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PRODUCT INFORMATION:

Author: Tracy Kincaid

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WATER

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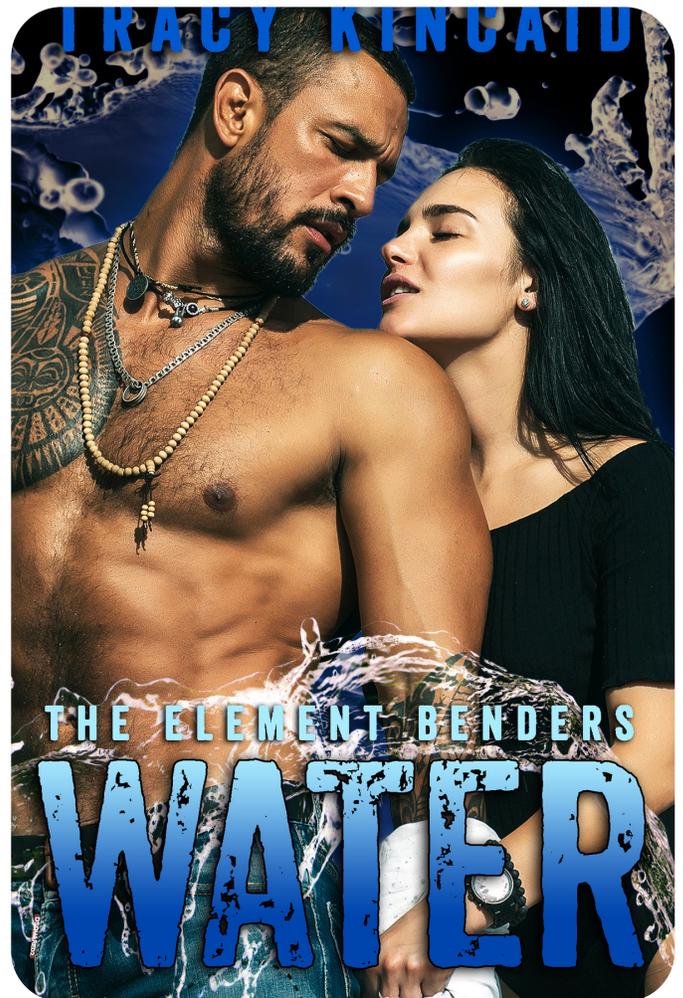
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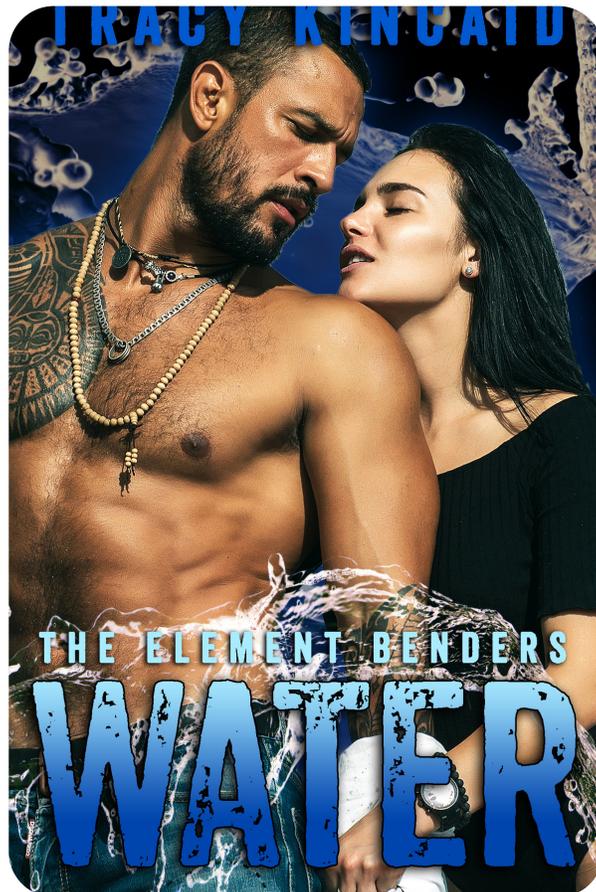
SYNOPSIS

Aiden Wilson, a fireman, wants more out of life. With a new threat for their clan on the horizon, he goes on a quest to build his bending strength. What he didn't expect to find in the process was love.

Rain Masterson is going through a rough spell, she lost her boyfriend, her job, and her apartment. Now that she has lost everything she goes in search of her brother, in hopes that he can help her get back on her feet again. What she doesn't know is that is exactly what the plan was for her.

The benders must find a way to beat the clock before it's too late. Good thing they have a secret weapon on their side.

Book two in the Element Benders



EXCERPT:

Chapter One

BLAZE

The string lights hang from the forest trees and look like twinkling stars in the twilight sky. The last of the sun's glow is barely visible through the tree branches. The aisle is lined with wildflowers recently raised and picked earlier in the day by the local earth benders. The fire and air benders are creating a warm night for our wedding, which will take place within the hour.

“So, are you ready to get hitched again?” Aiden, my best man, asks as he steps up beside me. He's wearing a light grey suit, white shirt, and a baby blue tie. We didn't want to wear tuxes, so I was able to talk Ella into letting us guys wear suits instead. I'm wearing a black suit with a white shirt and a baby blue tie

“I'm more than ready.” I smile.

We're standing on the balcony of the new house that Ella and I purchased soon after I proposed to her. We both want to have more children and felt that a bigger house would be needed to spread out. We love the space so much that we decided to have our wedding in the backyard. The yard has a meadow that backs up to the forest. It's private and happens to be right next door to Austin and Sarah's house, so Phoenix and Sky can hangout whenever they want and all of us adults can help watch over them.

“I wish the air were this warm all of the time. If I didn't know any better, I'd say it was late spring and not the dead of winter,” Aiden comments.

“I’ve never been more grateful than I am right now for the powers that we all share. Otherwise, this would have been an indoor wedding and since Ella wanted an outdoor wedding she would have put it off until summer. I’m ready to be married now!”

“Bending the elements does come in handy,” Aiden chuckles.

“How are things between you and Ember?” Ember and Aiden have been dating off and on for several months now. “Will you two be next to get hitched?”

“She’s with Ella and the girls.” He grins.

“What’s so funny?”

“I still have no idea where she and I stand. I watch how happy you and Ella are. I remember how I used to tease you about Ella in the beginning and hell even when you and Bev were dating. I want to feel that, I’m just not sure if she’s the one. I want to settle down and start making a family of my own.”

“You really need to figure that out.” I feel a slight twinge in my heart at the mention of my late wife. Ella and Phoenix have helped me heal from the loss of my wife and daughter in that car accident so many years ago, but sometimes I wonder if I’m doing the right thing by getting remarried.

“Stop it.”

I look over at Aiden, “Stop what?”

“You have that look. I didn’t bring Bev up to upset you.”

“I know you didn’t, I still feel guilty sometimes.”

“Why? Survivor’s guilt?”

“I guess that’s what it is. They were taken at such a young age, neither of them had the chance to live. I feel guilty for finding love again and moving on with my life.”

“There was no way to stop what happened to them, Blaze. It’s in the past and Ella and Phoenix are your future. You won’t ever forget Beverly and Blossom. I know that Bev would be happy that you have finally moved on. It’s way beyond time.”

“You’re right. Thank you for being here with me.” I change the subject, it’s still hard at times for me to talk about them.

“Where else would I be? My best friend is getting married!”

The sliding glass door opens and out walks Austin. “Everything okay out here?”

Grabbing my shoulders Aiden gives them a squeeze showing his support. “Our buddy is getting married to a great woman, why wouldn’t it be?”

“Good! Well, Ella looks beautiful and so do Ember, Phoenix, and Sky. It was nice of Ella to ask Sky to be a part of your wedding. She didn’t have to do that.”

“Well, we are all family. Thank you for walking her down the aisle.”

“I was shocked that she asked me.”

“Since her parents are both gone, she thought you would be a good substitute.”

“Well, I’m honored. The guests are almost all seated so we can get started as soon as you and Ella are ready.” He smiles.

“I’m ready whenever she is.”

“I guess you boys should go take your places then.”

“Let’s go get you married!” Aiden says as we follow Austin into the house.

I stayed at Austin’s house last night while Ella stayed here, we wanted to honor the tradition of not seeing each other before the wedding. I’m willing to do anything she wants just as long as at the end of the day we are husband and wife and, with Phoenix, a family.

Aiden and I take our places under the gazebo in the backyard. I look around at our friends and everyone is happy with smiles on their faces. Most of these people have been with me through the years and know that I don’t take marrying Ella lightly. She and Phoenix are my life, now.

The music starts and everyone’s attention is drawn to the back of the aisle as Ember walks toward us. She is wearing a floor-length baby blue gown; her long dark hair is pulled to the back in a long braid. She beams at us as she takes her place. I hope, for my friend’s sake, that they figure out what they want out of life. Life is too short to be with someone who isn’t wanting the same things you do.

Next down the aisle we see Sky and Phoenix. The girls wanted to wear matching dresses, so they are both in pale blue knee length dresses, each carrying their own smaller version of Ember’s bouquet of wildflowers. Both girls have their hair in twin braids, one on each side of their head. They giggle as they stand next to Ember.

The music changes and I hold my breath as Ella comes into view. She’s wearing a white floor length dress; it hugs her curves with a lace overlay with a swirling design embroidered into it. Austin leads Ella to me, shaking my hand before placing her hand in mine.

“You’re breathtaking,” I whisper as I lift her hand to kiss.

She looks up at me and I can see the love reflecting at me. “You look pretty good yourself.”

The ceremony is short and sweet, just the way we wanted it.

“You may now kiss the bride!”

You don’t have to tell me twice. I smile as I pull Ella to me, “Mrs. Masterson,” I say before kissing her for the first time as my wife. Cheers erupt around us causing Ella and I to pull away laughing.

“We did it!” Ella beams.

“We did!”

Phoenix runs to us and wraps her arms around both her mom and me. “I’m so happy!” She says with excitement.

“Us too, Nix! What do you say we get this party started?” Ella laughs at Phoenix.

“Yes!”

I take up Ella’s hand as she takes up Phoenix’s and we walk, as a family, down the aisle. We stand in a line as all the guests make their way to the reception area that is on the side of the house. One by one we receive hugs and handshakes.

“Can we eat now?” Phoenix asks as the end of the line comes into view.

“Why don’t you and Sky go find some food?” I suggest.

“Okay! Love you guys.”

“We love you, too,” Ella says.

“Rafferty, I didn’t know you were coming,” I say a bit stunned because he doesn’t usually leave his sanctuary.

“I couldn’t pass up a union like this. How are the three of you?”

“We’re doing well. We’re just glad that the fight is over, and we can move forward with our lives. Living on the run wasn’t healthy for Nix or me,” Ella explains.

I see a look cross Rafferty’s face and I know he’s holding something back.

“I agree. You look more vibrant than the last time I saw you.” He grins.

“Why don’t you check in with Phoenix while I find a seat for Rafferty?” I suggest to Ella, kissing her on the temple.

“Okay,” she says with a smile, “It’s good to see you again, Rafferty.”

I wait until Ella is out of earshot before I ask, “What’s wrong? You never leave your sanctuary.”

“You have learned how to read people. I fear that the threat is not over.”

“Cole is dead and his partner, Susan, is frozen and presumed dead, sitting in a warehouse under surveillance. The threat was eliminated.”

“More is coming, I’m afraid. None of you are safe and I suggest that you all prepare for the worst.”

“This is not a very good wedding gift.” I rub my hand behind my neck, feeling the tension taking over.

“I know, I should have come to you sooner, but things are still not clear.”

“Do you at least have a timeframe? Or an idea of who? Anything that will help us?”

“As I said things are not clear, something new comes up every week or so. I think the closer we get to the new fight the clearer it will be.”

“And you waited until my wedding day to tell me this?” I’m flabbergasted, I thought for sure once Cole and Susan were taken care of, that all would be fine again. I had a feeling that fight was won too easily. Who else could possibly be after us now? “And I’m guessing you have no idea who they are after?”

“What I’ve been able to decipher, is that they are all linked in some way. It’s like threads in my mind, a tangled mess that I must untangle to make sense of.”

“People are starting to notice the steam over here. What’s going on?” Austin asks when he and Aiden join us. I close my eyes and take in a deep breath.

“Your buddy here waited until my wedding day to bring us bad news. I’ll let him scramble your brains with this new intel while I go and try to keep my wife and daughter from getting wind of this new mess.” I storm away leaving Austin and Aiden with a clenched jaw and worried eyes.

“What took you so long?” Ella asks as I wrap my arms around her middle from behind. I kiss her exposed neck and breathe her in.

“You know how Rafferty can be, the guy can’t stop talking once he starts.” I feel her tense and know that she can feel the lie. I lean into her ear so only she can hear me, “Don’t worry about it now, I’ll explain later. Let’s just enjoy this time with our friends.”

She looks up at me and I see the worry in her eyes. This is not how I envisioned our wedding day.

MEDIA RELEASE:

The Element Benders: WATER follows events in the first Element Benders Book: FIRE released November 29, 2020.

On August 6., 2022 I will be at a book signing in West Virginia at Haunted West Virginia State Penitentiary called Locked Up in West Virginia.

For tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/locked-up-in-west-virginia-tickets-156475054099?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=escb>

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING:

5.0 out of 5 stars Great mix of supernatural and romance! Fast paced, a great read!

What are Element benders you may ask? Special people that can “bend” (use) elements like fire, water, etc to help others. This is the 2nd book in the series and I liked it even better than the first! The same characters are back, as well as some new ones. But you don’t necessarily need to read the first book before this. We learn more about the characters and their backgrounds as well as how they are facing a direct threat to their kind. I like the mix of supernatural and romance. It was fast paced and I read it in less than a day!