

# Cassidy

Cassidy wakes up in the small, cramped bunk of Purple Rain, the RV, and immediately feels the absence of her mother. As her mind clears, the quiet space around her amplifies the weight of her situation. She takes in her surroundings, noticing remnants of her mother's chaotic existence—a plate of unfinished pastries and pieces of shattered glass from a broken mirror scattered across the floor. Cassidy's eyes wander to her mother's side of the room, filled with disorder, and she can't help but contrast it with her own neatly arranged space. A yellow sundress that once belonged to her mother catches her eye, and it stirs a deep, aching sense of longing for the presence of her mother. Cassidy is left wondering where she could have gone, what drove her to leave, and more troublingly, why she disappeared so suddenly, leaving no trace behind.

In her quest for answers, Cassidy picks up a partially shredded note from her mother. As she reads, suspicions arise that her mother may have been under the influence of something, and the weight of uncertainty grows heavier. A vivid memory flashes before her—one of the many wine festivals they had attended together. At one of these events, a man who resembled her mother's partner, Dave, had approached her, and Cassidy recalled the awkwardness she felt in the moment. Just as the memory consumes her, she stumbles upon more jars, each one bearing the name "Dexter Brown," her father. This discovery confuses her further, linking her mother's past to a man she had only known as an outsider, someone peripheral to her life. Questions begin to emerge about Dexter's true role in her life, leaving Cassidy with more confusion than clarity.

Her suspicions about her family's dynamics grow stronger as Cassidy examines the contents of the note her mother left. The truth hits her hard—her mother had hidden the real identity of her father, and Cassidy's world shifts dramatically. Dexter, whom

she had always thought of as an uncle, may actually be her biological father. This revelation upends everything she thought she knew about her family, making her realize how little she truly understood about her own origins. The discovery leaves her grappling with emotions she never anticipated: a combination of anger, confusion, and a deep need for answers. She begins to understand that the man she thought was on the periphery of her life may have been a central figure all along, and the weight of that knowledge is overwhelming.

The confrontation with Dexter is inevitable, and when Cassidy confronts him, he confirms the truth of her suspicions. Dexter shares that he had been unaware of Cassidy's existence until recently, explaining the complex series of events that kept them apart for so long. He expresses a mixture of disbelief and joy, revealing that learning about Cassidy filled him with a sense of redemption and newfound purpose. This honest exchange becomes the turning point in Cassidy's journey, allowing her to slowly build a relationship with the man who, until then, had only existed in the shadows of her life. Their emotional connection begins to grow, with Cassidy now realizing that she had been missing something essential in her life—an authentic parental bond.

As time goes on, Cassidy's relationship with Dexter continues to deepen. The once strained and chaotic life she had known starts to change as the presence of a stable and loving father figure begins to fill the void she had always felt. The warmth and care that Dexter provides give Cassidy a new sense of security, one she had never experienced before. She now finds herself embracing this new chapter, one where she can share in the joy and experiences of being a daughter. What once seemed impossible—the idea of having a real parent—now begins to feel like a dream come true, as Cassidy realizes that she no longer has to face her battles alone. This newfound stability allows her to break free from the past, and in doing so, she finally steps into her own life, no longer just an observer of her story but an active participant in her own future.