

Chapter 213

Rayne swallowed hard to stem her tears and smiled tremulously at the faces surrounding her. "I'm Rayne and I've waited a lifetime to meet you," she whispered. The words came from deep within her soul and she knew them to be true. These children... she'd walked the world a thousand times over looking for them.

"Well, now you've found us," Lily smiled happily. "Welcome home, Rayne. Do you want to play now?"

Laughter bubbled up, deep, wonderful, joyous laughter that came from her soul. "I would love to play," she laughed setting down Liam and entering the room fully.

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Lacey sighed with relief and looked down at the two adorable little boys lying between her and Rafe in the now calm bedroom. She knew she'd been lucky that the birthing had been relatively quick, only four hours from start to finish. Jen's had lasted three times that long and her friend had been exhausted at the end of it.

She felt tired but not so tired that she couldn't gaze in wonder at the new life she had brought into the world. "They're so perfect, Rafe," she whispered tearfully, awe in her tone as she reached forward to gently stroke one little head with its silvery blond hair and then the other with a cap of thick dark brown waves already.

"Just like their mother," Rafe breathed leaning forward slightly to catch his mate's lips in a tender, loving kiss. His eyes were brimming with unshed tears, happiness carved into his handsome feature. "You were so amazing, honey. I'm so proud of you and our beautiful boys."

"Our sons," she laughed softly. It sounded unreal and yet her babies were lying there, sleeping soundly despite the awful racket they'd made when they were born. They certainly had a pair of lungs on them, that was for sure.

She smiled happily at her mate, touching his cheek gently. He was born to be a father. He had raised his sister from an infant and she'd turned out to be an amazing woman. She knew her sons were blessed having this wonderful man as their father. They would grow big and strong under his expert guidance.

"We never discussed names," she mused dropping her gaze back to her babies. "Any ideas?"

"Why don't you name them, baby?" Rafe smiled gently touching his sons reverently, being careful not to wake them as they'd just dropped off. He couldn't believe how utterly perfect they were or how the genes had split so perfectly. One looked so like Lacey and the other like him.

"How about Ben, for this little one?" Lacey said quietly, resting her hand against her dark haired son. "It would be a good strong name for one of our sons. One he could grow into and be as strong and brave as the man who helped save my life."

Rafe choked out a little sound as a tear slid down his cheek (-) as he remembered his friend who had died protecting his mate. He shot his mate a smile and nodded his agreement because he couldn't speak with all the emotion running through him at the moment.

"And this little darling, well he's got Aaron Junior stamped all over him," Lacey laughed softly.

Rafe groaned and rolled his eyes, wiping at his cheek as he did so. "You know you're just going to give Aaron a big head if you name a son after him," he teased lightly though he was overjoyed with her choices.

"How can I not honour the two men who helped make our babies possible," she smiled though there was a hint of sadness in her voice as she remembered seeing Aaron lying in a pool of blood on a cold hard road so very long ago. Despite his Were healing abilities, he'd almost died protecting her and the memory still brought pain and fear with it.

"I couldn't have picked two more perfect names for our sons, Lace," Rafe whispered his voice thick with emotion. "Just as I couldn't have picked two better friends to protect my heart for me."www.nðr@#V@rnt.com

The kiss he gave her was so full of love it brought tears to her own eyes and she laughed softly as she pushed him away to wipe them clear. "This is supposed to be a happy occasion not the two of us blubbing like babies."

Rafe laughed loudly. "It is a happy occasion, baby, just a very emotional one too."

A knock on the door sounded and Aaron and Jen slipped quietly inside. "Is it okay?" Jen asked.

Rafe waved them in and they came and sat on the bottom of the bed Aaron's arms automatically circling Jen's waist and pulling her back against his chest. "How does it feel to be a daddy," he teased lightly, his blue eyes sparkling with amusement.

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"Perfect!" they all said at the same time and then burst out laughing at the chagrined expression on the Alpha's face.

"I'm going to have to find a new word to use," Rafe grumbled good naturedly shaking his head in mock exasperation.

"Have you named them yet?" Jen asked excitedly leaning forward to touch two tiny feet very gently.

"Yeah, what did you saddle your poor offspring with?" Aaron chuckled, remembering the teasing his friend had given him at the names Jen had picked for theirs. He was still trying to live Thorne down though his mate had been adamant about it so he'd let her have her way. It suited his son and he wouldn't change it for the world now.

"Ben and Aaron," Rafe answered quietly and his friend's laughter suddenly cut off as he went completely still against his mate.

Aaron stared at Rafe and then turned to Lacey, his expression so completely blank that for a moment they couldn't read him at all.

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"You don't object, do you?" Lacey asked a slight tremor in her voice. She adored the Beta and would never dream of doing anything that would ever hurt him. She'd expected him be happy to have their son named after him, not this sudden freezing up she was witnessing.

"He doesn't object," Jen answered softly reaching up to touch her mate's cheek tenderly. "He's trying very hard not to cry, aren't you, baby?"

Aaron blinked and swallowed hard, placing a hand over hers as he swallowed again audibly. "You two did that deliberately," he finally managed to get out, his voice husky with emotion. "Bloody payback for all my teasing, isn't it?"

Rafe leaned forward and thumped him playfully on the arm. "What goes around comes around," he laughed lightly.

Eyes still a bit moist, Aaron sported his usual cocky grin, his eyes sparkling with warmth now that he was in better control of his emotions. "Thanks," he smiled. "It means a lot."

He couldn't say anymore so he shut up and just let the warmth of their gesture fill him with joy. That his best friends had honoured him this way meant the world to him. He knew it would have meant the world to Ben too if he had still be with them. He made a silent promise to his absent friend that he would take care of his namesake with the same protectiveness as he would his own.

He crawled forward and dropped a kiss on Lacey's lips receiving a quiet growl from her mate. He ignored him and grinned at her. "You did good, gorgeous." Rafe growled again and he laughed turning to his friend. "You want a kiss too?" he teased.

"Aaron, behave!" Jen laughed pulling her mate back before he seriously started to annoy Rafe. She heard their Alpha muttering something about names easily being changed but there was no heat in the words.

Feeling his work was done Aaron scooped his mate up from the bed and headed towards the door. "Everything's fine so you don't need to worry about any pack business," he tossed over his shoulder. "I've rescheduled the meeting with the kids for tomorrow morning. Is that okay?"

"Tomorrow's fine," Rafe answered knowing Pack life didn't stop just because he'd become a father.

"Have you called Annie and Millie?" Aaron asked from the doorway setting Jen back down on her feet.

"Annie's in Shanghai at the moment," Rafe sighed softly. "She's going to be pissed she missed the birth but I'll give her a call shortly. I dare say she'll be home directly. I called Jared an hour ago. He said he and Millie would come over tomorrow to give us a little time to get used to the idea of being parents."

He settled down on the bed as the other couple headed back to their rooms leaving him alone once more with his family. He saw Lacey's eyelashes flutter tiredly and he stroked the side of her face tenderly. "Sleep baby, I'll watch over them while you do."

Smiling sleepily she closed her eyes and rested against the pillow. "I love you, Rafe."

"I love you too, Lace," he whispered softly. "Sleep. You deserve it." He lay beside his sleeping family, a feeling of completion coming over him as he gazed down at them. This was what perfection looked like, his beautiful mate and his equally beautiful sons.