

Lizzie's Baby Shower

Lizzy sighed happily, and laid her hand on her swollen belly. She was pregnant, and from what they can tell she should have her baby in a month or so. The pregnancy was hard during the first few months; she was sick a lot. She was glad she could now keep food down, but she was still so tired.

She was so grateful to Nicholas and the boys, who had done so much to help take care of her. Even though she was grateful, it had gotten almost ridiculous at times. Nicholas was scared to let her walk out of the house by herself, he had become fiercely protective of her. She understood his concern, and let him protect her; his first wife had died shortly after his second son, George was born.

She looked around at her family happily. Everyone was gathering together for a baby shower for her. Lizzy didn't think it was necessary, but she enjoyed seeing everyone so happy.

"How are you feeling?" Emily asked. Emily's daughter, Charlotte, ran around happily charming everyone in the house.

"Very big. It seems like this little one never stops moving." Lizzy chuckled. The baby kept her up at night, but she still enjoyed every moment of her pregnancy. The love she had for this child was already so incredibly strong.

Emily smiled at her. "That is a great sign." Emily had been so sweet to her through this pregnancy, but Lizzy knew it brought back some memories of her own pregnancy, which had been a hard experience for her.

Samuel wrapped his arm around Emily in comfort, and Lizzy smiled. Samuel always instinctively knew when Emily was having a hard time. The two could not be more perfect for each other.

She looked around the room, and could see that all of Nicholas's siblings were there, even Dalton and his new wife, Jo. They had been married for only one month, and from what she could tell, they were very happy together.

Nicholas came up behind her, like he had already done several times. "Are you feeling alright? Are you sure you don't need any water?"

Lizzy laughed. "Yes, the last glass you brought was plenty for me."

Samuel chuckled as well. "Leave the poor woman alone. If you give her any more water, she'll burst."

Nicholas got a little flustered. "I just want to make sure she is comfortable."

"I am very comfortable, Thank you Nicholas." Emily smiled at him.

Just then, a loud crash startled the room, followed by an angry shout.

Nicholas went on full alert. "Lizzy you stay right here. I'll go figure out what happened."

Lizzy looked nervously at Emily, who was now holding a startled Charlotte. Samuel had also left to help Nicholas. "I hope it's not anything serious." They'd been having many problems with the ranch right next to theirs, and it seemed to only get worse with time.

Emily didn't seem too concerned, and started singing a song while bouncing Charlotte on her lap. The song helped ease the girl's concerns, and Lizzy told herself she should try to relax as well. She glanced at the rest of the family, and found it odd that no one else had left to see what was going on. In fact, everyone seemed to be smiling bigger than normal, and peeking glances at her.

What was going on? She wondered.

She heard the front door open, and looked over to see Nicholas and Samuel bringing in a beautiful rocking chair.

"This is from Ma, and all the other boys." Nicholas said with a grin.

Lizzy gasped, and stood up to get a closer look. "It's so beautiful!" The headrest had beautiful engravings on it, and the cushions looked so comfortable, she had to sit in it right then.

"Everyone pitched in a little," Doris said with a loving smile. "But the biggest help was Jo. She designed the whole thing."

Jo grinned widely. "Having a carpenter as a father pays off over time." Lizzy knew that she had wanted to learn how to work with wood as well, but her mother had never let her. She had likely enjoyed this project quite a bit.

"Thank you all so much." Lizzy tried to keep her tears down. "I will use this all the time."

"I also brought something for your baby." Emily chimed in. She handed Lizzy a basket that held a quilted blanket, and some vials of oil. "I can explain what the oils do later; but each of them help relieve your baby of different things that could be bothering him." Emily smiled. "Or her."

Lizzy looked at everything appreciatively. "You didn't have to bring me anything. Thank you." She knew those oils would help her a lot. Emily ran a natural remedy shop in town, and knew almost everything about oils and what they can be used for.

Tears started to fill her eyes. "I can't tell everyone how much I appreciate all of this. I—" She suddenly found herself so choked with emotion, she couldn't speak. She did her best to smile through the tears, and somehow got out, "I must be pregnant." She waited for everyone to chuckle before she excused herself, and left the house.

She stood on the front porch, despite the brisk January air. It felt good at first, the chill helped calm and distract her, but she quickly got cold. It wasn't a minute later when Emily followed her out carrying a shawl. "Nicholas is threatening to come out and ask you if you're alright." She chuckled as she handed Lizzy the shawl. Lizzy gratefully wrapped it around her shoulders. "I managed to keep him inside by offering to go myself." Emily leaned against the porch railing, and breathed in the fresh air.

Lizzy smiled. "He is a good husband."

"I think it's safe to say this whole family is made up of good people," Emily responded.

Lizzy nodded her head, and smiled. She felt better now that she was out of the chaos of the house. "I really do appreciate everything you guys did. I just wasn't expecting any of it, and I guess I wasn't prepared for all of the emotions that hit me."

"Oh, I think everyone understands why you needed your space," Emily reassured her.

"I am so grateful to be a part of this family."

"I am too. And to have a sister like you. My family.. They weren't anything like this. Finding a husband like Samuel and getting to know you better was such a blessing for me. This is the family I have always wanted." It was Emily's turn to get emotional, and Lizzy turned to hug her.

"Come on, let's go inside and see what Dorris has got going for dessert." Lizzy said as she hugged Emily. Emily nodded, remembering the delicious smells she had noticed when she first walked into the house.

The two girls hurried inside with their arms still linked.