

The Millennium Wolves Series Chapter 56

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 26

SIENNA

Safely locked away in my gallery. I retreated to my personal studio in the back to work on a new piece. Painting was always the best way to clear my head.

I placed an apron over my dress to avoid getting any paint splatter on it. Selene would kill me if she knew I was even within fifty feet of my studio wearing one of her originals.

With my phone shut off and no windows around me, I felt truly isolated from the rest of the world,

and that was exactly what I needed right now.

All of my paintings represented happy memories. not the fucked-up shit that had been running through my head lately.

It was nice to have a reminder that things would get better eventually.

Things will only get worse.

“No,” I said, shaking my head. “That’s not true.”

Okay, I just needed to focus, stay out of my own head.

Suddenly, being in an isolated box with only my thoughts to keep me company seemed like the worst idea I could’ve had.

My phone started buzzing, but that was impossible. I’d turned it off.

I cautiously reached for it and opened the **messages**.

Konstantin I’m in your head, Sienna.

Konstantin I quite like it in here.

Konstantin I think I’ll stay awhile...

I threw my phone across the room and spun around, but I was still alone.

“Get out of my head,” I screamed. “I didn’t give you permission.”

“Oh, but you did. Many times. And you still havent given me what I need.”

“So now I’m just going to take it.”

I stumbled backward, tripping over some canvases and falling into a bucket of paint.

My beautiful dress was ruined—stained a dark shade of red.

No, wait, this wasn’t paint...

It’s blood!

I screamed as I tried to wipe it away, but moments later, there was nothing on me at all.

“You don’t even know what’s real anymore.”

Konstantin’s laugh echoed in my head.

“This will all be over if you just let me have control. I’ll unlock parts of you that you never even knew existed.”

“Never,” I shouted. “This is My mind, and I will NOT give you access to it.”

“I’ve tried to play nice, Sienna, but that’s over now. I’m not giving you a choice.”

My legs went wobbly as the room began spinning

No, I’m not letting him in again.

Think, Sienna.. how can you block him?

They’re your memories.

They’re YOUR memories.

The paintings. Maybe if I focused on the memories from my paintings it would force him into my good memories—and keep me in control.

I started running around the studio, rounding up paintings that represented the best times in my life and setting them side by side against the wall.

“You ‘re weak, and you ‘re alone. Whatever foolish plan this is, it won’t work. You ‘ll only fail again.”

Given the way Konstantin started hissing, I could tell he was getting nervous.

I grabbed the first painting, my childhood home, and closed my eyes.

God, I hope this works.

“You want in?” I yelled. “Then come the fuck in.”

I was standing in my old bedroom at Mom and Dad’s house. I watched myself sitting on the bed crying as my dad comforted me.

When was this memory? Was it last year?

“It’s okay.” Dad said, rubbing my back. “It’s perfectly fine to feel the way you do.”

“No, it’s not,” I heard myself say creakily. “I’m a dominant. Dominants don’t let stupid things like this get to them.”

Now I remembered the night Aiden had left me alone in the woods.

“I don’t think what you’re feeling is stupid, Sienna,” Dad said. “And dominant or not, everyone has a heart.”

“You know, when we first brought you home. I could tell right away that you were special. You had this confidence about everything you did, even as a baby

“Watching you grow up, I’ve seen that confidence manifest in everything from how you carry yourself to your ari. Having a cry doesn’t take that away from you, Sienna. You’re still the strongest werewolf I know.”

A warm feeling began to radiate throughout my body. It felt good, not just good, powerful. I’d never felt this power before.

The room faded into watercolors, and as it washed away, I found myself drifting someplace else.

Aiden's house. The room I was staying in before we were mated.

"There's something between us. Neither of us can deny it. I felt it when I marked you, but I even felt it the first time I saw you, back on the riverbank." Aiden said, pulling me onto his lap.

I felt jealous of her, getting to feel his warm embrace, but even just watching this memory play out made me feel more powerful.

"You remember that?" memory me asked, a little incredulous.

"Of course I do," Aiden said quietly. "I felt your power even then. Your scent radiated a strength and sensuality that I couldn't resist."

"I didn't radiate any strength tonight. I was weak.."

"Stop. What I said a minute ago... I was wrong. Let me tell you something. Your scent hit me the moment I walked into that dinner party. It's not something that happens in human form, so you threw me off-balance.

"The haze hit me, and I had to follow you to find out more about you, to just be in your presence.

"I've never been so overcome by anything more

powerful in my life. That's your strength, the kind of power you have over me. That's why I marked

you."

Aiden's words hit me like a lightning bolt, and I was catapulted through dripping paint that began forming a new landscape.

I was in a moonlit clearing in the woods. A quiet stream ran through it as two wolves wrestled with each other playfully.

Oh my God, this was...

Our first run.

I watched as Aiden let out a visceral howl and sank his teeth into my wolf's shoulder, right where my mark would've been in human form the final act of a run between potential mates,

I remembered that night like it was yesterday. Every single detail.

It was the most intimate and intense night of my entire life.

I watched as Aiden and I shifted and waded into the water to wash each other. That moment was perfect.

The same feeling I had in my heart then I felt it 10W

The moment I first fell in love with Aiden.

I was suddenly back in the gallery.

Was it over?

Where was Konstantin?

The walls – they were all empty. The art was gone.

No, this must've been another memory:

A bell jingled as the gallery door flew open, and I observed myself walking into the empty space with Aiden.

“Aiden Norwood, what are we doing here?”

“Sienna Mercer–Norwood, I thought you'd wanna see your new gallery.”

Memory Sienna squealed in delight and started running around the gallery, passing right through me in the process.

“Happy one–week anniversary, Sienna.” Aiden smiled.

“I can't believe you did this.. for me,” I said.

“I'd do anything for you.”

I mouthed the words along with him, and my heart swelled with power

It was as if I had unlocked something from deep within myself.

I was suddenly in another space, some kind of laboratory, and so was Konstantin, but he was dressed differently and acting as if I wasn't there.

Was this another memory? Something about this felt different from the other ones.

A door opened, and a woman entered the room, greeting Konstantin

“We’ve almost deciphered the runes. Then we’ll understand. We’ll know how to harness the power”

“That’s reason to celebrate, Vanessa.” Konstantin’s mouth curled into a smile.

I let out a velp as I turned to look at the woman, but no one would have heard it anyway.

For a moment, I thought I was staring at myself. This woman had fiery—red hair, just like mine, and the same intense eyes. With the way she moved across the room, I was sure she was a dominant like me too.

“I suppose it is,” she responded in a distant tone. Her expression dropped as she turned away.

Her eyes were no longer fierce. They were filled with sadness.

It suddenly dawned on me this woman... was she my...

“Mom?” I called out into the empty air.

“What we’re doing...it’s blasphemy. The deities will smite us all if we don’t abandon this madness,” she said.

My mother walked straight toward me, and I

flinched as she passed through me as if I were a ghost.

When I turned around, she was rocking something in front of her. As I moved to get a closer look, I gasped.

It was a baby, in a crib.

It was me.

This WAS my memory.

“Vanessa, the deities can I touch us if we succeed,” Konstantin rebutted, slinking around her like a snake. “We’ll have just as much power as them.

“I won’t risk the life of my child,” she asserted. “No amount of power is worth her life.”

I walked over to my mother, the mirror image of myself, and tried to hold her hand, to comfort her, but I just phased right through her again.

“Doesn’t your mate—her father—have a say in this?”

“Konstantin... he’s not the father,” she said, stifling her tears.

“Then ... who? Who is it?” he asked, aghast.

“Her father is Rowan,”

Konstantin’s reaction was extreme. He knocked a shelf of glass vials to the floor as he nearly fell over:

As my mother broke down further, a smile spread across Konstantin’s face.

“Vanessa, don’t you see, this is perfect. Your daughter holds the key to everything we’ve been working toward.”

“No, I’ll never let her be involved in this.” She glared. “Never.”

As I reached out to her again, I was sucked out of the room and into the darkness.

I was back in my studio—for real this time. All the paintings I had gathered were still sitting against the wall

What the fuck just happened?

Had I finally been able to tap into the memories I'd been suppressing?

One thing was certain—

Konstantin knew my mother. He'd been lying to me since he'd met me.

They'd been working together on something, but she'd wanted out.

wanted to protect me.

But from who?

My father?

Who was Rowan?

I walked over to a painting lying on the ground and propped it up on an easel.

When did I paint this? When I was in my memories?

It was a portrait of a beautiful woman with fiery—
red hair, flowing over her shoulders—my birth mother

I closed my eyes one more time, and I heard her voice.

"I won't risk the life of my child. No amount of power is worth her life."

I opened my eyes, and I felt like they were glowing. I was radiating a level of power that I'd never felt before

I didn't know what this was, but it wasn't standard—
issue werewolf. I was sure of that.

As I returned my gaze to my mother's portrait, her face started to melt away. The oil paints I'd used were dripping onto the floor in a puddle, and as her flesh melted, her visage was replaced by a rotting skeleton.

Konstantin's laugh began echoing in my head again.

"Was that trip down memory lane supposed to weaken me somehow? Or did you just want to show me the pathetic hallmarks of your short life?"

"Honestly, Konstantin... that wasn't for you."

I summoned forth all of the power I could muster

—all the strength I'd gotten from the people who believed in me, protected me, loved me and I unleashed it like a cyclone.

My paintings flew all around the room as I felt Konstantin's presence finally leave my body.

I vomited him up onto a canvas in a pile of black sludge.

“You think you've won? I'll just come back and make things even more difficult. And not just for you for your friends and family too. I'll make them suffer.”

Konstantin's presence finally leave my body.

I vomited him up onto a canvas in a pile of black sludge.

“You think you've won? I'll just come back and make things even more difficult. And not just for you for your friends and family too. I'll make them suffer”

“GET OUT!”

A wind blew through my devastated gallery, and after a moment. I felt only stillness.

My mind felt like it had been purged of a poison.

I collapsed to the floor. significantly lighter, but still burdened by a dark shadow.

Konstantin was finally gone...

But for how long?

The Millennium Wolves Series Chapter 57

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 27

NINA

“Is that all you got, pretty boy? Afraid if you hit me harder, you'll break a claw?”

WHACK

Fuck.

Okay, that one actually hurt.

Didn't think the beta had it in him.

Blood trailed down my chin as I glared up at Josh. Aiden stood behind him, leaning against the wall, letting his bitch do the dirty work.

“When are you gonna jump in the ring, Alpha? Don't wanna get your hands dirty?”
I spat.

“Why don't you untie me, and we'll go toe-to-toe. A real fight—not this basement bondage bullshit. Alpha versus omega.”

I knew I shouldn't taunt him—I was technically the enemy, after all—but I couldn't help it. Running my mouth was just part of my nature.

Aiden smirked like a cocky asshole.

He started circling me with his hands behind his back, perfectly composed. He was in control, and he knew it.

“You don't want to let this get to the point where I get in the ring,” Aiden challenged “That would be a deathmatch.”

I wondered if this alpha had ever killed someone who crossed him before. Truthfully, I didn't want to find out.

“What was your goal here?” Josh jumped in. “Why were you manipulating Jocelyn?”

“I wasn't—”

Fuck, don't give them any information.

“Jocelyn had nothing to do with this, all right? She was just a good fuck along the way.”

You filthy liar. You're the lowest of the low, Nina.

“You fucking bitch,” Josh shouted, echoing my own thoughts.

He swung his fist at me again, but this time, Aiden blocked him before he could connect.

“What the hell?” Josh yelled.

What the hell is right. This time, it was my thoughts echoing Josh’s.

Why had Aiden just stopped that punch?

Could he have sensed that I was lying about my true feelings for Jocelyn?

“Why are you here?” Aiden asked, his face hovering just inches from mine.

“Well, I certainly didn’t come for the accommodations,” I said sarcastically, looking around at the damp jail cell I was shackled in. “I’m giving you a shit review on Howl.”

“You’re a rogue, which means no one is coming for you. No one cares if you live or die,” Aiden growled. “So you’d better start talking, or you’ll spend the rest of your lonely, miserable life in this prison.”

“Does it at least have a continental breakfast?”

Aiden came close to hitting me but instead let out a monstrous roar and punched the brick wall instead, leaving a fist-shaped hole.

All right, I might’ve spoken too soon about getting in the ring. We’re probably different weight classes.

“Let’s see if you feel like talking after I leave you down here for two days in your own filth, like the stinking rat that you are,” he snarled.

“Sounds like a party,” I called after him as he stormed out of the cell.

Before Josh locked the door, he leaned back in and glowered at me. “What you did to Jocelyn... you’re truly despicable. I hope you rot in here.”

The door slammed shut, leaving me in isolation.

Tough crowd. But he wasn't wrong about Jocelyn.

It was eating me up inside that I'd hurt her and there was nothing I could do to fix it.

"I commend you on your resilience, Nina. You're not one to crack under pressure."

A tall hooded figure emerged from the shadows

"Oh great, it's you," I groaned. "If these are the kinds of conjugal visits I'll be receiving, I'd like to revoke my visitation privileges."

"Your job is not complete yet. You must not

fail to maintain our deal. If you upset the balance, your shackles here will be no match for the chains that will bind your soul in the afterlife," she replied stoically.

I nodded, clenching my teeth. She wasn't giving me a choice. We were bound together until my task was complete.

"You have the necessary tools to complete your mission, so heed my warning—don't fail again," she said, vanishing into the air.

I felt something materialize in my pocket.

The key to my shackles.

JOCELYN

I felt Nina's pain. Even though we weren't mated, I felt it flowing through my veins. We had some sort of connection, a link that I

shared with no one else.

I felt her strength too. She was a survivor to her very core. Whatever Aiden and Josh were doing to her downstairs, she'd put up a fight

And just what exactly are those two bullheaded idiots doing down there?

I'd never forgive my ex-boyfriends if they
harmed my girlfriend

Is that what she is?

God, this was complicated, and it made my head hurt.

I just knew that Nina was someone I was going to fight for.

Aiden came marching down the hall, and I stepped out and blocked his path.

"Aiden, what the hell did you do?"

"Not now, Jocelyn," he growled.

"Yes now," I growled back. "I deserve an explanation."

"Okay, you want me to explain it to you?" Aiden said, furious.

"I'll fucking clue you in, Jocelyn. You were used. For what, I don't fucking know because she refuses to talk. But she doesn't give a shit about you. You were just an easy target for her."

Tears began to spill out of my eyes. "That's... that's not fucking true, Aiden. You don't know her."

"No, Jocelyn, *you* don't know her—only the lies that she told you. Maybe if you hadn't been so fucking hazed for her pussy, we wouldn't have a goddamn spy in our midst during the most important event of the year."

I couldn't stop it. I began full—on sobbing. Aiden was being cruel, and he knew it. I'd always hated this side of him.

He stopped laying into me and looked genuinely sorry when he saw how affected I was.

"Jocelyn, I'm... I didn't mean to be that harsh. It's not your fault."

“Just go, Aiden. I want to be alone,” I said sharply.

As he walked down the hall, he stopped and turned back for a moment.

“The omega wolf, she told us a lot of lies, but I think one of them was when she said she didn’t care about you. I could sense it. That wasn’t true.”

I didn’t know what to believe. These feelings were still new, but I needed to see Nina again and hear those words for myself.

AIDEN

I’d known this Yule Ball would be a disaster, They always were.

I’d have to go back in and pretend like everything was fine—that I hadn’t just discovered a spy at a party full of the most important alphas in the world.

If anyone found out, it would be another PR nightmare for the East Coast Pack. Not to mention the damage it would do to foreign partnerships.

That omega wolf could’ve been here to assassinate any one of them.

I felt horrible for laying into Jocelyn like that. My nerves had gotten the better of me. I just wished she’d been more careful.

Still, no matter how much that bitch rogue enraged me, I really did sense that she cared for Jocelyn. Maybe there was more to her than I knew, but for now, I was glad that she was locked up in a cell.

As I walked back into the ball I scanned the room for Sienna. More than anything else, I needed to make sure she was safe.

I’d already neglected her for too long, and she was a part of the council now too. She needed to know what was going on.

I spotted Selene over by the bar, taking care of her tipsy mother.

“Have you girls seen Sienna?” I asked, making sure to hide any concern in my voice.

“Come to think of it, no,” Melissa replied. “She’s missing mother–daughter drinking time.”

“Selene? Any ideas?”

“Last I saw her, she was talking to Michelle,” Selene responded, taking her mother’s drink away.

Before I even started my search for Michelle, she found me.

“Aiden, the alpha of the evening, just the man I need,” she said, sauntering over, swinging her hips.

Something was off about Michelle tonight, and by the way Josh was looking at her, he’d noticed it to.

“Where’s Sienna? Have you seen her?”

“Oh, I’ve seen her all right. I saw your whore mate coming out of another man’s penthouse last night,” Michelle said, batting

her lashes

“Michelle, what the fuck did you say?” Selene asked angrily. Melissa looked white as a ghost

“You mean none of you know that Sienna has been getting some on the side with her therapist?” Michelle was relishing every word.

This wasn’t the Michelle I knew.

“Babe, are you drunk? What the hell are you saying?” Josh asked, dumbstruck.

“You should be careful about what you say next, Michelle,” I warned.

“Come on, Aiden, you’re not an idiot. You’ve noticed the emotional distance. The late nights at the gallery. The disinterest in sex with you anyway.”

“You’re a fucking liar,” I growled. “Werewolves can’t break the mating bond.”

Why is she trying to provoke me?

Michelle smiled in a way that made my hair
stand on end.

“Are you sure?” she asked in a deep voice

” Are you sure?” she asked in a deep voice that wasn’t her own.

What the fuck...

Melissa dropped her champagne flute and screamed as Selene covered her mouth i
n horror.

I grabbed Michelle, or whoever the hell that was, and began shaking her.

“Where is Sienna? Tell me, dammit!”

Josh tried to pull me off, but I pushed him away.

“She’s all alone,” taunted the voice, speaking through Michelle. “But not for long.”

“Michelle, what’s happening to you? What’s on your neck?” Josh asked, grabbing
her.

There were two small dots—like snakebites

on the side of Michelle’s neck.

Something had marked her, and it wasn’t a werewolf.

“Do you like it?” Michelle’s mouth started to foam. “Maybe Sienna will copy me
and get one too.”

No.

My heart started beating out of my chest.

“Michelle, where the fuck is Sienna?” *I* screamed.

Her eyes rolled into the back of her head, and she began convulsing in Josh’s arms.

“MICHELLE!” Josh screamed.

Whoever had done this to Michelle was headed for Sienna next.

So, I've got to get to her first.

The Millennium Wolves Series Chapter 58

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 28

JOCELYN

The pack-house dungeon was a holdover from another era.

While previous alphas had used it with abandon anytime someone looked at them the wrong way, I'd never seen it used during my tenure with the East Coast Pack.

I wandered down the poorly lit corridors, letting our connection guide the way through the winding tunnels that lay beneath the pack house

The feelings I had for Nina in my heart were still strong, even though my head was telling me that everything I knew about her was based on a lie.

As I turned a corner, I found Nina shackled to the wall of a cell, covered in dirt and dried blood.

I put my fingers through the bars as my eyes began to water. I hated seeing her in this

state.

I didn't care what ulterior motives she had; no one deserved to be treated like this.

She lifted her head and smiled weakly at the sight of me.

Jocelyn? I thought I felt you down here, but I didn't believe it. I didn't think you'd ever want to see me again.”

“I wanted to give you a chance to tell me how you really feel. Nina, be honest with me

–is what Aiden said true?”

“Did he say that I’m a lowlife, scum–of–the–earth lost cause? Because if so, then yeah, it’s true.”

Normally Nina would’ve said something like that as a joke, but there was no hint of humor in her voice. Only pain,

“I’m coming in,” I said, unlatching the door.

I knelt down in front of Nina and pulled out a rag and some antiseptic from my medical supply bag

“Let me treat this cut on your face,” I said, dabbing her chin as she winced “Who did this to you?”

“Jocelyn, you know I ain’t no snitch,” Nina joked

Nothing about this situation was humorous, but it was honestly better if I didn’t know, I was supposed to get people out of the hospital, not put them in it

I imagined that my first time in restraints with you would go down in a much sexier way than this,” Nina said, forcing a smile.

“So, I’d get to be the dominant one? I’m intrigued.” I placed my hands above Nina’s heart. “Can I?”

She nodded yes.

I closed my eyes and focused my energy. I started absorbing Nina’s pain into my body, and this time it actually worked.

My veins turned black, and my body began to ache as if it had just been tumbling down a cliff

“Stop, that’s enough,” Nina yelled.

I fell back, drained, but Nina seemed to be in better condition already. Color was returning to her rosy cheeks, and she looked as wild and beautiful as ever.

“Why the hell did you do that?”

“Because you’ll need your strength... I’m setting you free.”

“Jocelyn, no. You’ll be imprisoned yourself for this,” she protested

I placed my hand on Nina’s face. “Haven’t you figured out yet that I’d do anything for you?” I kissed her softly, and she kissed me back

“I just need to find something to break these chains,” I said, searching the cell.

“Actually...” Nina pulled a key out of her pocket

“Wait. how? Why are you still here?” I gasped.

“Isn’t it obvious?” she asked. “I wasn’t gonna leave without giving you an explanation.”

“Nina, I don’t need it,” I said, unlocking her shackles.

“Please, Jocelyn, I have to tell you.”

I folded my arms and looked away. “Okay, go ahead.”

“First, you have to know that my feelings for you were always real. I never lied about that, not for a second. But I am a spy. I was sent here. by someone very powerful,” she said in a serious tone.

“Who? Another pack?”

No, it isn’t a pack, but I can’t give you a name. It’s for your own safety. But Jocelyn... your friend, Sienna.. she’s attracted the interest of someone who’s not to be trifled with.”

“Wait. Sienna? You were sent here to spy on Sienna?” I asked, shocked.

“Yes, I was to watch her, and if certain events played out, I was to eliminate her. Those were my orders.”

“Who the hell would want to hurt Sienna? What threat could she possibly pose?”

“Jocelyn, promise me you’ll stay away from this. I couldn’t bear to see you get hurt. I’ve already hurt you enough.”

Nina pulled me into her arms and placed her forehead against mine.

“I have to go, Jocelyn. I could never do what’s been asked of me, especially not to someone close to you. But when I break my bond with my benefactor, I’ll have to face the consequences.”

“Then I’ll face them with you. We’ll go together,” I said, tearing up.

“I have to face this alone. But, Jocelyn, know this...,” Nina lifted up my chin and pressed her lips against mine with all her passion. “You deserve the world and I just wish I could give it to you.”

“Don’t go, Nina,” I said, my voice cracking

She backed out of the cell with tears streaming down her face. “This isn’t goodbye. We’ll see each other again.”

Nina was a good liar. But she couldn’t lie to me.

She was gone.

As I returned to the Yule Ball, wiping my tears away, I heard shuffling and screaming coming from the ballroom, punctuated by Josh shouting at the top of his lungs.

“MICHELLE!”

What the hell was happening in there?

I pulled myself together and ran into the ballroom to find mass chaos. All the guests were scattering as Michelle

Oh my God.

She was suspended in midair, half shifted, with tables, chairs, and cutlery floating in a vortex around her.

I’d read of rare stories like this in restricted healer journals, but I had never thought I’d see it in my lifetime.

Possession.

I rushed over to Josh, who was trying to get through to her.

“Michelle, listen to my voice. You can fight this. I know you’re in there,” he said, tears rolling down his face.

“Josh, look out,” I yelled, tackling him just as a flying table smashed into where he’d been standing

“Jocelyn, I don’t know what to do,” he said, hopeless.

“I might have an idea... but you’ll have to get me close.”

SIENNA

I couldn’t stay here. I wasn’t safe.

Konstantin knew my location, and just

because I’d banished him from my head didn’t mean he wouldn’t come looking for me again.

I needed to get to Aiden at the pack house. He didn’t even have a clue that a vampire was in our midst.

A vampire that I’d invited in.

Konstantin was a threat to the pack, and he’d been right in front of me the whole time.

As I ran through my gallery, the lights began flickering

I was already too late.

Konstantin appeared in a cloud of black smoke, blocking my exit.

“Sienna, my dear, were you leaving? I only just got here.”

“You’re sick, I should’ve never trusted you!” I spat.

“How else were you going to find your parents?” he sneered.

“I’ll find them on my own. I don’t need you or your powers.”

Konstantin let out an evil laugh and materialized right in front of me.

“I have one more gift for you, Sienna,” he said, touching my forehead before I could stop him.

I was in the woods at night, but they weren’t any woods I recognized.

This wasn’t my memory; it was Konstantin’s.

I heard twigs snapping in the distance, and I braced myself.

I was sure Konstantin couldn’t physically hurt me when we were mentally linked otherwise he would’ve done so already. But whatever he wanted to show me would be designed to hurt me psychologically.

Footsteps. They were getting closer.

My mother burst into the clearing, panting and out of breath. She was running from something

A familiar cloud of black smoke descended on the clearing, making it impossible to see anything, until it materialized into Konstantin.

He advanced toward my mother with menacing intent.

“Where is she? Where is the child, Vanessa?”

“You’ll never find her, Konstantin. I’ve made sure of that.”

“Foolish woman. You’ve let your love for a child override your good judgment. We could have untold power.”

“No, Konstantin. You’ve let your lust for power destroy anything that was good in you

if there ever was anything to begin with.”

“Vanessa, there’s no need for you to meet the same fate as your mate. He didn’t want to cooperate either and you saw the consequences of that.”

“I deserve whatever fate the deities deem fit for me after what we did. I accept my penance, but my daughter will not be a pawn for you or them. She deserves a normal life.”

What the hell was she talking about? I was shaking

There was nothing I could do but watch; I was his captive audience.

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“You disappoint me, Vanessa. You’re alpha stock. Power runs through your blood. But if you refuse to recognize that ...

Konstantin disappeared then reappeared behind my mother with a blade at her throat.

“No, you bastard!” I screamed.

She closed her eyes, a peaceful look on her face.

All I could see was red.

Our link severed, and I fell to the ground.

“Everything you told me was a lie,” I said, gasping for air.

It felt like my own throat had just been cut.

“You misjudge my intentions. I’m the only one trying to lead you to the truth.”

Konstantin knelt down and lifted my chin so I was forced to meet his gaze. I was too stunned to fight back.

“You have no idea who you really are, the

power that you hold. There are those far more dangerous than me who would seek to destroy you before you unlock that power. I simply want to help you.”

Black smoke billowed out of Konstantin’s cloak and engulfed me.

“Let me relieve you of your burden.”

The Millennium Wolves Series Chapter 59

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 29

AIDEN

If he fucking hurts her, I’IL

My car swerved on the icy road as I sped toward Sienna’s gallery

It was the first place she’d go if she needed space.

She had to be there.

But what if I was too late? What if he had control over her like he did Michelle?

No, there was no way.

Sienna was strong. She’d resist. She’d fight him off

But that power... I’d never seen anything like it. What kind of creature could do that?

As I got closer to Sienna’s gallery, I could sense her. She was still alive—and still herself.

But I also sensed something else.

Something dark.

He’s already inside.

I made a sharp turn and hit a spot of black ice, spinning out in front of the gallery and losing control

I crashed into a fire hydrant and jolted forward, my head smashing into the windshield

As the water gushed out of the hydrant and started seeping through the cracks of the window, I struggled to keep conscious.

Everything was blurry. Blood was running down my face.

“Fuck.”

Sienna.

I kicked my passenger door so hard it flew off, scraping across the sidewalk.

Her gallery was filled with some kind of black smog that obscured my view from the outside.

I'm coming for you, fucker.

I took a step back then started bounding forward, my muscles ripping through my shirt as I began to shift.

I leapt and shifted midair, crashing through the thick glass storefront.

A man—no, some sort of demon—was hovering over Sienna's body. He whipped around when I came roaring in and hissed revealing his long, protruding fangs.

This was a vampyre; I was sure of it. Raphael had warned me of their kind.

I unclenched my jaws, baring my own fangs, and howled with all my might.

I was gonna send this pasty motherfucker back to hell.

JOCELYN

I had no idea if I was strong enough to pull this off, but I had to try. I'd been able to absorb Nina's pain, but Michelle..

She wasn't just in pain.

She was possessed.

Healers were resistant to possession at least that was what I'd read—but theory was different than practice.

I looked up at the swirling vortex of pack-house furnishings that shielded Michelle from us getting too close

Selene and some others were trapped behind a podium on the other side of the room with no escape route.

I motioned to her to run when I gave the signal.

“Josh, I need you to distract Michelle while I try to get close.”

“I'm on it,” he yelled, charging toward her, using his claws to rip through anything that flew at him.

“The beta finally steps up,” taunted Michelle's possessor. “But can he rise to the occasion?”:

She lifted her arms in the air, and Josh went hurdling into a chandelier, bouncing off it like a rag doll and landing on the floor.

Selene made a dash for the door with her group, attempting to get them to safety.

“Everyone run. Don't look back,” Selene shouted.

“Where do you think you're going?”

Selene screamed as she was pulled backward, sliding across the floor toward Michelle. I dove forward and grabbed her hand.

“Jocelyn, please, don't let go,” she cried.

Michelle was too powerful. We had no

chance.

We need a miracle.

AIDEN

I grabbed the vampyre by his cloak and slammed him against the wall, dragging him across Sienna's paintings and throwing him into a sculpture.

When I was able to grab him, I could actually do some damage, but he was so slippery, disappearing and reappearing within seconds.

I lunged at him, and he split into two, giving me a smug look. Before I could decide which one of him to mutilate first, they transformed into my mom and dad.

"You're such a fuckup. You can't do anything right," Charlotte hissed.

"I wish you had died instead of Aaron," Daniel whispered in my ear as he swirled around me.

What the hell? How does he know so much about me?

"Sienna revealed all her deepest fears and desires to me—and yours as well." He laughed.

He multiplied into a dozen versions of himself, all laughing in unison.

This asshole was just a wannabe magician, full of cheap tricks. I wouldn't fall for his mind games

I grabbed a bucket of paint with my jaws and splattered it across the room at all his doppelgängers. It only stuck to one of them...

I took my chance. I lunged at him and bit down into his side.

JOCELYN

Michelle screamed in pain, as if something inside her was on fire. All the floating furniture crashed to the ground, and she began free-falling toward the ground herself.

Josh sprang into action and caught her, doing a barrel roll and holding her tight.

We might not get another chance.

I sprinted toward Michelle. Her body was seizing and she was trying to throw Josh off.

“Jocelyn, hurry. I can’t hold her much longer,” Josh shouted.

C

“Selene, get everyone else out of here and bar the doors behind you,” I ordered.

She nodded and began shepherding the remaining guests to the exit.

I grabbed Michelle’s face as Josh held her down.

“All right, baby girl, we’re bringing you
back.”

I started absorbing whatever was inside Michelle into my body. *Holy shit, this feels weird.*

My veins started turning black again, and I sucked out all the darkness until the energy seeped all the way into my brain.

My eyes went dark, and suddenly I couldn’t
see anything

I started dry-heaving, my healer physiology rejecting the uninvited guest.

I abruptly spewed out a load of black gunk all over the floor, and my vision returned to normal.

Fuck me.

It felt like I had just drunk a gallon of tar.

Michelle was lying peacefully in Josh’s arms.

“I... I think he’s gone.”

“Jocelyn... she’s not moving,” Josh said quietly.

I immediately felt for her pulse. She was...

Still alive.

Thank God.

Alive, but lifeless.

I tried to transfer my energy to her, but her body wouldn't accept it.

The darkness was gone, but Michelle was in a coma, and I had no idea how to bring her back.

AIDEN

The vampyre was wounded, but I sensed that his power had somehow grown even stronger. He wasn't fucking around.

"I tried to be in two places at once. That was my error, but make no mistake, all of me is here now," he seethed.

I glanced at Sienna's unconscious body in the middle of the gallery. I needed to keep him away from her at all costs.

"Sienna."

"Sienna, you have to wake up."

"I need you."

I hoped she wasn't too far gone, but our link remained static.

The vampyre shot toward me like an arrow, knocking me down and sending me skidding across the floor.

As I tried to get back on my feet, he lunged

at me again and again.

My ribs cracked from the rapid-fire blows, and I howled in agony.

He left me on the floor in a heap and returned his attention to Sienna.

No, don't let him get close to her!

I shifted back into a human and struggled to my feet, holding my side.

“Hey, asshole, if you wanna mess around in someone’s head, why don’t you try mine? Right now I’m having some great thoughts about how I’m gonna tear you in half.”

He turned around and scoffed at me for trying to stand up to him in my injured human form.

“If you insist, Alpha, I’ll gladly kill you first.

Then I can replay the memory of ripping your head off in Sienna’s mind, over and over again.”

As the vampyre advanced toward me, a wolf snarled behind him.

Sienna.

She tackled him and latched her fangs deep

into his shoulder in one swift movement,

He screamed as she pulled with all her strength and ripped a chunk of his body away, causing it to evaporate into the air,

The rest of him started fading away too, and it was clear he had no control over his sudden destabilization,

“No, not yet, dammit. I was so close!”

Sienna shifted and ran over to me, putting my arm around her shoulder, helping me balance. We both stared him down as he turned to dust.

“I won’t disappear forever, Sienna. I’ll always be inside you. You invited me in, and I’ll return...,” Konstantin bellowed.

His body evaporated before he could finish his tirade.

Sienna embraced me and nuzzled into my shoulder. I winced at the cracked ribs, but I didn’t fucking care.

It felt so good to hold her, to know she was safe in my arms.

SIENNA

I wore an artist's smock and a pair of Aiden's old jeans and boots as we walked home. He had managed to salvage his clothes from when he shifted, but my gold dress wasn't so lucky. And neither was Aiden's car.

We walked in silence, but I knew Aiden had a million questions. I was ready to answer them.

I'd dug up so many buried secrets, and now they were haunting me.

There was so much to tell.

About Konstantin.

His powers.

My powers, which I didn't yet understand.

My mother.

My father, Rowan, who might still be out there somewhere.

But right now, I appreciated that he just held my hand and walked in silence.

He was there for me tonight, and I was there for him. That was the way it would always be.

I'd tell him everything when we were safe and sound at home.

As we neared the house, it began to snow again, but it felt too warm out for snow.

The light over the horizon glowed orange, and I realized this wasn't snow...

It was ash.

"Aiden..."

He ran ahead of me, over the cobblestone bridge and through the trees.

I knew what I was about to see, but as the house came into view, I still covered my mouth in disbelief.

Our home.

Set alight, a raging inferno.

The Millennium Wolves Series Chapter 60

The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 30

SIENNA

) After the fire, our life was in absolute chaos.

“Aiden, get out of the damn bathroom. I have to pee!” Selene shouted, banging on the door. “I have a whole baby pressed against my bladder, *twenty-four seven.*”

“Selene, can you please not scream at my boss?” Jeremy said warily.

“He’s not your boss here, Jeremy. He’s family,” my mom said in a cheery tone as she shoved past me with three loads of laundry

“No, when he’s in the bathroom, he’s my mortal enemy,” Selene sulked. “Aiden, GET OUT.”

It was the good kind of chaos.

The bathroom door flung open, and Aiden stood in the doorway, fresh out of the shower, wearing nothing but a towel, water droplets still clinging to his glistening abs.

Thank God the haze is over.

“Mother of fucking wolves,” Aiden growled. “I’m finished. Can you relax?”

“Oh no,” muttered Jeremy under his breath.

Selene's eyes bulged out of her head so far that they matched her stomach.

"Do not. Tell a *pregnant* woman. Who

is about to *burst*. To relax," she nearly howled, pushing past him and slamming the bathroom door behind her.

Aiden just shrugged. "Oh, Melissa, you can add this to your laundry," he said, whipping off his towel and throwing it into the hamper she was carrying

He walked down the hallway stark naked as I stared on, mortified.

Good chaos, yes, but construction on our house couldn't finish soon enough.

My parents' little home had gotten decidedly crowded since Selene and Jeremy had decided to stay until the baby came, which would be any day

"Sienna, come help me with the sandwiches," my dad called from the kitchen.

As I joined him, he shot me a look of concern. He'd been doing that a lot since we'd moved in.

"How are you holding up, sweetheart? Everything going okay? Are we making our home comfortable for you and Aiden? Because if you need anything at all, just—"

"Dad, I'm fine, really. You guys have been amazing, opening your house to us while we rebuild ours."

I hadn't told my family everything that happened with Konstantin, but they knew enough.

I'd left out the details about my birth parents because I knew it'd break their hearts, and I honestly still wasn't ready to talk about it.

Aiden, on the other hand, knew everything

It was hard at first, reliving what had happened to me. I'd felt so violated and betrayed by what Konstantin did.

He had used me. He'd tried to manipulate me, break me mentally, break Aiden physically, and he'd burned our home to the ground, but ultimately, our mating bond was stronger.

We didn't break so easily; he knew that now.

And he was out there somewhere—in a weakened state, perhaps, but still lurking in the shadows. It made my blood curdle.

Josh had established an anti-vampyre task force after everything that happened.

It was a near-obsession for him to hunt down Konstantin, but so far, it had been four weeks with not so much as a bite literally or figuratively

Josh's vigilance made me feel safer but also sad. He had a lot of time on his hands these days...

As I silently cut up vegetables next to my dad, it made me think about the whereabouts of my birth father, whoever he was. But only for a moment. "

I smiled at my dad and squeezed his hand. I didn't have to go searching for my father. He was right here.

Aiden walked into the kitchen, thankfully fully clothed, and cracked open a beer. "Want one, Robert?"

He really seemed to be enjoying all this forced family time. And I couldn't blame him. He'd never had this himself.

"I'd love one," he said, taking the beer and clinking it against Aiden's.

"Hey, don't leave me out of this," I said, grabbing my own beer.

Selene shuffled in with the help of Jeremy and slumped down at the table.

Mom brought in an apple pie from the dining room that made Aiden start drooling.

“Freshly cooled from the windowsill, just like my mom used to do it,” Aiden said.

“Aiden, put that tongue away,” I laughed. “You don’t even look at *me* that way unless you’re hazed.”

“Does everyone have a drink?” my dad asked as we raised our bottles in the air.

“I wish,” sighed Selene, holding her stomach.

“What should we toast to?” Aiden said, looking around the room.

I didn’t know what I’d do without these amazing people in my life. They anchored me and had brought me back to shore when Konstantin tried to drown me.

The people in this room, they were where my true strength came from.

“To family.” I smiled

As I got ready for bed, I looked at my reflection in the petite vanity mirror that my parents had gotten for me as a little girl. I felt childish using it now.

So much had changed in the past couple years.

I still hadn’t gotten used to staying in my childhood bedroom with Aiden either, but he was utterly fascinated by it all...

My sloppy watercolor paintings from elementary school.

My extensive collection of track-and-field trophies

The stuffed animals that I’d half torn to shreds when I was just a pup.

I’d caught him going through one of my old diaries when we first moved in, and he’d almost joined those poor plush toys in their demise.

But now, he was lying on my bed in his boxers, looking up at the star mural I'd painted on the ceiling when I was fifteen.

His earnest expression of admiration made me love him even more.

I crawled on top of him and gave him an impassioned kiss.

I may not have been hazed, but I still had needs.

"Somebody is looking for trouble," he growled, grinning and hoisting me up against my bedpost.

"And I always seem to find it," I growled right back, grabbing the rising tent in his boxers.

He threw me down onto the bed and wasted no time in pulling down my underwear and

spreading my legs.

Aiden's stubble rubbed against the inside of my thighs as he dove into my sex with his tongue.

"Yeah, that's it," I murmured, gripping my sheets.

Aiden sat up and pushed my legs open even farther, tapping his hard cock against my entrance.

He teased my sex, pushing in the tip, then

pulling back out

"More," I said breathily.

"You asked for it," Aiden growled, placing his hand lightly on my neck

I let out a soft moan, which turned into a C sharp yelp as he entered me, stretching and hitting just the right spots.

Once he got into the rhythm, his thrusts felt like heaven My pussy was about to explode from the pleasure

“Aiden, I’m

oh fuck

I’m...”

My abdomen clenched, and my back arched as I cried out

“I’m cumming. Oh fuck, I’m cum

”

“IT’S COMING,” my mom started screaming, banging on my bedroom door

“THE BABY-IT’S ALMOST HERE!”

Despite my niece choosing the most awkward time possible to enter this world, I was beyond excited to meet her.

My parents anxiously gripped each other’s hands while sitting with Aiden and me in the waiting room. It had already been two hours since Selene had gone into labor.

“You know I saw a supply closet around the corner,” Aiden whispered, sliding his hand up my leg. “We could finish what we started.”

I slapped it away. *Men*. Always thinking CURSLIMATED about fucking

Although I had to admit it wouldn’t be the worst way to kill some time.

Jocelyn suddenly pushed through the double doors in scrubs, smiling from ear to ear.

“What’s the news?” My mom shot out of her chair.

“A happy and healthy baby girl. She’s ready to meet you now,” Jocelyn said, leading us into Selene’s room.

Jeremy hovered over his wife and child with absolute awe and devotion in his eyes. Selene held her beautiful baby girl—my first niece—in her arms. Her face was wet with tears.

I started tearing up myself. Dominance be

I started tearing up myself. Dominance be damned I was so happy for her.

Aiden clutched my hand. He almost looked like he was a little misty-eyed himself. *Almost.*

“What’s her name?” my mom cooed, taking in the gorgeous little bundle of a granddaughter in front of her.

“Oh my God, we haven’t thought of one yet,” Selene said, abruptly bursting into tears. “She has no name!”

“Honey, it’s okay, don’t cry. We’ll think of one. We have time,” he said, nervously trying to console her and understand her erratic hormones

A vision suddenly swam into my mind

flowing red hair, fierce eyes. Someone important, who deserved to be honored

“What about Vanessa?” I suggested

Selene’s eyes lit up “That’s that’s actually perfect It’s beautiful. But why Vanessa?”

**No reason,” I said as Aiden looked at me knowingly. “I just think it fits

“Me too,” she replied, yawning, her eyelids getting heavy

“Okay, Mommy and little Vanessa need to get some rest,” Jocelyn ordered.

“We can all admire the baby in the morning.”

Jocelyn lightly touched my shoulder as I was about to leave. “I have another patient that I need to check up on, if you’d like to join

me.”

I nodded as my stomach twisted in knots.

She looked so peaceful asleep—except she wasn't really sleeping, not willingly, anyway

Oh, Michelle, this is all my fault.

As Michelle laid motionless in her hospital bed, a wave of guilt swept over me. If it hadn't been for me, she never would have gone to Konstantin's in the first place and he never would have used her to try and hurt me.

Jocelyn gripped my hand as I started to tear up. "Don't blame yourself," she said. "Sometimes people come into our lives and they lie, and those lies infect everyone around us."

"But what if I helped spread that disease?"

66

"You were just trying to find answers about your past. I'm sure he understands that," she responded, looking far away. "Aiden wants nothing more than to protect you."

"Maybe she was just trying to protect you too," I said delicately as I watched Jocelyn stiffen.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to... Aiden told me about Nina. Have you heard from her?"

"No," Jocelyn replied vacantly. "But I'd rather not talk about it."

The door swung open, and Josh trudged in looking faded and worn down. He was sporting a full beard and dark circles beneath his eyes.

He hadn't let up the search for Konstantin for even a moment since Michelle had gone into a coma.

"Oh, uh, I didn't think anyone would be in here," Josh mumbled, not making eye contact with me.

CCT

"We'll clear out," Jocelyn said softly. "Let me know if you need anything."

As Jocelyn ushered me out of the room, I turned back for a second to see Josh place his forehead against Michelle's.

*I won't let you
do this alone, Josh. We will find him. And we will bring her back.*

Aiden placed his arm around my shoulder as we walked up the driveway to my parents' house. The sun was just beginning to rise over the treetops.

"Things will get back to normal, Sienna. Your family will always be there for each other, through the good and the bad. *Our* family will always be there for each other Aiden assured me.

"Of course," I said, forcing a smile and leaning my head into his chest.

Nothing inside me had felt normal since Konstantin had invaded my mind and body, but I didn't want to worry Aiden.

I felt an unfamiliar power inside me, one that I didn't understand...

And it was growing every day.

ROWAN

As the rising sun's rays fell across her head, it set her magnificent red hair ablaze. She was beautiful, a near mirror image.

I watched her walking with her mate, and it stirred up emotion in me that had been long dormant.

"She looks... just like her mother."