

## Chapter 6

---

# Run, Girl, Run!

“Aw,” the vampire said with what sounded like mock sincerity. “Look at the poor thing.”

I shook my head, trying to get ahold of myself. I hadn’t cried since I was a little kid, and even then it was when I busted my arm falling out of a tree. What the hell was wrong with me?

“She got you so fulla girlmones you don’t even know who you are anymore.”

“I just want my stuff b.b.back!” I said. “Please?”

“I love it when they beg. Don’t you, Gus?”

“Music to my ears.”

“How are we on stock?” Mary-Beth said in a serious voice.

“Chock full. That comic book kid been keeping us in business.”

“Plenty of blood too?”

“Twenty-Four packets.”

She sighed. “Still less than 24 hours. Catch and release?”

“Up to you, MB.”

She looked up at me. “Sugar, I’m going to give you back your backpack. But then I want you to run, not walk, your ass out of Dark Water Falls. You hear me now?”

I nodded, wiping my eyes.

“I see you so much as turn around, I’ll send the Chad Wolf after you. You saw the carnage from last night, didn’t ya?”

I nodded, shivering.

“That’s what I thought. I knew you were connected somehow.”

Mary-Beth walked back into the kitchen and disappeared for a bit.

“Them girlmones gonna do a number on you, kid.” Gus started wiping the counter. “You only just started on that transform.”

“What?”

“You don’t even know, do you.”

## DARKWATER FALLS

“Know what?”

“Kid, you’re gonna be needin’ tampons before long.”

“What? It’s just makeup and—“

“Oh, no. What Mei did was change your entire body chemistry. You feel your nutsack lately?”



“What?” I stammered.

“You’re nutsack, kid. Reach down and give it a tug.”

Confused I did as he mentioned, trying to be discreet.

I didn’t feel anything. Little Sean was there, of course, right where it should be but my testicles had pulled up into my body or something. I couldn’t feel them anywhere.

“What the hell?” I said.

“They’re ovaries now.”

“Wait, what? She never said—“

“You starting to get the gist of what can happen to you in this town, kid? You’re lucky Mary-Beth is in a good mood.”

“But I...she was only supposed to play with me, and I was going to go back to how I was!”

## RAINE MONDAY

“Sorry, kid, but you’re really getting off lucky. At least you’re still human.”

“You’re telling me I’m turning into a girl?”

“Here you go!” Mary-Beth said, setting my backpack down with a thump. It was heavy but she’d lifted it with one hand like it was nothing.



“Thank you,” I said, taking it and shrugging it on. It felt *much* heavier than it had the day before.

“Like Gus said, sugar, you caught me in a good mood today. But don’t forget what I told you, I wanna see them heels *running* your way out of town. Do not pass go, do not collect a million dollars, you hear me?”

“But my clothes are at the salon—“

“Babygirl, did I stutter?”

I shook my head, wiping my tears.

“You just chalk your lost manhood up to poor decisions. If you’d listened to me yesterday, you might still have it.”

I nodded.

## DARKWATER FALLS

“You could lose a *lot* more before sundown here in DarkWater Falls. We have it all here; zombies, werewolves, vampires, demons, shifters of every type and flavor.”

“Really?”

“And if you don’t leave you’ll be next on the menu. You’d already *be* there if we weren’t plum full up right now. That don’t mean other restaurants in town don’t need a menu item you might be able to provide, especially since you’re becoming more succulent with every passing minute.”

I nodded and shivered, making my way to the door.

“Now *run!*” she said.

“Run!” Gus said.

I ran.



Running in heels is not fun. I stopped briefly to slip off the things, but I heard a screech from behind me and decided not to risk it. I sped down the sidewalk, trying to keep my balance and make it out of town.

I passed the comic-book store, the salon, and on down the street, I ran. I thought about Mei and wondered if she had risen from her nap and if she missed me. I hated to leave without saying goodbye, but she

## RAINE MONDAY

had to know the kind of town this was and why I needed to make a hasty exit.

I was passing an old church when I felt the cramps hit, like someone had kicked me in the balls.

I fell to my knees, moaning in pain. It radiated up from my groin deep into my pelvis and I felt like I was going to be sick, have to use the restroom or both.



I moaned, writhing, needing to find a restroom but unable to get up off the sidewalk. I felt like everything inside was turning to liquid.

## DARKWATER FALLS



Deep guttural chanting came from within the church, and I could see there was some kind of hole in the floor?

I managed to stagger past the church to the service station next door.

“Can I help you?” The service station attendant said?

“May I use your restroom?” I said, holding my stomach and trying not to lose it all over the cement.

“Customers only,” he said.

I rolled my eyes and grabbed a candy bar from the display.

## RAINE MONDAY



He rang me up on an ancient cash register, then handed me the keys to the ladies' room.

"Men's...ah, never mind," I said, making my way to the rear of the station and opening the ladies' room door.

Halfway into the restroom, I doubled over again and had to stop. I'd never felt such pain in my life, it was an intense burning sensation from deep in my belly. I moaned and crouch-walked into the stall.

## DARKWATER FALLS



After expelling everything in my guts from both ends, I was dizzy and was seeing spots in my vision. The pain radiated from everywhere and I there was nothing else I could do other than hang off the side of the dirty toilet and try to stay conscious.

Sweat rolled off my forehead and I felt pins and needs coming from all parts of my body. Moaning and gasping, I tried to get ahold of myself, but the pain and nausea continued for what felt like hours.

Time and again I had to relieve myself. I heard women coming in and some of them even expressed some concern but I waved them all away, embarrassed to be in the ladies' room in the first place and under such a physical condition.



## RAINE MONDAY



After a long while, I finally started to feel a bit better. I was able to stand and clean myself up a bit. I knew my body had shifted, because when I looked into the mirror, my face had altered under the makeup. The lines were softer, less angular, and my backpack actually felt like it was going to slide off.

## DARKWATER FALLS



When I grabbed my backpack straps, I noticed something else had changed...well, two somethings...

## RAINE MONDAY



They bobbed on my chest with every step, and I kept painfully pinching them in the backpack straps. I also had a strong urge to fix my hair back as it was, but I was so exhausted, I didn't want to fool around with it.

What I needed was a change of clothes. I dug through my backpack and found a cleanish shirt and a pair of pants. I tried them on, but they were huge on me, and I couldn't get them to sit right, so I put the women's clothes back on.

I dropped the key off back at the counter, and continued my way out of town. I felt bad for leaving Mei without saying goodbye, and the farther I walked, the worse I felt.