

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance by Moonlight Muse Chapter 31

31. Resentment THEON

"Theon, behind you!" Yileyna shouted, wrapping her arms around my head just as something slammed into us, the impact ramming us against the wall.

The throbbing pain where the side of the crate had hit my head was intense. It was accompanied by the strong smell of blood.

Fuck

I lifted my head from her breasts and she slowly moved her arms. Letting go of her, I turned and shoved the crate that had hit us away and pulled her to her feet. Blood covered her arm where she had protected my head and a flash of guilt filled me. She stood there unbothered about her injuries, gripping the wall as the ship lurched again. "What's happening?" She asked as she was thrown to the side. I grabbed her around the waist, pulling her close as I tried to make my way to the ladder.

"We may have reached the Lifeless Abyss." I replied, as another sharp lurch threw us to the ground. Two crates crashed against one another, one of them splintered open and a pile of apples and melons tumbled out in all directions

"Well, it's definitely does not seem to be lifeless." She muttered.

I kicked away another barrel, pulling her towards the steps once more.

"You knew that." I remarked.

"Obviously, I just don't get why it's named The Lifeless Abyss."

"Because no one survives a journey through. Thick with sirens and sea monsters, it's a nightmare for all sailors." I replied, lifting her up so she only had a few steps to climb.

"True..." She murmured, grabbing the ladder and climbing. I kept hold of her thighs, making sure she didn't fall; she was fast, and despite the violent movements of the ship, I took a moment to admire her derriere. Once she was out, I climbed up and shut the door behind us, wondering how much food would be damaged down there.

"Go to your cabin." I commanded her, making her turn to me in surprise. "No." She replied as if I was saying something unbelievable. "Yileyna, this time, just listen."

I said, clenching my jaw. I get that she helped, but I couldn't have her out there, not when we were probably already in the very sea where I lost two of the most important

people to me. "No." She turned stubbornly, about to go towards deck when my eyes flashed, my anger raging through me. I grabbed hold of her arm, spinning her around and against my chest. She was about to argue when I placed a finger to her lips.

"Not this time." I whispered, hitting the pressure point in her neck hard, instantly making her eyes roll before she fell unconscious in my arms.

The ship lurched once more, and Ryan's voice came in my head.

'Theon! There's something attacking the ship! Could use you up here right about now!'

'Coming.' I replied shortly, walking down towards our cabins.

I stopped in front of Valentin and Patrick, both of whom looked tense.

"Take her to the princess." I commanded coldly, passing her to Valentin. "Yes, Beta." He replied, bowing his head to me.

I didn't wait any longer, hearing them knock on the door before it was pulled open. I knew the marks on her neck and my scent still lingered on her, as much as I wanted to keep our agreement a secret, I don't think that was going to be the case for much longer.

I didn't want to be associated with her or anyone in that way, but it was a bit too late to change that now.

I ran up onto deck, grabbing a sword as I went, I doubted wolf form was going to help. The moments from earlier replayed in my mind and I frowned. What was I even doing tickling her? Sure I like the view of her breasts moving but... who was I fucking kidding? I pushed the thoughts away as my eyes fell on one of the large black tentacles that was wrapped around the mast.

A Kraken.

"If my ship goes down, I'm taking you with me!" Flynn growled. I didn't bother responding to him.

I didn't come here to die. We were going to make our way through this; sea monsters, sirens, or bad weather. I am not the child I was ten years ago. My eyes blazed as I broke into a run, spinning the huge sword and, with full force, swung, slicing off the tentacle that was wrapped around the mast. A screeching roar of agony filled the tumultuous, stormy skies as the ship was hit wildly from the left. "Madelia! On my signal, burn it!" I shouted. "Fire on a ship! Are you crazy!" Flynn thundered. "I know what I'm doing." I replied icily. Some

of the crew members were firing at it using the ship's cannons, but I knew what I had to do. With Yileyna safe, my mind felt at ease and I was the calmest person here. Breaking into a run, I jumped, using the mast as leverage, and gave Madelia the signal... 2

Twenty minutes later, I dropped onto the deck. Not far from our now steady ship, the Kraken's burning body was sinking into the water. Its sliced-off tentacles floating on the surface and its dark-coloured blood poisoning the waters of the Lifeless Abyss.

"You are more than you look" Flynn muttered, observing me.

I didn't respond, staring at the dead monster. The true potential of my powers had been sealed away before I had come to Astalion. No one was to know who I really was. My Alpha aura was blocked away. The only thing that gave away any sign of my power was the size of *my wolf*. Something that could not be hidden."

"You did well," I said emotionlessly, glancing at Madelia.

"Thank you." She replied with a small bow of her head.

The respect they already had for me, when I wasn't even officially the Beta... Rank and a title wasn't what made a leader a leader. It was capability.

"He is amazing." "The Alpha king did well to choose him as the future Beta."

"He could be more..."

More. I knew

exactly what they were insinuating, to take Charlene as my mate. Just as Andres had wanted me to, but she was the last woman on Kaeladia that I would ever take as my own.

The daughter of the Alpha King... I My anger flared inside of me like a fire that had just been fuelled by oil. It irked me more than anything, having to pretend like this. But in life, I had always been robbed of everything; my family, status, power, and rights. If I wanted to attain something, then I had to make sacrifices, and I was ready to make every sacrifice needed. I was no longer a child, and despite my rage, I had to play this out carefully. 1

Without distractions or emotions, I would fulfil my goal and have vengeance on all who had wronged the Hale family.

Turning towards the crew on board, I crossed my arms.

“We are already in The Lifeless Abyss, stay vigilant and remember anything can attack at any time. From here on out, until we make it through these waters, we are in danger. Remember that.”

Not giving them time to respond, I walked past them and headed toward the lower deck. I was covered in the Krakens' blood and it was already dawn, I needed to shower and get some rest. Who knows what else we may face over the next few days...

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I had just stepped out of the bathroom, a towel around my waist and pulled open my trunk when there was a knock on the door.

“Who is it?” I asked, the irritation seeping into my voice.

“Charlene.”

I pulled my towel off and slipped on my sweatpants. “It's open.” I said coldly, turning as she opened the door. I had a pretty good feeling why she was here. I crossed my arms, watching her impatiently as

her eyes flitted over me.

Women.

“Hurry up, I want to sleep.” She shook her head, now looking away. “Theon, it's about Yileyna.” She said, no longer able to meet my gaze. I cocked my brow, waiting. “I don't have all day.” My voice was icy as I glared at her. She nodded and took a breath, braving the chance to look me in the eye. “Are you two... together?” “What are you getting at? Besides shouldn't you ask your friend, why are you asking me?” I asked mockingly.

“She's asleep, or unconscious. Patrick said you gave her to them and that he saw you leave her room in the night.” A flash of hurt went through her eyes, and I smirked, advancing towards her.

“What's wrong? Jealous?” I have never been blind to both their antics, like most young women, they have fawned over me since the start.

Pathetic.

“No... I would never be jealous of Yileyna. She... I'm just scared. Why now? Why when her parents are gone?” She asked quietly. “She's a woman now, I never thought much of her before, but I'm sure we can both agree that she is the most appealing woman in W

esterwell.” I replied arrogantly. I don’t know why I was even answering her, but the urge to cause her pain was appealing. I hated her. A small smile crossed her face, which only made me angrier. “She is, and I hope you aren’t using her. Theon, she lost her parents. She is going through so much. Please don’t end up hurting her.” She was speaking quietly, but her voice was sincere as she pleaded for her friend.

Their bond irked me.

I smirked coldly. “She knows the risk, and she’s taken it. Tell me princess, how much would it hurt you if I broke her?” I asked coldly. Her eyes flashed with hurt, and I smirked, getting my answer.

A lot.

I could have chosen her, I could have destroyed her even if she wasn’t as appealing, but the only reason I couldn’t bring myself to was because I’m disgusted by whose blood ran through her veins, 1

“Yileyna is just a plaything, and she knows that.”

“So, is that all she is to you?” She asked, her green eyes full of pain. I turned away from her, trying to control the anger that was raging within me. “Obviously. There’s no way a wolf-less female would be worth anything more to me than to be an object to use and discard when I’m done.” I replied harshly. I heard her gasp, but before I could relish in the satisfaction of causing her pain, I realised someone else had heard what I had just said. I had been so caught up I hadn’t even noticed her. My heart raced as I turned quickly, just in time to see the flicker of blonde hair and the silent footsteps as she tried to slip away unheard. 2

Fuck

A flare of guilt rushed through me as I stared at the crack in the door, no longer paying attention to what the princess was saying. The only thought in my mind was that she had heard what was not meant for her ears...

32. Limits YILEYNA

‘Obviously. There’s no way a wolf-less female would be worth anything more to me than to be an object to use and discard when I’m done.’

His words rang in my mind, and I sighed as I locked the door quietly behind me. I looked around my cabin, feeling exhausted, and dropped onto the bed. His scent still lingered. I closed my eyes, not wanting to think about anything, but I couldn’t stop the thoughts

from swirling in my mind. At times, it was as if he cared... and then at others... I curled into a ball, taking deep, steady breaths.

I would not let it affect me.

A light knock on the door made me sigh.

"I'm trying to get some sleep. What is it?" I called out, really not wanting to talk to anyone, but I knew it was Charlene.

"Open up darling." Her soft voice came.

Sighing, I got up, unlocking the door and getting back into bed. I heard the door open and Charlene sigh softly as she locked the door, then sat down on the bed. "I'm angry at you, Leyna." Her soft voice came. I sighed, pulling the blanket down from my face and looked over at her, feeling guilty. "I know." "Theon, want to share?" I sighed and sat up; this was a conversation I knew was going to happen at some point. "Not really." I mumbled, keeping my arms hidden under the blanket. I didn't need her worrying over my injuries. "Since when?" She asked quietly. "Since the festival." I muttered, staring down at the blanket. I heard her gasp, and I looked up to see the wave of sadness in her eyes. "Since then and you didn't tell me?"

"He didn't want anyone to know," I whispered, feeling ever so guilty. "But... not even me?" She asked, I don't think I had ever felt worse. "I'm sorry, I truly am my queen." I whispered. "When I told you he was interested in you, you vehemently denied it!" She exclaimed, as if suddenly remembering that and frowning at me.

"I know! But I'm sorry... Are you... Umm, are you ok with it?" I asked, knowing that she had liked Theon for ages too. "I know it's stupid that I'm asking this now... After stuff happened..."

I felt awful.

"I want to say I am, I mean, I'm jealous too! But I'm just a bit concerned... Are you sure he's serious? I don't want you to get hurt." She replied, ending hesitantly.

His words rang in my mind, and I lay back down. "We have an agreement, it's just physical." I replied quietly. Her eyes softened, and she sighed.

"You know, I would say go get it girl, and enjoy that piece of sexiness while you can, but why do I feel like you will get hurt?" She asked softly.

"I won't, I know he considers me nothing more than trash." I said, feeling my stomach twist at those words.

Then why was I allowing him to have me, when he couldn't even respect me? I remembered our moment from down in the hold, the way he playfully tickled me and licked my foot. Do you do that to someone you consider trash? Maybe? I didn't know.

Charlene moved over and wrapped her arms around me tightly as she slipped under the blanket beside me.

"Goddess, this bed smells of him!" She yelped.

I couldn't resist the smile that crossed my lips as I rested my head on her shoulder.

"Well, he did sleep here for a bit." I giggled.

"Wait, did you do the deed in here?!"

"No, relax! We've only done it once."

We didn't do much on this bed, and what we did do, she didn't need to know.

"Once? On the night of the festival?"

I nodded.

"Yeah..."

"So is he good? He seems rough if your neck is anything to go by." She teased. "I can't believe you have actually kissed Theon!" "He is rough." I admitted, staring at the ceiling. "Well, details! Since he is now claimed by my friend, the least you can do is share the details. Wait! Wait... is he big?" She whispered, I blushed and nodded. "Yes, although I haven't really seen it much, it was all just so fast..." I frowned, thinking we had actually only fucked once... For someone who wanted to simply use me, he sure hadn't taken advantage of that. "Well, next time then." She replied with a gentle smile, brushing my hair off my face before

we both snuggled down, letting sleep come to us.

She fell asleep first, whilst I couldn't help but mull over everything that had happened...

Night had fallen and I had stayed in bed, saying I wasn't feeling too great. Ailema had delivered some food, but aside from that, I had decided to stay in my *room*. I just needed a little space, if Patrick and Valentin knew about us, then I was sure the rest of those from the Silver Storm pack knew as well.

I had kept my arms under the blanket, but I knew I needed to get up and make sure there were no splinters from the wooden crates stuck in my arms. Charlene had spent most of the afternoon with me, but I had lied that I was feeling a little under the weather,

and she had left me when night had come. Raiden had popped in earlier to ask how I was doing, but I hadn't entertained him for long, just wanting to clear my mind and be alone.

The lantern cast shadows on the wall from where it hung in a bracket, the slight sway of the ship was lulling me to sleep when I heard the door open and shut, followed by the key scraping in the lock

My eyes snapped to the door, all traces of sleep vanishing, and I sat up sharply. My eyebrows furrowed when I saw it was none other than Theon. "I'm not feeling great, I don't have time to entertain you." I said, trying to keep my voice level. "Then don't." Came his short reply. "I want to be alone." I added icily, sitting up.

I frowned, looking at the two mugs of what smelled like coffee he was holding on a small tray.

Don't fall for it.

I kept chanting that in my head. He placed the two mugs down and crossed his arms as he crouched beside the bed.

"Everyone is saying you're not well. What's wrong with you? You look perfectly fine to me."

I gave him a withering glare.

"That's because all you see is the fact I'm sat here with intact boobs and a vagina. That's all you care about." I hissed, raising my arms and showing my arms that were still not fully healed from when I had protected his head. "Now if you can show yourself out, I'm not in the mood."

His amber eyes were on my arms, and to my irritation, he took hold of them, twisting my arms in front of him so he could get a look at the injuries. He brushed his thumb gently over the part that had almost healed, sending little tingles through me.

Not this time.

I yanked free from his hold.

"Leave." I commanded coldly, glaring into his eyes.

How could amber eyes that were such a beautiful shade, look so cold?

"No."

He took hold of my right arm, frowning as he looked down at it, this one was worse. "Why didn't you get these checked?" "Theon, you can stop pretending to care." I whispered, pulling out of his hold. His eyes met mine, but I looked away, trying to mask my emotions the best I could.

He stood up and I lay down, pulling the blanket over my head. The hollow emptiness in my chest was excruciating, but I wanted him gone. I heard the door open and shut. I kicked the blanket off, rushing to lock the door, only to see he had taken the key. I clenched my jaw, irritation seeping through me.

Should I go get it back, or is that what he wanted?

As I struggled to decide what to do, the door opened again and to my utter dismay, he was back, holding a small box. He shut and locked the door, slipping the key into his pocket, only making me even angrier. He placed the box on the bed, then without a word, grabbed me by my upper arm and tugged me towards the bed.

"Stop touching me." I hissed, feeling my anger rising.

Once again, he ignored me, opened the box and took out one of the bottles. Pouring some of the disinfectant or whatever it was onto the gauze, he dabbed it surprisingly gently over my partially healed injuries, making them sting.

I hissed and he paused, glancing up at me as if waiting for permission to continue. "Don't worry, I'm used to pain, I'm sure you don't care if it hurts or not. Why be so gentle when you are rather brutal in general, aren't you?" I snatched the gauze from his hand and roughly scrubbed it down my arm.

My eyes stung as I reopened the injuries that were partially healed. I was clenching my jaw to stop myself from crying out, but I just needed to get this anger out. "Yileyna!"

Theon grabbed my wrist, stopping me from doing further damage to my arm. A flicker of surprise was clear in his eyes.

"Then leave. You've done enough." I spat.

I had never felt so angry at him as I did now.

"What I said earlier-" 1

"You like to hurt me on a daily basis, Theon, and we both know that I'm stupid enough to still put up with you, but to insult me like that to someone else? That, I won't tolerate. I may have agreed to give myself to you, but I have not agreed for you to ruin my reputation. Now get the fuck out, seriously, I think I never should have ever agreed to this arrangement."

His eyes flashed and he smirked coldly.

“I told you, once you’re in, there’s no turning back.” He tossed the gauze on the bed and stood up. “Think what you want, I don’t give a fuck.” +

He left the room, the door shutting behind him with a snap. I cradled my sore arm, trying my best to control my emotions.

He tried to help me... He was cleaning my injuries...

No, he was also being a dick.

I know, deep down, he had his hot and cold moments, but I couldn’t deal with it. Not right now.

Angrily, I pushed the box he had brought in onto the floor, not caring as its contents spilt across the floor and I glared at it in anger. I hate you, Theon.

Turning, I threw myself down on the bed, refusing to cry. I turned on my side, my eyes falling on the coffee that stood on the dresser.

For us...

Feeling guilty, I closed my eyes, trying to make sense of the havoc of emotions inside of me.

I don’t know what I’m doing, I honestly don’t know...

32. My Advice YILEYNA

The following two days, I avoided being alone with Theon like a wolf avoiding silver and wolfsbane. I stayed with Charlene when I could, or locked myself away in my room after having to ask Ailema for a second key.

Theon would train Charlene in the mornings, but I asked Raiden or Ryan to accompany me to watch as well. Theon would make one of the men train with Charlene, but he too didn’t talk to me.

At times I saw him watching me, at others I could feel his intense gaze upon me, but I didn’t entertain him. However, even then, the emotions coursing through me. Every time our eyes connected, I felt the intense rush of desire take my breath away.

Theon was a dangerous addiction and one I was consumed with. I knew if he tried, the chances that he would break my walls once more were high, and so I didn’t even try to rile him up.

Even when Leto begged me to sing along to his sea shanty, I refused. Mom said my voice was beautiful, and she always asked me to sing for her when she was doing the laundry or

something. She used to joke that my voice was too precious to share with others. It wasn't that I didn't enjoy singing, but it reminded me of Mom, and I didn't want Theon to get all possessive.

Charlene was made to stay in her cabin most of the time due to being in dangerous waters, apart from the occasional moments when she was allowed to come above deck or to train, she was kept inside, and I accompanied her, for the most part anyway.

It was obvious Barbara enjoyed this, she spent a lot more time trying to talk to Theon. He would reply, but by the end of the first day, it was obvious he had grown tired of her and made his displeasure clear.

Today the sun was shining and, despite the dark waters beneath us, it felt good to not have to layer so many pieces of clothing on, although it was still rather chilly.

It was early morning, and we had just had breakfast after Charlene had gone through more brutal training at the hands of Theon. I did see what she meant, that sometimes he seemed to look at her with hatred. But it was fleeting and I often doubted if it was just my mind playing tricks, but why would Charlene and I see the same thing?

I do believe he was just venting all his anger out on her.

The jerk seemed to have plenty of it bottled inside, I guess lack of sex might just be making him grumpier. Although, I was sure if he wanted, Barbara was more than willing to cater to his needs. Although that made my chest squeeze, I was not going to let it bother me. We shall see what happens when we return to Westerwell, but right now, I needed some space away from

Theon.

I now leaned on the edge of the ship. I was wearing a white top with a black corset around my waist and pants. I enjoyed the wind blowing through my hair, which Charlene had braided from the top

From here, I could hear the discussion Theon, Flynn, Aeon, Sam, Ryan, and Raiden were having, and it captured my attention. I swear this may sound weird, but my hearing seemed to be getting better lately. ? "I wouldn't advise it." Aeon murmured.

"We need to rest." Sam said, sighing heavily.

"The ship's port side has minor damage; we are almost out of supplies and I don't think we will make it through without stopping." Flynn added. "I get that, but if we stop now,

wouldn't that just cause us further delay if we took a detour off route?" Theon's sexy, emotionless voice came, a voice that made my core knot.

Goddess, please help me get over him. "It might add a few days but there is a small island that we can stop at for supplies. It's a pirate island, if I am honest, but we do need to stop." Flynn reasoned.

Pirate Island? I had a feeling they meant Bellmead... "And delay us by three or so days?" Theon repeated, the irritation in his voice obvious.

"Well, there's no other option. We need to head north-east from here, and then back en route to The Purien Isles so-

"I am not going to stop just for everyone's leisure, we can survive with scarce food until we reach the Isles." Theon cut in icily.

I frowned, Bellmead, so if he's saying north-east... I looked up, staring at the mountains in the distance. An idea came to me, I pushed myself away from the boat edge and walked over to the group.

Squeezing between Sam and Ryan, I looked down at the map they had open before them.

"There's a way that can lead us to Bellmead through the mountain pass; it's wide enough for our ship and safer, plus it won't take time from our journey or delay us, we will still be on course." I put forward, pointing a finger to a narrow mark on the map.

I felt all eyes on me, but I refused to look at Theon, feeling his intense gaze upon me.

"Are you trying to lure us to our death? Going through a narrow pass... what if the ship gets stuck?" His icy voice came. "There could be a cave-in or a blockage on that route."

"No." I said, shaking my head as I looked up at him, probably the first time we were exchanging words since that night. "The pass is wider than it appears, I have studied the rivers and seas around Astalion very deeply, my father made sure I knew every route and I loved to learn about our ocean. That pass is not well known because everyone avoids The Lifeless Abyss."

"I have heard of it, now that you mention it." Ryan frowned, as he looked down at me before massaging his jaw. "I think she's right."

"So, are we going to go into this on blind faith, just to save time?" Flynn added doubtfully. "It's not just the time, it's safer. In a narrower setting, we will be more aware if something big

is coming." I persisted, pointing to the exit through the mountains. "Look, Bellmead Island is here. These mountains do have a pass. See that? That's our exit."

Theon bent down slightly, placing his hand on the map not far *from* mine, his scent filling my nose and my heart skipping a beat.

Focus.

"Are you confident enough, knowing that if you're wrong, everyone dies?" He asked, now looking directly into my eyes.

My heart skipped a beat, knowing the weight of the responsibility of this decision was not a light matter. All life on board would be on me.

"We are risking death by travelling through the Lifeless Abyss directly too." Raiden added in my defence.

"The difference is, I'm ready to take responsibility, is she?" Theon countered coldly.

"Unlike you, I'm not standing here trying to rush this mission at the cost of casualties. I genuinely believe that this would be safest. They say the Siren Kingdoms lay in the thickest and deepest parts of the oceans, by going through the river pass it's safer." I replied confidently. "I may not have a wolf yet, but I am still the daughter of our Beta who-"

"Was a traitor." Ryan muttered. 3 Theon and Raiden's eyes flashed but I didn't react. "Who taught me a lot. Just this once, trust me." I said quietly, now looking at Theon, he was the one that was in charge.

I couldn't read him, but he seemed to be considering it.

"The pass may not be safe." He replied quietly, but I could see he was struggling with something "I think we should do it." Raiden said. "What do you think, Captain?"

"Well, her logic makes sense, If there's a pass." Flynn mused.

"There is." Theon said icily, his eyes on me as if sizing me up. But there was no anger. "We go through the pass, we should reach Bellmead by noon tomorrow." He turned and walked away from the group. I felt confused, I had expected him to get angry, but he hadn't.

"Alright, we are heading to the mountain pass! Towards Bellmead, folks!" Flynn shouted, before turning to me. "Well lassie, I hope you know what you're talking about."

I nodded, hoping I was right. I glanced at Theon, it wasn't like him to be so...quiet. He was standing staring at the mountains in the distance, but it was the look in his eyes that made my stomach twist. It was almost as if he was thinking about something painful

His gaze flicked to mine, and for the first time since I had met him, his eyes looked...troubled. I don't even know if that was the right word, but he looked...upset or something. But it was only there for a few seconds before he turned and vanished down the steps...

A Single Tear

YILEYNA

Raiden had told Charlene and me to head below deck soon after that, I didn't see Theon again. Hours had passed, and when I felt the ship slow and the coldness grow, I knew we had probably reached the pass. "I'm just going to go check on how things are." I told Charlene, standing up. "You shouldn't go out there, it's dangerous." "I told them to take the pass, I should be up there. There's a split several miles in, I just want to make sure they know where they are going." "You told the captain that already." She protested, clearly not wanting me to go up. "I know, but just in case. Don't worry, I'll be fine, my queen." I gave her my best innocent smile, wanting her approval, and after a moment she sighed. "Fine!" She crossed her arms, huffing in annoyance. I winked at her before opening the door, leaving her with the book that she had been reading. "I need a book prince to come to life and keep me company." Charlene pouted as I was about to shut the door. "Oh? Who's the charmer in that one?" I asked curiously. "Declan of House Storm. He is perfect, cocky and mocking, yet charming." Charlene sighed dreamily. 10 "Ah, His Caged Princess." I smiled before shutting the door and walking down the hall, unable to stop the shiver that ran through me. 6

Goddess! It was freezing out here.

I rubbed my arms which were only covered in the thin white cotton of my top. I climbed up onto the deck and looked around. Everyone who was here was silent, so silent that I could hear the water rippling loudly. The few lanterns that were alight didn't help much against the darkness that enveloped us. A few of the men were holding weapons as they looked out at the looming ice mountains that were beginning to close around us. Madelia and Sam were scanning the surroundings sharply, as if ready to use their powers if needs be.

I saw Theon standing next to Flynn at the helm, and I walked towards them. The sound of my heels against the floor and the creaking of wood made a few of them glance at me. The silence was deafening, I could hear my own heartbeat. "You should be below deck." Theon's cold voice came without even turning towards me.

"I just wanted to make sure we take the correct turn ahead. There's two, the other one will be too narrow."

"We know that." Theon replied, his voice suddenly sounding much colder,

33 A Single Lear

"Ok... great..." I turned, ready to walk away, when I made the mistake of looking into his smouldering eyes

A wave of pain rushed through me, I hated how I couldn't live without him, I hated how I wanted his arms around me... his lips on mine. But I also hated how he hurt me with his words, time and again...

"There's a morbid story about this area, one I heard took place years ago." Raiden remarked, coming over and giving me a warm smile.

"A story?" I asked, curious to hear it before I had to go.

I watched him scan the area.

"Yeah, I was trying to remember where I heard of the mountain pass. A long time ago, one of the most haunting tragedies of the sea took place right here. Apparently, a siren single handedly took out all the passengers and crew on board, including an Alpha's Luna and his children."

"Single-handed?" Madelia asked sharply, glancing at Raiden.

"Aiy, I know the story." Flynn scratched his jaw. "But it's hearsay, it isn't confirmed it was here."

I glanced at Theon, who was silent. His back, which was towards us, was rigid as he stared out at the water.

"There are only a few sirens who would have that much power." Cleo responded thoughtfully. "Yes, she must have been from the imperial family then. They say they can control the very sea and even the weather to do their bidding." Bobbie added, his voice ominous in the darkness that surrounded us. 1

"The imperials. The one family that rules the seven seas..." Flynn sighed. "Let's not talk about omens, come on, focus!"

"I'll be back." Theon said quietly to Flynn, his voice as emotionless as ever.

The captain nodded, scanning his crew as he scolded and shouted out a few orders, telling everyone to get back to work. My gaze followed Theon, who was heading towards the back of the ship. He was acting strange... I couldn't stop myself. Even when my legs began carrying me down the path he had just taken with my head screaming at me to stop, I didn't. He was there, leaning against the side, his head

lowered, his back to me. My heart was racing and I wondered what he was thinking, the urge to ask him if everything was ok was on the tip of my lips when he spoke. "What do you want?" I blinked, shaking my head to clear it. I walked over to him, keeping a good three feet between us and leaned against the edge of the boat, tilting my head so I could see his face. "Are you ok? You seem..." I couldn't say upset or stressed; he would deny it. "Tense or

something."

"It's your crazy imagination that thinks that." He replied, his eyes meeting mine. My heart skipped a beat and I nodded, looking away first. "Ok..if you say so. Are you worried about the journey? I have a good feeling that we'll be ok, look we survived a siren attack and a Kraken attack. This is an adventure that one day we can tell others about. You know werewolves prefer land, so there are many who would never have experienced what we have. Adventures to always remember." 1

"Adventures? Are near-death experiences a game to you, Yileyna?"

My heart thudded as I looked at him, not understanding why suddenly anger seemed to rage within him.

"They are conquests that we have come out victorious from." I replied, feeling tense as if I was taking an exam and one wrong word would result in him getting angry. I hated it, and it only told me that I was right. Avoiding Theon was the smartest thing to do. If I had to be careful around someone like this... then that was a big warning in itself.

"Conquests..." He scoffed, his eyes full of contempt as he looked me square in the eye. "And what about those who die? Are they a part of the conquests you speak of?"

I frowned. "No one died. That's why I said they were adventures... Theon, what's wrong?"

"Nothing." He replied coldly, looking away, running his hand through his hair. Something was wrong even if he didn't want to talk about it. "Ok, if you just want to talk ever... I'm here." I said hesitantly, pushing away from the edge, I turned away when he called me. "Yileyna."

I paused, my heart skipping a beat as I turned back towards him. He was still looking out at the water.

"Hmm?"

"What I said to Charlene, it wasn't right." He replied, glancing up at the towering mountains. My eyes widened in surprise, I wasn't expecting that from him. I remained silent. If he wanted to apologise, then I wasn't going to say it was fine. Show me what you've got.

“I know it doesn’t justify what I said, but my intention was never to hurt you.”

“Then what was your intention, Theon?” He moved away from the edge, his dangerously sexy eyes on me as he advanced. “To hurt her.” He replied quietly as he stood before me, towering over me, making my heart thud from a thousand things.

I sighed, shaking my head. “Hurting Charlene, hurts me, just the way attacking me would upset her. So directly or indirectly, you still hurt me.” I said quietly, my voice sounding more breathless than it was

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meant to.

He was standing too close, I needed him to move back but I wasn’t going to move and show him he was getting to me.

“I didn’t mean to.”

Our eyes were locked, and despite a thousand things I wanted to scream at him, I couldn’t. His attempt at an apology had thrown me off. So, I simply nodded. “Don’t do that again.” 1) “I can’t promise that, but I can promise that I will try not to insult you.” His face was emotionless, his eyes hard as he held my gaze. 1)

“Well, I’ll see how long that lasts, but... I don’t think I want to continue with our agreement.” My voice ended in a whisper, the pain in my chest suffocating me. Why did it feel like we were breaking up? We weren’t even together; we didn’t even really go through with our agreement... That night was all we had...

His eyes softened slightly, and he nodded.

“Yeah, I don’t think we should. Like I said, I would destroy you.” His husky reply came, his gaze dipped to my breasts for a moment before he closed the small gap that was left between us. My breath hitched, but before I could put more distance between us, his hands cupped my face.

Neither of us spoke, simply gazing into the other’s eyes. His attention flickered to my lips for a split second.

I knew he could hear my heartbeat and I could hear his... both beating as one.

I didn’t move, my stomach fluttering as we stood there so close... yet so far away. “You’re still the most beautiful woman I’ve seen.” He whispered, before he pressed his lips against mine. 5

A small gasp escaped me, making my eyes flutter shut as pleasure swirled through me like a storm, igniting a thousand emotions within me. His lips moved against mine slowly, as if trying to memorise the feel of my own.

The way his lips felt... the way his touch consumed me... But before I could kiss him back, he had stepped back, letting go of me. "Go below deck." He commanded quietly as our eyes met, once more his were as cold and hard as ever.

He turned and began to walk away, not waiting for a reply, leaving me standing there with a million emotions coursing through me. Why? Why did you show me there's more to you when you pushed me away? I raised a hand to my chest, trying to control the pain I was feeling deep inside. A single tear trickled from my eye. I refuse to cry. Reaching up, I wiped it away and stared down at my fingertip, my teardrop glittering like a single jewel.

Why was something that was caused by pain so beautiful?

"Theon... what are we?" I whispered into the night sky.

"Heaven and Hell." His faint reply came and I froze, not realising he had heard me. 2

I turned just in time to see him vanish around the corner, leaving me feeling so very alone, all over again... (A/N – Today marks exactly one year since I first signed my first ever book on GN, I am hosting a giveaway on my ins ta if anyone wished to follow before I launch it. Thank you)

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance by Moonlight Muse Chapter 32

32. Limits YILEYNA

'Obviously. There's no way a wolf-less female would be worth anything more to me than to be an object to use and discard when I'm done.'

His words rang in my mind, and I sighed as I locked the door quietly behind me. I looked around my cabin, feeling exhausted, and dropped onto the bed. His scent still lingered. I closed my eyes, not wanting to think about anything, but I couldn't stop the thoughts from swirling in my mind. At times, it was as if he cared... and then at others... I curled into a ball, taking deep, steady breaths.

I would not let it affect me.

A light knock on the door made me sigh.

"I'm trying to get some sleep. What is it?" I called out, really not wanting to talk to anyone, but I knew it was Charlene.

"Open up darling." Her soft voice came.

Sighing, I got up, unlocking the door and getting back into bed. I heard the door open and Charlene sigh softly as she locked the door, then sat down on the bed. "I'm angry at you, Leyna." Her soft voice came. I sighed, pulling the blanket down from my face and looked over at her, feeling guilty. "I know." "Theon, want to share?" I sighed and sat up; this was a conversation I knew was going to happen at some point. "Not really." I mumbled, keeping my arms hidden under the blanket. I didn't need her worrying over my injuries. "Since when?" She asked quietly. "Since the festival." I muttered, staring down at the blanket. I heard her gasp, and I looked up to see the wave of sadness in her eyes. "Since then and you didn't tell me?"

"He didn't want anyone to know," I whispered, feeling ever so guilty. "But... not even me?" She asked, I don't think I had ever felt worse. "I'm sorry, I truly am my queen." I whispered. "When I told you he was interested in you, you vehemently denied it!" She exclaimed, as if suddenly remembering that and frowning at me.

"I know! But I'm sorry... Are you... Umm, are you ok with it?" I asked, knowing that she had liked Theon for ages too. "I know it's stupid that I'm asking this now... After stuff happened..."

I felt awful.

"I want to say I am, I mean, I'm jealous too! But I'm just a bit concerned... Are you sure he's serious? I don't want you to get hurt." She replied, ending hesitantly.

His words rang in my mind, and I lay back down. "We have an agreement, it's just physical." I replied quietly. Her eyes softened, and she sighed.

"You know, I would say go get it girl, and enjoy that piece of sexiness while you can, but why do I feel like you will get hurt?" She asked softly.

"I won't, I know he considers me nothing more than trash." I said, feeling my stomach twist at those words.

Then why was I allowing him to have me, when he couldn't even respect me? I remembered our moment from down in the hold, the way he playfully tickled me and licked my foot. Do you do that to someone you consider trash? Maybe? I didn't know.

Charlene moved over and wrapped her arms around me tightly as she slipped under the blanket beside me.

"Goddess, this bed smells of him!" She yelped.

I couldn't resist the smile that cross my lips as I rested my head on her shoulder.

"Well, he did sleep here for a bit." I giggled.

"Wait, did you do the deed in here?!"

"No, relax! We've only done it once."

We didn't do much on this bed, and what we did do, she didn't need to know.

"Once? On the night of the festival?"

I nodded.

"Yeah..."

"So is he good? He seems rough if your neck is anything to go by." She teased. "I can't believe you have actually kissed Theon!" "He is rough." I admitted, staring at the ceiling. "Well, details! Since he is now claimed by my friend, the least you can do is share the details. Wait! Wait... is he big?" She whispered, I blushed and nodded. "Yes, although I haven't really seen it much, it was all just so fast..." I frowned, thinking we had actually only fucked once... For someone who wanted to simply use me, he sure hadn't taken advantage of that. "Well, next time then." She replied with a gentle smile, brushing my hair off my face before

we both snuggled down, letting sleep come to us.

She fell asleep first, whilst I couldn't help but mull over everything that had happened...

Night had fallen and I had stayed in bed, saying I wasn't feeling too great. Ailema had delivered some food, but aside from that, I had decided to stay in my *room*. I just needed a little space, if Patrick and Valentin knew about us, then I was sure the rest of those from the Silver Storm pack knew as well.

I had kept my arms under the blanket, but I knew I needed to get up and make sure there were no splinters from the wooden crates stuck in my arms. Charlene had spent most of the afternoon with me, but I had lied that I was feeling a little under the weather, and she had left me when night had come. Raiden had popped in earlier to ask how I was doing, but I hadn't entertained him for long, just wanting to clear my mind and be alone.

The lantern cast shadows on the wall from where it hung in a bracket, the slight sway of the ship was lulling me to sleep when I heard the door open and shut, followed by the key scraping in the lock

My eyes snapped to the door, all traces of sleep vanishing, and I sat up sharply. My eyebrows furrowed when I saw it was none other than Theon. "I'm not feeling great, I don't have time to entertain you." I said, trying to keep my voice level. "Then don't." Came his short reply. "I want to be alone." I added icily, sitting up.

I frowned, looking at the two mugs of what smelled like coffee he was holding on a small tray.

Don't fall for it.

I kept chanting that in my head. He placed the two mugs down and crossed his arms as he crouched beside the bed.

"Everyone is saying you're not well. What's wrong with you? You look perfectly fine to me."

I gave him a withering glare.

"That's because all you see is the fact I'm sat here with intact boobs and a vagina. That's all you care about." I hissed, raising my arms and showing my arms that were still not fully healed from when I had protected his head. "Now if you can show yourself out, I'm not in the mood."

His amber eyes were on my arms, and to my irritation, he took hold of them, twisting my arms in front of him so he could get a look at the injuries. He brushed his thumb gently over the part that had almost healed, sending little tingles through me.

Not this time.

I yanked free from his hold.

"Leave." I commanded coldly, glaring into his eyes.

How could amber eyes that were such a beautiful shade, look so cold?

"No."

He took hold of my right arm, frowning as he looked down at it, this one was worse. "Why didn't you get these checked?" "Theon, you can stop pretending to care." I whispered, pulling out of his hold. His eyes met mine, but I looked away, trying to mask my emotions the best I could.

He stood up and I lay down, pulling the blanket over my head. The hollow emptiness in my chest was excruciating, but I wanted him gone. I heard the door open and shut. I kicked the blanket off, rushing to lock the door, only to see he had taken the key. I clenched my jaw, irritation seeping through me.

Should I go get it back, or is that what he wanted?

As I struggled to decide what to do, the door opened again and to my utter dismay, he was back, holding a small box. He shut and locked the door, slipping the key into his pocket, only making me even angrier. He placed the box on the bed, then without a word, grabbed me by my upper arm and tugged me towards the bed.

“Stop touching me.” I hissed, feeling my anger rising.

Once again, he ignored me, opened the box and took out one of the bottles. Pouring some of the disinfectant or whatever it was onto the gauze, he dabbed it surprisingly gently over my partially healed injuries, making them sting.

I hissed and he paused, glancing up at me as if waiting for permission to continue. “Don’t worry, I’m used to pain, I’m sure you don’t care if it hurts or not. Why be so gentle when you are rather brutal in general, aren’t you?” I snatched the gauze from his hand and roughly scrubbed it down my arm.

My eyes stung as I reopened the injuries that were partially healed. I was clenching my jaw to stop myself from crying out, but I just needed to get this anger out. “Yileyna!”

Theon grabbed my wrist, stopping me from doing further damage to my arm. A flicker of surprise was clear in his eyes.

“Then leave. You’ve done enough.” I spat.

I had never felt so angry at him as I did now.

“What I said earlier-” 1

“You like to hurt me on a daily basis, Theon, and we both know that I’m stupid enough to still put up with you, but to insult me like that to someone else? That, I won’t tolerate. I may have agreed to give myself to you, but I have not agreed for you to ruin my reputation. Now get the fuck out, seriously, I think I never should have ever agreed to this arrangement.”

His eyes flashed and he smirked coldly.

“I told you, once you’re in, there’s no turning back.” He tossed the gauze on the bed and stood up. “Think what you want, I don’t give a fuck.” +

He left the room, the door shutting behind him with a snap. I cradled my sore arm, trying my best to control my emotions.

He tried to help me... He was cleaning my injuries...

No, he was also being a dick.

I know, deep down, he had his hot and cold moments, but I couldn't deal with it. Not right now.

Angrily, I pushed the box he had brought in onto the floor, not caring as its contents spilt across the floor and I glared at it in anger. I hate you, Theon.

Turning, I threw myself down on the bed, refusing to cry. I turned on my side, my eyes falling on the coffee that stood on the dresser.

For us...

Feeling guilty, I closed my eyes, trying to make sense of the havoc of emotions inside of me.

I don't know what I'm doing, I honestly don't know...

32. My Advice YILEYNA

The following two days, I avoided being alone with Theon like a wolf avoiding silver and wolfsbane. I stayed with Charlene when I could, or locked myself away in my room after having to ask Ailema for a second key.

Theon would train Charlene in the mornings, but I asked Raiden or Ryan to accompany me to watch as well. Theon would make one of the men train with Charlene, but he too didn't talk to me.

At times I saw him watching me, at others I could feel his intense gaze upon me, but I didn't entertain him. However, even then, the emotions coursing through me. Every time our eyes connected, I felt the intense rush of desire take my breath away.

Theon was a dangerous addiction and one I was consumed with. I knew if he tried, the chances that he would break my walls once more were high, and so I didn't even try to rile him up.

Even when Leto begged me to sing along to his sea shanty, I refused. Mom said my voice was beautiful, and she always asked me to sing for her when she was doing the laundry or

something. She used to joke that my voice was too precious to share with others. It wasn't that I didn't enjoy singing, but it reminded me of Mom, and I didn't want Theon to get all possessive.

Charlene was made to stay in her cabin most of the time due to being in dangerous waters, apart from the occasional moments when she was allowed to come above deck or to train, she was kept inside, and I accompanied her, for the most part anyway.

It was obvious Barbara enjoyed this, she spent a lot more time trying to talk to Theon. He would reply, but by the end of the first day, it was obvious he had grown tired of her and made his displeasure clear.

Today the sun was shining and, despite the dark waters beneath us, it felt good to not have to layer so many pieces of clothing on, although it was still rather chilly.

It was early morning, and we had just had breakfast after Charlene had gone through more brutal training at the hands of Theon. I did see what she meant, that sometimes he seemed to look at her with hatred. But it was fleeting and I often doubted if it was just my mind playing tricks, but why would Charlene and I see the same thing?

I do believe he was just venting all his anger out on her.

The jerk seemed to have plenty of it bottled inside, I guess lack of sex might just be making him grumpier. Although, I was sure if he wanted, Barbara was more than willing to cater to his needs. Although that made my chest squeeze, I was not going to let it bother me. We shall see what happens when we return to Westerwell, but right now, I needed some space away from

Theon.

I now leaned on the edge of the ship. I was wearing a white top with a black corset around my waist and pants. I enjoyed the wind blowing through my hair, which Charlene had braided from the top

From here, I could hear the discussion Theon, Flynn, Aeon, Sam, Ryan, and Raiden were having, and it captured my attention. I swear this may sound weird, but my hearing seemed to be getting better lately. ? "I wouldn't advise it." Aeon murmured.

"We need to rest." Sam said, sighing heavily.

"The ship's port side has minor damage; we are almost out of supplies and I don't think we will make it through without stopping." Flynn added. "I get that, but if we stop now, wouldn't that just cause us further delay if we took a detour off route?" Theon's sexy, emotionless voice came, a voice that made my core knot.

Goddess, please help me get over him. "It might add a few days but there is a small island that we can stop at for supplies. It's a pirate island, if I am honest, but we do need to stop." Flynn reasoned.

Pirate Island? I had a feeling they meant Bellmead... "And delay us by three or so days?" Theon repeated, the irritation in his voice obvious.

"Well, there's no other option. We need to head north-east from here, and then back en route to The Purien Isles so-

"I am not going to stop just for everyone's leisure, we can survive with scarce food until we reach the Isles." Theon cut in icily.

I frowned, Bellmead, so if he's saying north-east... I looked up, staring at the mountains in the distance. An idea came to me, I pushed myself away from the boat edge and walked over to the group.

Squeezing between Sam and Ryan, I looked down at the map they had open before them.

"There's a way that can lead us to Bellmead through the mountain pass; it's wide enough for our ship and safer, plus it won't take time from our journey or delay us, we will still be on course." I put forward, pointing a finger to a narrow mark on the map.

I felt all eyes on me, but I refused to look at Theon, feeling his intense gaze upon me.

"Are you trying to lure us to our death? Going through a narrow pass... what if the ship gets stuck?" His icy voice came. "There could be a cave-in or a blockage on that route."

"No." I said, shaking my head as I looked up at him, probably the first time we were exchanging words since that night. "The pass is wider than it appears, I have studied the rivers and seas around Astalion very deeply, my father made sure I knew every route and I loved to learn about our ocean. That pass is not well known because everyone avoids The Lifeless Abyss."

"I have heard of it, now that you mention it." Ryan frowned, as he looked down at me before massaging his jaw. "I think she's right."

"So, are we going to go into this on blind faith, just to save time?" Flynn added doubtfully. "It's not just the time, it's safer. In a narrower setting, we will be more aware if something big

is coming." I persisted, pointing to the exit through the mountains. "Look, Bellmead Island is here. These mountains do have a pass. See that? That's our exit."

Theon bent down slightly, placing his hand on the map not far *from* mine, his scent filling my nose and my heart skipping a beat.

Focus.

“Are you confident enough, knowing that if you’re wrong, everyone dies?” He asked, now looking directly into my eyes.

My heart skipped a beat, knowing the weight of the responsibility of this decision was not a light matter. All life on board would be on me.

“We are risking death by travelling through the Lifeless Abyss directly too.” Raiden added in my defence.

“The difference is, I’m ready to take responsibility, is she?” Theon countered coldly.

“Unlike you, I’m not standing here trying to rush this mission at the cost of casualties. I genuinely believe that this would be safest. They say the Siren Kingdoms lay in the thickest and deepest parts of the oceans, by going through the river pass it’s safer.” I replied confidently. “I may not have a wolf yet, but I am still the daughter of our Beta who-”

“Was a traitor.” Ryan muttered. 3 Theon and Raiden’s eyes flashed but I didn’t react. “Who taught me a lot. Just this once, trust me.” I said quietly, now looking at Theon, he was the one that was in charge.

I couldn’t read him, but he seemed to be considering it.

“The pass may not be safe.” He replied quietly, but I could see he was struggling with something “I think we should do it.” Raiden said. “What do you think, Captain?”

“Well, her logic makes sense, If there’s a pass.” Flynn mused.

“There is.” Theon said icily, his eyes on me as if sizing me up. But there was no anger. “We go through the pass, we should reach Bellmead by noon tomorrow.” He turned and walked away from the group. I felt confused, I had expected him to get angry, but he hadn’t.

“Alright, we are heading to the mountain pass! Towards Bellmead, folks!” Flynn shouted, before turning to me. “Well lassie, I hope you know what you’re talking about.”

I nodded, hoping I was right. I glanced at Theon, it wasn’t like him to be so...quiet. He was standing staring at the mountains in the distance, but it was the look in his eyes that made my stomach twist. It was almost as if he was thinking about something painful

His gaze flicked to mine, and for the first time since I had met him, his eyes looked...troubled. I don’t even know if that was the right word, but he looked... upset or something. But it was only there for a few seconds before he turned and vanished down the steps...

A Single Tear

YILEYNA

Raiden had told Charlene and me to head below deck soon after that, I didn't see Theon again. Hours had passed, and when I felt the ship slow and the coldness grow, I knew we had probably reached the pass. "I'm just going to go check on how things are." I told Charlene, standing up. "You shouldn't go out there, it's dangerous." "I told them to take the pass, I should be up there. There's a split several miles in, I just want to make sure they know where they are going." "You told the captain that already." She protested, clearly not wanting me to go up. "I know, but just in case. Don't worry, I'll be fine, my queen." I gave her my best innocent smile, wanting her approval, and after a moment she sighed. "Fine!" She crossed her arms, huffing in annoyance. I winked at her before opening the door, leaving her with the book that she had been reading. "I need a book prince to come to life and keep me company." Charlene pouted as I was about to shut the door. "Oh? Who's the charmer in that one?" I asked curiously. "Declan of House Storm. He is perfect, cocky and mocking, yet charming." Charlene sighed dreamily. 10 "Ah, His Caged Princess." I smiled before shutting the door and walking down the hall, unable to stop the shiver that ran through me. 6

Goddess! It was freezing out here.

I rubbed my arms which were only covered in the thin white cotton of my top. I climbed up onto the deck and looked around. Everyone who was here was silent, so silent that I could hear the water rippling loudly. The few lanterns that were alight didn't help much against the darkness that enveloped us. A few of the men were holding weapons as they looked out at the looming ice mountains that were beginning to close around us. Madelia and Sam were scanning the surroundings sharply, as if ready to use their powers if needs be.

I saw Theon standing next to Flynn at the helm, and I walked towards them. The sound of my heels against the floor and the creaking of wood made a few of them glance at me. The silence was deafening, I could hear my own heartbeat. "You should be below deck." Theon's cold voice came without even turning towards me.

"I just wanted to make sure we take the correct turn ahead. There's two, the other one will be too narrow."

"We know that." Theon replied, his voice suddenly sounding much colder,

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"Ok... great..." I turned, ready to walk away, when I made the mistake of looking into his smouldering eyes

A wave of pain rushed through me, I hated how I couldn't live without him, I hated how I wanted his arms around me... his lips on mine. But I also hated how he hurt me with his words, time and again...

“There’s a morbid story about this area, one I heard took place years ago.” Raiden remarked, coming over and giving me a warm smile.

“A story?” I asked, curious to hear it before I had to go.

I watched him scan the area.

“Yeah, I was trying to remember where I heard of the mountain pass. A long time ago, one of the most haunting tragedies of the sea took place right here. Apparently, a siren single handedly took out all the passengers and crew on board, including an Alpha’s Luna and his children.”

“Single-handed?” Madelia asked sharply, glancing at Raiden.

“Aiy, I know the story.” Flynn scratched his jaw. “But it’s hearsay, it isn’t confirmed it was here.”

I glanced at Theon, who was silent. His back, which was towards us, was rigid as he stared out at the water.

“There are only a few sirens who would have that much power.” Cleo responded thoughtfully. “Yes, she must have been from the imperial family then. They say they can control the very sea and even the weather to do their bidding.” Bobbie added, his voice ominous in the darkness that surrounded us. 1

“The imperials. The one family that rules the seven seas...” Flynn sighed. “Let’s not talk about omens, come on, focus!”

“I’ll be back.” Theon said quietly to Flynn, his voice as emotionless as ever.

The captain nodded, scanning his crew as he scolded and shouted out a few orders, telling everyone to get back to work. My gaze followed Theon, who was heading towards the back of the ship. He was acting strange... I couldn’t stop myself. Even when my legs began carrying me down the path he had just taken with my head screaming at me to stop, I didn’t. He was there, leaning against the side, his head lowered, his back to me. My heart was racing and I wondered what he was thinking, the urge to ask him if everything was ok was on the tip of my lips when he spoke. “What do you want?” I blinked, shaking my head to clear it. I walked over to him, keeping a good three feet between us and leaned against the edge of the boat, tilting my head so I could see his face. “Are you ok? You seem...” I couldn’t say upset or stressed; he would deny it. “Tense or

something.”

“It’s your crazy imagination that thinks that.” He replied, his eyes meeting mine. My heart skipped a beat and I nodded, looking away first. “Ok..if you say so. Are you

worried about the journey? I have a good feeling that we'll be ok, look we survived a siren attack and a Kraken attack. This is an adventure that one day we can tell others about. You know werewolves prefer land, so there are many who would never have experienced what we have. Adventures to always remember." 1

"Adventures? Are near-death experiences a game to you, Yileyna?"

My heart thudded as I looked at him, not understanding why suddenly anger seemed to rage within him.

"They are conquests that we have come out victorious from." I replied, feeling tense as if I was taking an exam and one wrong word would result in him getting angry. I hated it, and it only told me that I was right. Avoiding Theon was the smartest thing to do. If I had to be careful around someone like this... then that was a big warning in itself.

"Conquests..." He scoffed, his eyes full of contempt as he looked me square in the eye.

"And what about those who die? Are they a part of the conquests you speak of?"

I frowned. "No one died. That's why I said they were adventures... Theon, what's wrong?"

"Nothing." He replied coldly, looking away, running his hand through his hair. Something was wrong even if he didn't want to talk about it. "Ok, if you just want to talk ever... I'm here." I said hesitantly, pushing away from the edge, I turned away when he called me.

"Yileyna."

I paused, my heart skipping a beat as I turned back towards him. He was still looking out at the water.

"Hmm?"

"What I said to Charlene, it wasn't right." He replied, glancing up at the towering mountains. My eyes widened in surprise, I wasn't expecting that from him. I remained silent. If he wanted to apologise, then I wasn't going to say it was fine. Show me what you've got.

"I know it doesn't justify what I said, but my intention was never to hurt you."

"Then what was your intention, Theon?" He moved away from the edge, his dangerously sexy eyes on me as he advanced. "To hurt her." He replied quietly as he stood before me, towering over me, making my heart thud from a thousand things.

I sighed, shaking my head. "Hurting Charlene, hurts me, just the way attacking me would upset her. So directly or indirectly, you still hurt me." I said quietly, my voice sounding more breathless than it was

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He was standing too close, I needed him to move back but I wasn't going to move and show him he was getting to me.

"I didn't mean to."

Our eyes were locked, and despite a thousand things I wanted to scream at him, I couldn't. His attempt at an apology had thrown me off. So, I simply nodded. "Don't do that again." 1) "I can't promise that, but I can promise that I will try not to insult you." His face was emotionless, his eyes hard as he held my gaze. 1)

"Well, I'll see how long that lasts, but... I don't think I want to continue with our agreement." My voice ended in a whisper, the pain in my chest suffocating me. Why did it feel like we were breaking up? We weren't even together; we didn't even really go through with our agreement... That night was all we had...

His eyes softened slightly, and he nodded.

"Yeah, I don't think we should. Like I said, I would destroy you." His husky reply came, his gaze dipped to my breasts for a moment before he closed the small gap that was left between us. My breath hitched, but before I could put more distance between us, his hands cupped my face.

Neither of us spoke, simply gazing into the other's eyes. His attention flickered to my lips for a split second.

I knew he could hear my heartbeat and I could hear his... both beating as one.

I didn't move, my stomach fluttering as we stood there so close... yet so far away. "You're still the most beautiful woman I've seen." He whispered, before he pressed his lips against mine. 5

A small gasp escaped me, making my eyes flutter shut as pleasure swirled through me like a storm, igniting a thousand emotions within me. His lips moved against mine slowly, as if trying to memorise the feel of my own.

The way his lips felt... the way his touch consumed me... But before I could kiss him back, he had stepped back, letting go of me. "Go below deck." He commanded quietly as our eyes met, once more his were as cold and hard as ever.

He turned and began to walk away, not waiting for a reply, leaving me standing there with a million emotions coursing through me. Why? Why did you show me there's more to you when you pushed me away? I raised a hand to my chest, trying to control the pain I was feeling deep inside. A single tear trickled from my eye. I refuse to cry.

Reaching up, I wiped it away and stared down at my fingertip, my teardrop glittering like a single jewel.

Why was something that was caused by pain so beautiful?

“Theon... what are we?” I whispered into the night sky.

“Heaven and Hell.” His faint reply came and I froze, not realising he had heard me. 2

I turned just in time to see him vanish around the corner, leaving me feeling so very alone, all over again... (A/N – Today marks exactly one year since I first signed my first ever book on GN, I am hosting a giveaway on my ins ta if anyone wished to follow before I launch it. Thank you)

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance by Moonlight Muse Chapter 33

A Single Tear

YILEYNA

Raiden had told Charlene and me to head below deck soon after that, I didn't see Theon again. Hours had passed, and when I felt the ship slow and the coldness grow, I knew we had probably reached the pass. “I'm just going to go check on how things are.” I told Charlene, standing up. “You shouldn't go out there, it's dangerous.” “I told them to take the pass, I should be up there. There's a split several miles in, I just want to make sure they know where they are going.” “You told the captain that already.” She protested, clearly not wanting me to go up. “I know, but just in case. Don't worry, I'll be fine, my queen.” I gave her my best innocent smile, wanting her approval, and after a moment she sighed. “Fine!” She crossed her arms, huffing in annoyance. I winked at her before opening the door, leaving her with the book that she had been reading. “I need a book prince to come to life and keep me company.” Charlene pouted as I was about to shut the door. “Oh? Who's the charmer in that one?” I asked curiously. “Declan of House Storm. He is perfect, cocky and mocking, yet charming.” Charlene sighed dreamily. 10 “Ah, His Caged Princess.” I smiled before shutting the door and walking down the hall, unable to stop the shiver that ran through me. 6

Goddess! It was freezing out here.

I rubbed my arms which were only covered in the thin white cotton of my top. I climbed up onto the deck and looked around. Everyone who was here was silent, so silent that I could hear the water rippling loudly. The few lanterns that were alight didn't help much against the darkness that enveloped us. A few of the men were holding weapons as they looked out at the looming ice mountains that were beginning to close around us.

Madelia and Sam were scanning the surroundings sharply, as if ready to use their powers if needs be.

I saw Theon standing next to Flynn at the helm, and I walked towards them. The sound of my heels against the floor and the creaking of wood made a few of them glance at me. The silence was deafening, I could hear my own heartbeat. "You should be below deck." Theon's cold voice came without even turning towards me.

"I just wanted to make sure we take the correct turn ahead. There's two, the other one will be too narrow."

"We know that." Theon replied, his voice suddenly sounding much colder,

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"Ok... great..." I turned, ready to walk away, when I made the mistake of looking into his smouldering eyes

A wave of pain rushed through me, I hated how I couldn't live without him, I hated how I wanted his arms around me... his lips on mine. But I also hated how he hurt me with his words, time and again...

"There's a morbid story about this area, one I heard took place years ago." Raiden remarked, coming over and giving me a warm smile.

"A story?" I asked, curious to hear it before I had to go.

I watched him scan the area.

"Yeah, I was trying to remember where I heard of the mountain pass. A long time ago, one of the most haunting tragedies of the sea took place right here. Apparently, a siren single handedly took out all the passengers and crew on board, including an Alpha's Luna and his children."

"Single-handed?" Madelia asked sharply, glancing at Raiden.

"Aiy, I know the story." Flynn scratched his jaw. "But it's hearsay, it isn't confirmed it was here."

I glanced at Theon, who was silent. His back, which was towards us, was rigid as he stared out at the water.

"There are only a few sirens who would have that much power." Cleo responded thoughtfully. "Yes, she must have been from the imperial family then. They say they can control the very sea and even the weather to do their bidding." Bobbie added, his voice ominous in the darkness that surrounded us. 1

"The imperials. The one family that rules the seven seas..." Flynn sighed. "Let's not talk about omens, come on, focus!"

"I'll be back." Theon said quietly to Flynn, his voice as emotionless as ever.

The captain nodded, scanning his crew as he scolded and shouted out a few orders, telling everyone to get back to work. My gaze followed Theon, who was heading towards the back of the ship. He was acting strange... I couldn't stop myself. Even when my legs began carrying me down the path he had just taken with my head screaming at me to stop, I didn't. He was there, leaning against the side, his head lowered, his back to me. My heart was racing and I wondered what he was thinking, the urge to ask him if everything was ok was on the tip of my lips when he spoke. "What do you want?" I blinked, shaking my head to clear it. I walked over to him, keeping a good three feet between us and leaned against the edge of the boat, tilting my head so I could see his face. "Are you ok? You seem..." I couldn't say upset or stressed; he would deny it. "Tense or

something."

"It's your crazy imagination that thinks that." He replied, his eyes meeting mine. My heart skipped a beat and I nodded, looking away first. "Ok..if you say so. Are you worried about the journey? I have a good feeling that we'll be ok, look we survived a siren attack and a Kraken attack. This is an adventure that one day we can tell others about. You know werewolves prefer land, so there are many who would never have experienced what we have. Adventures to always remember." 1

"Adventures? Are near-death experiences a game to you, Yileyna?"

My heart thudded as I looked at him, not understanding why suddenly anger seemed to rage within him.

"They are conquests that we have come out victorious from." I replied, feeling tense as if I was taking an exam and one wrong word would result in him getting angry. I hated it, and it only told me that I was right. Avoiding Theon was the smartest thing to do. If I had to be careful around someone like this... then that was a big warning in itself.

"Conquests..." He scoffed, his eyes full of contempt as he looked me square in the eye. "And what about those who die? Are they a part of the conquests you speak of?"

I frowned. "No one died. That's why I said they were adventures... Theon, what's wrong?"

"Nothing." He replied coldly, looking away, running his hand through his hair. Something was wrong even if he didn't want to talk about it. "Ok, if you just want to talk ever... I'm here." I said hesitantly, pushing away from the edge, I turned away when he called me. "Yileyna."

I paused, my heart skipping a beat as I turned back towards him. He was still looking out at the water.

“Hmm?”

“What I said to Charlene, it wasn’t right.” He replied, glancing up at the towering mountains. My eyes widened in surprise, I wasn’t expecting that from him. I remained silent. If he wanted to apologise, then I wasn’t going to say it was fine. Show me what you’ve got.

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My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance by Moonlight Muse Chapter 35

Down A Cobbled Street YILEYNA

The journey through the pass had been uneventful and everyone was beyond surprised at that. The tension had grown as the hours had passed, but I was just relieved that there had not been any attacks. We had reached Bellmead just before sunset the following day and would spend the night at a local inn.

The crew were dealing with mending the minor damage to the ship's exterior, and those from the Silver Storm pack would spend the night in the inn, whilst half the crew would stay on the ship to make sure no one sneaks aboard.

Theon had made it clear to everyone that no one was to discuss our journey, where we were headed or where we were from. To keep it vague and simply state that we were from Astalion if anyone asked.

The town itself was small, and on every corner, there were people leering at us. Curiosity and suspicion had been clear in their eyes from the moment we stepped off that ship.

Theon had taken the lead, with Charlene and I right behind him, and the others had flanked us. I wish I wasn't squashed in the middle, curious to observe the little island.

We had ordered some dinner downstairs before we retreated to our rooms to rest and have a proper hot bath.

It was now night, the sounds of violins and a woman singing seeped through the cracks in the window. There was a tavern just across the cobbled street where the music was coming from.

I had napped at first, allowing Madelia and Charlene, with whom I was sharing a room with, to bathe first.

"Can we go to the Tavern?" I asked, tilting my head as I peered through the window, towel drying my hair. "The princess needs to stay here." Madelia replied, smiling slightly. "You go." Charlene added with a knowing smile.

I pouted hesitantly.

"I'm sure Commander Theon wouldn't approve." Madelia added, after a moment's pause.

I knew the four guards were on duty too, I'm sure if I went for a bit no one would notice.

"He will be fine as long as Charlene is here, I just want to explore the streets a bit, I'll make sure to stick to areas that are busy. Fear not, I just want to have a little look around."

She nodded and didn't argue. After all, I was no longer of any importance. I wasn't complaining because I could handle myself if something came up, and like a child allowed to go to the candy shop, I quickly got dressed in a white buttoned shirt with balloon sleeves that I tucked into grey wide-legged pants. I wrapped my damp hair into a bun on top of my head before sliding two small daggers into my boots. I picked up my pouch, putting in some essential items and my purse of coins, deciding that I would buy

something as a souvenir from here. Who knows if I'll ever visit Bellmead again. I left the room, slipping the bag over my head, letting the strap sit comfortably between my breasts as I left our room.

"Where are you going?" Patrick asked wearily. "Just for a walk. Take care of Charlene." I said quickly before I walked off, hoping they didn't push further.

Stepping out onto the cobbled streets, I was welcomed with a cold breeze. The ground glistened due to the rain from earlier, I could feel a very faint sprinkle still falling but it was not enough to dampen anyone's spirits. The weather was typical for Bellmead.

The smell of smoke, cigars, and something or other cooking, filled my nose, and I was unable to stop the smile that crossed my lips. Excitement filled me as I began to stroll down the streets. Peering into the open shops, it was obvious Bellmead was a trading point and many of those trades were of illegal items. Items that were probably stolen, rare, or forbidden to sell.

I stuck to the open traders, but even then the 'charms' and items all seemed rather strange or suspicious, so in the end I simply chose a notebook each for Charlene and me. The covers were made of special Fae material that seemed to sparkle whenever it caught the light:

I ignored the obvious stares and the vulgar comments that were thrown at me by the men, most of whom were drunk. This was not a werewolf town, and deep down it was nice to see this much diversity in one place, even if most of the men were pigs.

Back in Westerwell, even though it was the capital, it was still mainly a werewolf city.

"That's fourteen gold coins each." The man behind the counter told me.

"Fourteen each? That's crazy, I won't pay more than seven each!" I stared at the diaries in my hand, I knew he was ripping me off. "Look lady, these things aren't cheap. That is material made only in the fae kingdoms. Either you take it or-" "That's fine. I won't buy them then. Here you go. Thank you for your time." I replied, placing the diaries down without even a moment of hesitation.

No matter how much I wanted them, I was not paying twenty-eight coins for them! Besides, I know how these traders worked.

Three... two...

"Alright, alright! Come back, woman!" The man growled and I smirked, schooling my face into innocence before I spun around and raised an eyebrow questioningly.

"Yes?"

“Ten gold each.”

I shook my head. “I’m afraid I only have eighteen coins on me.” I sighed. “It’s fine, I don’t need them.” I smiled innocently, about to turn away again, when he slammed his fist on his table of items, making them all rattle.

“Deal then, eighteen for both!”

I paused not wanting to make it look like I was eager.

“Sixteen, I need to buy something else too.” I crossed my arms. “How about eighteen, and I will throw in this locket?” He held up a pretty pendant, but it wasn’t exactly what I was looking for. However, I had pushed enough, eighteen for both plus the locket was fair, I guess. “Alright then, you’ve robbed me.” I grumbled dramatically, making sure not to let my purse tinkle as I took out eighteen golds. “Now I only have a few silvers left” I sighed.

“I robbed you? You robbed me!”

“Well, you insisted I purchase from you.” He frowned, wrapping the books in a square of brown paper. “Aiy, I couldn’t let a pretty customer just walk off.” He muttered, clearly not pleased. “Oh, how sweet. You really are a true gentleman, and those are very hard to come by.” I batted my eyelids, and to my surprise, his cheeks flushed. I resisted a chuckle. “Not really aiy... but yes, I say the same to my woman back home.”

Men were so fickle.

“Thank you for these. I will remember your kindness.” I said, taking the parcel he had just wrapped and waving, I walked off. It was then I realised I had ventured rather far out.

I best turn and head to the tavern for a good tankard of mead or rum! That would let me sleep well in a much more comfortable bed.

It was a few minutes later and I was making my way back, I was going through the streets when I stopped, it felt as if someone had called me. I looked around, but save the sounds of chatter, shouting and drunken songs, there was nothing more...

Strange...

Shaking my head, I continued walking when I stopped, turning my attention down a narrower cobbled path. My mind was telling me to head to the tavern, but my instincts were telling me to walk down that dark alley.

I hesitated, trying to brush the feeling off again, but it came even stronger. No, I had to check this out. 2

I silently hurried down the path, not even stopping, just following my instinct. Goddess did I wish I had the mind link.

Wait, I should do this carefully... I took out my two daggers, placing my package on the ground in a niche between two walls for safe keeping before I continued down the dark streets.

The sound of the men on the streets and music had faded to a distant hum, soon it even stopped. I carried on, and by now I had forgotten where I was going or my way back I stopped, looking around, wondering if I should turn back, when suddenly a strangled sob reached my ears. My heart thumped as I spun back around. There was someone down there A mix of terrifying thoughts filled my head and I silently hurried along, trying to keep my heartbeat as calm as possible, praying that it was just someone who had hurt themselves, but the moment I heard the sound of gruff laughter, my stomach sank. The worst thought was coming to me.

Nikolai and Kyson's faces leered in my head, making me feel sick. I slowed down when I saw the glow of light ahead. Keeping close to the walls, I peered out into the small opening. "That's it, get that one right there." One of the men muttered. A muffled shriek of pain followed. "Oh shut her the fuck up!" Another rough voice came. It took me a moment to realise what was happening and to comprehend the scene before me. My eyes widened in horror. Tied to a post, her arms twisted behind the post and a cloth in her mouth, tears streaming down her cheeks, was none other than a Siren. But unlike the ones I had seen before she was smaller, perhaps around twelve or thirteen. Her long brown hair fell in her face but what made my stomach twist sickeningly was the blood that pooled heavily around her on the ground. Poachers. Although killing Sirens was encouraged, taking their scales was a crime, but they were sold for high prices on the black market. Her fin was nailed to the ground, making me flinch, and to top it off, two of the men were bent down next to her as they ripped out her shimmering green scales. I clamped a hand over my mouth. Yes sirens were monsters, but this was wrong... They should have killed her first. This was not right... Suddenly, her green eyes snapped to mine, and despite her being gagged, I heard her voice as clearly as if she was standing next to me. Her soft, whispery voice resonated in my head. 1

'Help me.