

Santino's Song

To: Santino

From: Laura

You walk in the door, and the whole place settles down. Like the air gets softer when you're around. Boots by the mat, keys in the bowl, same old routine. But somehow with you, it still feels brand new to me. You're the kind of man that don't have to talk tough. 'Cause you've been through it, and you've still shown up. Big heart in a world that can get cold. One of the strongest people I'll ever know. And I know I'm thirty-three, you're catching up fast. But you've always been the steady one in all the fast. Oh Santino, you're my favorite kind of sure. I love you even though you snore. Like a freight train rolling straight through every dream I had before. And if forever's got a front porch, that's where I'll be. Laughing with you, loving you, easy. Yeah Santino... you feel like home to me. Friday night, I'm cooking like it's something sacred. Fajitas on the stove, and you're grinning while you taste it. Then we fall into the couch, lights low, TV glow. Another murder documentary, saying, "Okay, one more". And you laugh at my face when I act all brave. Then I jump at the soundtrack, and you call me out the same. And I swear, it's the little things you do. That make a hard day feel like it never happened at all with you. And when the world gets heavy, you don't run. You just hold it, and somehow it gets light enough. Oh Santino, you're my favorite kind of sure. I love you even though you snore. Like a freight train rolling straight through every dream I had before. And if forever's got a front porch, that's where I'll be. Laughing with you, loving you, easy. Yeah Santino... you feel like home to me. You light up talking Star Wars like it's real life. Quoting lines like you've known 'em since you learned to drive. And you're catching Pokémon like it's your job. Then gaming with Dan, Chris, and Tusk 'til the whole night's gone. I'll act like I'm annoyed, but babe, I'm smiling wide. 'Cause I love the way you come alive. And I love that you still make room. For me in the middle of it all, like you always do. And Riley... she's got your eyes when she laughs. And your brave when she's scared, and your good when it's hard. She's not mine by blood, but she's mine by heart. I love her like she is, from the start. And I've seen you be a dad—no spotlight, no praise. Just showing up steady in a hundred quiet ways. That's the kind of man I prayed was real. Now I'm standing here, and I get to feel it. Turning thirty on Valentine's Day, 2026. Yeah, you were born for a love like this. And I might be older, but baby, I swear. You're the one teaching me how to get there. Oh Santino, you're my favorite kind of sure. I love you even though you snore. Like a freight train rolling straight through every dream I had before. And if forever's got a front porch, that's where I'll be. Laughing with you, loving you, easy. Yeah Santino... you feel like home to me. Happy 30th Birthday, I love you in every way.

Swoonsong