

## Son of Fire

Dante Lumen is the Eldest Son of the Lumen Clan. His father Bernie, Mother Cinder, and his little sister Ember. His father has been grooming him to take over the shop for ages. He is a strong and hunky fire elemental, but truth of it is he doesn't want to run the shop, he has an artistic soul able to mold glass and metal. His sister is trained by his Mother to do fortunes but she actually wants to run the shop, but Bernie is old school wanting to pass the shop onto his son. The pressure is eating at him, he's having stress bursts. Enter Wade Ripple, an inspector that gets sucked into the basement. The two meet and something special happens.

### Chapter 1 Dante's Stress

Bernie and Cinder moved to Element City to build a better life for their family. They had a son they named Dante, and after some time had Ember. Bernie was so happy to have a son to teach and prepare for the family legacy. He made it clear it was his dream to pass on his shop to his son, keep it in the family.

He may have been over compensating given his own daddy issues. Though he loved his children equally, he was very old school. He had Dante working the shop and handling the repairs, Ember worked in the shop with customers, or helped

with deliveries when she wasn't training with her mother. Cinder did love fortunes, specifically for fire elementals, but her skills were always 100% accurate, with Ember her predictions were 50/50. She could see her daughter REALLY would rather be in the shop, so she pulled Bernie's arm to give her more work. Little things here and there.

A part of her hoped her father would see her and maybe give the shop to her. Dante was a good son and a good big brother, he cared for his family, worked hard and did a lot of work. He helped fire proof a lot of buildings and made them safe for fire elements to live safely. His skill in metal working and glass work was impressive. If there was a broken window he fixed it, broken pipe he mended it.

He started taking side jobs to make extra cash. Dante actually loved it, he loved working with his hands and not just making Coal Nuts. His father was getting older and Dante helped pick up the slack. He was hands on with the business, but his mind did wonder a bit.

Sometimes he got too "whimsical" with the orders. When he fixed up vehicles he decked them out with decals that were impressive. When he made mugs, sometimes he got a bit too fancy with the design. When he made food he arranged it in an artistic way. Bernie thought he was simply playing too much.

Their shop catered to Fire Elementals providing them services, food, and the things they needed. Dante tried to bring new ideas to the table, expand their market maybe sell to other elements in Element City. His father refused, shot down every single idea. He was trying to keep the spirit of fire burning strong. His father's father made him believe if he left Fire Country, he'd lose who he was, so Bernie over compensated and became set in fire ways, and only fire ways. Ember sided with their father even if she liked some of Dante's ideas.

Dante couldn't help but look at the city and want more. Ember was the opposite, she was happy in Fire Town and said it'd take an act of God to get her to cross the bridge.

As the years passed Dante felt frustrated. It was like no one in his family listened to him. He worked out at the gym, to burn off stress but it didn't help long term, just gave him a rocking body which Bernie praised. His dad was so set on him taking over the shop, but didn't want him to change anything. His mother was obsessed with finding a nice Flame for him to settle down with, but be it girl fire or male fire, nothing ever sparked. His sister, he loved her dearly, but she was so obsessed with taking over the shop she resented Dante for being the "favorite". She couldn't hate him Dante was always good to her, he helped her deal with her temper issues and

how to connect with customers which she struggled with a lot. Whenever she struggled with something in the shop he helped guide her.

He didn't know how to tell her he didn't even want to run the shop. His dream was a bit more different, he wanted to explore his talents, build things, make things, maybe even pursue art and other things. He did all the art advertisements for the shop, doing signs and beautiful window promotional. His father said. "You finally using that silly art thing for something useful."

Ember saw how much it hurt her brother, but she didn't know how to speak back to her father, even when she felt he was truly wrong. Things only got worse as Bernie's health declined, he was working too hard and refused to hand over the reigns easily. Neither brother or sister wanted to upset him but they both felt trapped.

He felt Dante wasn't committed enough so he pushed thing off, even though Ember said she was ready, he just ruffled her wisps like she was a child. Even Dante tried to let Ember do more things around the shop, he gave her full credit, Bernie just shrugged it off as family helping family. "You can help out in the shop all the time once Dante is running things."

The stress was building up and making him crazy, his temperature would spike randomly. He was getting purple

with rage. Bernie decided to leave Dante to run the shop alone. He was handling it, but as time went on he could feel his frustrations burning hotter, and hotter.

Dante raced to the basement and let his stress burn. A surge of colors raced out and caused a pipe to burst. Water sprang in and began to flood the basement. “Oh no, oh no, oh no!” He raced around trying to seal the leak.

Someone else slipped in. Wade Ripple, an inspector, a Water Element. He had been investigating a leak problem, when he got swept away. Dante’s flame pulled him in and got him out by accident.

Wade couldn’t help himself he documented 30+ infractions, no permits and other issues. With this many tickets and infractions the shop would be shut down. Dante had no idea what he was doing, he was trying to deal with all the water. He took off his shirt and flashed his muscles using his shirt like a towel before using his heat to dry it out, over and over again.

Wade saw him do this and flushed pink, admiring the fire elemental’s physique.

“I can help.” Wade sucked up the water and got hunky. His muscles swelled, thick arms, broad shoulders, massive pecs, abs, amazing glutes.

“Whoa.” Dante flushed pink.

“I’m really sorry!” Wade took off to deliver his report, also to burn off all the extra water.

Dante panicked and ended up chasing Wade all over the place, before he could turn in the report.

The water elemental did feel bad about it, but he was doing his job. Bernie had refused to deal with permits from Elemental City, in Fire Town they handled business their way. The leak was only a recent problem but a big one, their pipes weren’t properly set up or upgraded.

Dante wanted to protect the shop for his father, but mostly his sister. This could destroy their business, especially with their big sale coming up. Dante was blaming himself so he pushed harder and harder trying to set things right.

Wade’s report did get filed, and was pending review. His boss was an Air Elemental Gale Cumulus. She was passionate about Air Ball. So Dante demanded Wade take him to talk to her. Since he felt bad he did. He tried to help Dante as much as he could, he even impressed the fire elemental by rallying the whole stadium and lifting the spirits of one of the players.

The water element was VERY in touch with his emotions, he had a big heart, and a whole lot of empathy. The crying was apparently a family thing.

Gale gave Dante a break, despite things getting heated, if he helped Wade find the source of the leak and they put a stop to it, all the tickets would be voided. They found it and patched a hole with some sandbags, the two hunks lifted them and packed the whole together, it was impressive, but this was putting a band-aide on a bigger problem. Wade put in an order for a team to come out to repair the hole, but things were tied up for a bit. The construction process was a slow game. There were delays but Dante was running out of time.

To be continued...Smell of Love

Ember swears she's smelling love. Dante and Wade are getting closer together finding understanding and common ground. Dante is able to seal the hole with special glass, but the real work will take time. Ember tells her mother and the two try to find out who's making Dante smell like love.