

The Last Ride of Jimmy Flynn

By Kate Simon

Cabe Gallo finished reviewing the quarterly reports for the Amanda Gallo Pediatric Center. It always amazed him that everything they did here could be reduced to spreadsheets and mortality rates. Those were the hardest reports to read, because for Cabe, they weren't reports. They were kids. The board assured him that the Center was making great strides and kids who wouldn't make it somewhere else have a chance at his little girl's center.

"Dad, you okay?"

He looked up to see his son, Jonathan's, concerned face. "You've been staring at that page for twenty minutes. I don't have to ask you what it is."

"It's always the toughest."

Jonathan rubbed his father's shoulder. "I've done the research, Dad. These numbers are as positive as they say they are."

"You had doubts?"

"I wanted to make sure no one was taking advantage of you or of Amanda's name."

Cabe smiled. He hadn't known his son existed until a little over a year ago. Jonathan was the result of a college relationship. His biological mother was currently doing twenty to life in a federal prison for kidnapping Cabe and Jonathan. They both would have died if it hadn't been for his wife, Kate and the Scorpion team.

He smiled at the thought of Kate. She was just as smart as the Scorpion team of geniuses but she was also a brilliant Homeland agent. He looked up at her talking to her friend Marina Nash. Cabe had to, sometimes, look twice at Marina. She was the wife of his best friend and the mother of four young children. He often forgot she was also one of the most popular actresses in the world. It was easy to do when four year old Riley burst into the board meeting looking for Marina.

"I'm so sorry, Mrs. Nash," said Sara, the Nashes nanny. "She just wouldn't settle."

What normally would have been a terrible breach to the board was overlooked because it was Marina. And it was a child crying for her mother.

“Riley Jane, what is matter?”

“Mama,” she cried and held up her hands.

Marina pulled her into her lap and kissed her forehead. “Oh, baby.” She gave her a cuddle. “She’s got a fever, just a little one.” She stood with the child over her shoulder. “I should get her home.”

“Marina, you’re in one of the best hospitals in the country,” said Kate. “At least let’s take her to the nurses station.” Riley started crying and murmuring to her mother in Russian. She said something back to her child in Russian than seemed to comfort her.

“Fine. Let’s go.” She turned to the rest of the board. “Sorry everyone.”

“Marina, what did you tell Riley?” asked Jonathan.

“I told her if she behaved I would let her play with my old makeup when she was better.”

“Better parenting through bribery,” smiled Ed Wilson, the Chief of Staff.

“With this one, makeup is the way to her heart.” Riley managed a smile through her flushed cheeks. Everyone in the room had seen a kid pull that trick.

The weather had been unusually warm so Cabe and Jonathan had ridden their bikes to the meeting. They were both just getting back to their normal lives after the kidnapping and a bike ride was always a good way to clear the mind. Cabe's broken leg had healed and Jonathan claimed that his bullet wound made him look butch to the other guys at the gym. He knew that was a lie. Cabe knew his son was having a hard time dealing with the fact that his biological mother, the woman he'd grown up with, had tried to kill him. Toby's advice was to just be there to support his son.

Kate had driven her own car because she was supposed to go out with Marina and Riley after the meeting. The little girl had a special place in Kate's heart, especially since Marina and Frank had named her Riley, Kate's maiden name. He watched as a doctor took Riley's temperature and then handed Marina a small pill and a glass of water. Marina picked Riley back up and came over and gave the two of them a kiss. "Frank wants you to call him about the ride next weekend."

"Will do." He gave Riley a kiss on the forehead. "Feel better, sweetheart." He watched as Marina left with her child. Riley would probably feel better by dinner. If only they were all that easy.

Kate gave each of them a kiss. "You two don't stay out too long. Dinner at six."

"Yes, Mom," said Jonathan.

"I said leave me alone!" They heard a young voice coming from the room behind them. Elaine Garcia came out of the room looking dejected. Elaine was never dejected. She was five feet of Hispanic sunshine.

"What's going on?" asked Cabe.

"Oh, Mr. Gallo I don't know what to do for him. I keep trying but he won't let anyone get close. All I can do is take his vitals and leave he won't let me talk to him, he won't talk to the other kids. He's completely shutdown." Her eyes teared and Cabe got angry. He had a real fondness for Elaine. She did a hell of a job for these kids and he wouldn't let anyone give her a hard time, not even a kid.

“I want to have a talk with his parents.”

“He doesn’t have any. He’s a ward of the state.”

“Well, that still doesn’t give him the right...”

Elaine put an hand on his arm. “Mr. Gallo, he’s terminal and he knows it.”

“Ah, Christ,” Cabe whispered.

“What’s he got?” asked Jonathan.

“Bone cancer. Stage four. Tim is his doctor. He has maybe two months left. The best we can do is keep him comfortable.” Elaine and her husband Tim had been with the Center since it opened. Elaine was a pediatric nurse and Tim was one of their best oncologists. Normally only family would have access to this kind of information but as a ward of the state he’d have a state assigned social worker to look after his legal affairs. Once a social worker got their client access to the Gallo Center they were more than happy to turn over the day to day to the Center. As members of the board, that meant Cabe and Jonathan. It wasn’t that the case workers didn’t care, they did, very much. Getting a sick client into the Gallo Center meant their client would get the best care available and they could focus on their other cases.

“What’s his name?” asked Jonathan.

“Jimmy Flynn. He’s eight years old.”

“Is he in a lot of pain?”

“He’s probably okay now. I gave him his pain med before his meltdown.”

“Okay, then. Come on Dad.”

“What are you doing?”

“We’re going to visit a kid.” Jonathan forged ahead and Cabe was left to follow. They looked into the single room and saw a boy, small for his age, with dark hair and pale skin, laying in bed, coloring. He looked up and saw the two men staring at him.

“Who are you?”

Jonathan edged into the room. "I'm Jonathan. This is my father, Cabe."

Jimmy looked them up and down. They were both wearing their bike leathers. "They have a sale at Harry's Discount Leather?"

"Rude and a smart ass," Jonathan replied as he walked into the room.

Jimmy backed up in his bed. "Do I need to call somebody?"

"No need. We're okay." Jonathan pulled out his wallet and showed his license. "The name is Gallo." He nodded to his father. "Badge him, dad." Cabe pulled out his badge and showed it to the boy. Jimmy ran his fingers over the raised metal.

"Is this thing real?"

"Yeah, it's real."

"Gallo. Like the building."

"Yeah, like the building."

"Who's Amanda? I saw her picture in the hall."

"She was my daughter."

"Was?"

"She died."

"Yeah, well there's a lot of that going around," said Jimmy.

Cabe leaned back on his heels. Then he did something he never thought he'd do. He laughed. He looked at Jonathan and it was obvious he was trying to hold it in. They both started laughing. "Oh he's a smart ass. I like him."

"Yeah, me too, but he doesn't get to be rude to Ms. Elaine," said Jonathan.

Cabe composed himself and nodded. "That's true. When Ms. Elaine comes back you apologize for being rude. She has a hard job. She doesn't need you to make it harder."

"Well dying isn't exactly a walk in the park either, bud."

Cabe grabbed a chair and sat down. “No, I don’t suppose it is. Why don’t you tell us about it.”

“What do you mean, ‘tell you about it’? I’m dying, soon. And it sucks.”

“I suppose it does. I’ve only ever been on the other side of this.”

“Well, you have been shot a couple of times, Dad. You nearly died then. The kid’s right. It does suck. Mom and I were pretty scared.”

“And your Mom and I were terrified when you got shot. We didn’t know if you’d make it so I do understand.”

Jimmy looked back and forth at them with his mouth hanging open. “Who are you people? Who keeps shooting you?”

Jonathan smiled. “You saw my father’s shield. He’s been hurt in the line of duty a couple of times. Just last year someone tried to kill a foreign prince. My father jumped in front of him and saved him.”

“You didn’t show me a badge. Are you a cop too?”

“Lawyer.”

Jimmy smiled. “That’s explains it.”

“Smart ass.” He took a breath and Cabe put a hand on his shoulder. “My biological mother had my dad and me kidnapped. Dad’s leg got all smashed up. I was shot.”

“Damn, dude. That’s harsh. What happened to her?”

“She’s in prison.”

Jimmy sat back and gave what passed for a smile. “That’s good. You guys may be weird but you don’t seem like you deserve that.”

“Thanks, I think,” said Jonathan.

“Okay, we told you our story,” said Cabe. “but you still didn’t answer my question. What’s it like? Is there something you want or need?”

“You mean other than not dying?”

“Alright, let’s start with the basics. Are you in pain, do you need medication?”

“Some, but they’re okay with shots.”

“Ms. Elaine says you don’t want to visit with the other kids here.”

“What’s the point? They’re going home.”

Cabe shook his head. “Not all of them.”

“So you’ve proved my point. I’ll stay here. I have decent cable and they bring me stuff.”

Jonathan leaned over his rolling table. “You like to draw.”

Jimmy pushed the table aside. “Don’t look at those.”

“Okay,” he said as he sat back down.

“So what’s with the matching outfits?”

“It was a nice day so we rode our bikes,” said Cabe.

“Schwinn?”

Cabe shook his head and looked at Jonathan. “This kid is something else.” He looked back at Jimmy. “No, smartass. Harleys.”

Jimmy sat back in his bed. “No way.”

Cabe looked out the window of Jimmy’s room. They were on the first floor and his room had a particularly nice view of a park area and a small lake. “I tell you what. Jonathan and I will go get our bikes and bring them around the back. I’ll ask Ms. Elaine to come in and get you a chair and a bathrobe so you can come outside and see them.”

“There’s no road there. Won’t you get in trouble?”

“No, I think we’ll be okay. There’s only one thing.”

“I knew there’d be a hitch.”

“You need to apologize to Ms. Elaine for being rude.” Cabe smiled at when the boy’s shoulders slumped. He knew he’d won.

“Okay.”

“Alright then. We’ll go set it up.”

Jonathan followed him out of Jimmy’s room. “Dad, you sure about this?”

“Not at all but what’s the kid got to lose? It was the only thing that got a response out of him.”

“Well, that and our getting shot.”

Cabe talked to Elaine and they went outside to bring their bikes to the back of the building. Elaine pushed Jimmy, who was now wearing a blue bathrobe, toward where they had parked the bikes. Jonathan looked at Elaine. “Did he apologize?”

“He did, like a proper gentleman.”

“Good.”

“Wow, you weren’t kidding,” said Jimmy. “What kind are they?”

“Mine is a Sport Glide and my Dad’s is a Road Glide Ultra.”

Jimmy smiled the first genuine smile they’d seen all day. “Nice.” He rubbed his hand over the seat. “Do you ride a lot?”

“We are only just getting back to it since we were hurt. Mom is afraid I’ll get hurt again and she’s had enough to worry about.”

“I thought you said she was in prison.”

“My biological mother is in prison. Dad’s wife adopted me three months ago but she’s been my real mom for about a year”

Jimmy looked at Jonathan like he had two heads. “You just got adopted?” Jimmy closed his eyes for a moment and they realized it was time for him to go back.

“We’re going to let you get some rest,” said Cabe “but we’ll see you again soon.”

Jimmy favored them with another smile. “Before you go could you, you know, gun the engines?”

Cabe smiled. “Yeah, sure, kid.” They jumped on their bikes and revved the engines. Jimmy smiled and closed his eyes. “Sweet.”

Elaine smiled and took Jimmy back into the center. Jonathan looked at Cabe. “Now what?”

“Good question.”

“Okay, are you two going to tell me what’s going or am I going to have to drag it out of you?” asked Kate.

“What?” asked Cabe.

“The two have you have been quiet ever since you got back from the hospital. No one has even commented on my excellent dinner, so I repeat, what is going on?”

“I’m sorry, sweetheart. Dinner was delicious.” He stood and gave her a kiss. “We met a kid after the meeting. Jimmy Flynn.”

“What about him?”

“He’s a rude smart ass. He’s also stage four bone cancer.”

“We showed him the bikes. He actually smiled,” said Jonathan.

“His parents let you take him out of the hospital?”

“No parents. Ward of the state.”

“Geez.” Kate put her napkin on the table. “No wonder you two are so quiet.”

“I want to do something for the kid, but I don’t know what,” said Jonathan.

“What does he like?”

“The only thing he smiled about were the bikes.”

“Can you take him on a ride?” asked Kate.

“No. He’s too frail.”

“What about showing him some of your films. You recorded some of your rides on your GoPro’s. Maybe you could show him some of those.”

Cabe and Jonathan arrived at the garage first thing in the morning. It was a typical morning at the garage. Toby and Walter were arguing, Sly was engrossed in his computer and Happy was blowtorching some piece of metal. Paige was working at her desk and wearing earbuds, presumably to block out the din. She noticed them walking in and pulled out her earbuds.

“Hi guys. I didn’t expect you today,” said Paige. The din subsided.

“We need help with a project,” said Cabe.

“We are very busy,” said Walter. “Although we wouldn’t be quite so busy if Toby would focus on his work instead of his hobbies.”

“Hey, 197, determining the causes of obsessive compulsive behavior is not a hobby. It’s the stuff of Nobel Prize winning research.”

“And it’s not what we are being paid for at the moment.”

Jonathan let out an ear piercing whistle. “Everybody settle down. It’s important or we wouldn’t be here.”

Cabe smiled at his son. He was just about to say the same thing but Jonathan beat him to it. Like Toby always said, ‘I love DNA.’ “Okay everyone gather around.” They waited until everyone moved close, looking properly chastened. He nodded to Jonathan, letting him tell the story.

“Yesterday we were at the Gallo Center for a board meeting. We met a kid.” He paused and took a breath. “His name is Jimmy Flynn. He’s a rude smart ass.” He glanced over at Toby. “Your kind of kid.”

Toby smiled and nodded. “I like him already.”

The only thing that made this kid smile was our bikes.”

“The kid’s got good taste,” Happy smiled.

“We have some GoPro film from our last ride up the PCH. We need it converted to some format that he can watch.”

“While I understand your desire to entertain a sick child, as I said we are very busy,” said Walter. “We will get to it when we can.”

“Walter!” said Paige.

“What?”

Jonathan looked at Walter like the real brother he’d become. They disagreed, sometimes were envious of each other but in the end, there was love. “Walter. Jimmy has bone cancer, stage four. He doesn’t have time until you can get to him.”

Walter glanced at Paige whose eyes were tearing. He’d learned to take emotional cues from Paige and he knew she must be thinking about her own son. “Oh. I see. He looked at the rest of the team. “Ideas?” Sly seemed frozen in an emotional overload, which often happened in situations like this. Toby was studying their reactions, which he always did. Walter hated that. Happy was the only one who looked like she was truly contemplating an idea. “Happy?”

Happy gave what passed for a smile when she knew she had the answer. “You know, I could rig a virtual reality device, convert the footage. The kid would feel like he was on the bike.”

“You could really do that?” asked Jonathan.

“Pffff. Don’t insult me. Of course I’d need to fit the kid and I might have to do some tweaking so he could switch channels.”

“Switch channels?”

She raised her hands at Cabe and Jonathan like she couldn’t believe they didn’t get what she was saying. “Two riders, two channels.”

“How long do you need?” asked Cabe.

“A few hours. Sly can convert the media while I work on the unit. I’ll need some supplies.”

Cabe smiled. "Paige has a card on file for just such occasions. Get whatever you need." He walked over and gave Happy a kiss on the forehead. "Thank you, sweetheart." Only Cabe was close enough to see her blush.

"You're welcome," she whispered.

By three in the afternoon Happy had rigged up the VR device and was testing with the footage Sly had converted to a useable format. Jonathan and Cabe arrived at the garage to see Happy wearing the device and smiling. “This is cool,” she said.

“Yeah?” asked Jonathan. “It works?”

“Of course it works. I added a third channel. I had Sly convert some footage I have of my rides.”

“That’s great, Happy.”

“I’m going to need to adjust it to the kid. Are the parents going to be okay with that?”

“Jimmy is a ward of the state. No family,” said Jonathan.

Happy pulled the VR unit off her face. “Damn. That sucks.” She started packing up her equipment. “Then I guess we better get to it.”

“I’ll come with you,” said Toby.

“I don’t want to overwhelm the kid,” said Cabe. Toby approached Cabe and Jonathan while Happy finished packing.

“You’re about to throw my wife into a situation with a foster kid, a dying foster kid. I’ll hang back but there’s no way I let her do this alone.”

“Okay, doc. I get it.” Cabe watched as Toby picked up Happy’s toolbox and carried it for her like a little boy carrying a girl’s school books. Toby’s devotion to his wife was absolute. Cabe definitely understood.

Toby moved toward his car while Happy moved toward her truck. “Hey, sweetie pie. How about you let your knight in shining armor drive?”

Happy rolled her eyes and gave him a half smile. “Fine.” She tossed her equipment in the trunk and got in the passenger side of the car. “Step on it, Granny. You’re going to lose Cabe in traffic.”

“I know where we’re going. Are you sure you’re okay with this?”

“It’s a VR unit. It’s not a big deal.”

“It’s a dying kid and yes it is a big deal.”

“Okay, fine. I will admit to a bit of a...tug when Jonathan said he was a foster kid.
All the more reason to make this unit work for the kid.”

Toby looked at Happy and then back at the traffic. He knew he couldn’t stop Happy from doing this, but he’d do his best to keep it from hurting her.

Jimmy flipped channels but couldn't find anything to watch. This place didn't suck as bad as some of the foster homes he'd been in. Some had been abusive, some had been indifferent. He preferred indifferent. At least then they weren't yelling all the time. The last family who had him turned him back to the state as soon as he'd been diagnosed. They promised they'd come visit but of course they didn't.

He didn't have any memory of real parents. His mother had dumped him at the hospital where he'd been born and never looked back. He'd always thought when he aged out of the system he could take off, go where he wanted. He'd seen stuff on TV, like mountains and the desert. He wanted to see things and do things and be somebody, not just some kid that had got dumped when he was born. Now he wouldn't get the chance for any of it. At least the people here told him the truth. They told him the truth about the cancer and they even showed him the pictures when he asked. They asked him what he wanted. Nobody ever asked him before. Before he would have never asked for anything because he knew better. Now, the only thing he wanted was what he couldn't have. Time. He'd be gone in a couple of months and no one would ever remember he'd ever been alive. There was a knock at his door and the two guys from the other day opened the door.

"Hey Jimmy, it's me, Jonathan and my Dad. Can we come in? We brought a couple of friends."

"I'm not going anywhere."

A guy in a weird hat said "I see what you mean." Standing next to the hat guy was a pretty woman holding a box. A little short, but pretty. He thought she might be Chinese.

"We brought you something," said Jonathan.

"So?"

"Oh, he's a peach," said the pretty woman.

The older guy didn't look pleased. "This nice lady made something for you. The least you can do is see what it is before you're a jackass."

Jimmy's head went back a bit. He wasn't used to being talked to like that. Everyone was always so careful around him now. "Yeah, okay. So what is it."

"First of all we'll make the introductions," said Cabe. "This is Toby Curtis and this is Happy Quinn."

"Happy? What kind of name is Happy?"

"Mine," she said.

Jimmy gave her a half smile and nodded. "Okay, so what's in the box?"

"We saw how much you liked the bikes," said Cabe. "My son and I have recorded some of our rides on GoPros. So has Happy. She's converted the footage and designed a virtual reality unit for you."

He looked at Happy. "You ride? What bike?"

"A Soft Tail Slim. Now are you going to keep gabbing or are you going to let me set this up?"

"Yeah, whatever."

"You shouldn't get nauseous from it but let us know if you do, Okay?"

Jimmy looked at Happy as she was about to put the device on his head. "Who's he?"

"He's a doctor. He's also my husband so watch it or I'll make it seem like you're riding upside down." She handed him a remote. "It works like a TV remote. On and off buttons and three channels."

"Channels?"

"One channel for each of us. It should feel like your riding the bike, but you can switch bikes." She attached the device to his head. "Okay, I'm going to turn it on." Happy hit the on button and then the button for channel one.

Jimmy's head pushed back against his pillow. "Whoa."

“Are you okay?” asked the hat guy.

“Yeah, I’m good, dude. This is amazing.” Jimmy laughed. “Dude! Awesome wheelie.”

“Thanks,” said Cabe.

“You, old dude? I thought it was your son.”

“Yeah, well, don’t tell my wife. And the name is Cabe or Mr. Gallo, not old dude.”

“Okay, sorry. Let’s check the next one.” He hit the next button and smiled. “This is pretty big too. The gloves have Harley patches.”

“That would be me,” said Jonathan.

Jimmy’s head nodded slightly. “Nice.” He rode with Jonathan for a while and then switched the third channel. “Whoa! How fast were you going?”

“Fast enough,” said Happy.

“Does that say ninety five?” he asked.

“Excuse me?!” said Toby. “We’ll discuss this later.”

“So it’s working for you? Can you switch back and forth?”

“Yeah, it’s awesome.”

“Okay, cool. There’s a total of two hours of footage in the unit. I have some more film to convert so I’ll come back tomorrow to upload it. Just have someone plug it in for you to charge it for tonight.”

“Cool. Hey, any of you ever been to the Grand Canyon?”

“Yeah, but I don’t have it recorded,” said Jonathan.

“Oh. Too bad.” He started laughing.

“What’s so funny?” asked Cabe.

“Somebody said something to Happy and she flipped them the bird.”

“Well, were going to get going,” said Cabe.

Jimmy turned off the headset and pulled it off. “Thanks for this. It’s really cool. I’m a little worried.”

“About what?” asked Cabe.

“This thing is really cool and it’s probably pretty expensive. What if someone steals it when I’m asleep.”

Happy smiled. “Don’t worry I put a program in it. That thing is Lo Jacked. I could find it...well, anywhere.”

Jimmy looked at the headset and then back up at Happy. “That’s pretty cool.” He extended his hand. “Thank you.”

Happy hesitated then took his hand in hers. “You’re welcome.”

Jimmy looked at the rest of the group and smiled. “Thank you.”

Cabe put a hand on his shoulder. “You’re welcome, buddy. Don’t wear yourself out. Get some rest.”

Jimmy gave him a sly smile. “Sure thing, old dude.”

It had been a long day but it had been made brighter by the smile on Jimmy's face. "You should have seen him, Kate. He was smiling and having a great time, when he wasn't being a smart ass. I swear all that kid needs is the hat and you couldn't tell him apart from Toby."

Kate put her hand on his shoulder. "Are you sure this is a good idea for you, to get so...invested."

"Sweetheart, I know where you're going with this. He's not that much older than Amanda was when she died. The kid is in a no win situation. He's going to die, soon, and he knows it. Kate, this kid doesn't have a soul in the world who gives a damn about him except the hospital staff. He deserves to have someone who's going to miss him."

Kate gave him a tight hug. "You're a good man, Gallo."

Cabe and Kate were just sitting down to dinner when his phone rang. "No, Cabe. Enough work," said Kate

"It's Happy." He pushed the button to answer the call. "Hey kid, what's up?"

"I was thinking about the VR unit. I could add a live feed. Jimmy could watch a ride as it happens." She paused. "Maybe a ride to the Grand Canyon. It's only an eight hour trip."

"That's a great idea but we're all tied up with work and Jonathan's got a heavy court schedule this week. I don't know who'd be able to do it."

"How about someone from the club? Do you think one of them could do it?"

"I'll make some calls. I'd tell you to go ahead and work on adding the live feed but you're already doing it."

"Ah...yeah. I am."

He disconnected the call and set the phone on the table. "Oh boy."

"What's wrong?"

"I think Toby is going to kill me."

Cabe walked into the garage with a tall, burly man with curly black hair and beard. He was wearing the club leathers that indicated he belonged The Boozefighters Motorcycle club. “Hey guys, this is Teddy. I’ve told him what we have in mind and he’s agreed to do the ride to the Canyon.” He said hello to everyone, but he already knew Happy from the club.

“Hey Teddy,” said Happy. “Thanks for helping.”

“No problem. I have some downtime. Do you think you could give my bike the once over before I go?”

“Sure, no problem. First, give me your helmet so I can rig it, then I’ll take a look at your bike.” Happy and Teddy worked on his bike while Cabe got a cup of coffee. He could see Toby studying his wife. He caught Cabe watching him. He pulled Cabe aside.

“I told you this would happen. She’s identifying with this kid and this kid is dying, soon. This is going to hurt her.”

“It probably will. But you will be there to help her through it.”

“How can you be so cavalier about this?”

Cabe put his hand on Toby’s shoulder. “Believe me, Toby. That’s the last thing I am.”

Toby realized what he’d said. He pulled off his hat and tossed it on his desk. “Ah, geez. I’m sorry Cabe.”

“It’s okay, Doc. You want to protect her. I get it. I would take every bit of pain Kate has endured because of me but I know I can’t. I have to trust Kate is strong. You have to have to trust Happy and just be there when she needs you, and she will need you.”

“I can’t blame her. The kid has a certain jackass charm.”

Cabe smiled. “Remind you of anyone?”

Cabe checked in with the nurses station before going into see Jimmy. "Hey, Elaine. How's Jimmy Flynn doing?"

The nurse smiled. "He hasn't put that thing you got him down. He even slept with it. He had the night nurse plug it in to charge it but he hid it under his covers."

"How's he feeling?"

"Well, his condition hasn't changed but he seems in a much better mood. He hasn't been rude to anyone for twenty four hours."

Cabe smiled. "Well, I take that as a win. You remember Happy Quinn and Dr. Curtis. This is our friend, Teddy. We'd like to stop in to see him."

"Sure thing."

Cabe knocked on Jimmy's door before he opened it. Jimmy was wearing the headset. "Hey Jimmy."

He smiled and turned off the unit. "Old dude. You're back."

"I'm stuck with that aren't I?"

Jimmy shrugged. "Yeah." He saw Happy and smiled. "Did you bring more footage?"

"Yeah, I did but we have something else too. Well, someone else. This is our friend, Teddy."

Jimmy surprised them by reaching for the stranger's hand. "Hey."

"Hey. Nice to meet you."

He looked Teddy up and down, taking in the green plaid shirt and the leather pants. His leather vest was covered with patches. "You a real biker?"

"Hey," said Cabe. "I'm a real biker."

Jimmy snickered. "You wear a suit and a badge."

"I work construction," said Teddy.

“Yeah, he’s a biker,” said Jimmy. “So why they drag you here?”

“First, they didn’t drag me, they asked and I said yes.”

“Okay, I’m going to jump in here. I have a new remote for you and I have to tweak you headset so hand it over. Toby, set up the laptop.”

“Yes, dear,” said Toby. He pulled out a new laptop and set it up on Jimmy’s rolling table.

“Is this for me?” he asked quietly.

“Yeah, it is, kid,” said Toby.

“You’ll need it for the link,” said Happy.

“What link?”

“That’s where Teddy comes in,” said Cabe. “You said you wanted to see the Grand Canyon. Happy has rigged this setup for a live feed. Teddy is going to ride to the Canyon and back. You’ll be able to see the whole trip as it happens.”

Jimmy’s eyes lit up. “Seriously?”

“Yeah, kid. As soon as they set it up here, I’ll take off. It’s an eight hour trip so I’ll be making a couple of stops. I’ll stay overnight and then ride back.”

Jimmy looked at Cabe and he was surprised the boy had tears in his eyes. “Why are you doing this?”

Cabe smiled. “Why not?”

“Nobody’s ever done anything for me.”

Happy took the headset from him. “Yeah, well that’s over. Now close your trap while I set this up.” She put the headset back on Jimmy while Teddy put on his helmet. She hit the button on Teddy’s helmet, then activated Jimmy’s headset. She also gave him an earbud.

“What’s that?”

“So you can hear the ride.”

“Whoa, this is freaky. I’m looking at myself.”

Teddy turned his head and looked at everyone in the room. “Can you hear me, kid?”

“Yeah.”

“Teddy, try walking down the hallway.” Teddy left the room but Jimmy could see and hear everything.

“Yeah, I can hear you. This is so cool.” Teddy came back in the room as Happy hit a few buttons on the laptop. She took off Jimmy’s headset and showed him the screen. It showed a split screen between Jimmy and Teddy. “What’s this?”

“Well, we can’t always be here and we’d like to watch too. This way we can watch it from the garage.”

Jimmy looked at Happy smiled. “You just want to keep an eye on me.”

“Maybe. Would that be so bad?”

“Well, it will cut down on my wild parties with the nurses.”

Happy smiled. “Shut up.” She turned to Teddy. “Why don’t you get started. I’ll contact you if we have any problems.

Cabe sat and watched Jimmy laugh and talk to Teddy on the headset. If you didn’t know better you’d think he was any other kid. The thing that surprised and worried him the most was the smile on Happy’s’ face. He’d never seen this look on her face before. This wasn’t pride in a job well done. This was the smile Kate gave Jonathan. This smile was maternal. Toby saw it too.

Cabe watched Teddy's ride on the screen and listened to Teddy's description of the ride as he went. The tech Happy set up was truly amazing. It really seemed like he was going on the ride. They'd been going for about two hours when he could tell Jimmy was starting to fade. Cabe cut in on the com. "Hey, Ted, buddy. Why don't you find a place to grab your dinner while Jimmy has his."

"No, I don't want to," said Jimmy.

"Teddy can't ride for eight straight hours without eating," said Cabe. He could, actually, but he knew Jimmy needed a break.

"There's a diner off the next exit," said Teddy. "I'll jump off there and I'll let you know when I'm getting back on. I'll talk to you later, Jimmy."

"Okay, Teddy." Jimmy took off his headset and it was obvious he was tired. He looked at Cabe. "Why is he doing this?"

"Who, Teddy? I asked him."

"Does he owe you?"

"No. He's just a friend from our motorcycle club."

"You're in the club too?"

"Yeah, so are Jonathan and Happy. Why do you find it so hard to believe?"

"I don't know. You just seem...you know..."

"Old?"

"Well, yeah."

"He's not that old," said Happy. "Cabe is our Homeland handler for our team, Scorpion. He's saved our asses more times than I can count."

Jimmy looked at Cabe and then back to Happy. "Old dude?"

"Don't underestimate him," said Toby as he absently rubbed his shoulder. "You'd be surprised at what he can do."

“Huh. That still doesn’t answer why Teddy is doing this for me.”

“He knows how much you love bikes. So does he. He wanted you to have the chance to make the ride.”

“Before I die.”

Everyone in the room was quiet, until Happy took Jimmy’s hand. “What’s happening to you sucks. We all think so. We can make something good out of what time you have left so we’re going to do that.”

“But why? Nobody’s ever done anything for me before.”

“I was a foster kid. I know how much it sucks. Going from place to place, no one giving a damn about you. Having to make your own way. Well, I got lucky. I found Scorpion,” she nodded toward Toby. “and this guy. Well, now you have people. We give a damn. We care what’s happening,” she paused as she swallowed her tears. “And we will miss you when you’re gone. So we are going to do this for you. We’re your family now.”

“You’ll miss me?”

“Of course we will.”

“Even you, hat guy?”

“Yeah, I will, smart ass.”

Jimmy got very quiet. “I didn’t think anyone would notice when I’m gone. Old dude, will you remember me?”

Cabe stood, kissed the top of the boy’s head and whispered “I will always remember you.” He tried to compose himself as he straighten his jacket. “I’m going to check with the nurse.” Toby stood. “I’ll go with you. I want to check his chart.”

“Happy, will you stay for a minute?”

“Yeah, sure kid.” She looked up at Cabe and Toby. “You guys go on. I won’t be long.”

Toby took a look at Jimmy's chart. Cabe leaned up against the wall. Both were just trying to compose themselves. "What does his chart say?" asked Cabe.

"Nothing new. The disease is progressing as expected. He's got six to eight weeks at best. His oncologist is keeping him comfortable. Huh."

"What huh?"

"Jimmy has refused further treatment."

"What? Why?"

"Because the treatment would only delay the inevitable and it's a pretty nasty treatment. Toxic chemicals that would make him feel like crap."

"Who made the choice? Jimmy? He's only eight."

"Yeah, well, unfortunately I agree with his decision. But there is a problem."

"What?"

"The state is going to court to force the treatment."

"What? On who's authority?"

"The social worker. The notes say it's the Department's standard protocol. They say he's too young to make the choice."

"That's wrong," said Cabe.

"What's wrong?" asked Happy.

"Later. What did Jimmy want?" asked Toby.

"He wanted to know if we could make the feed available to other people. He figures there are others like him who would like to go on the ride."

"Can you do it?" asked Cabe.

"Yeah, no problem. Now tell me what's going on."

Toby sighed. "Social services is going to court to force Jimmy into more treatment."

"What? Will the treatment help?"

"No."

"Then why?"

"Because it's standard procedure."

"That stinks."

"No argument there," said Toby.

Cabe put his arm around Happy's shoulder. "For right now, why don't you work on the feed he wants and I'll call Jonathan and see what we can do about the court." Happy nodded and went back into Jimmy's room.

Toby waited until the door closed behind Happy before he grabbed Cabe's arm. "I warned you. I told you this was going to happen. She's invested in this kid." Toby held up Jimmy's chart. "This kid is gonna die, soon."

"I've got a news flash for you Doc, we're all invested." He pushed a finger into Toby's chest. "Even you. More than you want to admit."

Toby tossed Jimmy's chart back on the station and sighed. "Damn you."

Cabe sat at his desk not reading the paperwork in front of him. Jonathan had gone to court to see if he could get the judge to approve Jimmy's wishes. He's promised to call as soon as he was done.

"Hey, look at this," said Paige.

"What?"

"Jimmy's feed. It's gone viral." Paige put the feed up on the big screen. Everyone could see Teddy traveling down the highway. The feed was now part of a page labeled Live Ride. "How soon until he reaches the Canyon?"

"About two hours," said Cabe.

"I don't think why it's going viral." There was another video posted on the page. It was Jimmy.

"He asked me to record him," said Happy. It was obvious from the still picture that Jimmy was ill but he was smiling. Paige hit the play button and Jimmy began to speak.

"Hi. My name is Jimmy Flynn. I'm a patient at the Amanda Gallo Pediatric Center. The guy on the bike is named Teddy. He's riding to the Grand Canyon so I can see what it's like. Happy made me a VR headset. It's really cool." He waved to her off screen. "Come here." He pulled her into the frame. Happy, looking very uncomfortable looked into the camera. "Say hi," he said.

"Hey."

Jimmy smiled at her. "She's a genius." He looked back at the screen. "She made this for me because I'm never going to get a chance to ride. I'm not going to get the chance to do much of anything because I have cancer. I asked Happy to set up this page because there are probably some of you out there who'd like to go for the ride too. There's a place for comments too. Happy says to tell you to keep it clean because I may act like I'm thirty but I'm only eight. Okay, that's it. Maybe I'll post something again when Teddy gets to the Canyon. Good night from The Jiminator."

"The Jiminator?" Happy asked off camera.

“Yeah. I think it sounds good.”

Happy snickered. *“Whatever.”*

The video stopped and everyone stared at the screen. Paige wiped a tear from her cheek. The quiet was interrupted when Jonathan came into the garage. Cabe stood to greet his son.

“I thought you were going to call?”

“I thought it best to deliver this in person.”

Happy and Toby stood next to Cabe. “What did the judge say?” asked Happy.

Jonathan shook his head. “The judge said without a legal guardian his hands are tied.”

Toby pulled his hat off and rubbed his hand through his hair. “Son of a bitch.”

Happy paled and walked back to her work table. She screamed as she cleared the contents of her work table on the floor. Toby ran to his wife and pulled her into his arms. “It’s okay, baby. It’s okay.”

She push him off. “No! No, it’s not alright. The government will force him to take treatment he doesn’t want.” She wandered around and every time someone approached her, she pushed them off. She stared out the window for a few minutes until her shoulders relaxed and she turned around. “Doc, come here.” He walked toward her and put his arms around her waist.

“Better?”

“Yeah. I want us to adopt Jimmy.”

“What?”

“If we adopt him, we’re his legal guardians. We can make sure his wishes are carried out.”

“We’ll be his parents. We’ll gain a son only to lose him. Are you prepared for that?”

“Of course not. Neither are you.” She got quiet. “You love him too. You might not admit it but the kid’s gotten under your skin.”

“This is going to hurt like hell.”

“This isn’t about us. It’s about Jimmy and what he needs. He needs us, Toby.”

Toby rested his head against Happy’s and whispered, “You’re right.” He looked over at Jonathan. “Happy and I want to adopt Jimmy. How fast can you make that happen?”

“I’m not sure.”

Cabe smiled. “Considering you two have saved the planet more than once I think I can help there. I’ll make some calls.” Happy ran to Cabe and gave him a tight hug. “But there’s one person you two need to talk to.”

Happy looked at Toby and smiled. “Jimmy.”

Cabe and Kate came with Happy and Toby to the hospital. Cabe had offered his moral support and Kate came to give him support. They would explain what the government was planning and then Happy and Toby would ask Jimmy about the adoption.

Kate pulled Cabe aside as they walked into the Center. “Cabe are you okay with this?”

“Yes, Katie. I’m fine.”

“No, you’re not.”

“No, I’m not but like Happy said, it’s not about us, it’s about Jimmy.”

“Okay, but you have to promise me if you start having trouble, you’ll talk to me.”

He gave her a quick kiss. “I promise.”

They knocked on Jimmy’s door and pushed it open. Jimmy was wearing his VR unit and they could see Teddy riding down the highway. “Hey buddy,” said Cabe.

“Company, Teddy. I’ll get back to you,” said Jimmy and he pulled off his VR unit. “Hey, old dude. I didn’t expect to see you again today.”

“Old dude?” asked Kate.

“Told you the kid was a smart ass. Jimmy, this is my wife, Kate.”

“Are you a cop too?”

Kate smiled and pulled her badge out of her jacket pocket and showed it to him. “Wow. You’re a cop too?” Jimmy looked at Cabe. “She a cop and that pretty? What does she see in you, old dude?”

Cabe smiled. “I don’t know, Jimmy.” He grabbed a chair and sat down. “You know this is the Gallo Center. It was named for my daughter, Amanda. Kate and I are both on the board.”

“Why am I missing the ride for this?”

“We see the reports, your reports.”

“So you know my expiration date. So? That’s no secret.”

“We know that you’ve refused further treatment and your doctors agreed with your decision. We would normally follow the patient’s wishes.”

“Why do I get the feeling I’m not going to like what’s coming next?”

“As a ward of the state they say you’re too young to make that decision. They are want us to go forward with treatment.”

“What? No! You can’t let them do that!” Jimmy started coughing and Happy got him some water.

“Here. Drink this.” She held the cup for him until he was finished. “Now just lean back. We think we have an answer but we need to know what you think.” Happy sat on the edge of the bed. “Doc and I want to adopt you. That would make us your legal guardians and we’d see to it your wishes are carried out.”

“You want to adopt me?” he whispered.

“Yes, we do,” said Toby as he reached for Happy’s hand.

“You know I’m dying, right? There’s nothing that’s going to make me better.”

“We know. I’ve done the research.”

Happy looked at him and smiled. “You did?”

“Of course. I had Walter and Sly on it too.” He looked at Jimmy. “Scorpion is a team of geniuses. I’m a genius too. If there was a treatment out there I would have found it.” He took a breath and Cabe could tell he was trying to control himself. “Unfortunately, I agree with your decision.”

Happy rubbed Toby’s arm and smiled. “So that just leaves you. Do you want us as parents?”

“Why are you doing this?”

Happy looked at Jimmy and smiled. “Because you’re a mouthy, smart ass and you got under our skin. Because you need us.” A tear rolled down her cheek. “Because we love you.”

“What?” he said, then smiled. “Even the guy with the hat?”

Toby smiled, “Yeah, even me. So are you in?”

Jimmy smiled. “Hell yeah, I’m in.”

“Watch the mouth, kid,” said Toby.

“He’s acting like a father already.”

Happy looked at Toby with a love that all but broke Cabe’s heart. He knew what was in store for both of them. “Yeah, he is,” she said.

“Doesn’t this stuff take awhile? Like longer than I have?”

“That’s where Cabe and Kate come in.”

Kate smiled. “The governor owes us a favor or two. If you’re in, Happy and Toby will be your parents by this time tomorrow.” Then the last thing they expected happened. Smart mouth Jimmy Flynn started to cry.

Cabe and Kate left Jimmy’s room so he could be alone with his new parents. Kate put her arms Cabe’s waist. “I’ll put the call in to the governor. Jonathan’s got all the paperwork ready to go.”

“Are you okay?” asked Kate.

“I’m fine.”

“Try again.”

“Okay, I’m a little shaky. But it’s going to be a lot worse for Happy and Toby.”

“You’ll be there for them.”

He gave her a quick kiss. “You know I don’t know what I do without you.”

Kate gave him the smile that always set his world to rights. “You’ll never have to find out, boyo.”

Happy sat with her soon-to-be son as he watched Teddy walk around the edge of the Grand Canyon.

“Wow. This is amazing. Are you seeing this, Mom?”

She gasped at Jimmy’s slip of the tongue. “Yeah, I’m see this. It’s pretty amazing.”

“Is anyone else watching?”

Happy checked the analytics on the page. “There are four thousand people watching with us.”

“How many?” Jimmy asked.

“Four thousand and it keeps clicking up.”

“Maybe I should say something to them?”

“If you want to.”

“Yeah. Do I look okay? Not too crypt keeper?”

Happy was amazed that she could want to laugh and cry at the same time. “You could do with a hair brush and a wash cloth. She went into the bathroom and found a small hairbrush and put warm water on the wash cloth. She looked up at the mirror and saw herself getting ready to tend to her son. Her heart began to race. “Hold it together, Quinn. He doesn’t need a weepy mess.” She walked back into his room and wiped down his face. As she was doing that and Elaine came in with a push cart. It was loaded with boxes and a couple of stuffed animals. “What’s all that?”

“It’s for Jimmy.”

“What?”

“Apparently people saw your video and they sent you gifts,” said Elaine.

“For me?” She handed him one of the boxes and he opened it up. “Wow! Look.” He held up the t-shirt and there was a cartoon character that looked a lot like him, only healthy. He was wearing a leather jacket and above him was the title “The Jiminator” “Holy cow. I want to put it on. Help me.”

“Fine, but let’s see who we need to thank.” She looked at the card. “It’s from the Super Fun Guy people.” She noticed there were some sweatpants in the box.

“Come on, I want to put it on.” He tried to get out of bed and doubled over in pain. “Damn it.” He looked up at Happy. “Aren’t you going to yell at me for my language?”

“I’ll give you a pass on this one but don’t push it. Elaine, could you help us here?”

“Sure thing.” Elaine disconnected Jimmy’s IV’s long enough to put on his new outfit. He stood with great effort.

“How do I look?” he smiled.

“Like “The Jiminator,” said Happy.

“Take my picture. It’s been a long time since I’ve been on my feet and dressed.”

“Sure thing.” Happy grabbed her camera and took shot after shot until he started to wobble. “Okay, that’s enough for now. Back in bed and let Elaine put the IV’s back in.” They lifted him back into his bed and Happy thought he was way too light for a child his age.

A voice came over his computer. “Hey Jimmy, it’s Teddy. You got your ears on.”

“Yeah I’m here, Teddy. You at the trail yet?”

“Almost buddy. I’m in the home stretch.”

The door to Jimmy’s room opened and Toby walked in as Elaine left the room. “Everyone decent?”

“Is everyone here?” asked Happy.

Toby clapped and rubbed his hands together. “We are ready to rock.”

Happy turned back to the computer. “Teddy, your timing is perfect. We will be back on line by the time you get there.”

“Copy that,” said Teddy.

Toby looked at the stack of gifts and Jimmy's new clothes. "Where did you get the booty?"

"People saw my video and sent me stuff." Jimmy puffed out his chest. "How cool is this?"

"It's from the Super Fun Guy people," said Happy.

"It's awesome but your missing one thing." Toby opened his jacket and pulled a small hat out of his pocket. It was a miniature copy of his own. He set the hat on Jimmy's head and smiled. "Now you look truly awesome."

Jimmy smiled. "Take our picture so I can see." Happy shot another series of pictures and showed them to Jimmy. "Hah! We look great."

"Of course we do. That hat makes it." He sat on the edge of the bed. "There is a hallway full of people out there who want to see us become legal. You up for it?"

"Sure. Don't want to waste looking this good."

Happy rolled her eyes. "I swear to God he's your kid. He sounds just like you."

Toby rolled the cart of gifts into the hallway to make room, propped the door open and began the introductions. "You know Cabe and Kate. This is Walter, he's our boss at Scorpion."

"Hello Jimmy. You have selected excellent parents."

Jimmy smiled. "Thanks. I think so."

"This is Sly, a fellow genius and Super Fun Guy fan."

"Nice to meet you, Jimmy. Wait, is that? The Jiminator? That's awesome. I have my own character too, 'Super Sly'." Sly noticed everyone was watching him. "Ahh, we'll talk later."

"This is Paige. She's a normal."

"A normal?" asked Jimmy.

Paige smiled. "I'm not a genius like they are. I'm the project manager and I keep everyone on task." She patted the shoulder of the young boy standing in front of her. "This is my son, Ralph. He's like them."

"You're a member of Scorpion?"

"Unofficially, but yeah."

Toby shook Jonathan's hand. "Thanks for getting this moving for us."

"No problem, brother." He turned to Jimmy. "Jimmy, this is my friend Judge Roy Stone." The man looked no older than Jonathan, had sandy blonde hair and wire rimmed glasses. The judge extended his hand.

"Hello Jimmy."

"Hi." He looked around at the group. "Why do none of you look like what you do, except Old Dude? You look like a cop." Cabe rolled his eyes.

"I may not look like a judge, but I assure you I am. You have some powerful friends, little dude."

"Who, these guys?"

"Yes, Scorpion is pretty influential but I was talking about the Governor of California. Apparently, he's a fan. He's seen your video. He called me himself and asked me to take care of your adoption."

"Whoa," said Jimmy.

"Whoa, indeed." Ray opened a folder that contained some important looking papers. "Let's do this. Tobias Curtis and Happy Quinn do you request that the court grant your petition for the adoption of Jimmy Flynn?"

"Tobias?" Jimmy smiled.

"Stow it," Toby muttered.

Happy grabbed Toby's hand. "We do," they said together.

“Jimmy Flynn, do you wish for the court to grant Dr. Curtis and Mrs. Quinn’s petition to adopt you?”

“Yes, sir,” he said quietly.

“Did you want to change your name as well?”

“What? I hadn’t thought about that.”

“I didn’t change my name when I married Doc. I’m still his wife.”

Jimmy smiled. “Okay. I’ll stay Jimmy Flynn.”

“Okay then.” Ray signed the papers in several locations. He gave Jonathan a copy of the paperwork. He reached his hand to Jimmy. “Congratulations, young man. You are now legally adopted.” He nodded toward Happy and Toby. “Now you have to listen to them.” He shook Toby and Happy’s hands. “Congratulations.”

“Thank you, Your Honor,” said Toby.

Happy managed to whisper a “Thank you” as she wiped a tear from her cheek.

Ray turned to Jonathan and shook his hand. “I’ve got to go. I’ll call you later.”

“Wait,” said Jimmy. “We need a picture.”

“Sure thing. Where do you want me?” Toby had the judge stand behind him while he and Happy sat down carefully next to their son. Happy handed Ralph her phone and he took several pictures. Ray looked at the picture and smiled. “Hey can I get one of those?”

“I’ll take care of that, Ray,” said Jonathan.

“Thanks, buddy.” He turned to Jimmy. “It was a real honor to meet you, Jimmy.”

Jimmy smiled as the Judge left the room. “He was nice.”

“Okay, we’re going to get back to the garage but we wanted be here for your adoption,” said Paige.

“Happy, Toby, could I speak to you in the hall for a moment?” asked Walter.

Happy and Toby followed Walter into the hallway. “I recognize you will both be unavailable until further notice. I want you to let me know if there is anything you need from us. As we all know, I’m not terribly good at these things so you’ll have to let me know what you need. And, I would appreciate it if occasionally I could text you questions.”

“Wow, Walter,” Toby stumbled over his words. “Thank you. I know you hate this but I’ve got to do it.” Toby pulled him into a tight hug.

“Oh, okay,” said Walter as he gave back the world’s most awkward hug. He pulled away and Happy smiled.

“Bring it in, O’Brien,” she said as she hugged him.

Walter pulled out of the hug and started walking down the hall with Paige. He stopped and turned. “Toby, Happy, you’re doing a good thing here. You’ll be excellent parents. I’m very proud of you both.” He smiled at Toby and Happy’s stunned expression as he reached for Paige’s hand. He started walking but Paige wasn’t moving. “What?”

“That was very well done, Walter.”

“I pride myself on not making mistakes, or at least not the same ones twice. When Meghan was dying I wasted time I should have spent with her. I know that now. What Toby and Happy are doing, it’s important.”

“More important than Scorpion?”

“Some things are.”

They were interrupted when Ralph and Sly joined them. “Jimmy got his own comic character. Sly has one. I should get one,” said Ralph.

“You help design games for the company. Just ask them,” said Walter.

“Huh. Good idea.”

As Ralph went ahead toward the van with Sly, Paige pulled him back and gave him a kiss. “You’re on a roll, O’Brien,” she said as she walked toward the van.

Toby pulled Happy into a tight hug. “You good?”

“Yeah, I’m good, but don’t let go yet.”

“We have a son.”

“A dying son.”

He pulled back and looked at Happy, knowing she was holding back tears. “We knew this wasn’t going to be easy for us but we’re going to make the most out of what time he has left. I can also keep an eye on his chart, make sure he stays comfortable.”

Happy squared her shoulders. “You’re right. Now let’s go see to our son before he calls Cabe “Old Dude” one too many times.

They walked into Jimmy’s room to find Kate talking computers. Cabe and Jonathan talking bikes. “Hey, did you guys know Kate is a computer genius and a cop?! How cool is that?”

“Yes, Kate is very cool,” said Happy.

“I want to check your vitals,” said Toby.

“Ah, come on, Dad. I’m fine.”

Toby paused at the first time being called Dad. “Yeah, well I’ll be the judge of that.” He took Jimmy’s pulse and checked his the indicators on the machines that were attached to him. Finally, he looked into his son’s eyes. “Okay, you can stay up until Teddy gets to the Canyon. After that I want you to get some rest.”

“I want to make a recording. I want to tell everybody I got adopted.” He pointed to the screen. Kate had obviously been explaining how to access and read the analytics of his webpage. “Look how many people are watching.”

Toby looked at the screen showing the live feed of Teddy’s ride. Jimmy pointed to the user counter and there were currently six thousand viewers. “Okay. You know what you’re doing, hit the button.” He smiled as Jimmy brushed down his shirt and adjusted his hat.

“How do I look?”

“Very dashing, like your father,” said Happy.

“Okay, here goes.” He pressed the button that would make a live broadcast but also save it to the page.

“Hi everyone, It’s Jimmy,” He puffed out his chest to show his new t-shirt. *“Check this out. The Jiminator. It’s from the people who make the Super Fun Guy comics. How cool is that? But that’s not even the best thing that happened today, I got adopted! For real!”* He looked at Happy and Toby and patted the sides of his bed. *“Come say hi.”* They sat down on either side of the bed. *“These are my parents. The guy in the hat is my father, Toby. Say hi, Dad.”*

Toby waved at the screen. *“Hi.”*

“This is my Mom, Happy. That’s her real name. She’s real pretty. Say hi.”

Happy smiled and waved. *“Hi.”*

“Seriously, Dad. How did you ever get a girl as pretty as Mom?”

“I’m just really lucky.”

Jimmy looked back at the screen. *“They for real adopted me, even though they know I’m really sick and I’m not going to get better. A real judge came to my room and asked us if we wanted to adopt each other and we all said yes.”* He looked back and forth between his new parents and said quietly, *“I won’t be alone anymore.”* He took a breath. *“The people here at the Gallo Center have been really good to me.”* He turned the screen to show Cabe, Kate and Jonathan standing to the side of the bed. *“Those are the Gallos. Mr. and Mrs. Gallo are both cops and their son is a lawyer. He helped with all the adoption stuff. The center was named and Mr. Gallo’s daughter Amanda. She was like me, a sick kid with cancer. She didn’t make it either but the Gallos made this place where kids like us at least get a shot. A lot of them do get better here. I got a bunch of presents from people today and that was really nice of everyone. I’m going to leave them for the kids here. So if you want to send something maybe send something to the other kids. I have parents now. They’re going to take care of me.”* He glance at the split screen and saw

Teddy was rolling up on the Canyon trail. *“Oh wow, Teddy is just about at the Canyon trail. Okay, that’s it for now.”* Jimmy tapped his chest twice and held up two fingers. *“Peace out.”*

“Where did you learn that?” Toby laughed.

“One of the orderlies. Mom, my headset. I don’t want to miss it.”

“Okay, calm down. You won’t miss anything.” She put the VR headset on Jimmy’s head and switched it on. “You good.”

“Awesome.”

Happy hit a button on the laptop. “Teddy, you on?”

“I’m here. What I’m going to do is park the bike near the trail and then walk around. How’s the feed?”

“You’re good, Teddy.”

“Excellent. Let’s do this,” said Teddy.

Toby had him lay back against his pillows. “Lay back and get comfortable.”

“Don’t let me fall asleep.”

“If you do, everything is being recorded. You won’t miss anything. I promise.”

Jimmy got comfortable and Happy took his hand.

“We’re going to get going,” said Cabe.

“Thanks for coming, old dude,” Jimmy smiled. Cabe chuckled and rolled his eyes. “You didn’t think I forgot, did you?”

“God forbid,” said Cabe as he and his family walked out into the hall. Toby followed them out.

“I just...I wanted...,” Toby tried to speak.

Kate pulled him into a tight hug. “It’s okay, sweetheart. We understand.” She released Toby and wiped the tear from his cheek. “You know where the doctor’s room is

where they catch naps. You and Happy can use it when you want. His room isn't big enough to bring in a second bed and he needs to stay in this wing."

"Thanks."

Jonathan shook his hand then pulled him into a bro hug. "Congratulations, Dad."

"Thanks, Jonathan, for everything."

Toby looked at Cabe and his eyes welled. Cabe pulled him into a hug and whispered, "You've got this."

Cabe and Kate walked into their house tossed their keys on the sideboard and locked their service weapons in the gun safe. Just another night at the Gallo's. Kate wrapped her arms around Cabe's neck. "How are you doing boyo?"

"I'm good."

"Liar."

He gave her a deep kiss. "I'm better now."

"Ummm. So am I," she smiled. "Why don't you sit down while I get us some dinner?"

"Thanks Katie. I think I will." Cabe smiled as he sat down in his recliner and caught the rest of the news. It was just like Kate to help him feel normal on a day that was anything but. He watched a report on local bridge construction, then a report on the Dodgers. He was happy they were on a winning streak. The screen switched from the sports reporter to the anchor. Behind the anchor was a picture of Jimmy.

"Kate, get in here, quick!"

"What's wrong?"

"Look"

The anchor started his report. *"Jimmy Flynn, a patient at the Amanda Gallo Pediatric Center has developed a following with a couple of videos he's posted about a local motorcycle rider taking him on a virtual ride to the Grand Canyon. Today's video was very different."*

The video showed Jimmy, pale but smiling, talking about his adoption. He looked so proud showing off his new parents. Cabe was surprised to see they'd left in the part with him, Kate and Jonathan. At the end of the video was Jimmy's request for people to send gifts to the other kids at the center. They cut back to the anchor who'd obviously been crying. *"We're going to put the information on how to donate to the Amanda Gallo Pediatric Center on our website,"* he said through a choked voice. *"Time for a commercial."* The screen went dark for a moment before the commercial came on.

It was more than he could take. He started crying and couldn't stop. Kate sat in his lap and he pulled her tight against him and wept into her shoulder. His Amanda, Jimmy, it was all too much sometimes. Sometimes it was hard to keep the faith. He pulled back and was about to speak.

"Don't you dare apologize."

It was amazing how well she knew him. "I try to stay strong but sometimes..."

"Sometimes you can't. Sometimes you need help." She smiled and gave him a soft kiss. "I know what that feels like."

He rested his head on her shoulder. Of course she knew. She struggled with her own PTSD. "I love you, Katie girl."

"I love you too, boyo."

Teddy had been true to his word and walked the trails in the Canyon getting some amazing views. Jimmy had fallen asleep smiling. Happy went out into the hall to not wake her son. She called Teddy's phone so they wouldn't be recorded on Jimmy's feed.

"Hey Happy. How's Jimmy?"

"He's asleep now but we're recording everything. I can't tell you how much we appreciate what your doing for him."

"No problem...Mom."

"How did you find out? We only adopted him a few hours ago."

"It's all over the news and the internet."

"Really? I haven't checked the comments on the feed for a while. I guess I should."

"I saw his video. He's a tough little bugger."

"Yes he is. You've been at it for a while. Why don't you take a break?"

"It's almost sundown and I wanted to catch that. Then I'll grab some dinner and go back to my hotel."

"I'll catch up with you in the morning." Happy walked back into Jimmy's room to see Toby giving him an injection. "What is that?"

"Pain med. He's got to be hurting. He refused his last dose because he didn't want to miss out. Now that he's asleep I'll make sure he's comfortable."

She slipped his arms around his waist. "He did finally pass out, he was so tired."

"But it was a good, tired. A happy tired."

"Teddy said Jimmy's adoption is all over the news."

"Really?" Toby turned on the TV news and put it on low. It didn't take long before Jimmy's adoption video was being shown on the five o'clock news. They saw the anchor in tears as he went to commercial. "Wow," he whispered.

“Let’s check the messages,” said Happy. She flipped open the laptop and saw the number of messages. Yesterday there had been twenty to thirty messages. Now there were three thousand and were ticking upward. Several of the messages were offering GoPro views of beaches, mountains. He pointed to one message in particular. “This one is an offer to GoPro a bike ride through the Alps. Wow. How are we going to manage all these?”

“Who manages details better than anyone we know?” asked Toby.

“Paige,” they said together.

He called the garage but got Walter. “Hey. I was calling for Paige.”

“She’s picking Ralph up at class. Tell me what you need.”

“Did you see Jimmy’s video on the news?”

“Yes, it was very moving.”

“Well, it moved thousands of people. We are overwhelmed with the number of emails. There are also a number of people offering GoPro rides all over the world. We don’t have the time or energy to vet all these people to see if they’re for real or whether they’re creeps.”

“We can handle that for you. Text me the codes to get into the page and we’ll vet the emails. Between Paige, Sly and I we can get through them quickly.”

“You have Scorpion projects.”

“They will have to wait. This is more time sensitive.”

“Wow. Thank you, buddy. I’ll send the information right now.”

“We’ll get right on it. Try and get some rest.”

Toby text the information to Walter and put the phone in his pocket and smiled. “Scorpion is going to vet the emails.”

Happy hugged her husband and let her tears fall. She had no more words.

The Scorpion team, including Ralph went through all the offers of go along rides. They even had an offer for a parachute jump. When they told Jimmy about that he squealed with delight. "When can we do it?!"

"Calm down, daredevil. We'll contact the person who offered and see when we can set it up," said Toby. "I'll call Paige and see what she can set up for us."

"Cool."

A knock on the door and Cabe stuck his head in the door. "You in the mood for visitors?"

"Old dude!" Jimmy smiled. "Come on in."

Cabe and Kate came in and each gave Jimmy a kiss on the cheek. "How's it going, buddy?" asked Cabe

"It's cool. Teddy went all over the Canyon for me. It was awesome. It's so huge." He got a bit quiet. "It was really nice of him to do that for me. He doesn't even know me."

"Well, Teddy's a good man. I heard from him today. He wanted to know if he could visit you when he gets back to town."

"Yeah that would be great. I want to say thank you." Toby and Happy looked at each other. Their notoriously rude son wants to say thank you to someone who richly deserved it. He got quiet for a moment. "You know the nurses told me that they've been getting tons of toys for the kids and even they got flowers and muffins baskets. "Do people send muffins?"

"It's a thing," said Happy.

"That's not all," said Kate. "I've just heard from the office. There has been a big jump in donations. Close to one hundred thousand dollars in the last three days."

"What? That's a lot, right?"

"It's huge, Jimmy. It's all because of you and what you said online. More kids will get help because of you."

“Really?” he asked quietly. Happy ran her hand up and down his back.

“Really. You made a difference,” Kate said.

“I think I should post another video. I should thank everyone for what they’re doing.”

Happy could see Jimmy was holding back tears. “Okay baby, we will,” she whispered. “What is it? Talk to me.”

“People never noticed me, not ever. I never thought I’d make a difference, not to anyone. People are sending money to help, because of me?”

“Yes, they are. You’re making a difference in the lives of a lot of kids,” said Happy.

“And you will in the future,” said Toby.

“For real?” he asked.

“For real.” Toby replied as he took his son in his arms.

Jimmy looked up and saw Cabe and Kate trying to slip out. “No, don’t go.” He sat back and pulled himself together. Happy held a tissue to his nose and he blew. “Sorry about that.”

“No problem, Jimmy. I’m Italian. We’re emotional. I cry.”

“I don’t know what I am. I was dumped at the hospital when I was born.”

Happy kissed Jimmy’s head. “You’re a Jimmy. That’s good enough for us.”

“Okay, let’s do the video.” Toby set up the laptop and looked at Jimmy.

“You ready?”

“Where’s my hat?” Toby smiled and put the matching hat on Jimmy’s head. “Okay, hit the button.”

“Hi everyone, it’s me, Jimmy. Teddy finished his trip to the Grand Canyon and it was awesome. If you want to watch it’s posted on the page. Lots of people sent me emails and my parents are setting up different trips for me, even a skydive! Not an actual one for me, of course, but on the GoPro so it will feel like one on my headset. I want to thank all

of you who sent films and offers of trips. It's really nice of all of you and I can't wait to see them. My parents and their friends are going through them now.

He looked from side to side at Happy and Toby. *"They've been doing everything for me and they haven't left my side since the adopted me three days ago. Which is why I'm going to send them home."*

"What?" asked Toby and Happy.

"You guys are tired and need a rest. Maybe Mr. and Mrs. Gallo could hang out with me for awhile." He winked at Cabe for not calling him Old Dude.

"Of course we will," they answered off camera.

"Mr. and Mrs. Gallo just told me that besides all the toys you were sending for the other kids you were sending money too. Mrs. Gallo says you are all going to make a difference in kids lives. That's really cool. You see, not everyone is like me. Some kids can get better with the right medicine. You're helping them and that makes me really happy, so thanks a lot. I'm going to visit with my friends now so I'll talk to you all later." He tapped his chest twice and put up two fingers. *"Peace out, from the Jiminator."*

Jimmy hit the button and watched his video post. "How was that?"

"It was great but what was that stuff about sending us home?" asked Toby.

"You've been here for three days. I know you're taking turns in the doctor's lounge but it's not like a real bed. Besides, this place can get on your nerves after a while. It's never quiet. I want you to go home and get some real sleep."

"The kid's right," said Cabe. "You're both beat. It's nearly dinnertime. We'll all have some dinner and visit. We'll stay until he's asleep."

"Are you sure about this?" asked Happy.

"Go, get some sleep," said Jimmy.

"I gave you that phone. You know all our numbers are programmed in. You call if you need anything, you hear me?" Toby said pointing at Jimmy.

“I promise. No go before you both drop over.”

“Okay,” said Toby.

“Wait, I’m not sure about this,” said Happy.

“Mom, please. Get some sleep. For me. I tell you what, I’ll call you before they give me my last shot. After that I’ll be out all night.”

“You better,” she said before she kissed him on the head. Toby gave her a kiss and turned to Cabe and Kate. “Thanks guys.”

Toby and Happy laid in their own bed for the first time in three days. "Are you asleep?" she whispered.

He held her close. "Nope. I think we're overtired."

"No we're not. We're waiting for the phone to ring."

Happy's phone buzzed and it was a picture of Jimmy taken just after they'd adopted him. She put him on speaker. "Hey, everything okay?"

"Yeah, I had a nice visit with the Gallos. Do you know Old Dude and Jonathan race cars? They said they'd talk to you about setting up a recording."

"How are you feeling?" asked Toby.

He paused. "I'm okay. I should get the shot soon, so I'll be asleep any minute now."

Happy shook her head like she didn't believe him. "Okay, baby, we'll let you get some sleep."

"Mom, you know I'm not a baby."

"You're my baby."

"You get some sleep," said Toby.

"As soon as I hang up you're going to call the nurses station, aren't you?"

Toby laughed. "You're definitely my kid. You're a genius too."

"Didn't take a genius to figure that out. Good night, Dad. I love you both."

"We love you too." Toby waited until Jimmy hung up the phone. "He's in more pain than he wants to admit. I'm going to see if Tim Garcia is still in the hospital."

"Can't you order something for him?"

"No. I'm not his attending and I'm his father."

"What's the real reason?"

“I don’t want to screw up.”

“You are a genius doctor. You don’t screw up.”

“There’s a reason doctor’s don’t treat their own families. I don’t want to guess when I’m not standing over him and looking at his chart.” He hit the button for Tim Garcia. He’d given him his direct cell when Toby and Happy had adopted Jimmy. He said the change in Jimmy’s mood had made his wife, Elaine’s job much easier.”

“Hey Doctor Curtis, what can I do for you?”

“It’s Toby. Are you still in the hospital?”

“Yes, what’s going on?”

“I think Jimmy’s in more pain than he’s letting on. He sent us home to get some rest so we aren’t there.”

“I’ll check in on him. If needed I’ll up his dosage. Give me about thirty minutes.”

“Thanks, Tim.”

Neither was getting any sleep until Tim called back so he grabbed them bottles of water from the fridge. “Good catch, Mom.”

“We don’t know if I’m right.”

“You’re right.”

They sat in silence until Tim called back. “I upped his pain med dosage and he should be out for the rest of the night. I’ve given orders to keep an eye on his monitors from the station and not to wake him unless necessary.”

“Is he worse? Are we making him worse?” asked Happy.

“No. His disease is progressing the way it would so him needing more pain meds at this stage isn’t unusual, but he’s active, maybe not physically but mentally. Toby you and I both know endorphins, dopamine, oxytocin and serotonin are beneficial. That’s what the body releases when you’re happy. For the first time since I’ve been treating him the

kid is happy. I think for the first time in his life. I can honestly diagnose that your presence in his life is a physical benefit.”

Toby smiled as he saw Happy relax. “Thanks Tim.”

“You’re welcome. Now your son was right. Get some rest.”

He hung up the phone and smiled. Do you think you could get some rest now?”

Happy smiled and curled up against Toby’s chest.

The next few weeks were a blur of virtual trips. Alpine skiing, scuba diving and sky diving. Jimmy had become such a sensation that they stationed extra security in the center. Jimmy had even taken some real trips to the playroom and met a few of the other kids.

Toby and Happy stopped by the garage, knowing Paige and Ralph were still with Jimmy. He and Ralph had become friends, playing a game Ralph had created with the Super Fun Guy people, called 'The Jiminator.'

Toby went to Walter's desk to help him with a contract while Happy went in search of Cabe. She found him in the back office at his desk with his usual large coffee. "Hey boss."

"Hey kid."

"Can I talk to you about something?"

He sat back on his chair. "Sure kid. What's up?"

"You go to church, right?"

Cabe smiled, "Not as often as I should but I make most Sundays."

She sat down on the edge of his desk. "Do you believe in heaven?"

"Yes, I do."

"You're so certain."

"I am. I believe one day, when it's my time, I will be reunited with my Amanda."

"How can you be? You have no proof. I'm a scientist. I believe in what I can see and feel and touch. How can you be so certain of something with no proof?"

"Because I have faith. Faith doesn't need proof. Actually faith doesn't want proof. With proof it stops being faith."

"I don't understand why you still believe after Amanda died? She was only six. Sick kids, It's not fair."

“I believe because I’ve seen too many miracles not to believe.”

“Like what?”

“Like you and Toby getting together. When I first got here I would have never believed that. Me and Kate. I’d spent twenty years alone and then I met Kate. I never thought I’d ever be that happy again. Jonathan, my son. A miracle.”

“Have you ever seen...you know... the kind of miracle preachers talk about?”

“All the time. I should have never survived that accident in the desert, but you and the team figured it out. When I was shot by Packer there was no way in hell I should have survived. Stacey Hawkins is a top flight surgeon but she told me later, as good as she is, that a higher power was guiding her hand that day.”

“Jimmy doesn’t have that much longer. How do I tell my dying son it’s not just light’s out?”

Cabe took her hand. “What do you believe?”

“I told Paige once that I didn’t believe in death. Needless to say I’m rethinking that.”

“What did you tell her?”

“I said that energy can’t be created or destroyed, it just changes shape.”

“So his energy will change shape. Maybe his energy will go to heaven. Or maybe his energy will go out into the universe. Or maybe that energy will watch over you.” He stood and pulled Happy into a tight hug. “I can’t tell you what is right or wrong for you to tell your son. I can tell you that I believe because I choose to believe. It is a source of great comfort for me.”

“Really?”

“Really.”

“When, you know...will you help?”

Cabe held her tight and kissed the top of her head. “I give you my word.” He looked at Happy smiled. “And a Marine always keeps their word.”

Toby and Happy checked in with Tim Garcia before going to see Jimmy. “What are the latest test results?” asked Toby.

Tim sat at the edge of his desk. “His disease has progressed the way I would have expected. What I didn’t expect would be that he’s still with us.” He held up a file. “These results tell me anyone else would have been gone weeks ago.”

“May I?” asked Toby as he reached for the file. He opened it and started flipping pages. “Oh God,” he whispered.

“What is it?” asked Happy.

“The disease has spread everywhere,” Toby closed the file and handed it back to Tim. “What can we do?”

“I think he’s hanging on for the two of you. As doctors, we’ve both seen it happen. Patients who hang on for their loved ones. Jimmy has never had a family and friends. Now he has both. He doesn’t want to leave.”

“You want us to tell him it’s okay,” said Toby.

“What? You want to tell our son to die?” Happy demanded.

“No, of course not. You might want to tell him that you’ll be okay when he’s gone.”

Happy reached for Toby’s hand. “Tell me the truth, Doc. Is he right?” The tears in his eyes told her all she needed to know. She looked at Tim. “It’s going to be soon, isn’t it?”

“Yes, it is.”

Happy stood and shook Tim’s hand. “Thank you for always telling us the truth.” She managed a small smile as she looked at Toby. “Come on. Jimmy’s waiting for us.” As they walked down the hall Happy pulled out her phone and text Cabe. *Please come.*

Happy and Toby entered their son's room and knew Tim was not exaggerating. His eyes were dark and he seemed half asleep. They heard the ocean video playing on his laptop. "Hi, guys," said Jimmy.

Happy and Toby each gave their son a kiss. "Hi baby," said Happy. "How are you feeling?"

"I'm kind of tired but it's the medicine. But the medicine makes it not hurt so much so I guess it's okay." He reached for each of his parents hands. "Thank you."

"For what?" asked Toby.

"For everything you did. For always keeping your word. You made all this not so bad."

Happy looked at her normally happy go lucky husband in tears. "You're our son. We would do anything for you."

"Anything?"

"Of course."

"What's going to happen to me?"

"What do you mean?" asked Toby as he brushed the tears from his cheek.

"When I die."

Toby paled and Happy nodded to him, indicating she had this. "We've always told you the truth so we're not going to stop now. Toby and I aren't church goers. We've never really thought about religion."

"Not until now," said Jimmy.

Happy smiled. "Not until now. Here's what I can tell you for certain. Energy can't be created or destroyed, it just changes shape. Cabe believes in heaven and that he will be reunited with Amanda one day. So what's to say your energy won't go there?"

"But you don't know for sure."

“At the heart of science is doubt. We don’t understand something so we study and learn more. Cabe says that’s why he has faith. Faith means you can believe without proof.”

“Don’t you have to be really good to get into heaven? I don’t think they’d let me in.”

Toby took his son frail hand in his. “This I will say with absolute certainty. You are a good kid. You would most definitely get into heaven.”

“Really?” he asked with a small smile.

“Really,” said Happy.

There was a knock at the door and Cabe stuck his head in. “Hi guys. Can Kate and I come in?”

“Sure Old Dude,” said Jimmy . Cabe and Kate came in and each gave Jimmy a kiss on the cheek. “I still don’t get how you got such a pretty wife.”

“Neither do I,” said Cabe.

“Truthfully, Jimmy, it was when we went on our first undercover mission and he was wearing a tuxedo. He looked just like James Bond,” said Kate. “Jimmy we wanted to stop in today because remember when we told you the Center has been getting a lot of extra donations because of your videos?”

“Yeah?”

“Some people sent five dollars, ten dollars, one hundred dollars. We even had a donation from a friend of our, Richard Elia, for one million dollars.” Kate left out that she’d matched Richard’s donation. “Since you started posting videos we’ve raised five million dollars.

“Wow. That’s a lot.”

“Yes it is. We’ve been raising money to build a new wing for the Center. A wing with more space to help more children. Thanks to you we can do that now.”

“Thanks to me?”

“Without your videos we would have never raised that much money so quickly.” Kate took a breath and reach into a large bag. “We realize you won’t be able to see when we break ground but we wanted you to see this.” She pulled tissue off a large plaque. It was a picture of a smiling Jimmy wearing his “Jimator” shirt. Next to his picture was engraved ‘The Jimmy Flynn Pediatric Wing’.

“You’re going to name it after me?”

“Yes, we are.”

“That’s like what you have for Amanda.”

“Yes it is,” said Cabe. “Years from now people will see your face and know who you are. They will know what a difference you made.”

“Wow,” he whispered. “That’s cool.” He closed his eyes and sighed.

“We’re going to leave you with your parents for now,” said Cabe. He looked at Happy. “But we won’t be far.”

Kate kissed Jimmy’s cheek. “Sweet dreams, baby.”

“Thanks Kate,” he whispered.

Cabe kissed the top of his head. “God bless, Jimmy.”

“Thanks Cabe.”

Cabe leaned against the wall outside Jimmy’s room and began to cry. Kate slipped her arms around his waist.

“Cabe, are you okay?”

“He knows he’s never going to see me again.”

“How do you know?”

“He called me Cabe.”

“That’s really cool about the wing,” said Jimmy

“Yeah, it is,” said Toby.

“I didn’t think anyone would remember me when I was gone.”

Toby looked into his son’s eyes. “You’re mother and I will think of you everyday for the rest of our lives.”

Happy squeezed Jimmy’s hand. “What he said.”

“I know you will, but I thought it would only be you. You’ve made everything so much better. I couldn’t believe you’d pick some one like me to adopt.” For the first time ever, he started to cry. “I don’t want to leave you. You’ll be so unhappy.”

“Jimmy, we will be unhappy that you won’t be with us. But we’ll always remember the fun we’ve had together. We have all the videos to look at. We will be okay. We love you. That love will never die. In that way you will always be with us,” said Toby.

“Again, what he said,” said Happy. “What we do want is not to be afraid of going. You don’t have to force yourself to stay awake, when all you want is to sleep.” She leaned down and whispered in her son’s ear. “It’s okay if you need to go now. We will be okay.”

“Promise?” he whispered.

“We promise,” said Happy.

“I’m just so tired.”

“Then close your eyes, baby. It’s okay.”

Jimmy looked at his parents and whispered. “I love you both so much.” He looked up at Happy and whispered. “You have such pretty hair, Mommy.”

Jimmy Flynn closed his eyes and he was gone.

All Happy could hear was the alarm going off on his monitors. Toby stood and turned off the alarm. A nurse came rushing in and checked Jimmy's pulse. She hit the button on the wall. "Code Blue Room 112."

"No," said Toby. "We signed a DNR. Our son is finally at peace. Let him stay that way." The nurse nodded and left the room.

Toby saw Happy was still holding Jimmy's hand. "He's gone, sweetheart."

Happy pulled back and looked at Toby. She never seen him cry. She knew she should be here for Toby but she couldn't . She needed to get out of this room. "I'll tell Cabe and Kate. They're still in the hall." She walked out into the hall and saw Cabe had been crying. "He's gone," she whispered. Then turned down the hall and ran for the nearest stairwell.

"I'll go to Toby," said Kate. "You find Happy."

Cabe found Happy on the roof of the Center pacing back and forth. She stopped when she saw Cabe. He walked over to her and took her in his arms. He held her tight and kissed the top of her head. “Are you okay, sweetheart?”

“I’m fine.”

“You as far from fine as it gets. I know I’ve been where you are.”

“It wasn’t like I was his real mother. It was just a technicality.”

“No, you were his real mother even it was only for three months. Don’t you ever think otherwise. You gave him a family. You loved him. You did everything you could do to make his life easier. And you succeeded.”

“How did you survive this?”

“It was a struggle. The Center helps because I can help other kids. But there isn’t a day, not for twenty five years, that I don’t think of my Amanda. Eventually the good memories will outlast the bad ones.

“It’s not fair. He was only eight.” Happy broke down and wept like she never wept before. Cabe didn’t move. He let her cry herself out. When she was finally done, she pulled back. “Oh, God. I walked out on Toby. I just left him.

“Kate is with him.”

“I need to get back to him.”

“Yes, you do, but if you need me you know I’m here for you.

Happy walked down the stairs with Cabe until they were standing in front of Jimmy’s door. “I’ll be right here,” said Cabe.

She managed a small smile. “Thanks, Cabe.”

She walked into Jimmy’s room. Kate was holding Toby’s hand as he was looking at his son. Kate released his hand and gave Happy a kiss before she left the room.

“I’m sorry. I should have stayed with you.”

Toby gave her a smile. "You forget how well I know you. You needed space."

Happy pulled Toby into her arms. "I love you, Doc."

"I love you too."

Toby glanced at his son's body. "What do we do now."

"About that, I have an idea."

Toby and Happy came into the garage with everything looking normal. Sly and Walter were in front of their computers and Paige was on the phone. But nothing was normal. Everyone was helping with the arrangements for Jimmy's funeral.

Walter stood to greet them. "I didn't expect you guys today, but I'm glad you're here. I've been monitoring Jimmy's webpage. The offers for GoPro adventures are still coming in because they don't know Jimmy died. Maybe the two of you should post something."

"Walter!" said Paige.

"No, Paige, he's right. The post needs to come from us. It shouldn't be a generic post on the page."

"Us?" asked Happy.

"I'll do it, babe. It's okay."

"No, we should do it together. Let's do it now and get it over with."

Toby grabbed an extra chair and set it next to his. He set up the laptop and looked at his wife. "Are you ready for this?"

"No, but let's do it anyway."

He hit the record button. *"Hi, I'm Toby Curtis, Jimmy's father and this is my wife, Happy Quinn."*

"Hey," she said.

"We are very sorry to have to tell you that Jimmy died this past Thursday. The fact that he lasted as long as he did was a testament to our son's strength."

Happy leaned closer to the camera. *"I want to thank everyone who sent our son videos and gifts. I also want to thank everyone who made donations to the Amanda Gallo Pediatric Center in our son's name. You sent enough that they will be able to break ground on a new wing thanks to you."* Happy took a breath and reached for Toby's hand. *"They will be naming the new wing 'The Jimmy Flynn Wing'. He got to see the plaque before he died and it made him very happy."*

She leaned back and squeezed Toby's hand, letting him know she was tapping out. He continued for her. *"This Saturday we are going to have a public memorial for Jimmy. We will post the meetup location and then we will be escorting Jimmy to his favorite place, the Grand Canyon. My wife will be leading the motorcycle escort. I will be leading the motorcade. You are all welcome."* Toby wiped his eyes. *"Tonight hug your kids a little harder and in the words of 'The Jiminator'"* He tapped his chest twice and held up two fingers. *"Peace Out."* He turned the camera off and watched as the video posted. He looked at Happy.

"You did good."

"So did you, Doc. Do you think anyone will come?"

They got their answer when they got to the parking lot at Caltech. Every Boozefighter was lined up behind Happy, with Teddy, Cabe and Jonathan riding immediately behind her. Behind the Boozefighters were what seemed to be half the motorcycles in the state. Toby was going to lead a motorcade that turned into nearly one hundred cars. They posted directions on the website but they were concerned the sheer number of people would post a logistical nightmare.

“I’ve got this,” said Ralph.

“What do you have?”

“Everyone has a cell phone or radio. I will set up a link on the website so everyone can get live updates.”

Toby smiled. “Thanks, buddy. That’s a great help.” He pulled Happy aside. “Are you sure you’re ready for this?”

“Yeah, I’m ready. So is Jimmy.” Toby rubbed his hand over the small urn she was holding and then she secured in a small case on her bike. “Let’s get rolling,” she said.

He handed her an ear bud. “Before you go this is just for the team. You tell me if you need anything.” He gave her a quick kiss. “I love you.”

“I love you too.”

The trip was fairly organized considering the large number vehicles. Happy looked ahead to see a large number of patrol cars lining the side of the highway. “Uh oh. We may have a problem.”

Cabe’s voice came over the com. “I don’t think so. When the route was determined I called the locals and state police. I think it’s an escort.”

As Happy passed the patrol cars they blared their sirens and beeped their horns. The further they went the more they saw signs that read “God Bless Jimmy” “Safe journey, Jimmy.” The one Happy really liked said “Ride on Jiminator.”

It didn't seem like eight hours when they arrived at the Canyon. She pulled into the parking lot and sat on her bike. It really was beautiful. Toby joined her a few minutes later.

"Are you ready?" he asked.

Happy managed a smile. "Yeah, how about you?"

"I'm ready." He turned and saw his Scorpion family behind them. "Ralph, are you ready to transmit?"

"You tell me when and everyone who is watching on the web or listening through their radios will hear you." Toby nodded and Ralph hit a button.

"I want to thank everyone for escorting our son on his ride to The Grand Canyon. Our son's biggest worry was that no one would remember him. I was so glad I could tell him that he would never be forgotten, not just by us." There was a sudden explosion of car and motorcycle horns.

Happy reached into her side case and took out her son's urn. "It's time." Toby took her free hand and they walked alone until they found what was a good spot. Toby removed the lid from the urn.

"You were right, Jimmy. This is the best place," said Toby. "I will miss you every day."

"What he said," said Happy. "We love you, Jimmy and you will be with us always." She nodded at Toby and he angled the urn so the ashes flew out into the wind. "Good bye, baby," she whispered.

They turned and walked back and started walking toward their friends. A small gust of wind came up and blew Toby's hat off his head and it landed at his feet. He bent over and picked up his hat. "Windy," he said.

Happy looked at Toby and smiled. "The wind is blowing in the other direction."

Just then they could have sworn they heard a child's laugh.

