268 THE KRAKEN 1

Erik rushed out of the cabin leaving Jasmine inside. 1

She sighed sad that had she been left behind.

Then the ship shook again and she heard smashing and breaking along with shouts from above.

She became very anxious as she sat still unaware of what was going on.

Then she turned to the Kire who lay at her feet.

"Do you think we should check it out?" She asked him. 1

He rose his brow at her sighed. 1

"I take that as a yes." She said and she rose

up to her feet and hurried up the steps.

Kire went obediently behind her.

Once she reached the top of the decks, she was shocked at what she saw.

The men were all rushing and shouting and the ship was rowing amidst the storm.

There was a very heavy storm and it rained

everywhere.

They were pulling and pulling hard at the sails and holding up the starboard.

Trying to gain control of the ship.

"Hold to starboard, free up the sails to the west!"

She turned around sharply and she saw Xaden.

He was at the wheel steering the ship.

Their eyes made contact instantly and it was like electricity.

Her heart skipped in the instant. 1

And whilst she was looking at him she had no idea when a broken plank of wood from parts of the ship flew free.

It would have hit her because as she turned around, she saw it coming right at her.

But she was pushed down on the floor.

There was heavy body over her. 1

She looked up and saw it was Xaden.

How had even been so fast to save her on time.

She was shocked.

She looked up at him as the rain dropped heavy

on them.

Then he hurriedly got up to his feet.

At that moment Erik and Kire rushed up to them.

Xaden did not offer to help her up.

It was Erik who extended his hand out to her.

"What the hell is she doing here Erik?" Xaden snared at Erik. "You had said that you will be responsible for her."

"I did." Erik said looking down hard at her. "I told you to stay below decks!"

Then he turned to Kire. "I told you to stay watch over her! You almost killed her."

Kire whimpered taking a step back.

Jasmine stood in front of the wolf. "I forced him to come along! It is me you should

Be mad at."

"You have no idea how mad I am at you!" Erik barked. "You think I wasn't?" 1

Then Kire was growling and howled and began to do the two at once aggressively.

Jasmine looked up and what she saw shocked her.

"Erik look!" She screamed. 1

All the men turned and looked up.

There was what seemed like large tentacles. What would have seemed like the body of an Octopus. 2

Except each tentacle was almost as tall as the ship and large.

"What the hell is that?" Erik asked.

"It's a kraken!" Someone shouted. 3

And then one of the tentacles dropped on the ship and the wood was breaking so hard and apart. 1

Jasmine looked at amidst the rain falling hard against her face. 1

And then Erik dragged her aside.

"Is that a Kraken? I thought it was only a myth. At most they would extinct if they even existed." She said in awe. 2

"Well since I saw a cup being a dead man to life I've stopped believing in myths." He snapped at her. "You are going to be going down below the deck!" 1

He whistled and Kire who was at their side became alert.

It was then Jasmine realized he had gotten bigger.

About maybe four feet tall now.

Then Erik lifted her up and set her on him.

"Take her down and keep her safe." Erik said. "You are not to let her leave your side no matter what."

Then Erik turned back to Jasmine herself. "And you yourself! You will not come up snooping. Do you understand?"

She nodded.

Then she remembered that he still had her necklace.

"My mother's necklace." She said. 3

And then he remembered and gave it to her. 2

The very single instant that the emerald was back in her hand.

The creature screamed and then it dropped down from the ship. 2

The ship stopped rowing hard itself and began to slow down.

Jasmine turned and looked around.

Erik himself looked up, shocked at what had

just happened.

Then Xaden who had already been in his wolf

Form turned back to a human and walked straight to the side of the ship. 1

Jasmine came off Kire and raced to the sides too.

There was no sight of the creature.

It was gone as quickly as it had come.

There was no single sight of it.

Xaden looked back up from the side of the ship and turned to his men.

Erik rushed to see for himself.

"Is it really gone just as quickly as it had come?" Erik asked. "Just like that?" 1

"So it would seem." Xaden said. "I have never seen anything like this myself before." 1

The men were now all looking back at Xaden waiting for an order.

He sighed heavily.

"Look to the other ships." He said. "And see that they are all okay." 1

"Yes my lord." Someone answered and rushed

off. 1

Ned rushed forward and ran to throw up across the sea. 1

"You would think a healer would be sufficient enough to travel." One of the men said and they all laughed together. 1

Jasmine turned to her emerald in her palm and without a thought of anything odd about it, she wore it back on her neck. 2

She gently rubbed Kire's fur.

The man who has answered Xaden came back.

"Wel lost two ships my lord." He answered. 1

Xaden swore and looked defeated.

"Ready the men." Xaden said. "We will resume once we offer the funeral rites of those we lost. And we better leave before that goddamn creature changes its mind and eats us." 1