

Chapter 11 - The Stained Omega Novel (Anna & Fraction) Free Online by Elle T Jefferson

(Anna)

The next time I wake up, laid in the same position hurting. My back is aching like I've been for days. I'm no longer tied, and the bag is gone from my head. I try to stand and smack my head on some metal. poles. Well, that smarted, once the stars are gone from my vision, I realise I'm in a cage. A cage not big enough to stand in but I can just about lie down.

There are no blankets, no toilet, I see a small window on the far side of the room but that's it. There are no lights, it's so dark down here. As my eyes adjust, I realise there are more cages. Directly across from me is...I think, that might have been a female once. She's not breathing and from the look of her she's been dead a while.

I avert my eyes before my stomach rebels. I see dozens of cages that all have females in them. I count at least five dead, the females are all in various stages of undress, some don't even have clothes on. I don't recognise any of them. If my wall is the same as the one, I'm facing I guess I just found the missing females.

"Pssst Anna" I hear from my right; I know that voice. Excitement fills me, then it leaves. I wish she wasn't here. In the cage next to me is Eve, she's thinner than she was when she was taken, her once bright eyes are now a dull brown, her hair has been completely sha**d off and I think she's missing an ear.

"Eve?" I gasp out "Oh Goddess, what have they done to you?" I'm openly weeping for my friend now.

"I got out and managed to hurt one of them, the ear was my punishment. Does the pack know where you are? Are they coming?" Eve seems hopeful.

"Patrick..." I gulp. "Patrick was hurt badly, James was fighting 3 wolves alone, I don't know what happened. I woke up in a van and then got knocked out again and now I'm here."

"Was Alpha Fraction there, did he see you?"

"I saw a wolf running towards us, it might have been Leo, but he was too far away I don't know for sure."

“Oh Goddess, no one is coming. I thought if I held out then I would be rescued. When I watched them bring you in, I thought you were part of some plan.”

“I’m so sorry Eve. Is Lisa here? Who has us? I don’t understand any of this.” I’m sat with my knees to my chest as Eve explains, when she’s finished. I understand, we aren’t getting out of here. None of us are.

Eve is picking at her fingers I think as a distraction more than anything. When she speaks, she sounds like she’s detached from what she’s saying. like she’s watching someone else say it, “When they took me, they put me and Lisa in a van, like you we were drugged and when we woke, we were in these cages. The beatings started almost. immediately: Lisa got it worse she kept arguing back so they would hit her harder.

As each day passed more and more females were brought in. They move the dead out once a week, normally at night. They make sure you are dead by putting a bullet in your headfirst.” I want Eve to stop but I also don’t, I have to know what’s coming. “Every now and again they take a few of us upstairs.” Eve takes a deep breath “These men come, and they pay to have us. If we don’t fight back then they feed us that night, if we fight then we get beaten to almost death. It’s how I lost my car. I fought back hard and killed one of their customers. So, they marked me. Lisa killed herself after the first time upstairs.

She came back covered in blood, the customer had her so hard he made her bleed. She was distraught. That night she smashed her head against the bars until she didn’t move anymore. And then it’s just me and these females until you got here.” She turns to me, “I wish you weren’t here but I’m glad I’m not alone anymore.” Eve curls up on the floor facing away from me, I can barely hear her crying over my own sobbing.

«Fraction>>

“ALMOST A YEAR AND NOTHING. MY MATE JUST VANISHED INTO THIN AIR?!” I’m shouting at the men standing in front of me, it’s not their fault. There has been no whisper, no scent, no bodies and no more missing females. It’s like they took Anna and vanished. It’s getting harder to manage, Leo knows Winter is of age now, he wants his mate. Find her already’ Leo growls ‘I’m trying d**mit’ I tell my wolf.

“We got word of an auction of some females up near The Whiteridge Pack, Alpha Callum and his Beta went to check it out, but it was female women

being sold willingly.” James sits down with his whiskey. He’s as disappointed as I am. I turn to Rick hoping he has better news than James.

“I’ve been with our guest every night for the last three months and he isn’t speaking, he either lacks the motivation or he doesn’t know where they are.” Rick has a wicked scar on the side of his face and down his back after the night Anna was taken, he’s taking it as his personal mission to get her back. The man nearly died, and he still blames himself.

“Maybe I should visit him again.” I say as I scan the emails on my computer screen, nothing new, nothing about Anna.

“You sure that’s wise? Last time you nearly killed him.” I look at James. with a raised brow, he holds his hands up in defence “I’m not saying he doesn’t deserve it, but a dead rogue can’t talk Alpha.”

“I’ll keep him alive; he will wish he wasn’t when I’m done.” I crack my fingers and tell Leo to get ready as I head for the basement.

(Fraction)

As I make my way to the basement, I start to think of all the things that could be happening to my Little Wolf, the horrors she could be going through, the females that are missing, the dead ones we found and the ones we don’t know about. I’m working myself up, angering Leo, getting myself ready to inflict as much pain as I can.

Once I’m in the basement I pass the sparring mats, pass the punching bags and the free-standing showers, in the winter months we use the basement for training in small groups. Even wolves get cold. Behind all the equipment we have a door that leads to the cells. We rarely use them; we don’t really have the need for them, but my father insisted. they be built.

As I enter, I see eight solid silver bar doors, I walk to the very end and try to ignore the smell of pi*s, blood, sweat and fear. Having him down here for almost a year has embedded his stench into the very walls. He knows this place will be his tomb, when I’m ready to be merciful.

Once I reach his cell, I can hear the unmistakable sound of skin on skin. The smell of blood is fresh, and I step over a new puddle of pi*s running towards the drain. I peer around the wall and see one of my warriors taking his pound

of flesh on our little guest. We don't know his name, so we have been calling him Tommy, Good ol' Tommy boy.

Tommy is a mess, he's hanging from the ceiling, silver chains around his wrists ensure he won't break free. Silver doesn't hurt us, but we can't break it, it weakens us and is uncomfortable. He's also injected with wolfsbane every two hours to ensure his wolf can't heal him. Even with the silver his wolf could still heal his most pressing injuries. His knees are both at an odd angle, Rick's work no doubt, they have been broken over and over until I doubt, they will ever set again. His back has been skinned, again Rick, payback for the scars he now carries. His face resembled a stamped-on orange, all scabs, puss and open wounds. He has various knife wounds over his torso, silver knives dipped in wolfsbane leave a knowing mark. He's thin from lack of food and water, we do feed him but very little. Just enough not to kill him.

As my warrior starts carving into his chest, I hear "Tell me where the females are." slice, "Where are they keeping them?" stab, "Tell me!" I can hear the rage in Liam's voice, he's a strong warrior and easily one of my top ten.

"Enough Liam, it's my turn now," Liam turns to me with a scowl on his face, his green eyes dilated and flashing yellow, he was really getting into this.

"No worries, Alpha, I'm hungry anyway" with that Liam turns back to Tommy and slams the knife into his thigh and walks out of the cells.

I slowly walk around the damaged wolf hanging there waiting for what's next. I 'tut tut' as I walk around him. "So, you have been broken, stabbed, bled, starved and skinned. Yet you still won't talk." I sigh as I walk over to the table of various instruments waiting to be used. We have knives, pliers, axes, swords, ropes, live batteries and so much more. Anything you can torture a wolf with is on this table. My warriors don't like this side of their job, but they know how to do it. well. I check the timer on the wall and notice he needs a new dose of wolfsbane. An idea comes to me. For now, I leave the wolfsbane alone. I walk back over to Tommy and stop in front of him. He chained up high enough I could see into his bloodshot eyes. I can't even tell you. what colour they are they are so puffed up.

"How about we wait, and I have a chat with your wolf?" if you can't torture the man, torture the beast inside instead. I take a seat on the wooden chair and wait.

(Anna)

I stand in the kitchen and catch a glimpse of myself in the silver tray I'm holding. My once bright blue eyes are now dulled with pain and disappear, my hair is short, going just past my ears. My lip is in a permanent state of bruised, it never seems to heal. I have bruises and scrapes all over my face, there is no pattern to them, it's just random injuries all over the place.

The worst one being the one across the bridge of my nose, it's slowly causing black eyes as the resulting damage spreads. This isn't where I thought I would be when I turned eighteen. I had visions of being mated, happy and free.

Even if I didn't meet my mate, I knew I would be happy, I miss Fraction, Momma Beth, James, Patrick and all my other pack members. In two short years Swiftmane pack had become more of a home to me than fifteen years in the Mountain pack ever did.

"Girl you better get those drinks out here" I shudder as I hear his voice, I don't know how he survived but John's voice grinds on every nerve I have left. I turn and look in the blue eyes that are so similar to mine. He has the same deep brown hair as me and it's flopping over one of his eyes. I guess you could say he's handsome, but personally I don't see it. I just see pain and death when I look at him.

"I'm coming now" I reply in a small voice, I pick up the tray with six glasses of whiskey on it and try to dodge my way around him into the small welcome room/lounge. John gets close to me, too close, he takes a big sniff and says, "Max will be here in 2 weeks to claim what he has. bought, his girls don't last long so enjoy your freedom while you can." He takes a whiskey and places a hand on the small of my back guiding me into the lounge.

I put the tray on the coffee table, as I bend, one of the men sitting on the ratty leather sofa grabs my ass, I don't bat it away. You don't ever tell a customer no. The man is fat, like rolls in the neck can't tell where your head finishes and neck start kind of fat. He's balding and sweating.

He stinks of sex with multiple females and cigar smoke hangs around him like flies on stale food. I wait until he removes his hand and carefully make my way out of the dilapidated lounge. I enter the hall and go into the first door on the left.

This is the restroom, it's the only place I can get any form of peace. I turn the rusting tap on and sit on the edge of the tub. I start thinking about my first few days here.

Two weeks, I thought it would be longer. Not long after I got here, I was dragged up from the basement and into the lounge. Sat on the same shabby sofa as the balding ass grabber sat another man. He was dark skinned, bald in a way that says he chose to do it, it wasn't age it was a f**hion statement. He had on an expensive suit and smelled clean compared to the other men I have met here. I knew straight away he was a wolf, everything about him screamed Alpha. He smelled of lavender and bluebells.

It was intoxicating, I knew what it meant, I didn't want it though. Not here, not now. I knew he wasn't there to save me. In a thick accent he states "Mate!" he gets up and walks to me, he grabs my jaw between his thumb and first finger squeezing more than he needed to. "How much?" He wasn't talking to me; he was speaking to John.

"To use or to keep?" I can't believe I'm here. I can't believe my brother. is trying to sell me.

"To keep, one does not pass up their mate. Name your price rogue."

"2.5"

The accented man chuckles and turns my head to the left and then the right, his hold was starting to hurt, I could feel the tears forming my eyes "2.3"

"2.4" I turn my eyes to John, was he really negotiating with my life.

"2.2, and I will leave her here as a sl*ve until she's of age. You may beat her into submission, but her virtue is mine." The stranger is looking me in the eye as he says this. I can feel his Alpha aura pulsing. he's strong and he knows it.

"2.2, and we will keep her for the year, but I want at least a month's notice before collection," John sounds happy at the prospect of keeping me around.

"Deal." The man finally let's go of my jaw and shakes John's hand, "remember her virtue is mine, in every way." He again takes my jaw in his hand and forces me to look him in the eyes, "I will be back my dark beauty. Remember my name, you will be screaming it loud enough." He sees the question in my eyes, "Max, my name is Max."

A whisper, a rumour and a lie.

(Fraction)

I have been sitting in this stinking cell for about four hours. Tommy's wolf still hasn't shown itself. It's a waiting game but I am about to lose my patience with him, just as I'm about to practise my punches on him, my cell phone rings. With mild annoyance I stand and dig my

Samsung S21 out of my jeans. Noticing the caller ID, I can only hope this is the news I have been waiting for.

"Darryl, tell me you have something?" Yeah, I know I'm a rude bas**rd. Alpha Darryl of the Grey pack has been helping me look for Anna and the other wolves since the night she was taken, the night Alpha Rickson was killed. Sure, others are helping but Darryl and his pack have been my go-to as of late. I hear him sigh; I can almost feel his regret though the phone.

"Nothing yet Fraction, I'm calling about something else."

"I'm not interested in anything else right now."

"You will be, have you heard of an Alpha called Max from Hati?" I'm caught off guard by the question.

"No. Should I?"

"I've heard whispers of him about a year ago, he entered America at the dead of night with his Head Warrior. He stayed for three nights in South Dakota and then left. Now he's back and he's brought his Head Warrior and ten others."

"South Dakota? What the f*ck is there? There aren't any packs there.

Him and eleven wolves could mean he's looking for a fight with someone."

"No one I know of. I have asked all the other Alphas in the area. You are the last one. The other Alphas agree, we can't just have him and eleven warriors wandering around the American packs. I'm going to be taking Lewis and meeting Alpha Callum and his head warrior on the border of South Dakota in three days. We could use you and Patrick with us. Just in case."

"In case of what? He could be on a d**ned holiday for all we know. I can't come, I need to focus on finding Anna." I can't spare the time: sure, this Max could be up to no good, but I just can't care right now.

“Fraction, we need you. If this is the outside packs moving into America, we need to stop it now.” Darryl is right, this could be an invasion. It could be nothing as well. “The last time he was here it was four days after Anna was taken, he landed two days ago.”

“Two days ago? That was Anna’s eighteen birthday.”

“So, we will see you in three days?” He knows he got me, it’s a long shot but it’s all we have had in a long time.

“It’s a long shot, it could be nothing. It could be a coincidence.” I can’t pass this up, da*n it. “See you in three days, text me the details.”

I turn back to Tommy. I decide that for now he can wait. As I inject him with a dose of wolfsbane I mind link Liam back to continue what he was doing before I interrupted, then I link with James and Patrick to meet me in my office.

Once in my office I take a seat behind my desk and await my Beta and Head Warrior, a knock comes to the office door. I know it’s not Patrick or James, they both just walk in.

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“Enter” I call out. When my mother enters with some bacon sandwiches and three coffees, I can’t help but smile. My mother is my rock, she’s always there with anything I need or ant. When my father passed away, she could have fallen apart and withered away like so many do when they lose a mate. Not my mother, she stepped up and became a mother to the whole pack. She’s part of the reason I am the Alpha I am today. Some say she resembles Meryl Streep in looks, I don’t see it. I see laugh lines from years of joy, wrinkled hands that would catch me when I fell from trees as a pup. Green eyes that always. hold a promise of love and loyalty, she has a smile that lights up the whole room, when she smiles you do too, you can’t help it.

“Mother, how did you know I needed a dark roast?” I can smell the coffee the second she enters the room, dark Colombian Roast, not creamer, no sugar, why spoil perfection.

“You can’t keep anything from me, Rick inhaled his sandwich so fast. I’m surprised he didn’t die at the table. James is barking orders saying he’s heading into a meeting, so I figured my boys could use some unhurried food and energy.” She places the tray on my desk and comes round to comb my

hair off my face, even at 28 she still treats me like a pup when we are alone, “You look tired Henry, you need rest. Whatever it is, don’t go running in blind. You can’t get your mate back. while in a grave.”

My mother is the only one who calls me Henry, I was named after my father but two Henry’s were very confusing so my middle name is what people started to use and it just stuck. It’s an odd name but I’ve grown to love it. I do occasionally curse my great great grandfather for the name, you should see some of the looks I get when I meet some people for the first time.

“I won’t mother. I have more to live for now than ever before.” At that moment James and Patrick enter my office and make a beeline for the coffee and sandwiches.

“I’ll leave you boys to it,” with a peck on my forehead my mother leaves closing the door behind her. I take a deep drink from my mug and wait for James and Patrick to doctor their coffees before they sit down.

“So Darryl called, apparently an unwanted guest landed in South Dakota a few days ago, on Anna’s birthday to be exact. And it isn’t the first time either. He was here a year ago, four days after Anna was taken.” I watch James and Patrick sit up straighter, “Darryl is worried the Eastern packs are trying to make a move on America, personally I think it’s something bigger. He’s travelling with eleven warriors, one being his head.”

“Yeah you don’t travel with that much muscle for a holiday, where is he from and I can start digging?” James is ready to be his usual detective self, honestly this man can find a lost needle, from twenty years ago, lost in a different country. He is that good.

“All I know is that he’s from Hati and is called Max. Darryl has spoken to the Whiteridge pack and Callum and his Head Warrior are meeting Darryl and Lewis on the border of South Dakota in three days, me and Patrick will head up too. It could be nothing, it could be everything. We have to know.

“I agree, I’ll get Liam and Ben caught up to ensure patrols are kept on routine while we are gone” with that Patrick gets up and leaves to chat to his warriors.

Once Patrick leaves James turns to me. “South Dakota is a long way to go for what could be nothing.”

“That’s all we have, Tommy ain’t talking. I have to find her James, Leo is just growling these days he’s becoming withdrawn from me without his mate. I feel like I’ve lost her.”

“Alright, I get it you have to go. I’ll cover everything from here and I’ll dig up anything I can. When are you leaving?”

want to 20 as soon as

“Tomorrow morning, it’s a long a*s drive so I possible.” James looks like he wants to say something but then thinks better of it, “just spit it out already.”

“Just, don’t get your hopes up, ok? If this isn’t a lead on Anna, we will find something, I won’t stop looking. Be Careful out there, you might need your mate, but your pack needs its Alpha.”

(Anna)

A while ago John found me in the bathroom, crying and thinking about Max. He saw something in me and decided I couldn’t be allowed my current amount of freedom.

Freedom, that’s got to be a sick joke of his. I hate to think it, but I was freer at the Mountain pack under my father’s rule than I am here. I’ve been in this cage since he found me. I’m not sure how long I’ve been down here, I’ve been fed three times, but I can’t use that as a gauge of time as sometimes we can go four or five days without food. I’m cold because John had one of his lackeys. come and take my clothing, I thought being n*ked for their eyes was my punishment. I was wrong.

When I first got here it didn’t take long for the rogues to realise the females in the cages were using each other as comfort.

We would talk about our time before the cages, talk about our mates or what we hope our mate will be. We would send calming words out into the room when someone was crying so much you could feel their pain in your bones. It was all we had. me especially.

My cage has Eve on my right and a white-haired female called Eliza on my left. Neither had their mates and we would spend hours, maybe even days talking about our dream mate. Eve wanted a man who was strong, caring and

would allow her the freedom to run as a wolf whenever she wanted. She wanted to be able to cook for them, clean. keep their home and raise pups.

Eliza once told me that she wanted someone as strong as her, she was the second in command warrior in her pack. If her Head Warrior failed for some reason, she would take up the gauntlet. She wanted someone who could spar with her without fear of hurting them. someone who would hold her, someone whose love would make her stronger not weaker.

When they asked me, I never shared my thoughts. I had met my mate, Max. I hadn't told them about Max. I was scared.

the Moon Goddess has to have made a mistake. When I close my eyes. when I pretend, I'm safe and I try to sleep. I see a bearded man with green eyes deeper than emeralds, I smell white chocolate and freshly printed parchment. I can never quite make out his face, but I know it's not Max.

'Be ready, he's coming.'

'WINTER? Where have you been?'

'I've been here for a while but if John senses me, it's all over. Be ready Anna.'

'Ready for what?'

My wolf speaks to me for the first time in months. I'm overjoyed but enraged too. Could it be anymore cryptic? Just as I'm pondering this the door to the basement opens and a rogue starts pulling a female down the stairs. She's being pulled by her white blonde hair. Eliza is screaming and shouting to be let go.

"Shut up, you earned this punishment, and all you females need to see what happens when you decide to not do your job!" I've seen this rogue before. I don't know his name, he stinks. He has a constant smell of sweat about him, I swear he doesn't know what soap and water is. He's got short hair, so short I can't even tell the colour. He has a wine tattoo up and down his arms. they lead to a family tree on his chest. He speaks with this nasally squeak that makes me think he's had his nose broken one too many times.

As he and Eliza make it to the bottom of the stairs. I realise she is n*ked, the rogue throws her to the floor in front of him. She has bruises all over her and the unmistakable smell of male seed reaches my nose. She's been violated and from the blood on her hands she fought back, hard.

"You are all here for one reason!" He started undoing his jeans. "You make us money, or you die, that's it. No other option!" As he lowers his jeans, he starts to tug his member to full length.

I turn in my cage to face the wall behind me. I can't watch this! I hear him grunt and Eliza call out for help as he thrusts deep into her. His jeans are dragging along the floor with each movement, I can hear the other females. crying and begging for him to stop.

The sounds of skin on skin speed. up as I hear Eliza gasping for breath, he is choking her. I s*b as my friend is violated, this is a new torture, this isn't being made to service. a man, this is being degraded in front of a room full of people forced to watch.

He grunts and moans as he spills himself inside of her, when he is done, I can hear his jeans being pulled up and Eliza sobbing uncontrollably. I turn in time to watch him drag Eliza to her cage next to me, he throws her in and locks the door. Smiling at me he turns and leaves the basement.

"Eliza..." I squeeze myself up against the cage bars to try and reach her, but she's curled herself into a ball. "Eliza. I'm here." She doesn't answer me, she cries for a long time until I think she's finally drifted into sleep. I curl into my own ball and close my eyes. I take a few deep breaths and try to block out the sounds of tears, chatter and the constant sounds of S*x above me. I fall into a restless sleep, my dreamst are filled with green eyes and Winter running with a black wolf.

"Time to wake up, Stain." I jerk awake when I hear that name. "We have a special guest in need of attention." I slowly crawl out of my cage and stand on shaky legs. I keep my eyes on the floor as my brother hands me a ratty shirt that comes to just above my knees.

"I thought...I thought..." I'm stammering. I don't stammer or at least I haven't before. I'm nervous.

"You thought what?" My brother drags my chin up so I'm looking him in the eyes, "don't worry, Stain. No one will touch you. this guest likes an audience

and he's paid good money for some wh*res to watch him. I thought you would like the entertainment." With that he grabs my hand and pulls me through the basement up into the kitchen. We pass the front room where a female is having her head shoved down on a greasy looking male. As we head upstairs, I can hear the sounds of S*x from males and th whimpers and shouts of pain from the females. inside of the rooms we pass. We come to the door at the end and enter.

(Anna)

As I watch I can't help but remember the saying 'it's like watching a trainwreck about to happen'. After we enter the room. I notice three other females standing n*ked against the far wall and one tied to the bed, spread eagle with what looks like a very rough and secure rope.

She has a ball gag in her mouth with spit dripping down the side. John doesn't say anything, he simply lifts my shirt and leaves me standing there n*ked next to the other three females and leaves the room.

After a short while I'm still staring at the floor when the bedroom door opens aga again. At first, I'm confused by what my nose is telling me. the man who has entered is no rogue. I sneak a look through my lashes and tall man with red hair, a toned b*dy and strong facial features. I don't see more as I quickly dart my eyes to the floor.

As a wolf we can smell a lot, rogues have a distinct scent, it's dirty, rough and almost stale you can almost smell the feral wolf within. Pack wolves' scent like the pack, you can smell other pack members on them, the scent of love, loyalty and care.

It's hard to describe but they are two different scents. The man in front of us is a pack wolf and an Alpha at that. What is a Pack Alpha doing here?

"Ah yes, you will all do nicely." His voice is low and seductive. it's as he turns to the woman on the bed that I realise I have no idea who she is. "prêt mon amour?" the woman on the bed gives a nod then looks at the ceiling. The male takes a whip and starts k*ssing her thighs with it. it's not a heavy slap more a testing k*ss. Oh, I don't want to see this. "You see my Luna likes to perform, we have a place like this in the French Quarter, but they are for putes consentantes, how do you say...ah yes, willing whores."

I'm shocked that this is an Alpha and Luna, how can they not help us. He's moved his whips to the centre of her stomach and he's hitting her harder. The Luna is bowing her back off the bed, she seems to be whimpering for more around the ball gag. The whip is swapped out for what looks like a giant paddle, Goddess that must hurt. Just as he is about to land a hit on her n*ked breast there is a knock on the door.

"WHAT?!" The male is obviously annoyed at the interruption. John enters the room and comes over to me.

"I'm sorry Callum but we must take this one, she has a buyer waiting for her. We will bring another in for you."

"Oui, oui, just hurry. My Luna is getting needy." I am quickly pulled from the room with a bruising grip. John drags me down to the lounge, completely n*ked, I am moving so quickly that when John stops. I fall to my knees. I don't need to look up to see who is in the room, the smell of lavender and bluebells tells me Max is here. My time is up.

"As promised, her virtue is intact, and her submission is beautifully given" John sounds almost proud.

"Perfect, the money is in the account you gave me. We will be going now." Max picks me up bridal style and for the first time in almost a year I see the sun.

At first the light is blinding, and I have to close my eyes because it hurts so much. I'm not in the sun for long though, I'm very quickly placed inside a vehicle. When I open my eyes, we are in the back of a limousine darkened by the tinted windows. I tuck myself up and scoot as far away from Max as I can. He is staring at me, at first, I thought his eyes were black, but they are actually a deep shade of brown.

"What is your name?" he asks in his thick accent. I refuse to answer him and stare at my knees instead. We have started moving, I don't know where we are going but I pray to the Goddess that we don't make it.

"Well it doesn't matter. When we get to the room we will be mated and I will plant my pup inside of you." I gasp at this, he doesn't want a mate, he wants a pup maker. Like out of some spy movie he presses a button and a small hidden cupboard opens. Inside he has a bottle of whiskey, two glasses and a

cigar box. He pours himself two fingers of whiskey and slowly sips it as we drive to wherever he's taking me.

With the windows being dark I can't see where we are going, it's really disorienting. Just as I feel a gurgling in my stomach the car slows and the doors at the front of the car open. "Alright mate of mine, let's get this done" He opens the door and drags me out of the car.

I start to panic, I don't want to go with him and I'm still n*ked as the day I was born, I don't want people to see me. I shouldn't of worried. though, when we are out of the car I notice we aren't at a hotel or a house, we are at a cabin in the middle of the woods. 'Woods are good, we can run in the woods. I can make us run really fast.'

Winter sounds. sure but I don't know how she expects me to get away long enough to shift for the first time. 'You are Omega, let me worry about the shifting. That's easy enough for her to say. I'm not paying attention to what is happening. I'm too busy listening to Winter, so I don't see the slap coming for me until it hits. Max strikes me across the face so hard. I almost black out, the man has hands the size of sauce pans.

"Do. Not. Ignore. Me." with each word he gets closer and closer to my face. "I said go inside, upstairs you will find one bedroom. I want you on your the bed by the time I come up."

I don't dare disobey him, so I enter the house as quickly as I can. I'm rushing so much I don't even take time to look at the cabin, I locate the stairs and bolt up them as fast as my legs will take me. I'm shaky and a little dizzy from the lack of food and the slap I just took. I stumble halfway up the stairs but I quickly correct myself and make it to the open plan bedroom.

The first thing I notice is the massive bed, it's huge, it must fit six people and still have space. I hear the door downstairs open so I quickly drop to my knees. I hear Max at the bottom of the stairs, "I expect you to deal with this while I make the whore mine." The door is slammed and Max comes running up the stairs.

"Let's get this over with whore, we have company I must deal with" Max moves so fast I don't see him move, in the blink of an eye I am in his arms with his nose in the crook of my neck.

“I wanted to take my time, fuck you just right and plant my pup in you before doing this. Ah well, another time.” I’m not ready for the pain, his teeth pierce my skin over the spot reserved for the mating mark. As my blood flows into Max’s mouth. I can hear Winter howling in my head, the world seems to be spinning. This is wrong, I don’t want this, I try to push him away but the longer he holds on the weaker I feel. I can feel myself falling, thankfully I find the darkness, so I don’t have to feel the pain of hitting the floor.

«Fraction>>

We’ve been in the car for just under twenty hours, it would have been longer, but I speeded a lot and refused to stop. I want this done, so I can get back to searching for Anna. I glance at Rick in the passenger seat, “where are we meeting them?” I sound as tired as I feel.

“I’ve plugged into the GPS, it’s some wooded area on the border.” Rick is looking on his phone as he speaks to me. My GPS pings and the directions start telling me where to go.

“Nice and out of the way, doesn’t scream holiday to me.

“I can’t imagine an out-of-town Alpha is here for our splendid trees.” I let off a humph in agreement and we go back to silence. It’s not awkward, it’s the kind of silence that lets you just be. I’ve known Rick my whole life so companionable silence is alright with both of us.

As we pull into a mud road an hour later the sun is just going past the tree line. I spot Darryl and Lewis standing to the side next to an SUV just like ours, most packs stick with the standard black SUV’s if not on four paws.

I pull up and get out of the car, after a good stretch I walk over to Darryl. Claspng Darryl’s hand and then Lewis I say “Did we beat Callum? I thought he would get here before us”

“Yeah, we thought so too but we haven’t been able to reach him. Our visitors are about three miles north of here, he has his warriors standing guard from about half a mile out.” Darryl responds.

“So, he doesn’t want any visitors then” Rick chuckles.

“I suggest for now we watch and see what he’s doing, I don’t want to create a multiple pack war if we can avoid it” I don’t like this, Darryl is right though, if

this Alpha is just here for a holiday, we could create a war for all central American packs.

We have been keeping back and watching this Max guy for five days now. He hasn't done much of interest, beside the fact that he treats his warriors like something he has stepped in. I'm sitting in the lounge of our cabin having what they pass for coffee here. Axel, Rick's wolf comes padding into the lounge and he stops by the small two-seater sofa and seems to be looking around. He's probably looking for the shorts I kicked under the sofa, I reach under and pop them on the coffee for him. Within a few blinks Rick is standing before me pulling his shirts on, Alphas can instantly change but lesser wolves take a bit longer. Axel can switch fairly quickly as Rick holds a lot of Alpha tendencies.

"He's going out tonight, me and Lewis overheard Max saying he's going to collect his mate" Rick has walked into the connected kitchen. to doctor his own coffee.

"That sad sack of an Alpha has a mate, feel sorry for that she-wolf." I wince as I drain my mug. Goddess this coffee is awful. Rick comes and takes a seat next to me.

"I think we should follow him," I look at Rick with a raised brow, "He was telling his head warrior to make sure the money was transferred so he could grab his mate and leave the whore house as soon as possible."

"So, he's paying for her?"

"That's what it sounds like. If she is a wolf, then we have to be sure she wants to be there."

"I assume Lewis is telling Darryl this too?" Rick nods, "Alright. I suggest we go in wolf form. Let's go and meet Darryl and Lewis."

We have been following Max and his Head Warrior for about forty- five minutes and they have pulled off to what looks like an abandoned farmhouse.

It's not very big, the land around it is empty which adds to the feeling of abandonment. The white paint of the house is peeling, and we can't see anything in the windows, we are staying back so we don't spook the Alpha and his man. After only a few minutes we see Max come out the side door of the house pulling a petite woman with him.

We can't tell who she is, but we can see she is n*ked; she has dark hair and even from here I can see the bruises on her skin. The wind takes that moment to carry the smell of dark roast coffee and freshly mowed grass, no one else can smell it. Just me.

I rapidly switch. back to my human form not caring about my nudity "Don't lose that car. that's Anna!" I'm growling as I rapidly shift back to Leo. It's time to fight for my mate. Me. Rick, Darryl and Lewis aren't leaving here without her.

'Mine! Mate! Mine! Mine!' Leo is frothing at the mouth to get to his mate as I put on another burst of speed. I don't bother following the car. Lewis and Darryl are following it and will let us know if it diverts from the route. me and Rick are heading straight for the cabin. Once we reach the one-mile radius from his cabin I slow and link with Rick.

'We need to take care of the warriors, as many as possible'

"There are eight of them out here I can smell them' Rick sounds excited at the prospect of fighting.

I'll take the five on the left, you take the three on the right' I laugh in my head at Rick's response, 'Sure you take all the fun' He runs off at the same time I do. We need to do this quick and dirty, once Anna gets here. I want nothing standing in my way.

When I'm close enough to the first warrior I pounce and snap his neck between my jaws. Poor bastard didn't see it coming. The next two go down just as quickly and just as deadly. Number four is in wolf form and smells me coming, snarling at each other walking in a circle. Each trying to figure out the other's first move.

I swish my tail to draw his eye, it works, and I lunge. I miss his neck and dig my claws into his back to stop myself sailing through the air, the wolf howls into the air as I snap my jaw closed around his hind leg. I use my strength to fl*p his wolf onto his back. and I rip his throat out with my claws before he can make another sound.

He doesn't die straight away but I am done. I walk away leaving him to bleed into the ground. I run to number five but he's not here, I can smell him so he either ran when he heard number four die, or he has gone to the cabin.

'Heads up Alpha, Max and Anna are here' Ricks sounds over the link.

‘Darryl and Lewis are with you?’

“They are.”

‘Wait for Anna to be clear and then we go. I want them all dead and Anna out of here as soon as possible.’

I stay where I am, I’m sure Darryl, Lewis and Rick are ready to go. Coming from more than one direction when we are small in numbers is a good thing. If number five is in the house that leaves a possibility of four of them, I like these odds.

I watch as Max drags my mate from the car, from here I can see she is marked more than I saw at the farmhouse. She is covered in bruises from head to toe, she has open wounds on her torso and a nasty gash on her leg that looks infected.

She’s thin, too thin, they probably withheld food and maybe even water from her. Her hair is shorter than it was and looks dull and lifeless. She has a glazed look in her eyes, she’s talking to winter. I growl as he backhands her so hard, I watch her stumble.

“Do. Not. Ignore. Me.” Max is shouting at her getting closer and closer with each word, “I said go inside, upstairs you will find one bedroom. I want you on your knees next to the bed by the time I come up.” Like hell he’s getting in that house. Anna hurries away and into the house, the second the door closes I let loose a howl and charge towards Max. Just as I’m about to reach him a massive wolf comes out of nowhere and knocks me from the side, I roll as I land and come up snarling. I was so focused on Anna I didn’t see his Head Warrior leave the group.

“I expect you to deal with this while I make the whore mine.” I hear from Max as a howl sounds out as Axel makes short work of one of the warriors. We are still one short. I see Lewis and Darryl come up behind the head warrior.

With three of us closing in on him and Axel coming over to stand next to me the head warrior knows he’s screwed. He crouches low and lets off a grumbling growl, he’s willing to fight for his Alpha. As he lunges for me Darryl grabs his tail between his jaw which causes him to sweep around to find out who has him. Lewis and Axel snap their jaws around his hind legs as I come in and claw

I into his throat. I stand back and watch as he bleeds out, I don't take the time to revel in the kill. I quickly dash through the cabin door and charge up the stairs. I take the scruff on Max's shirt in my jaw and fling him backwards down the stairs where Rick is waiting in human form. I walk over to Anna on all fours. She is on the floor bleeding from the neck, I lean down and clean it with my tongue, I quickly shift back when I see the mating mark. I pick her up bridal style and start down the stairs.

"Don't kill him, Rick. The bastard marked her. We need him alive." I say as I walk past Rick, Max is out cold at the bottom of the stairs. I can't say more than that, I'm raging, Leo is pacing and demanding to 1 kill the fucker who dared mark our mate.

(Anna)

I don't know where I am, the ground is hot and black. Like it was once on fire but hasn't been out for long. Stumps of what used to be trees are glowing with embers, the sky is filled with clouds but they are glowing red almost like a fire is burning somewhere in the distance. I don't know how I got here, the last thing I remember is being marked by Max. I feel my neck and trace the teeth marks with my fingers. I notice a white clump laid in the grass not far from where I am, as I walk closer to it I realise it's Winter. I fall to my knees and touch her fur wanting to comfort her, she whines and lets out low growls, she's hot to the touch, too hot.

'Winter...what's happening? I'm confused, I still don't understand why we are here.

'Can't. Hurts. Wrong.' Winter is making no sense; her voice is so far away from me.

I stand and look around the burnt field. 'Winter I don't understand. What's happening to us?!' The fire in the field is restarting and it's blazing towards us.

(Fraction)

Anna is laid in my bed, sweating, crying out for help and talking to Winter. Me and Rick got her back in record time thanks to Darryl's help. He travelled back with us with Max hog tied in the back of his car. We sped all the way home and made the journey in what felt like no time yet too much time all at once.

“She is fighting but without her wolf she is struggling.” I look at the pack doctor like he has six heads.

“No shit! Fix it!” My rage has been taken to a whole new level since finding Anna on the floor of that cabin.

“I’m sorry Alpha but I cannot. She is Omega, she was mated against her will and her wolf is fighting the mark. It’s now up to Anna and Winter. If she accepts the mark she will be mated, if she’s strong enough she will reject the mark and it will fade. There is also the chance that she can die before being able to choose either option.” The doctor sounds defeated as he slowly replaces the cold compress he has on Anna’s head.

“What if I kill her mate? Will the mark fade without her having to decide?” I’m pacing back and forth along the end of the bed. I’m going to wear a hole in the carpet.

“If you kill him, she will die. If she’s still connected to him when he dies, she will die, it’s part of what makes her an Omega. The bonds between an Omega and an Alpha are strong and to a point too strong. One cannot live without the other.

“I’ve known Alpha’s who have mated with an Omega who have passed. They didn’t die!” I’m starting to question everything this doctor is telling me.

“That is rare, Omegas are rare. Someone can have Omega qualities and not be a full Omega. Anna is an Omega in every sense. She will love harder than most, she will be more loyal than most, her mere presence will resolve arguments and there are rumours of true blooded Omegas even being able to heal their mates. Sadly, Omegas are rare enough that we still don’t know what they are fully capable of.” The doctor is packing up his bag, “I will come back this evening to check her vitals, if you need me sooner, please just shout.” with that the doctor leaves the room.

Every part of my being is wanting me to comfort Anna, but I don’t know what to do. She’s finally covered, wearing one of my shirts and a pair of her panties. The doctor has dressed her wounds and given her antibiotics for the infection on her leg.

She has a drip going into her, the doctor said it will hydrate her and give her some much-needed nourishment. Her wolf should be taking care of her now but if the doctor is right then Winter is busy doing other things. I decide to lay

down next to Anna and try to sleep considering there isn't much else to do. Anna's cries have simmered down, and she seems to have slipped into a sleep state.

I don't know where I am, the ground is hot and black. Like it was once on fire but hasn't been out for long. Stumps of what used to be trees are glowing with embers, the sky is filled with clouds, but they are glowing red almost like a fire is burning somewhere in the distance. I see a white bundle on the floor with a girl sitting next to it.

"Anna? Winter?" I shout out, I start running towards them. The girl's head shoots up and looks straight at me. I recognize those blue eyes anywhere, "Anna, my Anna" I grab her and hold her to me when I reach her.

"Fraction? What...what are you doing in my dream?" Anna sounds confused.

"A dream? Is that where we are? The last thing I remember is falling asleep next to you. What happened here?"

"I think this is where I first met Winter, I don't understand what happened to it."

"It's you Anna, you happened to it. Well, you and Max." Max's name comes out in a growl.

"He...he marked me. I remember the pain and that's it. I know he's my mate, but I don't want to be mated to a man who buys women!" She sounds so strong, stronger than I know she is right now.

"He's your mate? How is that possible?"

"I met him when I first got the place with those rogues, he came back for me. He took me away."

"No, I mean, how can he be your mate? Two mates....Goddess what a mess."

"Two mates? No, I only scented one." She looks me in the eyes, and I can see the question there.

"Anna, me and you, we are mates. When you wake up you will be able to scent me for yourself. Right now, I need you to focus, you and Winter need to reject the mark, or you will die. You could accept it but then you will be mated to Max."

“NO! I won’t be mated to him. How do I reject him? I can’t get out of here, I’ve tried!”

“Try telling Winter, she should know what to do.” We both walk over to the white wolf whimpering on the floor.

“Winter. I, Anna Clem reject Max as my mate and Alpha. Winter, can you hear me?” She is trying to reach her wolf. “We reject Max as our mate Winter. Please hear me. Reject him. WINTER!” Anna is shouting at her wolf trying to reach her through the pain of a forced mating.

“Fraction, wake up.” I jerk awake to my mother shaking my arm.

“Mother, what’s wrong?” I’m annoyed, Anna needs me and now I’m not from hampe no datand up Foom me teck and pock at me moher

Manes on the gone now, the the needle coming a can get Though to Winter These down to her and tee well mos

Flames bum

288 Vouchers sure I can get back to her.

“There is a call for you, Alpha Callum from the Whiteridge pack.”

“Can’t James take it?” I stand up from my bed and look at my mother.

“James is on the phone now, but he needs you.” I hope Anna can get through to Winter. This is down to her and her wolf now.

(Fraction)

I begrudgingly leave Anna sleeping on my bed. As much as I want to be there for her, I don’t think I can fight this battle for her I wish! could, I wish it was within my power, I pray to the Goddess that Winter is still aware enough to help Anna reject the mark

As I enter my office, I see James sitting at my desk chair, notepad and pen in front of him and a phone to his car As I close the door. I see James roll his eyes

“Alpha Fraction is here now. I’ll pass you over James passes me the handset and moves from my chair to the sola

“Alpha Callum, nice to hear from you. We were concerned when you didn’t show in South Dakota”

“I am sorry about that My Luna had taken ill and needed my attention”
Something about this doesn’t sound right to me, sure Lunas can get sick but surely, he could have answered the phone “We need to discuss the wolf you were following Alpha Callum is an older Alpha and by rights he should have stepped down and passed the title to his Alpha Heir by now. The old cont refuses though

“What about him?” I ask, I don’t want to talk about the man whose mere presence enrages my wolf

“He’s practically royalty within his packs. They have contacted me regarding him. Apparently, he came here to collect his fated mate and his pack felt the loss of eight lives three nights ago. Please tell me you weren’t involved in this. The Eastern packs are threatening war unless he returns home” Why the hell would they contact Callum. All calls like that sound go to Darryl, he’s the Head Alpha in the area.

“Why did they call you and not Alpha Darryl?”

“I have taken my Luna to Hati a few times in the past and I know some of the Alphas over there.” Wolves holidaying with outside packs, that’s a first.

“Well, I have no idea what you’re talking about. I’ll speak to Alpha Darryl and see if he knows anything. Do you need anything else, Alpha Callum?” I’m done with this conversation; I need to speak to Darryl and figure out what to do.

“Nothing more. I will speak to you again soon, Fraction.” He hangs up the call on that disrespect. Not referring to me as Alpha Fraction was just as offensive as coming up and punching me in the face. I slam the handset down and turn to James.

“Speak with Darryl. He needs to know what is happening. Maybe he can dig into why Callum has a link with the Eastern packs” James is writing notes in his pad, “tell him to deny we have Max until I know how to handle the mate situation we have.

“Anything new on that? How’s the Luna?” I can hear the concern for Anna in James’s voice.

“She’s fighting, her and Winter are strong. I don’t know how after all they have gone through, but they are.” I sigh and rub my hand over my face, “Doc says she’s special, a full-blooded Omega. She’s rarer than we thought.”

“This will work out Alpha, I’m sure of it.” James gets up and leaves probably to speak to Darryl as I requested.

I lean back in my chair and close my eyes. Killing Max’s warriors might have just started a war, taking Max and holding him could cause even more damage. I can’t let him go, not while he’s linked with my mate, not while his life is connected to Anna’s. The only way this will end is with Max dead after I challenge him for the right to mate Anna. A rejection won’t be enough in the eyes of the packs, and I don’t believe Max will accept a rejection from a full-blooded Omega anyway.

‘Rick, double up patrols and tell the warriors to report any suspicious activity.’ I mind link with my Head Warrior. Max still has a warrior out there, that combined with the ones who took Anna is still unknown to us. We need to make sure we don’t encounter any surprises. Just as I’m about to steal a thirty-minute power nap a knock sounds on the office door.

“Enter.” I sign out, Goddess forbid I have 30 minutes to myself. My mother sticks her head around the door.

“Sorry to bother you, Henry. I thought you might like to know Anna is awake.” I’m out of my chair before she finishes the sentence, I quickly sidestep my mother and dash for my bedroom. When I get there. I stop at the door. I quickly run my hands through my beard and hair, check. my shirt is not oddly tucked into my Levi’s and slowly enter the room.

Anna is sitting up in bed listening to the doctor. Her eyes meet mine instantly, the first thing I notice is the mating mark, it seems to be less. than it was. Before it was red and raised, almost angry looking. Now it’s pale and if I wasn’t looking for it. I’m sure I would miss it all together. Does this mean the rejection took?

“I want you to rest in bed for at least one more day and no shifting until I give you the all clear.” The doctor says to Anna who is just nodding her head, she hasn’t taken her eyes off me since I entered the room. The doctor turns and leaves seeing he won’t be getting much. more from either of us.

I see Anna's pupils dilate and her nostrils widen, she's scenting me. I just stand still and allow her the chance to understand what Winter is telling me. The next words out of her mouth brings me to my knees. "Mate!" She all but growls at me.

(Anna)

I'm pleading with Winter to reject Max as our mate, I'm confused by Fraction's presence but also not. It feels right that he is here, but I don't understand it. Sometime between pleading with Winter and shouting at the Goddess for help I realise Fraction has gone.

I didn't see him leave, I needed him, and he just left me, I felt somewhat stronger with him by my side. I can feel the flames are getting closer to us, I can't imagine anything good will happen once they reach us. If Fraction is right and this is just a dream I need to wake up. I've fought too hard for my life for it to be taken away because some asshole Alpha decided I was his. Just as I'm about to be consumed by the flames I hear Winter, in a small voice say, "I reject you Max. as my mate and Alpha." Suddenly the flames around me go down, as if by magic the grass slowly starts to turn green, the once red sky is now breaking apart to show some blue areas. I think we did it, "thank you Winter."

I wake with a start. The first thing I realise is I'm not in the cage. I'm not sure where I am. Wherever it is, it smells good. Like white chocolate and freshly made bread, I turn to my right and see a set of black drawers with a lamp on it. The wooden floor is scattered in jeans and shirts, apparently the person who owns this room doesn't believe in laundry baskets. The bed I'm in is massive; it could easily fit three or four wolves.

"I'm so glad you're awake, Anna. I've just linked with the doctor, he's on his way now." I'm startled when I hear that voice, I turn to my left and start to cry.

"Momma Beth?" I can't believe she's here.

"Hi sweet girl, you had us all worried for a while there." A man comes into the room he's out of breath and carrying a leather satchel. He's smaller than James but taller than I am, judging from his sterile smell this must be the doctor. He walks to the bed and starts taking things from his bag. Nothing too scary looking, thank Goddess.

“Anna, I’m Doctor Lee, I’m the pack doctor here.” He must be new, the last pack doctor was an elderly woman, “I’m glad to see you awake, although I wasn’t expecting it to be so soon.” He starts taking my temperature, “your temperature has come down and you no longer smell of infection. How’s your neck?”

I slowly reach up and run my fingers over the mating mark, I can’t feel the pain anymore but it’s still very much there. “It doesn’t hurt anymore.” I tell the doctor, he carefully turns my head to the side to inspect the mark.

“It seems to be fading, it looks like you and your wolf have successfully rejected the mark.” He starts saying other things, but I block him out. The smell of white chocolate and freshly made books has just become even stronger, I look over to the door and lock my eyes with Fraction. “Mate!” I all but growl out. It’s low and very unlike me. Fraction falls to his knees with tears running down into his beard.

The doctor quickly leaves after my announcement. I didn’t hear a single word he said after Fraction walked into the room. As if all at once the green eyes in my dreams, the wolves running together, the smells I can’t place, all make sense. Winter has been telling me for a long time that Fraction is my mate. That Leo is hers.

“How long?” Fraction looks up at me confused, he’s still kneeling on the floor beside the bed. “How long have you known who we are to each other?” He takes my hand in his and a shot of electricity shoots through me, it’s not unpleasant. I could enjoy this feeling forever.

“Since the first time I saw you.” He says in a low voice. I’m shocked, he’s known about this for three years and never told me.

“Three years! Three years and you never said anything. You kept me here like some sidekick friend, ignored me, refused to swear me into the pack and pawned me off to your Beta all the while knowing I’m your mate!” I’m enraged, does he not want me? Am I really so damaged that even my mate would ignore me for three years. Fraction gets off the floor and sits on the end of the bed.

“It wasn’t easy, little wolf. Alphas can sense their mate from a very young age but if we meet our mate while they are still pups it’s against our laws to tell them. Our wolves put up this wall that doesn’t allow us to be anything but a protector to them. It stops any unfortunate incidents from happening, it also

protects the pup until they are ready.” I can see the truth in his eyes but after everything I’ve gone through and now this, I’m not ready to let go of my rage.

“And let me guess now I’m 18 and lying broken in your bed you think what? That I’ll just spread my legs and let you mate me?” I’ve shocked him, I don’t really mean what I said. I have this rage in me and it’s bubbling over.

“Goddess no Anna. How could you think that of me? I’ve searched for you for almost a year, killed wolves to get you back and locked a foreign Alpha in my cells. I’ve sat by your side for days, neglecting the pack to help you heal. I somehow got dragged into your dream and I helped you reject what was forced upon you. Not once has the thought of mating you even crossed my mind; I just wanted you to wake up and be whole again.” I can see the truth in Fraction’s green eyes, I can also see the pain my words caused him.

“I’m sorry Fraction. I ... I didn’t mean what I said.” I cast my eyes down, I’m ashamed of myself. Fraction puts a finger under my chin and brings my eyes to his, “Don’t be sorry Anna. You, of all people, are allowed to be angry.”

“Did you get John?” I ask suddenly, remembering my brother at the farmhouse with all the females and rogues.

“John? Your brother, John?” Fraction sounds confused, of course he would think John died when they attacked the Mountain Pack.

“He’s the one who took me, well his rogues, but he sold me to Max. He made sure I was punished daily, he’s holding all the other females. We have to help them, Fraction! We can’t just leave them there to be raped and beaten!” My voice has risen to a shout by the time I’m done. The look on Fraction’s face is one I will never forget. He’s blaming himself. I can see it in his eyes. He stands from the bed and walks to the window.

“I’m so sorry Anna. I should have made sure all of the Mountain Pack died that day.”

“It’s not your fault ” he turns to look at me and I can see the anguish on his face

“Isn’t it? If I and the other Alphas made sure they were all dead none of this would have happened. Now he has countless females, he stole my mate and had her beaten and... and” he can’t get the words out; his voice is cracking from the pain he feels.

"Fraction come here," I hold out my arms for him, but he doesn't come. to me. Preferring to feel his pain than let me help take it away, "Fraction, he didn't...they didn't rape me." His eyes shoot to mine, "I think Max was planning to, but I assume you were the reason he didn't. I saw females get attacked and I saw them raped without mercy but I.." The guilt I feel is huge and like a lump in my chest, "I was lucky, I guess. After I got there Max turned up to buy a whore." Fraction growls at me being called a whore, "His words not mine. John took me to him, and Max scented me. Because I was underage, he left me with them under strict instructions not to use me as I was his." I start picking at the skin around my nails, "I guess...I guess I was lucky."

I don't feel hacks. Ten worried for my friends, for Eve and Eliza and all the other females only know by look "Fraction, we have to help the ether We can't post leave them there le comes to me and k*sSES the top of my head

"Of course, we will help, but for now I need you to heal. Then we need to deal with Max. I will start the ball rolling on getting the other females freed"

I don't feel lucky, I'm worried for my friends, for Eve and Eliza and all the other females I only know by look. "Fraction, we have to help the others. We can't just leave them there." He comes to me and k*sSES the top of my head.

"Of course, we will help but for now I need you to heal. Then we need to deal with Max. I will start the ball rolling on getting the other females freed."

(Anna)

I'm back in the cage, it smells like I remember it, like death, S*x and sweat have forever stained the walls around me. The women in the other cages are all silent. It was never silent here. I listen hard for the noise of S*x and chatter above me. There is nothing. I notice a tall figure standing in the dark just out of reach of my cage. I sniff but I can't smell anything. I try to shout out but only silence leaves my mouth.

"Little wolf, little wolf, let me in." a voice sounds from the figure before me. As my eyes adjust, I can sort of make out that it's a male. I still can't make a sound.

"I'll pry, I'll pull, and I'll stretch your legs around me" I don't like this person, whoever they are they're not friendly to me. I look around and the women have all disappeared. I'm no longer in my cage, I'm spread eagle on a bed, tied down by ropes that are cutting into my skin. I'm surrounded by silky red

satin. I know this room: I fell asleep in this room. Blood runs down my arms as the rope cuts into my wrists,

“Little wolf, little wolf. Let. Me. In,” I turn to the voice and before me stands Fraction. Except it’s not, his hair is a mess, his beard is gone, no more are the chiselled abs I’ve come to enjoy looking at, in their place is a beer belly. His once adoring green eyes are yellow and filled with rage. “Let. Me. In.” With each word he gets closer and closer.

I vault out of the bed covered in sweat, Fraction’s shirt is sticking to me. My hair is soaked. I can’t catch my breath.

“Anna, what happened?” Fraction is up and in front of me in no time at all. I back away from his confused look, he holds his hands up in a display that tells me he means no harm. I dash for the ensuite bathroom and lock the door behind me. “Anna, open the door!” Fraction is pounding on the bathroom door.

“I just need...I just need a minute.” I call to him.

I strip and step into the shower, turning it on. I let the cold water punish my skin. Goddess. that was a bad one. It’s been one week since I woke up in Fraction’s bed. Each night he has fallen asleep in the chair next to the bed and each night I have awoken covered in sweat and panicked from a nightmare.

Sometimes it’s my father, other times it’s John, this is the first time it’s been Fraction though. I sit on the floor of the shower and sob. I’m scared all the time, even when I’m alone I fear I’m not..

(Fraction)

I sit on the floor with my back to the door. for the seventh night in a row I’m listening to Anna sob to herself in the shower. I know what’s happening in her dreams, she doesn’t realise it, but she talks in her sleep. I listen as her father beats her, as John attacks her and dumps her in a cage, tonight I listened as I tormented her. Each time she speaks in her sleep it kills something inside of me. Since that first night we haven’t spoken about being mates, I haven’t touched her or even spoken. to her intimately. She hasn’t left my bedroom, not once. I bring her food: she pushes it around her plate, and we sit in silence. I want to be there for her but I’m running out of ways to help. Her safe place is the bathroom, any time I try to talk to her she runs into there and hides for hours on end.

'What can we do Leo?' I reach out to my wolf for advice.

'Are you Alpha?' Leo responds

'What a stupid question, of course I am.'

'Then be Alpha'

'What the hell does that mean?'

He doesn't reply. "Then be Alpha.' What the hell does that mean?!"

(Anna)

I don't know how long I've been sitting in the shower, long enough for my shower to change from cold to hot and back to cold. My tears have mixed with the water, I'm not even sure I'm crying anymore. I should get up, I can hear Winter willing me to get up, she's lending me her strength, but I don't want it. I want my sadness to weigh me down. I'm carrying it around me like a shroud, like a bubble. I'm using it to protect myself.

It's like an explosion goes off in the bathroom, the door splintering shocks a scream out of me. Fraction is standing in front of me, he's wearing the basketball shorts he fell asleep in, his beard is full and wild like he's been running his hands through it. His hair is standing on end, which makes him look adorable and young. His eyes are switching between green and yellow, his chest is puffing in and out from his deep breathing.

He walks towards me as his eyes settle on green. He carefully opens the shower door and leans down to pick me up. My n*ked wet b*dy collides with his chest. I'm not sure if I jump into his arms or if he picks me up. I'm enveloped in a fluffy white towel as he sits me on the counter between the two sinks.

"This has to stop Anna; I can't help if you don't talk to me." He says in a low voice as he pushes the wet hair out of my face. "You need to start talking or at least stop running from me. I won't hurt you Anna, not ever."

As he talks my eyes are drawn to his mouth, I don't know why I do it, I'm like a moth to the flame. I lean in and land a feather light k*ss on his l*ps. He doesn't k*ss me back, so I go in for another, this time I hold my l*ps to his. I'm just about to pull away when he slants his l*ps over mine, I feel his tongue caress

my lips and I gasp in surprise. As his tongue blends with mine fireworks go off in my head, it's like Christmas, fresh cookies and sunny days all rolled into one giant ball of goodness.

I moan into his mouth and pull him closer with my hands in his hair. I can't get enough of his taste. I try to bring my leg up to his hip as he pushes me away and holds me in place with his hands.

"Damn it, Anna. That's not what I meant!" He sounds mad, the weapon I feel pressing between my thighs says he's anything but mad.

"I need you." I say as I try to reach his mouth again, damn his immovable arms. "I'm your mate and I need you!"

"No!" He moves to stand near the bath out of arms reach, I pull the towel further around me.

"You don't want me?" I'm starting to cry, Goddess when will I run out of tears?

"Does it look like I don't want you?" He points to his crotch, "Of course I want you. I just don't want you to regret it. When I finally have you, I want you to want me as much as I do you. I want you to feel loved and cared for."

"Then you're going to be waiting a long time." I sound bitter and angry. I jump down from the counter and head back to the bed. I curl up under the sheets and start crying all over again. I hear Fraction take his usual spot in the chair next to the bed.

Next Chapter coming soon.

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