

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 55

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 55. A Cold Morning YILEYNA

I awoke to find the bed empty, feeling a pang of pain inside of me. I know he had a lot to do, but I did wish I could at least wake up to him next to me, even if it was just occasionally.

My entire body felt sore and achy, yet the lightness that I felt in my chest was immeasurable.

A smile played on my lips and my cheeks burned as I thought of last night. It had been different, and even if I was blindfolded, it only heightened my other senses. I felt as if we had somehow become closer. It was almost as if we had opened ourselves to one another in an entirely new way.

I was sure Theon felt something much more for me than he admitted. He couldn't put it into words, but I was positive he was falling for me. I smiled happily, hugging the blanket to my chest. He had cleaned me too. No one did that unless they truly cared. I closed my eyes for a moment, feeling utterly happy and content. My Theon... just like I was his... My heart leapt when I heard the sound of movement in the other room, and I jolted upright, wincing at how sore my behind and core felt.

He was home!

I kicked the blanket off and quickly got out of bed, almost falling over my legs that felt like jelly. I opened the drawer to grab a shirt or something to put on, when I realised it was half empty. I frowned. Most of Theon's clothes were missing... Feeling confused, I pulled on a t-shirt before I closed the wardrobe and pulled the curtains open. The window was entirely frosted, and from what I could see outside, the snow was still falling strongly and it was extremely windy. I stripped the bedding, the stains from last night a reminder of everything that we had done here. I don't think I'll be able to come into this room without remembering it. My heart skipped a beat as I held the bundled bedding in my arms and made my way to the bedroom door

I opened it, to see Theon standing over a trunk, wearing black pants and a black shirt, which hung open, and his hair brushed back. He turned his gorgeous amber eyes towards where I stood, his eyes trailing over me, and I could feel my cheeks burning up under his gaze. It was almost as if he was undressing me entirely, and the shirt I was wearing suddenly felt too small...

My heart skipped a thousand beats when our eyes locked. "Morning." I said, my stomach all fluttery.

"Morning." He replied, his deep sexy voice making me feel giddy. Goddess, what was going on? I was feeling even more nervous than usual... He turned back to the trunk and tossed in some clothes. I frowned, remembering the wardrobe that was partially empty.

"Are you going somewhere?" I asked, walking over to him.

There was over a foot difference in height between us, and although I wanted to pull him down and kiss him, he had turned back to the trunk.

"I'm going to be moving to the castle for a while. I have to take the Beta title soon. The ceremony should be coming up and then my workload will increase. It makes sense for me to take up my old room at the castle." He replied, his voice emotionless and cold. My stomach sank at those words, and deep down I wondered if he'd invite me too. "So, do you mean permanently?" I asked, taking the clothes he was shoving in and beginning to fold them.

My eyes fell to the red welts on my arms where he had tied me up. They were fading, yet the reminder of what happened remained. Making an illicit desire throb in my lower regions.

"Pretty much, you can keep staying here. No one will remove you." I froze, my heart thundering at what he had just said. Why did that sound like... It didn't sound right.

"You're speaking as if you might not even come back here." I replied lightly, raising an eyebrow

He looked down at me. Reaching up with his hand, he cupped the left side of my face, brushing his thumb over my cheek.

"Who knows." He smirked arrogantly.

I frowned.

"That's mean." I huffed, pushing his hand off. His smirk had eased me. "I'm sure you'll come to see me at least." "Hmm, well you are a beautiful distraction." My heart skipped a beat. "I'm glad I am." I replied softly.

His smirk vanished and he frowned.

"Although I will be busy over at the castle, I do want to see if we can push to awaken whatever you are and maybe your shift... without anyone else knowing." ! My unease vanished and I nodded, internally scolding myself for feeling paranoid.

“Thanks, I’d appreciate that.”

Our eyes met and stepping closer, I reached up, locking my arms around his neck and pressing

my entire body into his. My heart pounded as I felt him tense, but it wasn’t even a split second later when his hands wrapped around my waist and he stood up straight, lifting me off the ground completely and crushing me against him. I smiled, kissing his jaw softly. He nudged my face away, kissing my neck sensually instead. I resisted a moan and his hold on me tightened before he inhaled deeply, burying his nose in the crook of my neck. For a few moments, he didn’t move. I wrapped my legs around his waist, enjoying his embrace and the steady beat of his heart. He exhaled slowly and placed me down.

“Are you going now?” I asked as he continued to put his things into the trunk. “Yeah, I’ll be leaving. Don’t wait for me, alright? I won’t be coming back” I suddenly felt cold inside, but I nodded.

He slammed the trunk shut and closed the buttons of his shirt before he put on one of his big coats.

“Every evening at ten o’clock, down by the White Dove, starting tomorrow, meet me there.” I nodded, feeling a flash of confusion. Why was he acting like that was the only time he’d see

me..?

He picked up the sack and trunk, and walked towards the door. Stopping, he placed something on the shelf by the front door before opening the door. Instantly the howling wind became louder, and I flinched as the blast of bitter cold rushed through the cabin. Theon stepped out and pulled his trunk out behind him, he paused for a moment as I walked over to the door.

“See you...” I said softly.

He didn’t reply, and after a moment, he walked off in the deep snow. I watched him until I could no longer see him, and closed the door to the cabin, locking it.

This was... strange... Was he really gone? Not all the higher-ups lived in the castle... Sure it was easier, but the sudden plan to move there...

I turned to the shelf, wondering what he had put there. Pushing aside the small box that stood on the shelf, my heart sank when my gaze fell on the key. The key to the cabin... I looked at the door, my heart thundering as I realised both keys were here. Why did he leave his key? Fear enveloped me and I unlocked the door, running out into the snow in nothing but the shirt I was wearing “Theon!” I shouted, but my voice was drowned out by

the howling wind. "Theon!" Surely, he'll hear me! He couldn't have gotten far with his luggage. I looked down at the snow covered ground that was eleven inches deep and saw his tracks, not caring about the cold that was biting into my feet. I ran through the blizzard, my heart leaping when I saw his back, in his dark fur coat, "Theon!"

He stopped in his tracks, and I ran over to him, brushing away my hair as the wind blew around us violently. He turned to look at me and I gave him a small smile, despite the cold that was sinking into my skin. "You left both keys." I explained, holding it out to him. "One was in the door." He glanced down at my hand. I stood there, hand outstretched. He didn't take it and I realised his hands were full. "Shall I put it into your pocket?" I offered, stepping closer. "No. I don't need it. I left it on purpose." He replied emotionlessly. My heart skipped a beat and fear began to settle into me. Don't think negatively, Yileyna; he probably doesn't trust it at the castle... or something... "Oh! Ok, um, what if you come when I'm not around or-" "I'll knock on the door if I do come, but it's not necessary. I no longer need the key. The place is yours. Consider it a gift." I frowned, confusion filling me. "Theon, you're scaring me, it's almost as if you're not coming back" I said with a small forced chuckle. He didn't reply, he simply looked at me. "Theon?"

You're really scaring me. Say something. Silence ensued, only the sound of the screaming wind and my pounding heart filled my ears. "Like I said, as future Beta of this kingdom, I need to focus on that. I realised when we were late for training that I can't afford to have distractions. I need space from anything that holds me back from reaching my full potential, and if that includes you, then so be it." I felt as if someone had just wrapped their hands around my heart and were crushing it.

He was leaving me. Goddess, he was leaving me. "L.. I'm sorry if I made you late, I promise I won't do it again." "You're wasting my time right now; I have a meeting with the king in half an hour." It felt as if he had just slapped me across the face. I looked up into his eyes, my own stinging with hot tears that I refused to let fall. "I'm sorry." I repeated softly, stepping away. He didn't reply as he continued walking away, my own pain in my chest worsening.

I felt alone. So, so alone. The fear of abandonment raged within me, mirroring the storm around me. The wind blew harshly, and I backed away, staring at his receding figure.

Do I really mean nothing to you Theon? I was praying for him to turn around, just one look... one reassuring nod. To look at me and tell me he'll be back But he didn't. I backed away slowly, the pain in my chest stronger than ever, and when the first tear spilt down my cheek, I turned and ran back to the cabin. The one I had thought was our home. Once again, those that I loved had left me alone, in what was just a house... I stepped into the warmth, slamming the door shut and locking it before I clamped my hands over my mouth, muffling the painful sob that wracked my body. I looked around the small cabin. The fire was blazing, casting warmth around the room. Memories of our time here consumed me. The table was gone... a reminder of that moment... The two chairs and a small makeshift table stood to the side, and there on the kitchen counter

stood a single steaming mug of coffee. I walked over to it, wiping my tears away. Did Theon forget to have it? His coffee... I would miss it. I wrapped my freezing hands around it when my gaze fell to the sink, a matching mug sat in the sink and I looked down at the one in my hand.

He had made it for me...

A single tear splashed into the mug, and I wondered what was wrong with me that not even one person wanted to stay by my side? What had I done, that I deserved to be deserted? 2 I let go of the coffee mug, dropping to my knees and resting my head against the kitchen cabinet.

I felt empty and alone.

He said we would meet for training, right? It means something, right? The fact that he made coffee, surely I meant something to him... 1

Right, Theon?

Stop it Yileyna. I was only trying to make myself feel better, but the truth was that I just wasn't enough.

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 56

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 56.A Sacrifice

THEON

I entered the king's office, trying to do my best to remain emotionless. The burning rage of resentment and hatred bubbling beneath the surface of my skin was growing ever stronger.

I couldn't remove the image of her from my mind, in that thin white shirt, as she stood in the cold with concern and fear clear in her grey eyes... I hated it, hated that I had left her when I could see her breaking before my very eyes. She had only wanted one small gesture of reassurance that I wasn't leaving her, but I was, and I couldn't string her along any longer than I already had. It was one of the hardest things I have ever done in life, but I had to. She was a distraction from my goal.

"Theon, are you alright?" Andres asked, frowning as he looked up at me from behind his desk I gave a curt nod.

"You wanted to see me?" I said. Never had I detested him as much as I did at this moment.

He was the reason for all of this. "I did, but if now isn't the right time, we can postpone our meeting..." "Just carry on. I'm fine." I said through gritted teeth. He observed me for a moment before he nodded.

"It was regarding your Beta position; I was thinking about the upcoming ceremony... I wanted to ask you a final time... Are you sure?"

I looked into his grey eyes coldly, and frowned. It was the first fucking time I realised his eyes weren't much of a different shade than Yileyna's. The only difference was I hated this pair with the same vengeance as I did the man they belonged to. A

"Sure about what?"

I had a feeling he meant if this was the position I was happy with. Dad's words rang in my head, but I felt sick at the very thought of having this man's daughter as my mate.

Remember the goal.

"About my offer, Charlene may not be the same as Yileyna, I know she is very popular when it comes to the terms of her beauty and personality, but Charlene would make a good mate. Besides, I know you are very chivalrous, Theon, and this is for the betterment of the kingdom. We need someone worthy of being Alpha."

Alpha., it was the position I needed... I could take her as my mate and then, with me as Alpha... no one would be able to disobey... The plan was for the attack to happen before this winter passed... That wasn't too long a time... If I just... The unage of Yileyna flashed through my mind; her blonde hair, her soft plump lips, her

gorgeous grey eyes... and with it, the clarity that I had indeed strayed hit me like a fucking avalanche.

She was ruining everything. "You are right. This kingdom needs a strong Alpha, and despite Charlene being your daughter, she doesn't have the will of an Alpha." I said coldly. "I guess I will accept this deal." ; The guilt that washed through me as those words left my lips was suffocating. Andres didn't do anything to hide his happiness, his eyes lighting up as he let out a raucous laugh, standing up and slamming his hand down on the table. "Are you agreeing?! Ah, you are! That's my son!" He walked around the table, wrapping his arms around me in a tight hug, only making my hatred flare through me viciously. I was no fucking son of his. The day I killed him, and his fucking daughter, would be the day I'd be happier than ever.

I clenched my jaw, my eyes flashing as I did my all not to shove him away from me. He patted my back, his happiness as clear as the blizzard outside. "I'm doing this for the

kingdom.” I said coldly, looking into his eyes. “Of course! Theon, you know you can keep Yileyna on the side if you so wish-” 2 “Keep her as a whore and humiliate her in the process? I don’t think so.” I clenched my jaw, unable to hide the venom in my voice.

Andres’s smile vanished as he looked at me with concern that almost looked real. “Do you love her?” He asked after a moment.

I stared at the wooden table in front of me, I knew enough to know that if an Alpha didn’t want something or someone in their way, they got rid of it. He could do anything to Yileyna... just as Dad could... “No.” I replied without hesitation, instantly seeing how he relaxed. “She’s nothing to me, but I prefer not to humiliate her.”

“That’s understandable. Fear not, I’ll keep her busy with work. I realised I haven’t really assigned her anything, and after talking to you about it last time, I have decided I will make her a Zeta rank; a warrior. I’ll make sure she gets her pay and everything on time. She’ll be happy, and she’ll have the chance to keep busy. I have already talked to Raiden to have this all in order by the end of the week.” I

Zeta rank... just below the royal guards... so she won’t be around the palace... I guess that was better... Being Zeta ranked would mean she had some level of protection from bastards like Levin,

I nodded.

“That sounds ideal. We will continue with the princess’ training as planned, and hopefully, soon her abilities will break free. What exactly are we looking for? What kind of ability is the heart meant to possess?” I asked,

The prophecy never said more than the one that held the heart possessed the ability to control the middle kingdom. “We aren’t sure, it has never been said anywhere, but whatever it is, it will bring great power and prosperity.” It was too vague... Far too vague for me to know if I needed Charlene alive and by my side or if I could just throw her in a cell and use her as a weapon. Although I still had no idea what kind of weapon she would be, she was plain useless. A sudden thought came to me, and I tilted my head, looking at the king calculatingly. “Charlene knows of the relationship I had with Yileyna. Do you think she will agree?” I asked. 1 She didn’t have a spine; she was meek and pretty much useless, but I had seen her anger when it came to Yileyna. I was sure the one person she wouldn’t want to hurt was Yileyna... “Charlene will agree. Before a friend, her duty is to her pack and kingdom.” Andres replied dismissively. “She and Yileyna are close.” Charlene was the only person Yileyna had left, but I guess we all know that even the closest of friends can betray one another. I was letting Yileyna come in the way of my revenge... “I will talk to her. Fear not, she will agree. We need to do this for this kingdom. She will understand. We will make the announcement at the planned ball at the next full moon.” 1

I gave a curt nod.

“Fine.”

It wouldn't be for long... Soon this kingdom will bend its knee to me. This pack would become mine and the Obsidian Shadow Pack would take its rightful place as the ruling pack, and then, everyone who had wronged us would pay.

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 57

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 57. A Failure

CHARLENE

“Really Charlene, can you pay a little attention? You need to choose a dress.” Mom scolded flipping through the samples of fabrics that sat on the sofa next to her.

I frowned as I stared out at the blizzard outside. We were currently in the sitting room of our quarters and Mom was trying to have our dresses finalised for the upcoming ball.

Was Yileyna ok? I heard Theon was moving back to the castle. This time of year was brutal in terms of how cold it got, I didn't get why Yileyna hadn't moved to the castle with him as well. It had shocked me when the staff said it was just Theon alone... What was going on? It wasn't like either of them to be separated. Theon was so possessive about her. Everyone could tell from the way he looked at her, he was even going around making it known. So it was strange she wasn't at the castle, it was worrying me. Did they argue again? I wished she had the ability to mind link so I could at least talk to her. “Charlene!” Mom snapped, making me jump. “Mom, relax. Choose whatever you like.” I said quietly. I felt restless and I knew it was because of the news of Theon coming here alone. Goddess! I needed to do something. “Charlene, as the future ruler of this kingdom, you need to be a lot more proactive about what is going on around you.” Mom reprimanded me icily. 1 I frowned.

“Choosing a dress when we are threatened by war and attacks isn't really being proactive.” I murmured, but of course, she heard. Her heels clicked on the floor as she strode over to me, pulling me by my arm and turning me viciously. She raised her hand. My eyes flew open as I stared at her and she brought it down, stopping inches from my face.

Our hearts were thumping. She had never hit me... She looked shocked by her own actions too. She lowered her hand, clenching her fist, and twirled away, her anger so obvious that it worried me.

“You need to act like you are at least an alpha female!” She hissed. 2

“I don’t understand why you’re saying that, Mom. I’m doing my best.”

I didn’t understand what more she wanted from me.

“You aren’t. Your father is so worried about the future of this kingdom, why? Because you aren’t up to the standard needed.” She said, worry and anger on her face. “Growing up we both know you were always second to a certain someone, at least now try to live up to the expectations we need from you.” +

I felt the pang of pain inside. Yes I know, I was always compared to Yileyna by Mom. Yileyna was always better at everything, and Mom would always make remarks about it. That only stopped when I shifted and Yileyna didn’t. But lately, with the growing threats, it was only becoming more and more stressful for us all. 3

I worked hard, I was trying to awaken my abilities, I was trying to be involved and learn about the kingdom from Dad. I mean as future Alpha, he should involve me, but he didn’t. There was only so much I could do on my own.

Mom simply stared at me, clucking her tongue sharply in frustration.

“You need to be the daughter he needs, Charlene. You need to care for the kingdom. This ball is an important event, with your father choosing Theon of Westerfell as our Beta.” Theon of Westerfell... I had heard that title going around, binding him to the city since he had no memory of his past... I sighed heavily and nodded. “Yes, mother, you are right.” I said, not wanting to argue.

At least when Theon became Beta, Yileyna would by default become Beta female and then we could spend much more time together. I missed her. Since her parents had died, we don’t have as much time as before, and now that Theon’s in her life...

Yes, I was a bit jealous that my soul sister was taken from me, but as long as she’s happy, I’m happy. She deserves happiness. 1

I forced myself to look at the fabric swatches that were scattered on the sofa. I flipped through a bundle, unable to focus on what I was seeing and stopping at a silver fabric.

“I will wear silver.” I said emotionlessly, not wanting to argue further with her.

She paused before she nodded, smiling with approval. “That’s perfect.” Mom said, and I breathed a sigh of relief. “We can go for some accents of green.” I offered, not wanting to upset her any further.

“See, that wasn’t so hard, was it?”

“No. Of course not.” She smiled in approval just as the door opened and Dad entered the sitting room. “Andres.” Mom said standing up as she walked over to her mate and, cupping his face, kissed him softly

Dad kissed her back, but I could tell he’d had a long day, he looked tired but somewhat still happy. I guess things were going well. I smiled politely, I was so glad that I did hold the power of the heart of Kaeladia within me, it made me feel far less useless. I just wished I could break the seal on my powers soon. It would

at least help me make my parents happy and help the people of the city.

Dad grinned when he broke away from Mom, cupping her face for a second. “I have good news.” He said, kissing her neck.

I looked at him curiously, wondering what this good news was that had gotten him so excited a “Oh?” Mom asked as Dad sat down, pulling her into his lap.

“Yes. Theon has agreed to take Charlene as his chosen mate.”

My stomach dropped, my heart thumping as his words rang in my head. I stared at him in utter disbelief and anger. “What?” I asked, my voice coming out hoarse.

“Theon will be your mate.” Dad repeated, his smile vanishing, the command in his voice making me shudder.

“He’s with Yileyna.” “Not anymore. He agreed to take you as his.” Dad smirked. I clenched my fists, my heart pounding as I stared at Dad, summoning every inch of my courage. “No.”

“What?” He asked, his eyes hard.

“I said no. I will never take Theon as my mate. Ever.” I said bravely, despite the fear I was feeling as Dad’s aura raged around him like a beast ready to wreak havoc. 1

Goddess, give me the strength to stand up to him. “Say that again.” Dad threatened, slowly pushing Mom onto the sofa as he stood up. I squared my shoulders, jutting my chin out defiantly. “I said no, I will NEVER take a man that belongs to another as my mate. I don’t care if Theon agreed, I don’t agree.” I said clearly. “You will, you are not worthy of the position yourself!” Dad warned. “This kingdom needs an Alpha.” “Then let him be Alpha. Make Theon your heir! Why are you tying me to him?! He can still be Alpha, I don’t want the position!” “Charlene!” Mom hissed, standing up, her eyes flashing. I frowned as Dad let out a laugh, as if I had just made a joke.

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“Make him my heir? Oh if it was only that easy! Do you really think it is? I need an Aphelion on that throne! I need my blood to continue on! I fought for that throne! How childish and ridiculous are you that you think the Alpha title is a joke that you can just pass it on to someone else!”

“Then let me choose another mate. There are so many potential Alphas, father! Please don’t tie me to Theon. I don’t like him!” I pleaded. Why had he agreed? I didn’t get it? Was he really casting Yileyna aside?

I couldn’t believe it....

I had a crush on Theon from the moment I had first seen him... but when I began to see the attention that he had only for Yileyna, I accepted that he belonged to her. I would never be jealous of what was not mine, what belonged to my sister, and I would NEVER take what is hers. Ever.

“Another Alpha? When we have Theori, who is far better than any young man I have come across.”

“It just shows how much she is lacking!” Mom added. “Then... At the ball, you are having alphas from all around. What if my mate is there? At least let me have the chance to find my true mate?” I begged. “You will be bound to Theon, by mark and by marriage.” Dad added with finality, his raging eyes glared at me and I was forced to lower my head in submission to him.

He let out a scoff.

“An Alpha, my daughter, yet she cannot defy my command even...” He stepped closer to me, taking hold of my chin. A dangerous glint in his eyes made my heart pound in fear. “I’m warning you, Charlene, if Yileyna is the reason behind this, I will make sure she’s out of the picture.” He whispered menacingly. A threat he truly meant. My eyes stung but I didn’t blink. I will not show him I’m scared. Nothing can happen to Yileyna. If Theon isn’t in her corner, then she has me. Even if I am useless, or not good enough. A failed daughter and a failed Alpha... But I swear by Selene, I will not be a failure of a friend. 3

I nodded in silent agreement that I had understood him.

“At the ball, we will announce their union.” Dad added, turning to Mom, who smiled and gushed about how Theon was perfect for me.

I frowned

The ball... That meant I had a little time. I needed to talk to Theon and Yileyna.

Immediately

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 58

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 58. Stopping For A Hot Drink YILEYNA I felt numb. Over twenty-four hours had passed, but as he said... he didn't come back I spent the night before pacing the cabin, wanting to see him, to go to him, until I realised I don't hold that right...

I was a distraction, and one he didn't need...

I didn't sleep that night, unable to enter the bedroom after what had happened there just the night before... His emotions... He... There was more to last night... I knew it... but where I thought he was falling for me... he was actually saying goodbye... I ran my hands through my hair once more, staring out at the blizzard. The fire in the hearth had died down yesterday afternoon, and the cabin was cold, but I didn't care... I don't think anything felt as cold as it was inside my heart. Ten o'clock tonight. He said he'd meet me... and although I was counting the minutes, what was I to do? Pretend to be normal? When Theon himself told me it was over... it made clear all I was to him: A simple pass time. I couldn't just sit here doing nothing, but then why did I feel like I didn't want to do anything but wallow? "Well even if you want to! You can't." I told myself, sitting up and taking a deep breath. "I am Yileyna De'Lacor, and I am not going to let a man make me lose sight of my goals." 2

I had been played and used, regardless of whether there were emotions involved or not... I had to stop. I really needed to stop letting him hurt me. Maybe tonight I'll see how he is, but unless he says that he made a mistake, I will not give him the time of day. 2

I will stop thinking about it, I will try to be strong and act like I am not affected. I missed him and deep down I did want to see him again, but his actions would confirm many things tonight

For now, I would go and ask the Alpha for the proof of my parent's crimes. Nodding with determination and a sense of purpose, I quickly ate some food and then got dressed in white leather pants, a pale grey shirt and a white corset belt. I picked up my empty dishes and carried them over to the sink, I was about to place them in the sink when my eyes fell on the glass of vinegar.

"Oh shit!"

Thad forgotten it. I quickly split it in the sink, wondering if the vinegar had destroyed the metal. Turning the tap on, I rinsed it off, before applying some washing-up soap to it and

giving it a good scrub with the sponge. Once I had scrubbed it thoroughly and rinsed it off with warm water, I looked at the chain in

hand. My breath hitched; I wasn't holding just a rusty, dull trinket. I didn't need to take this to a jeweller for confirmation that I was holding a precious stone in my hand. Something worth far more than a few gold coins. 1

The jewel in the centre that had looked a dull brown under the layers of grime and dirt now dazzled a gorgeous burning amber. I ran my fingers along the chain, where it had once looked grey and dirty, it now shone a pale gold. I had hit a gold mine. Was it a stolen item? Or perhaps he had found it somewhere? Obviously, he didn't realise how pretty it was! I'm sure he would have tried to charge far more.

I was about to put it down when I hesitated, if it was worth a lot... then I should wear it and keep it safe.

I dried it with a dishcloth and slipped the long chain over my head, tucking it into my shirt, letting it nestle itself between my breasts.

Theon's face flashed to mind, the memory of his touch making my body betray me. My stomach reacted and that ache settled inside me once more. I took a deep breath, grabbed my coat and squashed the thought.

Focus Yileyna.

I pulled open the door to the cabin and stepped outside into the blizzard, it took me a moment to keep my footing as the wind pushed against me violently. Goddess the weather was getting worse.

It seems worse than usual, despite the cold not seeming as bad.

Locking up behind me, I slipped the key into my pouch and placed it into the large inner pocket of my coat, then began trudging through the snow. The snow was deeper than yesterday too...

It took much longer to make my way toward the castle, but it gave me time to ponder over how I would approach the topic with the king. I sighed heavily as I approached the busier streets of the city. The snow was far less here, with lots of foot traffic making it melt away. However, this made parts of the ground rather iced. I could feel the cold now. My legs felt rather numb too.

"Yileyna!"

I stopped, surprised to see Charlene standing there in a white fur coat and hat. The tip of her nose was red but the relief, worry and happiness in her eyes made me concerned and delighted to see her all at once.

“Charlene!” I smiled, giving her a big bear hug.

She hugged me back and I smiled, feeling a little better in her embrace.

But she was the future Alpha, I couldn’t really rely on her. The king indirectly made it clear he only tolerated me because of Charlene. I knew for a fact that if I shared my problems with her, she would only put herself in more trouble and take more stress due to it. “I was actually coming to see you, but I had training with Madelia first.” She explained, taking

my hands in her gloved ones. “Goddess Yileyna! Why aren’t you wearing your gloves!” “It’s not that cold, I’m ok” I said. “You will get frostbite!”

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“I really won’t. So tell me, how was training? And why was I so lucky to have you come visit me?” I asked.

She looked around, as if checking if anyone was listening. “How about we get a hot drink?” She suggested with a smile.

But there was something worrying her... I could see it...

“Why not, we can go to Madam Marigold’s.” I suggested, it was always very packed, and you could have a conversation there.

She nodded, and we both made our way down a side street before we approached the small café. Steam was blowing out from the chimney, the promise of warmth and a hot cup of coffee was calling Coffee... maybe not. We exchanged looks, a smile crossing both our faces before we hurried to the door. Charlene skidded on the icy entrance, I grabbed hold of her as she yelped in alarm before we burst out laughing “Oops, careful.” I giggled as I pushed open the door and we stepped inside. Instantly I was hit with the smell of coffee, roasted walnuts, and so many more delicious scents. Music played in the background, blending in with the hum of chatter. “Did you ladies not see the warning outside to be careful on the ice?” Madam Marigold questioned, raising a brow sceptically. “No.” Charlene and I said in unison, we hadn’t.

“Oh, that sign is long since covered by snow, Marigold!” Someone called out, making the woman roll her eyes.

“Right, but I don’t need the king to be out for my neck if his daughter gets hurt on my premises.” She scolded lightly before jerking her head towards the back. “Really?” Charlene asked, it was rare to get a back room in here. “Yes, go. It’s too rowdy in here for pretty girls to be around. I don’t need the extra drama!” Ah, perfect, we needed a place where we could simply talk, it was almost as if she read our minds! Behaving

ourselves, we made our way to the back, only one of the booths was empty and taking off our coats we took our seats.

Zarian, the young fae man who worked here, walked over to us. He was probably a good few decades older than us, but he looked as if he was not a day over twenty. Muscled, lean, beautiful violet eyes and black silky hair that held a purple hue to it, that fell to his shoulders.

“And hello ladies, it’s been a few months. How are you both? Looking as ravishing as ever.”

“Hello Zarian, we are well, thank you.” Charlene said, as I smiled slightly. “Can we get two mugs of hot chocolate?”

“Is that all? Are you sure the beautiful ladies want nothing more?” He asked with a small flirty smile.

I raised an eyebrow.

“That is all.” I said, trying to suppress my giggle as Charlene blushed embarrassed.

He let out a small chuckle before he gave a nod.

“Well then, I’ll go get those two mugs of hot chocolate, but if you do want something else... I’m not far off.” He gave a final wink, and I shook my head.

“I swear he wasn’t this flirty the last time we came...”

“Well, he did joke that if we were a wee bit older, he would consider us.” Charlene giggled, shaking her head.

“Well, he is... beautiful.” I said, trying to ignore the sadness inside of me. “Hm.” Charlene’s smile seemed to vanish at the same time as mine, before a frown creased her forehead. “Yileyna, what’s going on between you and Theon?”

My smile vanished, the pain in my chest hitting me like a tonne of bricks. I couldn’t lie because she had seen the look on my face.

I shook my head trying to compose myself. I would have told her, maybe... but this wasn’t the way I was expecting it to be brought up. “Darling...” “He said it’s over...” I said quietly with a small shrug. She frowned, her eyes flashing.

“How dare he... Did he give a reason?”

“He said I was a distraction.”

It hurt, so much, but what could I do? She looked at me, feeling conflicted, as if she wanted to say something but wasn't sure. "It's fine Charlene, I'm over him. I mean, I'm not, but I will be. I gave him enough chances." I whispered, knowing that he had such a hold on me that my sanity went out the window when he was around

She frowned deeply, staring at the table, "Yileyna..." "It's ok Charlene, it was my fault. I shouldn't have allowed myself to get trapped in this. I'm fine. Really." She hesitated before nodding. "I am going to have a word with him." She said quietly, her eyes cold and serious.

"You don't need to." I said quickly, waving my hands, knowing that Theon was even nastier to

her.

Just then, Zarian returned with our drinks, and we stopped talking. Charlene looked extremely upset, and after that she was far more lost in thought, barely touching her hot drink "I'm truly sorry, Yileyna." She said quietly, looking up into my eyes with sorrow and guilt. "Don't be. You aren't responsible for him being a dick" I said gulping down my hot chocolate in one go. "I'm afraid I have a lot more to do than wallow in self-pity. It's time I did some digging." 1 "Digging?" I looked around before leaning forward and lowering my voice. "The truth about my parents; I know they weren't traitors, and I intend to find out exactly what happened." I whispered quietly. She frowned, a flash of determination in her eyes as she nodded. "Sounds like a plan, I'm with you. We are going to do this together." She whispered. I smiled as our eyes met, and I knew we would always have one another. Men could break your heart, but sisters... sisters didn't.1 "Thank you, my queen."

She smiled at me, taking my hand and giving it a gentle squeeze of encouragement. "Always, my angel." I was truly grateful to the goddess for at least giving me Charlene.

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 59

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 59 Her Pathetic Attempt
THEON

I had just showered after having trained with the men, I hadn't even been able to face the princess so had told Madelia to handle training her today. My anger at just the thought of being tied to her made me physically sick. I hated her with such vengeance that I wished I could just kill her, I'm sure I could take over without the fucking heart of Kaeladia.

I wrapped a towel around my waist just as there was a knock on the door. My heart raced for a second, and deep down I prayed somehow that it was Yileyna. Just to look into those beautiful grey eyes of hers.

I wanted to see her again... but at the same time, I knew I couldn't. I had to push her away. I opened the door, and my mood instantly darkened when I saw the woman before me.

"Theon, may I have a word?" Charlene asked, her eyes fixed on my face.

The look of determination in her eyes was something that you didn't see often from her. No, you fucking can't. "Make it quick" I said, turning away from her. She stepped inside, partially closing the door. My eyes flashed as I turned, glaring coldly at her. "Why did you agree to Dad?" Her voice was serious, her eyes full of anger. I raised an eyebrow, smirking coldly. So this was what she was here for.

"Why are you so angry? If memory serves, you were always pretty infatuated with me." I remarked coldly. 2

Her eyes flashed, and she glared at me. "The moment you and Yileyna started a relationship, those feelings were gone. Why did you agree? Why are you hurting her? She is such a good person, Theon. You are lucky to have her." She whispered, keeping her voice low. I crossed my arms, not bothering to reply, but her words weren't that wrong... I was lucky, because she did provide me with a mental break from the storm within my mind. A beautiful distraction.

"Please, Theon, don't hurt her. What did Dad promise you? Because I promise you, when I'm Alpha, I will give-

"When you're Alpha? Really? You're so useless, princess, that even your own father has no faith in you. I'm doing this for this kingdom, so when the time comes and that throne needs an Alpha King, it will have one who is worthy of it. If you weren't so incompetent, this would never have happened. So congratulations princess, thanks to your uselessness, I decided to drop her."

Her heart was beating fast, her eyes filled with guilt, but she still shook her head. "No. No, I'm not marrying you. I don't care, I will never let you mark me. Yileyna doesn't know yet, but I'm going to tell her." "Won't that just hurt her?" I asked coldly. "Her knowing won't stop it happening, now will it?"

"I rather she knows from me before she's hurt, just how you and Dad hurt her at the festival when Dad announced you as Beta." She spat. So she had some fire in her. Unfortunately, it only seemed to show when it came to her beautiful friend.

I smirked coldly, it was satisfying seeing her in pain. "And tell me what will Yiléyna think, when she finds out it's her own friend who will have her man?" I taunted mockingly. Her face paled, but she frowned.

"That's the thing, Yileyna and I trust one another before anyone else. She will believe me, and I won't do this. I won't. I may not be strong, but I won't... I won't..." She was shaking her head, her voice cold and determined. "I came to you because I thought we could come up with a plan... I thought... I thought Dad was threatening you, so you agreed, and I... We could have planned something. You deserve to be with who you want, Yileyna deserves some happiness... You made her happy." She was whispering now, looking at my indifferent mask. Her hands began shaking as she realised how wrong she was.

The only thing was, she didn't realise she was pretty close to the truth... Yileyna... Both my father and hers wanted Yileyna out of the picture if she came in the way of their plans... 1

She didn't deserve to become collateral damage... My heart squeezed at the thought,

and I looked at the angry princess. "Well, it's a shame that your visit was futile, I'm not backing down. This engagement will happen as planned." I said coldly. My stomach churned at the thought, and I turned away from her. "Theon please, if you have even an ounce of feelings for Yileyna, and I know you do, then-" "Get out." I interrupted coldly. "Theon, she only has you!" She stepped in front of me, blocking my path. Her eyes were full of fear and worry as she looked up at me begging. I was right, she was just useless. For an Alpha she couldn't even protect her friend.

I wanted to say more, but I heard footsteps in the corridor.

"She doesn't. I don't need her..." I trailed off, my heart thundering as I realised who those light footsteps belonged to... What was she doing here? This was the higher-ups section of the castle, I had only been given a room here yesterday...

"She needs you, please." Charlene whispered. I had to take the chance.. I swallowed hard.

"I'm done with Yileyna." I said clearly and loud enough that I knew she'd hear. "I think it's high time we told the entire kingdom about us, that we are to be mated. Don't you agree, Charlene?" I continued arrogantly, the words feeling like poison on my tongue. But if I was going down in Yileyna's eyes, then so was Charlene. She didn't deserve Yileyna as a friend... and I didn't deserve her in my life either. 2

Charlene looked confused as I took hold of her jaw, painfully tight.

From the corner of my eyes, I saw the shadow of someone stopping at the door, Charlene was too riled up in her own emotions to notice.

Perfect.

"Theon, we need to-" I cut her off, pressing my lips against hers. Anger flashed through me, and even when she tried to shove me back, I didn't let her move, holding her face in place.

I heard the small gasp and the sound of footsteps silently retreating, before she turned and ran. Only then did I move back, shoving Charlene away from me and wiping my mouth.

"Get the fuck out." I hissed venomously.

Her eyes pooled with tears as she wiped her mouth with shaking hands.

"I hate you." She whispered before she ran from the room, slamming the door behind her. "I fucking hate you more." I replied to the empty room.

The pain in my chest was crushing me, I had fucking broken her, or more like whatever there was left to destroy.

Congratulations, Theon.

I clenched my fists, before quickly grabbing some clothes and pulling them on.

I needed to at least see if she was ok... In this weather, I didn't want her to end up on the roof of the Goddess' temple. I pulled my shoes on, almost at the door when I realised I couldn't.

If she realised... If she noticed me...

If she was in front of me, it fucked me up. I needed to stay here... away from her... I removed my hand from the door handle and moved back. I needed to cut all contact with her, and I mean all... Which meant I would break the promise to meet her tonight...

1 I sighed, leaning against the door and dropping to the ground, resting my head back against it. Why was it that everything I was doing was at her expense? I had told her I'd destroy her and I had practically succeeded, but then even with the warning given, why

did I feel fucking guilty?

I closed my eyes, inhaling deeply. Even back then, it didn't hurt this much when I ended things with Iyara...

Was it because we hadn't gotten so deep? Or because she had her parents? Or that I ended it the right way? All I was doing to Yileyna was hurting her time and time again... She deserved someone who would cherish her, someone who could make her fucking happy and there was one person who did come to mind. But I had been too selfish to stay away from her.

Someone who didn't judge her for her parent's actions, and death, even those were things she didn't deserve to be blamed for. It was all my doing. I hated thinking that she deserved someone else... But at the same time, I knew I was killing her.

I hung my head, staring at the shadows on the floor, my heart was too dark for her. I was not right for her, and I was far too twisted to ever give her anything but pain upon fucking pain. My goal in life was revenge. 2 That was the only goal I had and the only goal I needed to focus on.

I leaned my head against the wood of the door and stared out at the darkening skies, the snow still falling

In a few weeks, Yileyna would learn of my truth and she herself would turn her back on me. Then, whether I ever meant anything to her or not, it wouldn't matter, because she would only have hatred left for me.

A/N-tomorrow is my birthday so there may not be an update, also I have some stuff planned over the next few days so things might not be at the scheduled time. Thank you

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My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 60

My Alpha's Betrayal: Burning In The Flames Of His Vengeance Chapter 60 Refusing To Believe

YILEYNA

After meeting Charlene, we had gone our separate ways. I had first walked around the city for a while trying to relax my mind before I requested a meeting with the king. I now waited patiently for the guard to tell the king that I had requested an audience. "The Alpha said he is busy, but what is it regarding?" The man asked me coldly.

"I wanted to see the evidence against my parents." I said quietly, knowing the king obviously didn't want to see me anymore. I just wasn't worthy of his time.

The man quirked an eyebrow before looking at me scornfully.

"Are you actually wasting the Alpha's time with your pathetic requests? You should be grateful he hasn't demoted you to an omega." He muttered scornfully.

I frowned, about to reply when I heard footsteps.

"That is not your place to decide, Gerald. I'll let the Alpha know and I will take miss De'Lacor where she needs to go. You are speaking to a Zeta rank guard, even if you are an Epsilon... treat her with respect." Raiden's smooth, calm voice came, yet it held a clear warning. 1

I turned, feeling relieved to see him. Although I don't think he realises I'm nothing, not a

Zeta rank or anything, so I had no idea why he said that.

He gave me a small smile before motioning for me to follow him. I gave Gerald a small nod before following Raiden. He was quiet, and I had a feeling he was mind linking the king.

“Come on, he said I can show you the proof.” He said, giving me one of his killer smiles.

I forced a smile back, not missing the concern in his eyes. “Thanks, did the king agree?”

“He said you can take a look, besides, I was actually going to come find you later. The king has decided to make you a Zeta rank warrior. Congratulations. I think your wit onboard The Siren Killer must have reached him.” He said, giving me another smirk.

I nodded, wondering why the king had done that. It wasn't like him to care. Had Theon said something? Maybe I was being hopefully, but it just felt too coincidental... I

followed him through to the wing which had our old quarters, the Gammas' quarters, as well as the king's personal library, office, and other important rooms. The wing next to this one was the Alpha's personal living quarters. “So, the evidence is kept in the restricted area, but I will have to stay with you whilst you check it.” Raiden explained.

“Oh... I'm sorry, you probably have a lot to do, right?” “It's not much, I'll get it done.

Besides, I didn't have to come find you myself. That saved me time.” He winked at me, and I nodded as he entered the library.

There were many people scattered around, some searching for books, others mulling over maps and records. Far more mages than werewolves. They all lowered their heads to Raiden, I remembered a time I had been shown that same respect.

I looked down, thinking I was ok with the insult and rejection, but I wanted at least my parents' names to be cleared.

Raiden told me to wait before he went over to the desk, the man behind the table was a serious elder mage and his hard eyes turned on me before he nodded to whatever Raiden had said. He took out a key from his huge ring of keys, as well as taking another bunch and removing one small one from it.

Raiden thanked him before returning to my side. “I got the keys, come on.” He said, leading the way. Once inside, he shut the door after us. The room was a lot smaller, yet it was far fuller. Boxes and chests were also stacked to one side. The shelves and cabinets were all locked and labelled.

“Yileyna.”

I turned to look at him and he walked over to me, making my heart skip a beat at the seriousness on his face.

“Raiden.” I said, narrowing my eyes. He chuckled before crossing his arms. “Tell me what's wrong? You aren't your usual sparkling firework self tonight.” He said softly. I shook my head.

“I am fine, really. They say you reap the consequences of your actions. I paved this path for myself and now I'm walking it.” I replied with a humourless smile.

“He hurt you again, didn't he?” He questioned sharply, his eyes flashing green. 1

“It doesn't matter, can we get to the evidence?” I asked, turning away.

“Yileyna.”

I looked back at him, and he frowned slightly. “What is it? I said I'm fine.” I said, trying not to sound irritated. “Hmm you did, but I just wanted to say, I'm here even if you just need a friend to listen. No judgement, no expectations, just someone to listen.” He said quietly. My heart squeezed and I looked down at the ground. “I'll keep it in mind, but I'll

be ok." I said, turning away. That was a lie I was telling myself again and again even when I felt like I was crumbling inside, I wouldn't admit it... "Alright, let's get to this." He said, briskly walking past me and unlocking one of the small metal cabinets.

The mood became darker as he took out a bunch of letters, maps and reports. "It's all here, from the letters he received, and sent, as well as the blueprints and maps of the city and castle." He said quietly.

"He didn't do it." I replied firmly. "I know my parents."

I took the things from him not wanting to hear anything more, and turned my back on him. Walking over, I sat down at one of the three tables in the room and placed everything down carefully.

I could feel him watching, but I refused to look at him.

I came here for a reason...

I looked at the letter's Dad had apparently received; plans for an attack, plans to usurp the alpha from the throne, to take over the middle kingdom...

Lies. Dad considered Alpha Andres his best friend, there was no way that he would have done this.

I stared at the letters, taking a calming breath before I picked up the first letter. Although I knew it just couldn't be Dad, the fact that everyone said it was him made my stomach churn.

I looked at the letter I had just unfolded. This was a letter he was meant to send soon it seemed. It was Dad's handwriting, or extremely close... but, no Dad couldn't do this.

I skimmed the letter, a letter that stated he was enclosing the maps and a clear route into the castle. Stating that he needed more time, and that the planned attack needed to be delayed.

I read it quickly

"We need to hold out... I fear that the king may know something... Yours W..."

I frowned, staring at the last part.

It just didn't make sense. If Dad was planning to send this letter out to tell them to hold off the attack, then why was it even here? Shouldn't he have posted it as fast as possible?

I know one could argue he didn't get the chance, but... but still, something wasn't right.

I stared at the writing, trying to find even one small sign to tell me it wasn't Dad's, but even after staring at it I found nothing. It looked just like his...

I folded it away, picking up the letters that were sent to Dad, not that even one was addressed to him. They talked of plans to storm the capital from the sea, how the king's time had come and how the Obsidian Shadow Pack would take their rightful place.

There wasn't much, as if they were speaking about casual topics, but there was no deeper evidence, none that referenced any solid plans and dates.

Maybe they were destroyed, but if that was the case, why would Dad even keep these?

He was a Beta rank, he wasn't stupid enough to get caught... "If Dad did this, he wouldn't keep such files in our home." I said, my voice coming out icy and angry.

Raiden was silent for a moment before he sighed,

"They said it's the one place that would never have been raided or found."

"Yet they somehow received a tip-off? Do you know who it was or how?"

"That's classified information I'm afraid, my ice queen." 3

1 glared at him before sighing. I felt guilty, I was taking my frustration out on him.

“Probably one of the king’s own spies.” He replied after a moment, “but it’s not something we should be discussing.” “I still don’t believe my father did this.” I said, standing up. I wanted to swipe a letter. Raiden might be charming, but he was sharp, and his eyes were currently on me.

“Me neither.” He said quietly, a small frown on his face.

I looked at him, my heart skipping a beat, and I gave a small smile.

“Thank you.”

He gave a curt nod before we put everything away and we left the room.

“So... I’m assuming you don’t have a date for the upcoming ball?” I frowned, Theon becoming beta was becoming a grand affair, wasn’t it?

“No, I don’t,” I said quietly. “I won’t attend.”

“But as a Zeta rank, you should be there; besides, I don’t have a date either. Want to go with me?”

“Really? Have you already been through all the single women in Westerfell?” I remarked with a smirk

He pouted. “I’ve been behaving rather well actually, especially since that voyage.”

I couldn’t resist a smile.

“Oh, have you now? I’m proud of you, but has that changed since we returned?” I asked, slightly amused.

“Yeah, I even refused the she-wolf on board. However, on a serious note, I realised that there’s a huge difference between love and lust.” He winked at me and my smile faded. Love and lust...

Had I been blinded when it came to Theon? Was there really nothing more than lust between us? My heart sank and Raiden stopped.

“Come with me to the ball, if not as a date, as a friend. You don’t need to suffer alone, Charlene will be at the Alpha’s table. You need someone by your side, and I’m sure my brother would love to see you again. So, what do you say?”

I hesitated, before sighing in defeat.

“As a friend. Don’t expect more.”

He smiled and nodded.

“I won’t.” He winked, before taking my hand and placing a soft kiss on it.

“Raiden.” I warned.

“As friends, I promise.” He became serious, letting go of my hand. “Besides, I won’t take advantage of your emotions and try to pull a move.” “Thank you. I don’t want to hurt you or use you.” I smiled softly, his words making my heart skip a beat.

“What if I want to be used?” 2

“Raiden!” “Sorry.” He chuckled “Anyway, I’ll send a messenger with your duties from Monday. Make sure you go to the pack tailors and get your uniforms.” I nodded before he paused, clearly being mind linked. “Everything ok?” I asked when he frowned.

“Yeah, I just need to go, Dad and the king want to see me regarding some security plans. Will you be ok going from here?” I nodded. “I grew up in these halls too, remember?” “Yeah. I know, we played together, remember?” He replied in the same tone that I had used.

“Yes.” I smiled slightly.

He gave me a final smile and wink before he walked off, and I decided to take the

shortest route out of here.

I didn't want to go anywhere near Theon's room. I made my way down the hall, passing some guards, and took a left from the gamma quarters.

It was a lot quieter here; I was about to open a door that led to a staircase, which led to a side exit, when I paused hearing familiar voices talking. My heart skipped a beat when I realised who that was...

Theon...

"... you please."

Charlene?

"I'm done with Yileyna. I think it's high time we told the entire kingdom about us, that we are to be mated. Don't you agree, Charlene?" Since when did Theon call Charlene by her name?

Wait... mated?

I calmed my heart, realising what was happening. Charlene must have come to try to talk to him for me.

Goddess, didn't she realise he'll just be mean to her? Worried for her, I made my way towards the room where the voices were coming from. I stopped at the door, shocked to see Theon was holding Charlene's chin. Confusion filled me and I looked at the side profile of the man before me, having to confirm if it really was Theon. "Theon, we need to-" Charlene was cut off when Theon bent down and claimed her lips in a deep kiss. Shock slapped me in the face, accompanied by the sharp pain of rejection and betrayal. I wasn't able to stop the sharp intake of breath, my heart pounding as I backed away.

He kissed her...

What was going on?

I... No... he...

Nothing made sense... My head was about to burst, I turned and fled, unable to stay here any longer. The pain in my chest was overwhelming, crushing me painfully. Theon kissed Charlene...

I was halfway down the stairs, when I froze, turning back towards the open door at the top, fear enveloping me. I knew my best friend enough to know she wouldn't do that... but what if Theon forced her?

He isn't like that...

But still, I was scared, I need to make sure she is ok. I heard the sound of a door slam, my heart pounding in fear, then hearing Charlene's sobs as she ran down the hall.

I pressed myself against the wall, hoping she wouldn't sense me. Thank the goddess she was ok... I looked down at the stone steps, trying to fight back my tears. Theon really was done with me...

The urge to comfort her was overwhelming, but I knew she'd also feel terrible if she knew that I saw what had happened...

I couldn't go to her... Theon, of all women; my friend?

I won't cry.

After a moment, I quietly made my way down the steps and out into the cold.

My heart was racing painfully fast, and I felt that sharp pull within me once more.

It hurt.

The image of Theon kissing her was screaming in my head, and my eyes prickled. 'It's

high time we told the entire kingdom about us... that we are to be mated?' Confusion was bubbling within me but the pain that was overpowering everything was unbearable. The howling wind and the vicious rain that began pouring down drowned out my soft sobs as I rushed toward home...
A home that wasn't mine... Would I ever find where I truly belong?