

## INTANGIBLE HEART REBEKAH BENE BARTON

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#### **Prologue**

"I HATE YOU!" Anna screamed.

Blake just looked at her, she had been screaming at him for the past hour, and now his ears were starting to ring.

"You're nothing but a cheating good for nothing jerk!" Blake stood straighter, now they were starting to get to what had made Anna so riled.

"Would you just calm down, maybe I'd know why you're so mad if you just told me, instead of yelling at the top of you lungs." Blake said calmly.

Anna stopped yelling and just stared at him, her silver-gold eyes ablaze with uncensored rage, "What I'm mad about, no Blake I more than mad; I'm completely in rage, after all I've done for you, and how do you repay me? Huh, oh you go and sleep with that whore of a woman Delilah." Blake stood there blinking, as her words began to sink in, "Ann I did not sleep with Delilah." Now he was starting to get mad, not so much at Anna but more at whoever had told her this complete and utter lie.

Anna gave a mirthless laugh, "Oh really?" She walked out the room then came back with an envelope in hand, "Tell me who's that you're with?" She said pulling out the contents and throwing them on the table in front of him.

Picking up the pictures Blake looked at each one, all of them were of him with Delilah; one was even he and she walking into a motel room, though he had no memory of ever doing such a thing, especially something as distasteful as this. Though now he understood why Anna was so angry, placing the pictures back on the

table he looked strait into Anna's eyes, "That's not me, I've never even talked to the woman." Her eyes narrowed in disbelief. "So then tell me, who's the man in the picture?"

"I don't know, come on Ann," Blake walked around the table so that he stood he was standing directly in front of her, "You know I would never do anything to hurt you." She turned away for a brief moment then meeting his gaze again she sighed, "I know, it's just..." her voice trailed off.

"It's just what?"

She looked away again, taking a deep breath as if to build her courage, "Well it's just that, everyone knows her reputation, she's the daughter of Judas Black, and you're the son of Joshua King, me I'm just a' nobody from Louisiana." Blake couldn't get past the vulnerability in her eyes; he couldn't help it any more pulling her in to his embrace, resting his cheek on her silken mound of maple brown hair. He was relieved when she didn't pull away from him but nestled closer.

"Listen Ann just because of our status doesn't mean I want to be with Delilah," Blake looked down at her, "There's only one person for me." Releasing Anna Blake dropped to one knee, "Anna will you marry me?"

#### **Chapter One**

### In Loving Memory Of Anna Euston King Wife, Mother, and Friend 1984-2009

Blake ran his hand over the lettering, it had been a year since Ann's death, and he was still grieving.

"Why'd you leave me?" Blake had been at the office the day of the crash, he still remembered it, though it still felt surreal.

"I miss you," Blake ran his hand through his wavy black hair;

"Kelly misses you too." Kelly was his three-year-old daughter, and
the spitting image of her late mother, she also had Anna's spunk.

Placing the flowers down Blake stood. Walking back to his car, Kelly
sat in her booster seat, "Daddy?"

Getting into the car Blake turned to his daughter smiling, "Hey there, you want to get some ice-cream?"

Kelly started bouncing in her seat, "Ice-cream!" She began shaking her head yes, Blake smiled, as he pulled out of the cemetery onto the main road.

Annie stood at the cash register, wiping her brow, sighing, it was rather hot in the building for an ice-cream shop. Looking out the window she saw a car pull up, standing straight and smiling she waited as a man got out of the car, heading to the passenger seat door he opened it, when he moved she saw a little girl.

Grabbing Kelly's had Blake walked into the ice-cream shop.

Pausing he looked at the woman at the counter, with a sharp intake Blake just stared at the woman, she looked just like...

No.

Blake gave himself a mental shake, replacing the look of shock with a smile.

"Hello, and welcome to Ice-Cream Emporium."

"Hey, I'd like a Double Fudge Sunday, and what do you want Kell?" Blake said turning to his daughter.

"Um, Vanilla Fudge, please."

"Ok, one Double Fudge Sunday and Vanilla Fudge coming right up."

Blake watched as the counter woman prepared there order, when she finished he was able to get a good look at her, the only thing that was different from Ann was her ocean blue eyes.

"Well that will be twelve dollars and fifty-nine cents." She said with a smile.

Handing her the money Blake turned to leave just as another customer walked in, pausing the woman's eyes lit with recognition, "Your Blake King!" She fanned herself as she walked closer to him. With a smile that dripped syrup, "So mister King I heard you were looking for a new secretary."

Blake groaned, but before he could reply the counter woman did. "Leave the man alone Cindy."

Cindy waved a hand to dismiss the other woman's statement, "You just don't know who this is Ann."

Blake froze; first she looked like Anna now she had the same name this was really starting to get weird.

Kelly just stood there happily licking her ice-cream, not paying any attention to what was going on.

"Here's my number." She handed him a piece of paper.

"You know if you don't stop flirting with every young male customer I get I'll be out of a job for lack of business." Blake turned to look at the woman whose name was Ann, she had her hands on her hip, and was staring down the other woman with a fierce look. "Oh come on, guess what brings them in." Cindy said with an exaggerated toss of her copper brown hair.

Annie couldn't believe this, not only was Cindy flirting with a customer but she obviously wasn't paying attention to the fact that he was hand in hand with a little girl, which meant that he was probably married.

Staring Cindy straight in the eyes Annie tilted her head down then turned her gave to the little girl who was still happily licking her ice-cream.

Following her gaze Cindy paused, "Oh I'm so sorry Mr. King I had no idea your daughter was with you." Cindy sputtered the apologue.

"No harm done, but I should get going, thank you for the icecream."

"Hey you paid for it." Blake walked out of the shop, after buckling Kelly in, he got into his seat. He could see the Cindy woman was now at the front counter but she was staring out of the main window at him, while Ann just turned and went into the back room.

Blake's mind wondered back to the time when he and Ann had been together, it had been the best time of his life.

#### 111

After closing up the shop Annie headed home, the day hadn't been too eventful, though it had been busy during rush hour. Pulling up to her apartment Annie headed up the stairs, entering she flicked the light switch placing her purse on the couch she walked into the kitchen. Pausing to look at the picture on the wall, it was of her and her twin Anna; it had been years since they had seen each other, ever since they had been sent to different orphanages.

Sighing Annie walked to the refrigerator, they had promised that they would find each other someday, and Annie planed to keep that promise. The last thing she was able to find was and address, which she planned on checking out the next day, till then she would just have to hope that Anna was there.

#### *111*

Waking up at five on a Saturday morning was not a usual for Blake, but after waking he couldn't fall back asleep so he decided to make himself a cup of coffee. After pouring his coffee into a mug and taking a sip Blake headed back to his room just as his phone started ringing, picking it up he answered, "Hello, this is Blake King."

"Plake way den't sall you den't sprite subject a girl subject to de?"

"Blake, you don't call you don't write what's a girl supposed to do?" Frowning Blake answered, "Delilah it's five in the morning and Saturday, what's so important that you couldn't wait till a more sensible time?"

Blake heard the indignant huff on the other end, "Really Blakey, we've know each other for how long? I shouldn't have to wait to call you." Before Blake could say anything she went on, "Now what I was calling to say is we should go to the Westwood Fundraiser together, and you could bring Kelly as well." Pinching the bridge of his nose Blake sighed.

"Sorry Delilah but I can't." Though he really just didn't want to, he sighed again, what was it that she didn't understand?

"Oh...Well then we could meet there, either way is fine with me." "Sure by Delilah."

"By Blake." With that the other end went dead. Placing the phone down Blake sat at the edge of his bed looking at the clock it was five minutes till six, so he decided to take a shower than fix Kelly something to eat before she awakened.

Getting out of bed and taking a shower Annie went into the kitchen to see that it was eight twenty, after eating a quick breakfast Annie got her keys, purse, and the piece of paper she had wrote the address down on and headed to the car hoping that she would Anna.

Kelly leaned her head on Blake's shoulder, as they sat in front of the TV watching cartoons, when he heard the doorbell ring, getting up he headed for the door unlatching.

When the door opened Annie was surprised to see the same guy who Cindy had been flirting with standing in front of her. "Um, does Anna Euston live here?"

Blake just stared at her what in the world was Anna double doing her, and of all things looking for Anna.

"No, she doesn't."

"Oh." Blake noticed she looked crestfallen, and wondered what her relationship with his Ann had been. Opening the door wider Blake stepped aside, "Uh, I think it would be best if we talked about this." Annie tilted her head slightly as if wondering if she could trust him,

"Believe me it important, especially if you're looking for Anna." Nodding she walked into the house, after locking the door he turned to see her looking at a picture on the wall, walking up he came to see that she was looking at him and Anna on their wedding day.

When she turned to him he noticed there was a pained expression on her face, "Y-your Anna's husband?"

"Yes, well I was."

"Was? Where is she now?"

"Before I answer you could you tell me how you know Anna?"

"We're twins, couldn't you tell?" She stared at him quizzically.

"I can tell the two of you look alike, but Anna had never mentioned having as twin."

"Oh, so she never mentioned me, or even have a twin, not even once?" Blake could see the pain in her eyes, and the oddest thing was that he wanted to comfort her, but didn't know how.

"No, not that I can remember."

Annie couldn't believe it all these years of looking for her sister searching for her, and Anna had already moved on.

Reining in her emotions as best she could Annie asked, "So where is she now?"

Blake took in a deep breath, before staring her straight in the eyes, "Anna died last year in a car accident." Annie inhaled a sharp intake of air.

Blake watched as Annie buried her face in her hands, watching as her body trembled as she cried. As he sat there watching something in a far region of his heart wanted to reach out to her, getting up Blake went around the table to were Annie was, and wrapped his

arm around her, slightly shocked when she leaned into him. Letting her cry on his shoulder, he held her a little tighter, and when he did she buried her face in his neck, he could feel his T-shirt getting soaked through, but that didn't matter to him.

After her crying lightened she lifted her head realizing that she was being held by Blake, she pulled back, but he didn't release her he only held tighter.

Placing her hand on his chest Annie looked up at him, straight into his hazel green eyes, there was something mesmerizing about them that made it hard for her to turn her gaze.

"Would it be ok if you took me to her grave site?" "Of course, let me just get Kelly ready."

"Also would it be ok if I spent time with Kelly?"

Blake paused at that question, even though she was undoubtedly Anna's sister he still didn't know that much about her, "Maybe the three of us could hang out, this way you could get to know Kelly."

Blake's heart skipped a beat when she smiled at him his heart skipped a beat, that was the problem with her looking so much like Anna. Releasing her Blake took a step back, "I'll be back shortly."

Turning Blake headed for the living room were Kelly was watching TV.

Shaking her head Annie berated herself for the way she had just acted, even if her sister was... Rubbing her temples Annie sat back down, this wasn't how it was supposed to have went, she was supposed to find Anna, and they were to have a wonderful reunion.

Instead she found herself crying in her sisters' husband's arms, realizing that she was over a year to late.

When Blake entered the room Kelly was trailing behind him, when she saw Annie she smiled, "Ice-cream lady."

Blake gave her a lopsided grin, "Kell, Annie's your aunt."

Kelly turned to look at her dad, then back at Annie, before running to her and jumping into her arms, "I don't have a mommy, but I have n' auntie now," Kelly smiled before turning serious, "Can you marry daddy, and become my new mommy?"

Blake looked at his daughter then let his eyes drift to Annie's, wondering how she was going to answer.

"Well," Annie said looking at him then back at the girl who was in her arms, "If it's meant to be than yes, but if not then I'm glad to be your aunt." Kelly seemed to think this over then nodded, "Ok, but I like you better than the other lady." Smiling Annie place Kelly down, and watch as the little girl left to put of her shoes that were by the door before turning to him, "The other lady?"

"She must mean Delilah." Blake noticed the change in Annie immediately.

"Delilah Black?"

Putting up his hands Blake said, "Trust me it's not what you think." She nodded excepting his answer then went to were Kelly was standing by the door. Blake wondered why it was so easy to talk to Annie; she just seemed to automatically fit into the family, with Kelly's approval and all.

#### **Chapter Two**

#### Two Weeks Later

Walking into his office Blake smiled, it had been two weeks total since Annie had walked into his life and things couldn't be better. The three of them had been spending as much time together as possible, but he still wondered what it would be like to take her out on a date... Shaking his head Blake sat down in his chair, now wasn't the time to think about that, right now it was time to get his mind focused on work.

An hour later Jenna his new secretary beeped him, "Hey boss, you have a visitor."

"Send them in." When he saw who it was Blake almost groaned, "Delilah what are you doing here?"

"I was just making sure that we were still going to the fundraiser together, is all." She said perching herself at the edge of his desk in a wearing a way to tight nonprofessional satin dress.

"Delilah I never said I'd go with you."

"Oh come now Blakey,, of course your going with me," Moving so that she was sitting right in front of him, Delilah leaned in, "We're going together Blake, I now you still miss your wife and all but..."

Just then the intercom blinked,

"Hey boss, you have visitor." Sighing with relief Blake said, "Don't send them in yet."

"Ok."

Moving his seat back Blake stood, "I have business to attend to, so I would ask you to please leave." Standing Delilah gave him a forced smiled, "This conversation isn't over yet."

"Actually it is." When she left Blake told Jenna to send in the next person, and was surprised to see that it was Annie. Standing Blake went around his desk, "Annie? I wasn't expecting you."

"I know, sorry if I'm taking you away from work."

"No its fine, trust me you came just in time." Motioning for her to sit and doing the same Blake asked, "So what brings you here?" "Well, I was wondering if Kelly could spend the night at my house, if it's ok with you."

"That would be great, I have a meeting that will probably last till seven, then after that I have dinner with a few of my clients, so that would work perfectly. Do you think you could pick her up from school?"

"Sure, is there anything you think I should get from your place?"
"Well she's going to need her pajamas and a few other things so I could give you the spare key..." Blake voice trailed off as he stood going around his desk, opening the top drawer he pulled out his spare. Then went and handed it to Annie, "Call me if anything happens."

"I will, what time should I drop her off tomorrow?"

"Well my mom wanted to take her this weekend; she'll be by at about quarter till eleven, so drop her off at ten thirty."

"Ok." Blake was caught off guard when she stood and gave him a peck on the cheek before leaving his office. Even though that shouldn't have meant much, it made his pulse skyrocket.

#### *111*

Annie watched Kelly as she played on the slide, she was happy she had decided to come to the park with Kelly; it would allow the little girl to lose some of her energy before they went to Blake's place then hers.

"Hello there." Annie turned to the familiar voice.

"Hey Ethan, what are you doing here?" She said as she stepped into his open arms.

"Running and you?"

"Hanging with my niece." Pulling back Annie pointed to Kelly.

"Wait your niece is Blake King's daughter?"

"Үер."

"So that means you found your sister."

"Yeah," Annie took in a breath, "But she died last year in a car crash."

"Ann I'm so sorry." Ethan said pulling her into another hug, "So tell me, are you going to the fundraiser?"

"Yeah why?"

"I was wondering if you would like to go with me." He released her to get a better look at her expression.

"Um, I don't know, I was planning on going with Blake and-" Grabbing her hands in his Ethan looked her in the eyes, "Please Ann, we've hardly been together the past two weeks, and I would be more than honored if you came with me." His eyes were pleading. "Fine, I'll go with you, now you need to let go so that I can take Kelly home." Ethan smiled leaning in he brushed his lips against hers before turning and jogging off.

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The next day Blake waited for Annie and Kelly, since his mom was taking Kelly that would give him time to spend with Annie. He smiled to himself; Annie had seemed to brighten both his and Kelly's life.

When the door bell rung Blake jetted from in front of the TV, opening the door, to have Kelly jump into his arms, "Daddy!" Blake

twirled around with her in his arms, "Hey Kiddo, did you have fun with aunt Annie?" Bobbing her head up and down Kelly squealed when Blake began tickling her just before placing her down, "Hey Grandma's on her way so go get ready." After she hugged Annie Kelly bolted to her room closing the door behind her.

Blake turned to see Annie smiling up at him, "She is one hyper child you know."

"Don't I, so are you doing anything later on today?"

"No not that I know of." Annie said as she walked into the living room, "You know I have only seen cartoons on this TV since we met." She said placing her purse down on the couch.

Laughing Blake said, "Hey I'm a kid at heart."

"I can see that." She said with a smile.

"Annie I wanted to know are you going to the fundraiser." She answered the question without turning to look at him, "Yeah." "Uh I was wondering if you would like to go with me." Please say yes.

She sighed, "I can't-" Blake's shoulders slumped, "I understand."

Turning Annie looked at Blake, noticing the defeated slump of his broad shoulders, "Blake," Annie said walking so that she was standing straight in front of him, "The only reason why I can't go with you is because I promised a friend I'd go with them." Annie reached her hand out touching Blake's cheek, "If you had asked first I would have chosen you." She whispered, when she was about to remove her hand Blake grabbed it in his; bringing it to his lips he planted a soft kiss in the center palm.

When his eyes focused on hers there was a new awareness of each other, their eyes stayed locked, as Blake's other arm encircled her waist pulling her closer to him.

Blake's eyes drifted down to her lips before looking back up at her, Annie could help but lean into him, inviting him in, opening her heart to him. When she pressed into him Blake's gripped tightened around her, as he lowered his head, with the lips only an inch apart, "My Annie." With that Blake took her lips with his, the minty taste of him sent her pulse racing. Her lips parted in response. His other hand moved to the small of her back, pulling her closer, molding their bodies together. She didn't resist. His smell, his taste, the hard muscles underneath her fingertips, and the longer they kissed the more passionate it became. Till all Annie could think of was him, nothing else mattered.

Blake knew he had to stop before he loss control, with great reluctance he pulled away. Looking into Annie's eyes he noticed they had darkened with desire, both of their breathing was ruff. "Ann, come to dinner with me."

She nodded, "Ok." She rested her head on his chest. Blake thought he could really get used to having a woman in his arms again, especially one that he was falling for and he was falling fast and hard. They only broke the embrace when the doorbell rang and at the same time Kelly walked out of her room with a sack pack slung over her shoulder. Blake smile, when Kelly looked from him to Ann then back to him again, "I auntie about to become my mommy now." Blake laughed as Annie went and opened the door, when Blake went to say hi to his mother he saw that she was on the verge of fainting.

Grabbing her arm and around the waist to support her weight Blake walked her into the house placing her on the couch.

Ann followed Blake to the living room; she had noted Blake's mother's reaction, which was probably because she thought that she was Anna.

"Mom are you ok?"

"Am I ok, I just saw Anna!?"

"Mom she's not Anna she Annie Anna's twin." His mother sat straight up with the news, "You mean to tell me that Anna had a sister."

"Yes ma'am, that's what I'm saying, don't worry it came as a shock to me to at first." He said smiling looking up to see Ann smiling back at him.

### Chapter Three One Week Later

Blake was sure of it now; he had fallen in love with Annie.

Nothing would change his mind; the two of them belonged together.

As he dressed he wondered who the friend was that was taking her to the fundraiser, he knew that if he didn't act fast she would be gone, swooped up by another man, and he wasn't going to allow that to happen. As far as he was concerned Ann belonged to him, and that was the way it was going to stay.

After she finished getting ready Ann waited till she heard a knock at the door, placing her book down she stood, straightening out her dress then went and opened the door.

Ethan gave her a once over then an appreciative smile, leaning to kiss her, but she turned her head so that it hit her cheek and not her mouth.

"You look beautiful." He said offering her his arm.

"And you handsome." She said with a smile slipping her hand in the crook of his arm.

Once he arrived at the fundraiser Blake immediately looked for Ann, once he spotted her he made a beeline toward her, while holding Kelly's hand. When Kelly realized were or rather who they were going to see she pulled her hand out of his and rushed over to Annie placing her hand in Ann's.

Looking down Annie smiled seeing that it was Kelly holding her hand, then looking up her eyes meet with Blake's, as he made his way to her. Turning as she feels a hand on the small of her back she

sees that it's Ethan, but instead of looking at her his eyes are riveted on Blake.

Blake noticed the possessives gesture on Ethan Tanners part, relieved when Ann gave Ethan a questioning look.

Coming to stand in front of them Blake extends his hand offering it to Ethan. Taking his hand Ethan, nods to Blake, "Blake, long time no see."

"Ethan, yes it has been a long time." Ethan opens his mouth then closes it, looking over Blake's shoulder with a groan, "What is she doing here." Turning Blake sees the objective of Ethan's displeasure, letting out a groan of his own. Spotting them Delilah walks over, "Hi Blake, Ethan," She smiles and nods to both of them, before turning her attention to Annie, "Anna, but you shouldn't be alive." Taking a step back Delilah heads in the other direction. Blake smiles glad not to have to deal with her antics, returning his attention to Ethan, who looked just a relieved as he was. Blake noticed that Ethan still had his hand on Ann and had to grit his teeth to keep from moving it, "So are you bidding on anything?"

"Yeah the classic gold and silver trim pocket watch."

"I'm bidding for the sunset painting." Blake smiled inwardly, thinking of how wonderful it would look in his house, which was were Ann and the painting were going to be by the end of the month.

The whole night Ann noticed Blake and Ethan kept glaring at each other, and the disappointment Ethan expressed when she said she'd like Blake to take her home.

Blake dropped Kelly off at her mother's house, to spend the weekend, and then headed to the Ice-Cream Emporium; he had a déjà vu upon entering,

"Hello, and welcome to Ice-Cream Emporium." Ann said before, and then her face lit up, as she moved from behind the counter.

"Blake what are you doing here?" She said entering into his arms. "Well first off I would like to know if you can take lunch break."

"As a matter of fact I can." Stepping out of his arms she went into the back, then came out with huge smile on her face, "Now since Reno is about to start his shift we can head out." When they got into his car Blake turned to her, "I would like to take you to the beach if that's alright with you."

"I'll go were ever you go." Blake hadn't thought he could be more in love with this woman until now.

Pulling into the parking lot and getting out of the car Blake turned to open Annie's door for her, then went to the trunk to get the picnic basket out.

"Wow, you came prepared."

"Anything for you." He said giving her a peck on the cheek. Blake had thought about how he was going to propose, and was glad that it didn't start of the way it had last time. Setting up the blanket Blake laid out the food.

When they had finished eating Blake pulled out the ring while Ann stood facing the other direction shaking off crumbs, when she turned around her hand flew to her mouth, "Blake?"

"Annie you've brought me more joy than I've had in a long time, Kelly to, I love you and want to spend the rest of my life with you if you'll have me." Ann threw herself into Blake's arms, "Yes, yes I'll marry you, and I love you to." Slipping the ring onto her finger

Blake brought his lips to hers kissing her with all the passion and love that he felt, excited when she did the same.

#### **Epilogue**

Three Years Later

Annie smiled as she watched her husband playing catch with their three kids, Kelly, Anna, and Josiah. She was the happiest wife and mother on the planet. She wouldn't have changed anything that had happened the past few years, she was even more in love with Blake now than she had been four years ago, there was nothing that could take away from the pride, joy, and love she felt for her growing family. Ann smiled placing her hand on her protruding belly, "Soon you'll be out there with them little one."

#### THE END

Thank you for reading Intangible Heart,

I hope you enjoyed reading it as much as I did writing it.

Your advice is welcomed whether it's something I should change or just an idea for a book 2 please give me your feedback on the book.

And Again

Thank You, for reading my book. ©

-Rebeksh Bene Barton

# Excerpt From Goral-Howl Of the Moon pt2. This is an excerpt from part 2 in the Goral series Enjoy

Morgan's patience was at its end, Lurid had been gone for almost a week. Walking the shore line he stopped when he came to the woodlands, a light breeze moved through the trees, and an even lighter scent came to his nose, it was Lurid's but she wasn't alone. Walking into the foliage Morgan followed the scent till he came upon a clearing, when it dawned on him she must have went to Eldon that would be the only thing that explained her absence. Though why she would need to go to Eldon was beyond him, but he would find out soon enough. And that's when he smelled her, the girl that had been with Dryan that day in the forest, so if she was here then that meant that Dryan was with Lurid, baring his fangs Morgan snarled, once the gate opened he was going to drag the truth out of one of or both of them. Turning Morgan head back to his home to wait for the coming dawn.

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Opening Dryan's door Banal walked in, it had been over five days since she had last saw him, and now she was starting to get suspicious. Looking around everything looked the same as when she had last been there, nothing changing, walking to the book shelf Banal picked up the first book she saw, it was the book written by the ones

bound to Kazab forbidden to ever be read, Banal stared at the book, 'what was so great about this book that it should never be opened?' Banal thought as she ran her forefinger over the cover. If she opened it no one would ever know,

"I call to you in the night, and warn you by day, will you heed my voice?"

Banal stopped, she knew she shouldn't open the book but now the only thing she could think of was opening it, "Will you heed my voice?"

Banal turned searching for the one the voice had come from; when she saw now one she turned her attention back to the book.

"Heed my voice simple one, return to me as you once were."

Banal felt a hand lightly on her shoulder then a whispering in her ear,

"Do not give him the rights to your soul, for as you open the book you will no longer be your own."

Placing the book back with shaking hands Banal turned and left the room.



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