

Stardate : 80403.0600

Author : Lt Cmdr Zina Gray, MD, Lt Jake Arrington

Scene : Gray Estates, Sonoma Valley California

Time : Shortly after Shoreleave begins

Subject : Days of Wine and Roses, Part 1

The patterns of Dr. Gray and Lt. Arrington appear in Sonoma, near the Vinyards. They are holding hands, carrying their Starfleet bags. As the transporter effect wears off, Lt. Arrington looks around and is suddenly amazed by the beauty of the place. He had heard stories about the Doctor's home town under rather bad circumstances, but didn't expect it to be so beautiful.

Like many areas that he had seen that catered to tourists, Zina's hometown was no different. Here tourists from around the galaxy came to the region of earth reknowned for it's winemaking abilities. As they walked hand in hand, Jake saw the entire town as one that still had remnants of it's heritage. Many of the original buildings had been reconstructed after having been destroyed in an Earthquake a few centuries earlier. The community had a very spanish flare to it, with it's adobe structures and tiled roofs.

Everywhere wine had an influence in how the area functioned. Jake had seen this from his home planet of Rysa, where tourism and trade were the pinnicale parts of the community...

Walking through town toward where Gray Estates Winery was Zina recalled many of the details of her child hood. Everywhere there was a memory, some good some not so good. Last time she had been here had been on Shoreleave with Captain lur`Sa from her old ship USS Odyssey. It had been harvest time, but now it was spring and everywhere there was signs of the season changing and blooming around them. There was a freshness in the atmosphere almost like a rebirth.

Passing the giant stone columns that held a wrought iron sign that says Gray Estates, Zina and Jake approached the massive structure. Walking through the courtyard, the giant oak vat where wine is crushed in the traditional manner stands. The vat is covered to protect it's interior from the winter weather. Running her hand across the oak slats Zina recalls climbing in and helping with the crush with her barefeet. Ringing the chimes on the front door, they are greeted by Zina's mother.

Marita Gray was a woman of refined qualities in her 60's, with dark silver hair that was worn in braids twisted around her head. She was a petite woman same as Zina, but as Jake could see she too was not a woman to be crossed.

Jake watched as Zina and her mother embraced, the smile of pleasure at seeing her eldest daughter again, warmed his heart.

"Mama, I want you to meet Jake Arrington. Jake this is my mother Marita Gray." Zina said.

Jake held out his hand to shake her hand, but was pulled into a hug by Mrs Gray. Jake laughed at the aggressiveness of her hug.

"Jake, I am so happy to see you!"

"Mama!" Zina said jokingly. "Don't strangle the guy!"

"OH! I'm sorry Jake, but when Zina let us know you were coming with her..." She blushed deeply "It is just good to have Zina feel like this is home again. We have missed out girl so much."

"Well I am glad to be here. It means alot to me to meet Zina's family." He said as he looked at Zina. He smiled as he watched her begin to blush ever so slightly.

As the trio entered the foyer, a tall burly man came up to join them. Jake studied the man that approached. He was the same height at Jake, with a long white beard and hardly any hair on his head. He too was in his mid 60's but definitely not frail for his age. His skin showed signs of having spent much time in the warmth of the California sun.

"Zina!" Warren Gray bellowed, his voice strong and deep. Taking her into his arms he hugged his daughter tightly.

"Hi Daddy." Zina's voice softened and Jake could see the little girl that Zina had once been come forth. He had never seen this side of Zina before, and his heart pounded as he thought about all the things he was learning about this woman.

<<Later>>

Zina had led Jake to where his room would be, so he could have a chance to relax after spending so much time talking to her parents. She had gone to her room, the same one that she had when she was a child. The room looked virtually the same. Sitting down on the cushions in the large bay window that overlook the flower garden, Zina got an idea of something they could do.

Quickly going down to the kitchen she put together a picnic lunch and had one of the housekeepers take a message up to Jake to meet her.

When Jake saw the note he smiled as he read:

This is the time for you to start
wondering where I am.
I have something special planned for you
so catch me if you can...

Start your journey near the barn

Old Gent is waiting for you.
There you will find the next little clue
of all the things to do.

NRPG: well, this is just part one.
Apologies to the crew for Jake and Zina not posting lately as Jake's computer crashed and
Zina has been extremely busy.

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