CRAVINGS

Written by

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EXT. OUTDOOR CAFE - NIGHT

SAM, early 20s, cute, bubbly and 7-months pregnant sits next to JESSE, early 30s, handsome and tough. Jesse has a coffee in front of him; Sam has water. A WAITER walks up to their table.

WAITER
Any dessert for you two?

Sam glances hopefully at Jesse. He laughs, shaking his head.

SAM
No thanks.

The waitress places the bill on the table and leaves.

JESSE
Don’t make me feel bad. We both agreed. No desserts until after peanut is born.

SAM
I know... I know... I’m just pregnant.

JESSE
Pregnant and beautiful.

Jesse and Sam hold hands.

SAM
I’m going to be so bored this week without you.

JESSE
I’m hoping I’ll be too busy at the convention to be bored, but I’ll still miss you.

Jesse’s CELL PHONE RINGS.

SAM
Who’s that?

Jesse answers the phone.

JESSE
Hello... Yes, speaking.

Jesse freezes.
SAM
(whispers)
Who is it?

JESSE
What?...Are you...? Yes, I’ll be right there.

SAM
What’s going on?

JESSE
Rebecca died.

SAM
Your ex?

JESSE
We have to go get Aiden.

Jesse drops cash on the table, and they leave.

INT. AIDEN’S OLD BEDROOM – NIGHT

The room is half packed with toys scattered on the ground. AIDEN, 7-years old, a small, solemn looking boy with unruly hair, sits on the floor packing a box of toys.

Sam and Jesse enter the room quietly.

JESSE
Hey Aiden.

Aiden looks up at the couple.

SAM
Hi Aiden, I’m Sam. Do you need any help?

AIDEN
I need more boxes.

JESSE
We don’t have any more, kiddo? But Christmas is coming soon. You’ll get new things... Just pack your favorites. I’ll be right back.

Jesse leaves the room. Aiden watches as Sam grabs an action figure of a dresser and sneaks it into her purse.
INT. FOYER - NIGHT

The house is decorated for Christmas. Jesse and Sam lead Aiden inside. He wears a backpack and holds a stuffed animal. Jesse carries his packed box of toys.

JESSE
Well this is it.

Aiden stands quiet.

JESSE (CONT’D)
Come on buddy. Let’s see your room.

Jesse starts up the stairs. Aiden and Sam follow.

INT. AIDEN’S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Aiden lies uncomfortably in his new bed. Sam places his stuffed animal next to him. Jesse turns out the lights as they leave.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jesse and Sam crawl into bed.

JESSE
This is the worst timing.

SAM
You should take tomorrow off work.

JESSE
I’m going to Seattle tomorrow.

SAM
The convention. I totally forgot. Do you have to go?

Jesse sighs.

SAM (CONT’D)
I know.

JESSE
Rebecca and I haven’t even talked since Aiden was born.

SAM
We’ll get through this.

Sam kisses Jesse, turns around and hits the lights.
INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Sam makes eggs at the stove. Aiden walks in and sits on the stool at the corner.

    SAM
    Morning. Good timing, breakfast is ready.

Jesse waltzes into the kitchen and sits down while Sam puts the food onto the plates.

    JESSE
    Hey buddy, how did you sleep?

Aiden doesn’t speak and doesn’t touch his food. Jesse starts to eat. Aiden just stares at his plate.

    JESSE (CONT’D)
    You’re not hungry?

    SAM
    I can make you something you else.

    JESSE
    Aiden, what do like?

Aiden holds his head down.

    JESSE (CONT’D)
    (to Sam)
    Make sure he eats something. I can be home for an early dinner before I catch my flight.

Jesse gets up, grabs his coffee mug, kisses Sam and leaves the kitchen.

    SAM
    (whispers)
    It’s okay. I’m not a fan of eggs either.

Aiden doesn’t respond and walks out. Sam stands isolated.

INT. AIDEN’S BEDROOM - DAY

The walls have been partially painted. Sam holds a wet paint roller brush. Aiden sits on the floor, french fries and a burger beside him, and his new Happy Meal toy.

    SAM
    Do you like this color?
Aiden doesn’t respond.

SAM (CONT’D)
What toy did you get?

AIDEN
A truck.

SAM
You like it?

AIDEN
Yeah.

Sam notices Aiden didn’t touch his food.

SAM
Do you wanna eat some fries?

Aiden shakes his head. Sam turns back to the wall and continues to paint.

INT. DINING ROOM – AFTERNOON

Aiden, Sam and Jesse sit at a small dining room table. Sam and Aiden are covered in dried blue paint. Aiden doesn’t touch his dinner.

SAM
(to Aiden)
Still not hungry?

JESSE
You can go play in your room if you’re not hungry.

Aiden leaves the dinner table.

SAM
He hasn’t eaten all day.

JESSE
What?

SAM
He’s grieving.

JESSE
Sam...
SAM
Just let me take care of this. I’ll get him eating. You don’t have to worry.

Jesse and Sam continue their dinner.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT
Sam stands at the front door while Jesse fumbles with his suitcase.

SAM
Don’t worry.

JESSE
You’re the best.

Jesse kisses Sam and walks to the door. Aiden stands on the stairs unnoticed.

JESSE (CONT’D)
If he doesn’t start eating, I’m going to take him to a doctor when I get back.

SAM
Just go get ‘em.

Jesse closes the door. Aiden walks down the stairs.

SAM (CONT’D)
Come on, buddy. Let’s get you ready for bed.

Sam starts walking towards Aiden.

INT. AIDEN’S BEDROOM - NIGHT
Sam peeks up the door to check on Aiden. He is sound asleep. As she shuts the door, he stirs.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT
Sam scoops vanilla and chocolate ice cream into a bowl. She hears a NOISE. Aiden stands in the doorway.

SAM
Oh, did I wake you?
AIDEN
Couldn’t sleep.

SAM
Do you feel like some bacon?

He shrugs but approaches the counter and sits at a stool.

Sam flips the bacon on the skillet. She cubes the pickles and mango and places them on the ice cream. She turns her back to finish the bacon.

Aiden sneaks a bite of Sam’s ice cream. Sam turns around as Aiden finishes. She doesn’t let on that she saw.

Sam places the bacon on a plate. She cuts up a few slices and puts it on her ice cream.

AIDEN
Does Jesse like me?

SAM
Aiden... Yes, your father loves you very much... Here, have some bacon.

Aiden stares at the plate with bacon, but doesn’t touch it. Sam grabs chocolate syrup and pours some over the plate of bacon.

SAM (CONT’D)
Now try it.

Aiden grabs a piece of chocolate covered bacon.

AIDEN
Whoa!

Sam grabs a slice of bacon.

SAM
Aiden, why did you ask if your dad likes you?

AIDEN
Mom said he doesn’t.

Sam hugs Aiden.

INT. AIDEN’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Sam tucks Aiden into bed. He puts his stuffed animal under his chin. Aiden snuggles it. Sam moves to close the door.
AIDEN
Sam.... Goodnight.

Sam smiles and closes the door.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sam gets into bed by herself. She turns out the light with a smile on her face.

BEGIN MONTAGE - SAM AND AIDEN MAKING FOOD TOGETHER

-- Aiden’s bedroom -- Sam waking Aiden up.

SAM
Let’s make grilled cheese and peanut butter.

-- Aiden’s Bedroom -- Sam waking Aiden up.

SAM (CONT’D)
Let’s make salami and jalapeno sundaes.

-- Aiden’s Bedroom -- Sam waking Aiden up.

SAM (CONT’D)
Let’s make buffalo wings with marshmallow fluff.

-- Kitchen -- Aiden and Sam eating chocolate covered strawberries. Sam dabs chocolate on Aiden’s nose. Aiden tries to lick it off.

-- Kitchen -- Aiden and Sam eating pretzels dipped in ranch dressing. Aiden makes a his pretzel sticks kick like chorus girls dancing.

-- Kitchen -- Aiden and Sam eating candy canes dipped in jam. They laugh together.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. FOYER - DAY

Aiden rushes in and struggles to tote Jesse’s briefcase. Jesse carries a suitcase and Sam walks behind.

JESSE
(sarcastically)
Well, that didn’t take forever.
Aiden accidentally drops the briefcase.

JESSE (CONT’D)
Come on Aiden. There’re gifts in there.

Aiden runs off.

SAM
He was just trying to help.

Sam walks out of the room. Jesse stands defeated with slumped shoulders.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Aiden, Sam and Jesse sit at the dining room table. Jesse and Sam eat their dinner while Aiden plays with his food.

JESSE
(to Sam)
He’s still not eating?

SAM
He is.

JESSE
Well, it doesn’t look like it.

SAM
Aiden, what’s wrong honey?

Aiden doesn’t respond and still plays with his food.

SAM (CONT’D)
Aiden...

JESSE
Aiden, eat or go to your room.

Aiden gets up and leaves the dining room.

SAM
How does that help at all?

JESSE
I don’t know. I just want him to learn his lesson.

SAM
He’s better. You just need to be patient.
JESSE
I’m worried, okay?

SAM
Maybe he just doesn’t wanna eat in front of you.

Jesse slams his napkin down and leaves.

INT. KITCHEN – NIGHT
The kitchen is empty and quiet while the family sleeps.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM – NIGHT
Aiden sleeps in his racecar bed. Sam wakes him up.

SAM
Shh. We can’t wake up dad.

Aiden excitedly gets out of bed. He puts on his slippers and they tip-toe out of the room.

INT. KITCHEN – NIGHT
Aiden and Sam sit at the kitchen counter. They dip french fries into milkshakes when Jesse walks in.

JESSE
What’s going on?

Sam jumps out of her seat.

SAM
We were just having a snack, that’s all.

JESSE
Sam, we said no sugar. And... so it’s true. He just doesn’t want to eat in front of me.

Jesse storms out of the kitchen. Sam follows him.

INT. DINING ROOM – NIGHT
Sam catches Jesse in the dining room.

SAM
Jesse, wait.
Jesse starts to break down. Aiden hides behind the door.

JESSE
The past few days... Sam, I don’t know. I don’t know what I’m supposed to do.

SAM
What are you talking about?

JESSE
There’s just so much pressure. I want to be there for everyone and I’m... I’m failing. One day it was just you and me and now it’s us plus this little person and another on the way, and it scares me. I don’t know how to be everything for everyone.

SAM
Oh honey...

Jesse wipes his face.

JESSE
I don’t know. I just don’t know.

Sam hugs Jesse.

SAM
It’s okay. You don’t have to have all the answers. We can figure it out together.

In the doorway, Aiden watches.

INT. FOYER - DAY

The Christmas tree lights are plugged in, illuminating the presents beneath.

INT. DINING ROOM - CHRISTMAS - DAY

The table is elaborately stocked with breakfast rolls, eggs, bacon, and other goodies. Jesse and Aiden enter and sit down at the table. Jesse serves the breakfast onto the plates.

Sam walks in with a bottle of chocolate syrup in her hands. She douses her meal with chocolate syrup then slides the bottle towards Jesse. He does the same.
Jesse places the syrup back on the table. Takes a bite. He makes a face - it’s not as tasty for him as it is for Sam.

Aiden launches at the chocolate syrup and proceeds to cover his meal. He eats his chocolate covered breakfast hungrily.

The three laugh and eat together.

INT. FOYER - DAY

The new family sits on the floor around the Christmas tree opening gifts. Sam opens a baby onesie and places it on her stomach. Aiden opens a package of toy food. Jesse opens a cookbook. The three laugh and smile together.

FADE OUT.