

Chapter 1

The boy stood on the corner. He pulled the collar of his jacket close to his face. He hopped from one foot to the other. The harsh weather was no friend to a young boy with no home. The thin jacket was no barrier from the wind. So, he stood waiting. He had no idea what he was waiting for. He had no friends, no family, no one waiting for him. He was so sad. After all, he was used to being alone. At fourteen, he was alone since he was five, running away from the cruel woman who was his caregiver. She beat him that day and starved him. So that night he left. He had been living on the streets ever since. He decided to walk to the park. There was a tunnel there that he could duck in and sleep from the wind. He slept there often. He started walking toward the park. It was getting dark. He was hungry, tired and cold. He walked over to the trees in the small grove where he hid his meager belongings. He took out his blanket and the candy bar he was saving. He went to the tunnel. He spread his blanket on the ground near the round gate. He sat down and ate his candy bar. Suddenly he could hold his eyes open no longer.

Vincent opened the secret door. He saw the small boy laying on the tattered blanket. The boy looked thin. He swept the boy up in his arms and took him to the children's chambers. Father examined the boy. He is suffering from hypothermia. Father tells Mary to wrap the boy in the warm blankets. He looks at his son.

"Again, Vincent? What is it with you? Are you the amazing keeper of lost humans?"

"Father, I found my wife did I not. Look how that turned out. You now have three grandchildren,"

Father laughed. "Let us get this young lad better."

The boy slowly opened his eyes. He felt warm. He looked around. He realized that he was not at the place where he fell asleep at. He looked around. He was in a bed it appeared like he was in a cave. He heard a voice. "Do not be afraid, you are in a safe place."

"Where am I, How did I get here?"

"I brought you here. You were unconscious. Are you hungry? Mary has some soup for you."

" Yes. Why are you in the shadows? I want to see you."

"I do not want to scare you."

"Why would you scare me? Trust me I do not scare easy."

Vincent stepped out the corner and dropped his cloak hood. The boy looked at Vincent in awe. I know you. You are the Lionman of the park. Why you are real.

"Yes, I am real. Why do you call me that?"

"That is what people in the park call you. Most people are not afraid of you. You only scare the bad people. People have been trying to find you. Boy, are you fast."

Just then Jacob came in.

"Daddy, Mommy is coming."

"I know Jacob."

Catherine came in.

"Who is this? Vincent?"

"A boy I found unconscious in the tunnel gate." Vincent walked over to his wife and kissed her.

"Hello, what is your name?"

"I am called Zizi. My name is Zyquan."

"My name is Catherine, this is my husband, Vincent and this handsome little boy is my son, Jacob."

"Wow, is this for real, am I dreaming?"

'No you are not dreaming. You are far below the city streets. It is a secret place. "

"I will keep your secret."

"Where is your family, Zyquan?"

"I have no family. I live on the streets."

Father came in. "Well, hello you are awake."

"Hello."

Catherine walked over and kissed Father. Jacob grabbed his grandfather's hand.

"Pop pop, this is Zyquan, he has no family. Can he stay?" Jacob asked.

Father sat on the chair near the bed. Jacob climbed on his lap. He told Zyquan about tunnel life.

The council had already met and accepted the boy. Jacob was excited. He wanted a big brother.

"Mama, can Zyquan be my big brother?"

"You must ask him, Jake."

"Zyquan, would you be my big brother?"

"I do not know how to Jacob."

"Call me Jake, everyone who loves me does."

"I do not know love."

"I will teach you. My daddy can show you. My daddy is good at love. Right Mama."

"Yes Jake, your daddy is good at love."

Vincent came in carrying the twins.

"Zizi, these two babies are our baby sister and brother. They are twins." Jake said proudly. "Daddy, Zizi wants to be my big brother."

"Jacob, you want him to be your big brother?"

"Yes, Daddy, I am Charles and Caroline's big brother. I need a big brother."

Vincent turns to Zyquan. He smiles.

"Do you agree Zyquan? Would you like to be a part of our family? We have room."

"I have never been a part of anything. I guess it is worth a try. Besides, I am beginning to really like it here."

Chapter2

Catherine is in the rocker, feeding Caroline. Jacob is watching while Vincent changes Charles' diaper. Zyquan is watching as all takes place. Jacob walks over to Zyquan and leans on his side. Zyquan pats the boy's head. He smiles. It is nice being a part of this family. It has been two months since Vincent brought him below.

Catherine looks at her two boys standing together. She has grown to love this lanky lad. He smiles at her.

"Catherine, can I ask you something?"

"Why yes, Zyquan, what is it?"

"Well, I was thinking since this whole big brother thing is working out, could it be possible that I can become a whole part of this family? I mean I never had a mother or father,"

Vincent has finished changing Charles and is listening to the conversation.

"Well. Zyquan, in order to be part of the family we have to have a naming ceremony welcoming the child into the family. We would need to have one for you. All our children have had one. Would you like to have a naming ceremony? To My Catherine and I, you are already our son. We love you."

"See, Zyquan, I told you our daddy was good at love. Please say yes, you get gifts and Uncle William cooks good food. We eat in the big Hall." Jake is excited.

"Zyquan, take your baby sister to your father and bring me Charles so I can feed him."

Zyquan walks over to Catherine and kisses her cheek and takes Caroline in his arms. "Come on Munchkin, let us go to Dad." He walks over to Vincent and hands her to him, taking Charles off the dressing table. "Come on Fuzzy, let's go to Mama."

Catherine takes Charles and puts him to her breast. Zyquan sits on the floor beside her. Jacob and Vincent sit on the bed with Caroline and watch.

Chapter 4

The Great hall is decorated and the tables are adorned with many types of foods and desserts. Father stands beside Vincent and they are both watching the finishing touches to the hall.

Father looks at Vincent.

“Well Vincent, this is really unusual having a naming ceremony for a teenager.”

“I know Father, but I think it is important for Zyquan to feel wanted.”

“Jake is so happy. He has been in my chamber hopping around all morning.”

“I know Father, Zyquan is just as jittery. He has picked out his outfit three times.”

“I am proud of you Vincent. You took in this young lad and made him your own.”

“Father, would you have done any less for me.”

Vincent hugged his father and kissed the top of his head.

They walked out of the hall to finish getting dressed for the ceremony.

Zyquan was sitting beside Catherine while she nursed Caroline. It was almost time for the ceremony and she wanted the babies fed and dressed. Catherine touched the top of Zyquan’s head. This boy had given her so much. She felt a tear fall from her eyes. Zyquan looked at her.

“Mama, what is wrong? Why are you sad?”

“No, Zyquan, I am not sad. I am happy. I am so happy that you came into my life. You are so good and wonderful. You are a great big brother and a good son to Vincent and I.”

“Mama, I love you and I am so glad that Dad found me. I was so lonely. I thought no one could love me.”

“We must get ready. It is almost time.”

Vincent came in with Mary and father. Vincent took Charles for the crib and Mary took Caroline from Catherine. They all walked to the Great Hall.

The family entered the hall and everyone gathered around. Father began;

“We are gathered here for a very special naming ceremony. It is unusual that the baby we are naming can speak at his ceremony. Zyquan; will you come over and stand by your parents. “

Zyquan stands between Catherine and Vincent.

‘Today we are gathered here to present this young man with a name.

We present this young man with love

So he may learn to love.

We present this young man with gifts

So he may learn generosity.

Finally we present this young man with a name.

Vincent, what name have you given your new son?”

Vincent speaks; “ When I found this young man, I knew I found someone special. I am welcoming him into my family. I promise to love and protect him. I promise to help him grow into a good man. Catherine and I have decided to name our new son Zyquan Vincent Wells.”