

Baby's Big Debut

Bree

It's June and the air is warm but thankfully there is a breeze. I sit here round and swollen with the baby's due date approaching on my lounge with pillows outside at the Stone's home for our routine Sunday BBQ.

"Here honey, I brought you some more cold lemon water. Can I get you anything else," Noah asks. "The girls said they will be back out in a few more minutes. They are just getting the table set and the food on serving trays. Hillary asked if you want her to bring you Garrett's megaphone from his car in case you need anything."

"Thank you honey, Hillary is ridiculous. I'm fine and just trying to relax but I feel guilty not being able to help. Is dinner almost done? I'm getting a little bit hungry."

He's been the absolute best husband and expectant father to-be going through this with except he hovers. He is constantly asking what I need, if I'm comfortable, and slowly driving me crazy. I love him and we both knew that me being in my early forties makes this pregnancy a high-risk pregnancy but other than a silly trip in the park last month, I am healthy and handling this pregnancy without issues.

"How about if I bring you some more vegetables and dip that Ruby brought out. She also has some cheese and fruit if you'd rather have that."

"That sounds yummy. Can you bring me a little bit of all of that and ask her if she has any lemon squares because I would love her forever if I could have dessert first."

He bends down and gives me a kiss, "You got it. Be right back."

My husband loves me, and soon baby Jameson will be here to make our family complete. Ow, this little boy sure is kicking me like crazy today. It feels like he is bruising me from the inside. I rub my belly and say to him, "Son, you are making it hard to relax today. I know you are running out of room in there and getting anxious to make your appearance but momma's hungry and you

need to let me eat so I have the energy to get home later. Okay, deal?"

I'm so uncomfortable. I know Ruby, Noah and the girls have me sitting here like a princess with my feet up but my back hurts so bad today and my stomach feels so tight. It's been a rough day, but I didn't want to mess up anyone's plans and figured since I'm just going to be sitting around, I may as well be around my friends.

Noah comes back over and hands me a plate full of delicious fruit, veggies and oh...a lemon square! I look up at him with a big smile and whisper, "She made lemon squares and gave me one early."

Noah whispers back, "Yes, and you have a plate of them coming home with you later, so you are supposed to not tell anyone so that there isn't a family war later."

"I love Ruby. She's the best mom ever!"

"You are going to be just as amazing honey. Are you good or do you need anything else? I was going to check in with Jackson and see what the plan is in case you go into labor this week."

"Noah, Jameson better decide to come this week. I don't want to be induced like the doctor wants. I understand that I'm older and they don't want me to go past the baby's due date, but I've heard from other moms that being induced can make the labor harder. I think it will be hard enough without all of that."

"You will be fine. I will be right there holding your hand and Dr. Melrose is an amazing doctor and she will have it all under control."

"Go, I'm fine. I'm just going to sit here and eat all this deliciousness."

"If you need anything just yell and I will be right here."

"Go, stop being so silly."

I eat a few bites of the veggies and cold dill dip and sit back. This is what I am talking about. If I could live on appetizers, I'd probably be happy with that. "What do you think Jameson? Are you going to enjoy eating all the yummy food that mommy does? I hope so because then you will grow to be big and strong like daddy or Uncle Garrett because he is huge! You are going to be loved by so many people that your feet probably won't touch the ground until

you start to learn to walk. Ow, buddy. Give me a little break today huh? That hurt.”

A little bit later Julia comes over and sits down next to me, “How is my pregnant bestie doing today?”

Rubbing my stomach, I sit back and look at her, “I’m doing okay but I think I’m ready for the pregnancy bit to be over and the mommy part to begin.”

“I’m so excited to have a little baby in the family again. I can’t believe my youngest is nearly a teenager. It goes so fast, but remember we are all here for you. Don’t try to be a hero and do this alone.”

I grab her hand, “Thanks Jules, I love you and I know I’m going to need you a lot. You’re the only one of us that went through any of this. I hope I don’t drive you crazy with questions.”

“Never, ow! What was that?”

“Sorry, my stomach got tight again and then Jameson kicked me hard. Did I squeeze your hand hard?”

“Bree, how long have you been feeling like this?”

“Since I woke up at about five this morning. I would have stayed home to rest but I wanted to see everyone. Once the baby is here, I won’t be able to just sit and visit, you know.”

“You have been having a tight stomach for almost twelve hours. Anything else you are feeling?”

“Just my low back hurts, but that isn’t anything new. Why, what’s wrong?”

“Don’t freak out but you may be in labor.”

“WHAT!” I see Noah look up and all conversation stops.

“It’s going to be okay. Just relax for me. Hey Noah, Jackson can you come over here for a minute please.”

Both men get up and start heading over and Noah sits down next to me, “What’s the matter sweetheart. Are you okay.”

Julia smiles at her husband and then at Noah, “Bree just informed me that she’s been having a tight belly and low back pain since about five this morning.”

Jackson squats down next to her, “Bree, how often is your belly getting tight?”

"When it woke me up this morning it was strong but then went away for a while but now it's probably happening every ten minutes or so. OH, JIMINEY CRICKETS! I'm in labor, aren't I?"

Noah gives her a kiss, "Yeah, I think we need to time it next time and see if we need to get to the hospital."

"Okay, before everyone goes crazy can you please help me to the bathroom."

Noah helps me up and before I can take a step, I feel my feet get wet. "Son of a gun!"

"What! Are you okay?"

"I just peed myself," and I start to cry. "I'm so embarrassed."

Noah gives me a smile, "Bree, I think your water just broke."

Thank goodness my husband is a doctor, and the sheriff is an uncle to this baby because I barely got to the hospital before it was time to push. Noah is on the bed beside me with his arm wrapped around me as we both gaze at our son.

"You were amazing honey. Thank you for giving me the most incredible gift ever. He has your beautiful blonde hair and blue eyes."

"He is perfect Noah. Our love brought this sweet boy into our lives, and I can't wait to watch him grow. Look at his tiny hands and how strong he is holding on to your finger already."

"He is going to be big, strong, and brave. I promise to cherish and protect both of you with all my heart."

"I love you, Noah."

"I love you too."

Dr. Melrose walks into the room with a big smile, "How are my newest parents feeling?"

"I'm overwhelmed with happiness."

"That sounds about right. Are you feeling okay Bree? Do you need anything?"

"I'm doing okay right now, a little tired and sore, but happy."

"I'm supposed to let you know that you have a room full of anxious people waiting to see you. They claim to all be family but there are about twenty of them."

"Can you ask just our parents to come back first. I want to give them a first peek at their first grandson. Ask the rest to give us about fifteen minutes and then they can come back too. After that I think I can rest a little bit and we can enjoy only the three of us."

"I will let the nurse know the schedule. I will come back and check on you in the morning since Noah is here and has a medical license. I won't bother you again tonight unless I get a call to come in. The nurses are here and able to help you with any questions or concerns that may come up. He is beautiful...congratulations to you both and welcome to the world of parenting."

"Thank you, Dr. Melrose."

Noah kisses my temple and then kisses baby Jameson, "Are you ready to meet your grandparents' little man? They are the people that are going to give you things that mommy and daddy don't so make sure to do a really good job wrapping them around your little finger."

I smile at my husband, "We are in big trouble if that's the case." We see our parents walk quietly into the room with tears and smiles, "Hi, are you ready to meet your grandson? Jameson Scott Roarke, these amazing people are your grandparents, and they are going to spoil you rotten."