."

That's fine. I'm very happy for you. His being upgraded is a good thing. Every little boy needs his daddies." The nurse said with a smile before ducking out.

"Well Bri, I guess that's it for tonight. I will bring Caleb by tomorrow. Maybe we can have lunch here with you huh? If you wake up I'll bring you a tuna on white no crust." Dom said with a chuckle.

With a soft kiss to the corner of Brian's mouth, a kiss Brian tried to return, and a squeeze to his hand which Brian did return, Dom let go and carefully lifted his sleeping son. Holding him against his chest he took one last look back at Brian before walking out of the room. He didn't notice Brian's eyelids fluttering as the door swung shut.

Dom couldn't believe it was so late. Or that he'd completely skipped dinner and kept Caleb at the hospital until 10 o'clock at night.

As Dom walked out to his car, a nurse making her nightly rounds was rushing to the nurse's station to page a doctor and commenting on the ocean blue eyes open and blinking in room 204.

"Can you imagine he just missed seeing his son by five minutes? Why I bet they are still on their way out of the hospital." She remarked to the other on duty nurse as she punched in the code for Brian O'Connor's doctor.

"Maybe we should call security and see if they can catch them. I mean no one thought Mr. O'Connor was going to make it til that tall side of beef started to visit him." The other nurse said as she punched in the hospital security number.

Both nurses were giggling as they waited to see if security had indeed caught up with the side of beef in question.

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Parking Lot  
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"Hey! Sir?! Wait up mister!" The security guard shouted as he sprinted after the tall bald man cradling a child in his arms.

Dom looked back to see a slightly older man running to catch up with him.

"Your friends with O'Connor in ICU?" the panting man managed to ask

of Dom. When Dom answered with a nod, the security guard told him he was wanted back up at the unit.

Dom didn't even pause to ask why he just took off at a sprint, fearing the worst. The jarring motion of his fathers jog woke Caleb, who simply wrapped his arms around Dom's neck and held on tight.

Dom didn't wait for the elevator as soon as he felt Caleb's arms take hold around his neck he headed for the stairs. When he reached the ICU there were several nurses standing around and the Doctor was striding into Brian's room.

He headed for the group of nurses gathered at the desk guessing, correctly, that he would not be allowed in Brian's room at the moment.

"What's going on?!" Dom demanded not even stopping to catch his breath from his dash to the second floor.

"He's opened his eyes" one nurse exclaimed with a broad smile.

"Oh I am so glad security caught up with you. Can you imagine just missing your son by a couple minutes like that? I for one would want to be able to see my loved ones as soon as possible" said the nurse that had asked them to leave earlier.

"Opened his eyes. He opened his eyes." Dom let go a deep breath, all the tension since the guard had told him he was wanted back on the unit suddenly left and Dom sat down right in the middle of the hallway. He looked down at his son who he still had clutched to his chest.

"Did you hear that Kiddo. Your Daddy woke up!"

"a-course he did. I told you... hugs fix everything." Caleb responded in a very sleepy, put out tone.

There were chuckles all around as Caleb gave a wiggle before laying his back onto his fathers shoulder and closed his eyes.

"Hey Brian, finally had enough of the beauty sleep I see. Well let's just see what's the what, shall we." The doctor said to Brian. The only sound Brian seemed to be able to make in response was a very mumbled groan.

"Don't worry about the heavy feeling in your limbs. You may find it hard to move them but I assure you that it will clear up. You've been here for two months. Between the feeding tube and the physical therapy we have kept your muscles from atrophying. But that doesn't change the fact that it's been two months since you've used them. Or eaten much more then nutrient enriched mush." The doctor said as he continued to check Brian over.

"c... ca..." Brian stuttered.

"Caleb?" The Doctor asked.

Brian gave a barely noticeable nod of his head and the doctor smiled at him.

"I believe he is out in the lobby with his other father charming the nurses. I also think that everything looks good and we'll do some testing tomorrow and I will be back into see you. But for now I think I will send your men in." The doctor told Brian as he finished with a wink.

"I'm pretty sure that the waiting chairs are more comfortable." The doctor told Dom as he exited Brian's room.

Dom stood up with a grin. "I was a bit overwhelmed with the news."

"Well I am going to let you and Caleb visit for a few minutes. He's going to be tired so I don't expect him to stay awake long. Once he's asleep I would like you to leave. You are of course welcome to come back tomorrow. He will be having several tests through out the day so no panicking if he's not in the room." He gave Dom a sly grin.

Dom gave a tight smile and a nod before pushing open Brian's door. Dom stood there and looked into Brian's warm blue eyes and then gave the biggest grin of his life before stepping closer to the bed.

"Hi."

Brian gave the only response he could a slight turning up of his lips and tiny nod then he settled his gaze on his son's small form.

Dom seeing the longing in Brian's eyes quickly settled Caleb into the bed next to him and helped move his hands so that he was holding him.

Brian gave a blissful sigh and seemed to soak up the contact.

Dom didn't say much during the visit instead he seemed to be content to watch Brian cuddle with Caleb; happy to see the intelligence and recognition that lit Brian's eyes. It wasn't long before those eyes closed in sleep. Dom placed a kiss on Brian's forehead before careful extracting his son and heading home.

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Next day, Hospital  
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"Good Morning Brian. How are you feeling this morning? I imagine you have some questions for me?" Dr. Kota addressed Brian as he entered.

"Yeah" Brian said weakly. "What's with the bruises on my arms? And why is it so hard to talk and move?"

"Well the bruising is from dialysis. You went into kidney failure. Now for quite awhile your serum creatinine was less than 400  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  which meant that we could treat it with medication, however, it was doing little to help. About two weeks ago your serum creatinine increase to 900  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  this meant that without dialysis or a kidney

transplant you would die. Because you were in a coma and at the time it was my opinion, as well as others, that you would not recover, you were not eligible to be placed on the transplant list. The only action available to us was dialysis. Your numbers have been improving and I believe that you should make a full recovery and there really won't be a need for a transplant. However you will need to continue with dialysis treatment three times a week until your kidneys are function correctly. Well that was a bit of information for you. Do you have any questions on that before we tackle your other question?"

Brian frowned but gave a shake of his head to indicate that he had no questions.

"You're finding it hard to control your extremities because you have not moved them in two months. Your muscles are much weaker than you remember them. This is because of disuse. However now that your no longer in a coma you will be weaned onto regular food starting with a liquid diet and working up to a solid diet. You will also be having daily physical therapy including hydro-therapy a couple times a week. This should have you back to form relatively soon."

"hydro?" Brian mumbled.

"Water therapy. It takes place in a pool." The doctor answered.

Just then an orderly came into the room.

"Ahh... your lifts here. We will be running several tests today. Right now I believe you will be headed down for a cat scan. We will also be doing an EEG. However that will be done here in the room. Someone will be in to draw blood as well. I'm on-duty until six o'clock so it's likely that I will drop by to check on you again today. Don't worry Brian; we will get you back on your feet and playing with your son." The doctor gave a wink and left Brian with the orderly.

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Meanwhile  
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Dom had a headache. He had gotten home late Friday night only to find Mia asleep at the kitchen table with books spread out all over the place. After putting his son to bed he had roused his sister enough to get her up the stairs and into her own bed. He laid awake in his own bed trying to figure out how he was going to explain Caleb to Mia.

After everything that had happened back then things had been tense and stressed between them so Dom had kept his mouth shut about the night he's spent in her boyfriend's bed. Mia had transferred to school in San Diego saying she needed a fresh start where people didn't know who he was; 'where she could find a guy who wanted to be with her without him being in awe or in fear of Dominic Torretto'.

After getting only a couple of hours of sleep he had been wakened by his son who felt that bouncing on the bed was the perfect way to wake up his daddy. Of course after rolling onto his back to watch his son jumping, he ended up with a groin full of little boy knees pretty

much insuring that even if he and Brian got back together Caleb was going to be an only child.

Breakfast wasn't that much better. Mia had come down while he was fixing bacon and eggs and was just in time to hear Caleb ask his `daddy if he could have juice instead of milk for breakfast'. She stood in the doorway looking back and forth between Caleb and himself. Caleb truly was a blend of himself and Brian and neither one of them was ever going to be able to deny paternity. From the black curls to blue eyes, Dom's nose and skin tone and a smile that was all Brian. It didn't take her long to take in his looks and apparent age and start screaming about back stabbing brothers. Caleb had been terrified and jumped from his seat to hide under the table. It took his own shouting to shut her up and convince her to wait until after breakfast.

Now here he stood watching his son running in the back yard through the kitchen window while his sister raged behind him.

"Look, it happened. Your bitching isn't going to change it. If you need to know... It was the night that Letty told me about her and Leon. I stormed out and Brian came after me, wouldn't let me get in my car. He drove me around for awhile and we ended up back at his room with more then a couple Corona's. He was drunk, I was drunk. I was hurting and I just wanted it to stop so I kissed him. And things happened. He wasn't the love of your life Mia; you were dating Hectors kid brother two days after everything went down. The only reason you're pissed that he slept with someone else is because that someone else was me. Your going to have to deal with it Mia. Work it out however you want because Caleb is my son and he lives here now and hopefully when they release Brian from the hospital he'll come home to." Dom finished his speech and turned around to look at his sister sitting at the table staring at him.

"I'm going back to school." Was all she said as she stood and walked out of the room.

"Shit" Dom bowed his head and rubbed the back of his neck. Taking a deep breath he turned back to check on his son not at all prepared to see Vince leaning against the fence playing catch with Caleb.

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"Vince" Dom said as he walked across the back yard.

"Dom." Vince responded with a nod of his head.

"It's been awhile." Dom caught Caleb's wild throw and toss the ball back to his son.

"Two years. So the kid?" Vince responded.

"Mine and Brian's. " Dom responded as he leaned on the fence. "And two years because you didn't want anyone visiting you while you were locked up." Dom watched as his son tried to catch the ball and ended up chasing it across the yard.

"Bet Mia's pleased. That what you two were talking about in there? Seemed kinda serious, I was gonna head in but the kid here said it was 'big people fighting'. And anyway you didn't let any of us come visit when you were sent up either. "

"Yeah well... I didn't think you were gonna get drunk and follow in my footsteps either. " Dom rubbed the back of his neck. "I didn't know you were getting out. I would have picked you up."

"Half way house for two months, part of my parole. Listen, Dom... I need a job... I was kinda hoping?"

"Yeah, yeah that's cool; you don't even need to ask man, your family. Clear it with who ever, you can start back at DT on Monday." Dom squinted up at the sun before looking over at Vince.

"Caleb, come here a sec." Dom said with a grin as he knelt down to catch his running son.

"Caleb this here is your Uncle Vince." Dom pointed up at Vince from his position on the ground, one arm still wrapped around his son's waist.

"Is he going to live here to?" Caleb asked excitedly. Anyone who would play catch with him was cool as far as he was concerned.

"Maybe in a couple months, for now it's just gonna be the two of us. And hopefully pretty soon your daddy to."

"Can we go visit daddy?" Caleb asked turning to look at his father.

"Sure, we can stop and get you some pizza and have lunch with your daddy. How's that sound?" Dom questioned.

"And a toy puppy, you promised. Can I have a piggy back ride?" Caleb gave his daddy his best cute little boy look.

With a chuckle Dom swung Caleb up and on to his back, looking over at Vince with a grin he invited his best friend along.

"Naa that's ok. I am supposed to be looking for work. Have to report in and all that stuff. I have to earn levels or some sh... ah something like that to get free time out side of the house. So in a couple weeks I'll stop by. Where is Brian anyway?" Vince responded barely curbing his tendency to swear.

"Hospital, he had a major accident a couple months ago. He was in a coma... only just woke up last night." Dom answered.

"That's rough man. Tell him I said to get well. I'll stop by when I get free time. I'll see you in a couple days." Vince said as he walked backwards towards the driveway.

"Later." Dom said as Caleb waved from his dad's back. "Bye, bye!"

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"Hi Daddy!" Caleb chirped as he preceded his other father into the room. Dom followed carrying two personal sized pizzas and gave Brian an amused smile as Caleb immediately launched into a story about meeting his auntie Mia, who was very loud, and his uncle Vince, who played catch with him.

"Caleb, love why don't you eat your lunch" Brian said rather softly. Interrupting the flow of information about how `purr-fect' Dom's house was for a puppy.

"But I haven't shown you my new toy puppy yet. We found one what does tricks!" Caleb exclaimed in excitement.

"That does, not, what does and you can show me after Lunch, I want you to eat right now, ok?" Brian said just as the nurse brought in his own lunch. Being on a liquid diet meant that he could only stare in longing at Dom's pizza with all the peppers, meat and cheese, while drinking his own chicken broth that tasted more like yellow salt water. Maybe if he pouted just a bit he could have a small bite, surely Dom would share.

Dom gave a chuckle and held out his pizza allowing Brian to take a small bite before taking one of his own. "Don't go poutin' for another bite either it would probably make you sick." Dom said after he swallowed.

By the time that both Brian and Dom had finished their lunches Caleb had eaten half his cheese pizza, curled up on the bed near his fathers hip and fallen asleep. With a soft smile at his son, Brian turned the conversation away from the team and what they had been doing to what the doctors had told him this morning.

"Brian..." Dom looked up from playing with his pizza box to meet Brian's eyes "I want you to come home after they release you from the hospital, Home with me and Caleb."

"Dom..." Brian closed his eyes. Part of him wanted to say yes. The part that wanted Caleb to have both his fathers, but the rest of him remembered the hurt that Dom had inflicted on him; the loneliness of not having anyone to share the joys of pregnancy and give him the emotional support when he needed it. Brian was not ready to move in with Dom and pretend that none of it happened.

"I don't think that's a very good idea. There's too much shit between the two of us. We need to work it out before we even think about having any kind of relationship other than as Caleb's parents let alone living together. And I don't think having that conversation while Caleb is around is the best. "

"But there's a chance for us right? I mean I can swing by during the day while Caleb's at pre-school and we can have lunch and talk and stuff. Work it out." At Brian's nod Dom gave him a large smile and reached out to stroke the side of Brian's face "That's all I want Brian, just a chance."



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Epilogue  
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Brian signed the release papers with flourish. A month of physical therapy, tests, and Dialysis was more than enough. Of course he would have to continue with physical therapy twice a week until they determined that he was back to full strength or as strong as he was going to get. Brian was determined though. He hated the thought of being stuck on crutches or with a cane for the rest of his life. And since there wasn't really any muscle damage there wasn't any real reason for him not to make a one hundred percent recovery.

Man he couldn't wait for Dom to show so he could go home. Dom had kept his word and had come everyday for lunch, sometimes even bringing the tuna on white no crust that Brian loved. They had talked about everything and anything that could have possibly caused a problem with them getting together. It had been hard; there had been a lot of pain and anger on both sides. Which had surprised Dom, he had thought that he had gotten over it all. But Brian knew they would make it this time. There weren't anymore lies between them, no more half-truths, no more things left un-said.

Dom pushed open the door to Brian's room with a grin bringing Brian out of his thoughts.

"Ready to go home?"

"Most definitely" Brian said with a large smile. "Where's the little monster man?"

"He's at the house with Vince." Dom said before leaning over and giving Brian a kiss.

Brian grabbed his crutches and got to his feet while Dom grabbed his bag.

"So why didn't Caleb want to come?" Brian questioned as the orderly came in with the required wheelchair.

Taking the crutches from Brian as the orderly helped lower him into the wheelchair Dom answered rather quickly "hegotapuppy".

"He got a what?" Brian stared at Dom incredulously.

"I got him a puppy. The lady down the street was going to give it to the pound."

"Right and at the pound someone ELSE could have adopted it. Dom, he's not old enough to take care of it. Feeding, watering and training it to piss outside and cleaning up the shit. I sure as hell don't want to get stuck doing it. That's why I told him he would have to wait til he was older, Dom!" by the time that Brian was done with his rant they had reached the car parked at the front doors.

Dom stored Brian's gear in the back seat before helping him into the front seat. Once Brian was seated Dom leaned in and gave Brian a soft kiss on the corner of his mouth. When Brian turned and looked his way Dom gave his best pout.

"I'll take care of the dog; I'll teach Caleb how to care for him. Come on Brian it's not such a bad thing is it?"

"Considering you knew how I felt about it, at least enough to be nervous about telling me?" Brian asked.

"I'm sorry." Dom said as he stood and walked around the car. After settling in he looked over at Brian "but it is a really cute puppy. It was kinda hard to say no to Mrs. Carmenetti once I'd seen him."

"Wait a minute; is this Caleb's dog or yours?" Brian asked with a twitch of the lips.

"Both?"

Brian gave a chuckle before sticking out his finger and point forward "home, brat."

"Yes Sir! So does this mean you're not mad anymore?" Dom said as he pulled away from the front of the hospital.

"It better be a REALLY cute puppy." Brian mock grumbled and then gave a chuckle. "Just remember YOU'RE taking care of it!"

Dom shot a quick look at Brian and with a smile he said "I love you."

"I love you to." Brian said with fondness.

THE END

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