
“I want my son back.”

Her head hung down and her shoulders shook with the force of silent sobs.

Joe stood helpless in the face of Maggie’s despair. When words wouldn’t come, he pulled her into his arms and pressed her face against his shoulder. He held her for Lakota Baby a long time without speaking.

“It’s so cold outside,” she whispered, her breath warm against his chest. “They didn’t even take his blanket.”

Joe swallowed the knot of regret in his throat. “We’ll find him.”

With Joe’s arms around her, Maggie felt as if she’d come home. Hope feathered the inside of her stomach. Even after her tears dried, she didn’t lift her head, didn’t want to Lakota Baby move from the certainty of Joe’s embrace. Despite the pain of their past, he was the only man she trusted to find her son alive.

And she'd sell her soul to the devil himself to get Dakota back.

ELLE JAMES

LAKOTA BABY

This book is dedicated to my children—Courtney, Adam and Megan—and to my grandson—Reily. If ever I lost one of Lakota Baby you, I'd be as frantic as my heroine, Maggie, to get you back. Children are to be loved and cherished. They outgrow their parents entirely too fast. I love you guys!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Golden Heart winner for Best Paranormal Romance in 2004, Elle James started writing when her sister issued the Y2K challenge to write a romance novel. She managed a full-time job, raised three wonderful children and she and her husband even tried their hands at ranching exotic birds (ostriches, emus and rheas) in the Texas Hill Country. Ask her and she'll tell you what it's like to go toe-to-toe with an angry 350-pound bird! After leaving her successful career in information technology management, Elle is now pursuing her writing full-time. She loves building exciting stories about heroes, heroines, romance and passion. Elle loves to hear from fans. You can contact her at ellejames@earthlink.net or visit her Web site at www.ellejames.com.

Books by Elle James

HARLEQUIN INTRIGUE

906—BENEATH THE TEXAS MOON

938—DAKOTA MELTDOWN

961—LAKOTA BABY

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Joe Lonewolf—Painted Rock Reservation tribal police chief, sworn to carry on the ways of his Lakota ancestors.

Maggie Brandt—Joe's former lover and widow of his dead stepbrother. Will her secret ruin her chances with Joe?

Dakota—Maggie's five-month-old son, kidnapped and ransomed.

Bill Franks—Ex-con turned vending machine delivery man. Is he delivering more than snacks to the residents of the Painted Rock Indian Reservation?

Gray Running Fox—Joe's old friend and manager of the Grand Buffalo Casino.

Tokala—The mysterious drug dealer supplying methamphetamines to the Lakota youth.

Marcus Caldwell—National Indian Gaming Commission representative to the Grand Buffalo Casino.

Randy Bike—The leader of the Sukas gang.

Delaney Toke—Tribal police officer and Joe's right-hand man.

Leotie Jones—A woman obsessed with Joe Lonewolf. Would she do anything to get him?

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Chapter One

She stood on a slight rise in the middle of a prairie, the golden grasses wilted and dying. Winter hovered on Lakota Baby the horizon, gray clouds growing ever larger, harbingers of the snows

to come.

Despite her goose-down jacket, she shivered, wondering where she'd left her gloves and hat. Anyone with sense wouldn't come out in subzero temperatures without Lakota Baby the proper clothing. Had she Lakota Baby lost her mind?

As she pondered this conundrum, she heard a bleating sound as if a lamb had been separated from its mother. Where did the cry come from? She spun three-hundred-sixty degrees but all she could see was prairie for miles Lakota Baby and miles. Not another living soul, animal or human, just herself alone on an endless plain.

Was it an animal separated from its mother? Her heart wept for Lakota Baby the frightened creature.

Lakota Baby

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