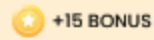


Rainey Weather Novel



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"May I sit with you?" I asked him sweetly.

He looked at me and then nodded. I sat beside him and then he scooted over so that he was touching me, side to side. I noticed the tiniest of flutters on my skin when he scooted closer which confused me.

He stayed like that, silent for a minute, just snuggled up next to me. Then he put his hand on my knee and leaned his head against my arm. I wrapped my arm around him and asked him what was wrong. He didn't answer me.

He seemed to comfortable I didn't want to move him but then I heard a tiny snore escape his mouth and I giggled I reached down and lifted him from his arms, pulling him to my chest and letting his head rest on my shoulder. I stood and swayed back and forth as he slept on me. The mysterious flutters were stronger now as his entire tiny body was pressed against mine. 1

"Raine?"

I heard my father's voice, slightly panicked, so I took a step out from the garden so they could see me and waved. Nel's eyes widened as he ran over to us. He seemed like he was going to try to take the child from me until he noticed that the boy was sleeping. His face softened and he looked confused.

"He was sitting on the bench back there. I found him and he was sad, I sat next to him and he snuggled right up to me and fell asleep on my lap," I told him, as if this was a totally normal thing.

Nel watched me carefully as if he was having an internal debate.

"Who's boy is this?" I asked him suspiciously.

"He is mine." 1

The voice sent shivers down my spine and I felt my wolf instantly push forward when she heard him. His scent washed over me like a blanket fresh from the dryer, warming me and making me feel secure. No, No, No. I had felt this before, except this time it was 1000% noticeably stronger.

I tightened my hold on the sleeping toddler.

"Alex," Nel nodded respectfully.

"Alpha," my dad said, bowing his head and extending his hand to the person behind me.

{ Alex POV }

I hated working in the city. It was full of desperate human women who tried for my attention, traffic, headaches around every corner. I walked away from my office toward the elevator, thankful the workday was over. I only came into this office once a week but it was too much. 1

Today my wolf had been making me nuts as well. He was antsy, he was pissed that we weren't at home in the pack and it have me feeling uneasy. I was worried something was happening, something bad but my hourly reports from warriors and Nel told me nothing out of the ordinary was going on. Nel's cousin had made it there. He was giving her a tour, waiting for me to get back.

I hopped in my car and made my way back towards home, my thoughts drifting once again to my son and the dark cloud that would forever hang over us it seemed. The nursery had called to tell me he refused to nap, claiming he didn't want another bad dream to find him. This made him extra tired, and extra sad. I had left work early today knowing he would need a nap and would only sleep on me.

I pulled across the pack lands and saw the usual bustle of my pack members around the road as I pulled in. Everyone waved and I rolled down my windows to say hello to them as I went by. The people of this pack are the reason I survived my mate leaving. They are the ones who held me up, with positive words, encouragement, hope and baked goods. I appreciated them more than they knew for sticking with me.

I pulled into the pack house and parked in the garage that Nel, our gamma and I shared for our car collection. I pulled out my backpack and walking into the house. I didn't see or sense Cooper so I went to the nursery. They informed me the kids were at the playground so I went to find him. I had

just come around the corner when I was hit with the most glorious scent I had ever smelled. It smelled like fresh baked cinnamon rolls and it wrapped around me in a way no one else ever had. I had sudden deja vu of the first time I smelled my ex-mate's scent and I realized that this scent was a hundred times as incredible as hers even. Which only meant one thing. One terrifying thing.

I scanned the area and found the most beautiful and heart wrenching site. Nel was standing with a man that I hadn't seen before, a human. In front of them, between us was a woman who was holding my son. It didn't take me more than a second to deduce that she was the one the smell was coming from and it was the same moment that I saw my son's sleeping face.

He was sleeping. On someone other than me. He had a soft smile on his face as he was snuggled into her and I could hear his gentle snores. She was swaying back and forth, moving her body to comfort and soothe him and it was hitting me in the heart in every way imaginable.

"Who's boy is this?" I heard her ask Nel.

"He is Mine." I answered.

I watched as she tensed at the sound of my voice. Her shoulders moved faster and I knew her breathing had picked up. She stood there a moment too long, seemingly refusing to look back at me. She was as terrified as I was. And I knew why. I had already put together that she was

Nel's cousin from America. Her mate had rejected her. We were one in the same.

She slowly turned around with her eyes closed, no doubt wanting to deny our current truth but she couldn't fight her wolf forever.

As she faced me her eyes fluttered open and her gorgeous hazel blue eyes met mine. My wolf howled in pure bliss, happier than I had ever heard him as he chanted, mate mate mate mate in my mind. She was breathtaking, her long dark hair fell down her back, she had pieces cut that framed around her face perfectly. Her dad was latino and her mom was full blood Spanish and damn did they make the perfect human. Her lips were luscious and kissable and her nose was small yet fit her perfectly.

Her face showed all her emotions and I was grateful because I knew how she felt. Excited. Overjoyed. Terrified. Worried. Scared. In love.

I took a step toward her and she took one back. I stopped and a low growl escaped my chest before I could stop it. Her eyes widened and I closed mine trying to calm my wolf before we scared her.

"I'm sorry, that was my wolf, he didn't like you moving away from me," I told her with the softest voice I could muster. I still didn't know how I felt. My last mate had hurt me in ways I hadn't ever imagined possible and now here was my second chance mate and the pull I feel to her is a million

times stronger than the one toward my first mate.

I extended my hand to her instead of moving forward.

"My name is Alexander," I told her, never taking my eyes from hers.

She hesitated, before extending her hand to meet mine. The second our hands collided the sparks were dancing on our skin. They were overwhelming from just this simple contact and I felt myself giving in already which scared me more. 1


"Lorraine," she said quietly.

"My boy's name is Cooper," I told her, nodding to my son who was knocked out on her shoulder still. A part of me wanted to take him back from her, but my wolf kept insisting to leave him. It was a very big deal for him to be sleeping on her.

"That explains the butterflies I feel from him," she told me shyly, eying our hands. She was referring to our sparks. She felt them with Cooper? How was that possible? 2

"Would it be alright if we moved this into my office? I can take him if you would like, but he is very comfortable on you it seems so if you don't want to you are welcome to hold him." A part of me hoped she would never give him up, never let him go. But I fully expected her to hand him to me now. 1

"He is fine where he is, I would hate to wake him, he seems like he was absolutely exhausted." she told me, looking

 +15 BONUS

down at his face on her shoulder and brushing his hair from his face. I felt my heart explode watching her with him and then we all turned to make our way to the office.

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