

## *America's Times From Giacomo*

### *The Birth of Peach and Meeting Ralph*

The birth of Peach had a huge effect on Grace's life. For everyone who becomes a mother, their baby affects their life drastically but even more so for Grace. Grace became a mother as a teenager. She lost friends at school and was teased about it way more than the father, Max. Grace was not able to take care of Peach herself so she put her up for adoption. Luckily, Peach ended up in a loving home. Grace was also able to meet someone who she could trust and talk to about Peach. That person is Ralph and she met him in the bathroom while she was having a breakdown. It is an odd way to meet someone. He helped her get herself together. They met again in a coffee shop where Ralph worked. They then met up there frequently to discuss things. Ralph was a good friend who did not judge Grace and was her first friend from school after she gave birth. Throughout the story, Grace is thinking about Peach and longing to be with her.



### *Maya and Claire's Breakup*

This was not a great breakup for either Maya or Claire. Maya was very needy of Claire but that ended up ending their relationship. Maya was the one who broke up with Claire and it was because Claire wasn't responding to Maya's texts right away. Maya should have realised that Claire was not always going to be available for her comfort. Claire was a human too and was taking care of her father. It was not a mature breakup.

### *More of Joaquin's Past*

When Joaquin, Grace and Maya were at the mall at a table, Adam and his buddies approached them. Adam started teasing and name calling Grace. He also started talking about Joaquin being her new boyfriend. Joaquin got more involved and pinned Adam against a wall.

He scared Adam and his friends away but he also started running away. When Maya and Grace caught up to him, they sat on a bench and Joaquin explained why he was upset. He was upset because when he was twelve at another foster home, he had a tantrum and accidentally hurt his caretaker's little kid. From then on out, he hated violence and did not want to hurt anyone. He was happy he did not have to hurt Adam. Maya and Grace were very supportive of Joaquin and their bond became much tighter.

### *Joaquin's Therapy Experience*

Joaquin's adoptive parents had Joaquin go to a therapist once a week because he was going through a lot. His therapist was a woman named Ana and he liked her. One of the main topics Joaquin and Ana went over was Joaquin's breakup with Birdie. He broke up with his girlfriend even though he still liked her and she still liked him. The reason he broke up with her was because he thought he was not good enough for her. He thought he would drag her down and that he would prevent her from achieving her dreams. Ana helped Joaquin but the therapy was not perfect.

