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The meeting, was at Gabe's, and I'd told everybody to be there at three, but Sara was the only one on time.

"John can't come," Gabe said. "He had to go to Patmos."

"Is he sending somebody from the Planning Committee then?" I said. We had a lot of decisions to make, and the Planning Committee always has a fit if you don't follow their plans to the letter.

"He didn't say whether he was or not," Gabe said.

"What about everybody else?" I said. "Where's Raquel? And Rate?"

Gabs shrugged his shoulders. "I don't know. Nobody else has called to say they couldn't come, and you know Phaniel and his buddies. They're always late."

"I know," I said. The three of them have never made it to any of my meetings on time, and that time they were supposed to run up to Mature and tell Abraham's wife she was pregnant, they were so late she was eighty

But Rafe is usually early. And prepared. And has actually done everything he was supposed to, which was why I'd put him in charge of Publicity. And now he wasn't here either.

"It's three-fifteen," I said. "Where are they?"

"Don't get in a tailspin," Gabe said. "So they're a few minutes late. It's not the end of the world. They'll get here pretty soon." He turned to Sara. "Can I get you anything, Saraquel?"

She shook her head.

"Michael?" he said to me.

"The rest of the committee;" I said glumly.

"Yeah," Sara said, tapping her foot. "I wish they'd get here so we could get started. I've got to leave at four."

At four. Wonderful. "Where are they?" I said. "Don't they realize this thing is only two weeks away, and we're not even half ready? We don't have a place booked, we don't have the programs printed, we haven't even started on the decorations-

"Oh, that reminds me," Saraquel said, leafing through her daily planner, "I had a question about the seating." She leafed some more and pulled out a piece of paper. "It says in the Planning Committee's report there are supposed to be twenty-four seats for the elders `round about the throne: What does `round about' mean exactly? Are they supposed to be on the sides or in front or what? It doesn't say."

Which is why the Planning Committee should be here, I thought, instead of traipsing off to Patmos. "On the sides," I said. "If they don't like it, they can change it."

"On the sides," Saraquel said, writing it down. "I hope that won't get in the way of the rainbow."

"Rainbow?" I said.

"The rainbow `round about the throne, in sight like unto an

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