

The Seer

Crows creep me out. I don't know why. They just do. There's something about them that seems off.

The way they appear suddenly, crow loudly once, and then disappear? It just seems unnatural. Unearthly even.

Every time one comes near me, I have to fight the urge to shudder. And when they go away, I feel like I can breathe again, but there's always this small feeling like they've taken a part of me with them. And if there is a crow near by, it will come and find me. Honestly, I'm like a magnet for them.

Lately, they seem to be appearing more often. And for some reason, I've been becoming more forgetful, like everything that makes me, me is disappearing. I don't understand why. Plus, my brain seems to be working unusually slow too. I know this, only because everyone else I'm around seems to be able to function more efficiently than myself.

Half the time, my brain is empty, and then I wonder what I was doing. And then I wonder why I was wondering. I confuse myself a lot lately. The only thing I'm sure of, is that crows are creepy. And that's only because they are everywhere, so I never have a chance to forget them.

Who am I? I don't know. I don't even know my name.

"Babe, are you there?" Someone is waving a hand in my face. This person called me 'Babe'. I'm sure that's not my name.

"Sorry?" I blink hard, trying to focus myself.

"Where'd you go? You're disappearing into your head way too much now." It's a guy, I think about my age. I feel bad again. I must know him somehow....

I smile sheepishly. "Just been distracted...."

He grins at me. It is a gorgeous smile. "I can see that. Why don't I take you home now? The bell rang over 5 minutes ago. You've been sitting there a while!"

I grab my.... bag? And throw it over a shoulder. I follow him out, hoping that I might remember something about this boy. I study the back of him. His hair is light brown and he is much taller than me.

We walk to what I assume is his car and he opens the door for me. I climb in, and freeze. There are two crows in front of me. Outside of the car, but they are still crows. They are looking at me with their beady eyes. They each caw once and fly off.

I sigh. I can't help myself.

The guy gets in the car and looks at me curiously. His eyes are a startling green. "Those crows still bothering you, Babe?"

I nod.

"Don't worry. I'll protect you from anything." He smiles that adorable grin.

I smile back and close my eyes.

Black. Wings. Wind. Crows. CROWS! A flash of lightning. A gentle voice. "Be strong. You'll find your way." Crows. Crows. Crows everywhere!

"What's wrong? Answer me!" Someone is shaking me again.

I start. "I'm sorry. I just- I just- I dunno."

He shakes his head sympathetically.

"You sure you're okay?" He asks me, concerned.

I nod. "I'm okay. But thanks anyway." I turn the corners of my mouth up, hoping it looks like a smile, rather than a grimace. We seem to be smiling a lot at each other. Inside though, I feel faint and sick.

We stop at a house. It looks like every other house on the street.

"Bye Babe."

I get out of the car and wave as he drives off. He seems sweet. I wish I can remember how I know him.

I walk up to the front door and it swings open. Is that normal?

I shuffle in, a little bit nervous. The door slams behind me.

It is dark. I start to panic.

Suddenly, I have a sharp pain in my shoulder. I gasp, and reach up to grab it.

I scream. There is something warm and sleek on it. I look, and there is a crow. I feel weight on my other shoulder. There is another crow.

I cry for help, but no one is coming. The crows are digging into my shoulders, the pain is almost unbearable. I try hitting them away, but it hurts too much. I black out.



When I come to, I am overwhelmed by a musky scent. I struggle to open my eyes and when I do, I am struck by how dark it is. I blink to make sure I do have my eyes open.

I feel a rushing wind and the blackness starts to move. No. Not blackness, wings. Hundreds of black wings.

I flinch and try to cover my head. I try so hard to not scream, but a strangled sound comes out of my mouth.

A cackling laugh rises out of the midst of the sound of beating wings.

I open my eyes suddenly and try to find where the laugh came from.

"Crows scare ya, don't they, sweetie?" A mocking voice calls out. The voice grates on my nerves and makes me wince.

The crows disappear. Where did they go? I do not know, and I am just so relieved they are gone.

The room is filled with light, now that they are gone.

A misshapen form is on a chair, a few metres in front of me.

"I'm so glad you're here darling."

I shudder from the voice but I still venture forward a step. I have an irrational need to see the face of this being.

Of everything that I am unsure of, I know I have to find out more about this person.

"Come closer, my pretty. I won't hurt you. I'm just a very tired, old woman."

The person's voice takes on a soothing tone, and I relax instantly. I walk up to her. My mind has gone blank again. Her voice sounds familiar. Maybe I know her.

She reaches for my hand and holds it gently between her own.

"Close your eyes, my dear. Everything will make sense in a moment."

I hesitantly close them, unsure now. I take a deep breath, and gasp.

My mind is full of images.

Full of images from *my life*.

I remember everything.

My name. My name is Aesa.

The boy who called me Babe, he is Cory. He's my best friend from when I was a young girl.

Swinging on a swing set, with Cory pushing me, crows around me, Cory joking about it, saying he'll protect me from anything.

And throughout it all, a poem.

Hugin and Munin

Odin's twin ravens,

Fly each day

And go to their havens.

While Hugin returns,

Munin never learns.

Hugin and Munin.

Thought and Memory.

Odin's ravens. Why are they so important?

I say so aloud to the old woman.

She sighs. It's a sigh of relief, of finally being able to relax after a long, long time.

She smiles. "They are important because they are now your lifeline."

"What do you mean? How are they my lifeline?" I'm getting scared now.

"I am a descendant of the Norse god, Odin. I have been alive for a very, very long time. I am what they now call an oracle."

"You mean, you can see the future?" I ask.

"Yes and no. I can only see what Hugin and Munin bring me. And from that, I can predict the future, because I know everything. I know every decision

being made in the world, and I know the exact consequences of each choice," she explains to me.

"So why am I here?" I want to know.

"Because you are also a descendant of Odin. You are here to relieve me of my duties. You have been prepared for it your whole life. You have been remembering less and less each day, because Hugin and Munin have been drawing your thoughts and memories from you, for me. You never remembered them, because of your fear of crows. They changed their form of ravens into crows to collect your life." She smiles again.

"No! I am not taking your place. I have to go back. I can't stay here! I have to go back to-" I break off, because she is nodding at me.

"Yes? Back to Cody? That's the beauty of it all. He won't remember you. It will be as if you never existed. Say goodbye to your memories completely, darling." She reaches for me again and grasps my hands.

I try to fight her off, but she is incredibly strong. She frowns in concentration and her eyes are pure light. She gasps and crumples to the floor. I wrench my hands back, and start taking short shallow breaths. Her form on the ground disappears into dust and slowly blows away, taken by a non-existent breeze.

I close my eyes.

Who am I?

Two familiar weights are on my shoulders.

Hugin and Munin.

I am the Seer.