

Chapter: 01

Crimson



The red and orange tint is smeared across the sky, kissing the clouds, and the sun is hiding in between the clouds, spreading its rays across the air and down to the ground where it touches the trees, and the birds bask in its warmth.

It is a beautiful, warm day with the mesmerising sounds of the birds chirping and the cool breeze whooshing past me, flowing my long black hair with it. The smell of scintillating roses, daffodils and peonies surrounded me. It is bliss, pure bliss.

Well, unfortunately for me, I can't experience these things here in *Morrigan*. Now you must wonder what I mean by that. well, don't worry, I'll explain everything.

It all started when we came to this town, which was... *huh!* funny thing, I don't remember; actually, none of us do.

Anyway, Morrigan is a small town in Ireland. It is not your ordinary town, it is a dark, evil and shady town. You don't know what is going to happen in the next hour or even in the next minute, it is bloody unpredictable.

The weirdest thing is that this town has no exit. Yes, you heard me correctly, this town has no exit. Once you're in, you're in forever, trapped with no way out.

We don't have trees blossoming in our gardens, pets to walk around in the neighbourhood or birds chirping and flying around. No. It's just us humans and no other living being.

The sun doesn't shine, the stars don't align, it never rains, it never snows and the weather is always chilly and dreary almost eerie. It kind of looks... fictional? I don't know. If I would write a book about it or maybe read a particular fictional book based on this theme and the place we're living in, I would probably enjoy reading or writing about it because it would've been fictional; but unfortunately, it is my reality.

Oh! How rude of me, I never introduced myself. Hi! My name is Lynda, Lynda Blossom, I live here in Morrigan with my parents and my little brother Max Blossom. And this curly brunette beside me is Troy, my best friend, I'm so jealous of him though because the bastard has the most gorgeous luscious chocolaty curls with thick eyebrows, long lashes and the beautiful shade of Hazel eyes. I swear he must be god's favourite.

It was like any other day; I don't even know if I could call it a day. It's still dark out, a little bit foggy and chilly. I have donned grey jumper and black trousers along with some warm charcoal socks and mittens and a purple beanie on top of my head to shield myself from the cold.

It is around 5:00 pm now and we are just taking a walk around the town taking in the surroundings. Well, there's not really much to take in as it is all dead and spooky.

The trees are bare of any leaves, fruits or flower buds, there are no gardens around, no flowers or anything exciting. I wonder why we live in this town, it's not like it's all peaceful and beautiful and chaotic. No, it's rather void, eerie and gloomy.

There is a lake here which is the most terrifying place in this town and trust me that lake is no ordinary water body well, nothing in Morrigan is ever mundane but there is something fishy about that lake. I don't know what it is but we never go there it's one of the rules actually. Oh! My bad. I forgot to mention we have rules here for a living. I have no idea who made them they just became a part of our lives.

Rule 01:- Never Leave Your House After 06:00 PM

Rule 02:- Never Go Near The Lake

Rule 03:- And The Most Important Rule, Never Be Alone When It Rains.

We are currently walking on the barren streets of this town. I know we have to go home quickly because it will be 06 soon and we can't go past 6 so now we are heading home.

"Troy. Why do we live here?" I ask him.

He sighs and answers "I don't know Lyn, I wonder the same."

"Sometimes I do wonder why our parents chose to live in this town out of all the places in the country." I voiced.

"How's Freya? I haven't seen her for a while now." I ask him about his little sister. Freya is the cutest 06-year-old with her chubby cheeks and her red plump lips and those deep ocean blue eyes.

"She's fine now. She had caught the fever for 03 days straight, Mum went crazy when her fever wasn't coming down and the doc wasn't available for three days and you know we only have one doctor in the town so it was pretty rough but then we finally took her to the doc and she said something about a virus or flu I guess but now she's doing fine." he answers.

"Oh, that's good. I can't imagine how she must've felt seeing her baby in pain and no one to help. But I'm glad Freya's doing good now. I would love to visit her." I reply.

"Yeah. Sure. You know she adores you."

"I know. I'm the best big sis for her." I bragged.

Troy chuckles shaking his head at me.

Suddenly the air became colder and the speed of the wind picked up making our steps halt, the wind is so speedy it feels like a storm is coming. I shield my eyes with my hands and my hair is flying in every direction we can't move forward even a bit even if I try I just stumble back because of the wind. After a few minutes, the wind went quiet. Too quiet. I opened my eyes and see some of the dead trees have bent down due to the storm and some has been fallen. And that's when I felt it, a warm liquid on my skin. Moving my gaze towards my hand I saw the one thing I didn't want to see.

The small wet raindrop. Remember how I mentioned earlier that it never rains in Morrigan? That's because it really doesn't but when it does it's always bad news.

Because it is no ordinary raindrop on my skin right now, it is a dark and warm crimson liquid that's pouring from the sky.

Chapter 02

Disappearances



Troy and I share a look as the rain starts pouring down on us along with the wind and we march our way towards our houses as fast as we can. Now Morrigan wasn't an ordinary town so why would the things happening in it would be mundane, Right? The rain wasn't mundane either it wasn't clear water but rather a crimson thick warm liquid. That's right it was a blood rain; whenever blood rain pours it means people are going to disappear.

We don't know who or how they vanish but they do. We don't know where they go it's like they just vanish from the surface of the earth.

As the rain continues pouring down on us my heart palpitates rapidly in my chest. I just wish no one from our family disappears.

The rainfall is turning into showers now and after a few minutes, it completely stops raining. We stop running once it stops raining gasping and heaving from all the running I look at my wristwatch and see that the rain lasted for about 13 minutes and also the pace of the wind has slowed down. My breathing is heavy from the running and fear coursing through my veins, I inhale deep breaths through my nose and exhale through my mouth to normalise my breathing. After my breathing is somewhat calm I share a glance with Troy, noticing his breathing heavily too.

By the time our breathing calmed down, I noticed that we are both covered in the crimson liquid from head to toe and small droplets are dripping from our faces and hair.

Without wasting another minute Troy and I start sprinting again towards our houses. My head is pounding, my breathing heavy and my body is shaking from the fear that is coursing through my entire anatomy.

Whenever this rain pours we were always together, I was 6 when this rain last poured on us and luckily me and Troy were with our families together. But now we are away from them and that only added more worry in my heart.

After about 5 more minutes of running Troy reached his house and after a minute or two I reached mine.

I sprint the door open making it bang loudly on the wall behind it and without wasting a breath I start calling for my parents.

"Mum! Dad!" I scream as loudly as I can. My voice is shaky from the running and the fear of the unknown.

The house is engulfed in complete darkness and not one soul in sight. I wonder where my brother is. I just hope they all are fine and nobody disappeared.

"Dad!" I call for him again running into the house to find the both of them. I searched for the flashlight in the drawers and found it in the second one; lighting it up I started running around in the house to search for my family.

"Max! Where is everybody?" At this point, the tears are threatening to release from my eyes. I feel the sting in my eyes and my vision goes blurry from the moisture stored in them. I rubbed my eyes to rid the water from them and continued my search.

I check the hall finding no one there next I move to the kitchen and I feel my heart starting to sink into the pit of my stomach when I find the kitchen bare too.

At this point I am hyperventilating, I don't know where my parents are and the tears start streaming down my cheeks at a rapid pace, my whole body is shaking. I am trying to control my breathing by taking deep breaths to calm myself but nothing works.

I hear a commotion from upstairs and without thinking I run towards it. The moment I reach the stairs I see my dad come down making me somewhat feel relief that he is okay but the frantic steps and the worried expression on his face turn my relief into panic.

"Dad, what happened? Wh- Where's mum? Where is Max?" I stutter.

My dad didn't answer and he just keeps looking at me with fear in his eyes and that was all I needed to know that my worst fear came true.

"Why aren't you saying something? Where are they?" My lips are trembling and my voice cracks.

I walk past him and run upstairs calling for my mum and Max.

"Mum! Max! Where are you guys?"

No Answer.

I searched the bedrooms but there is no one, I run back downstairs and see my dad seating on the sofa with his head in his hands. I run towards him kneeling in front of him I asked with my voice coming out just above a whisper.

"Where are they?"

There are tears in his eyes.

"I'm sorry." He whispers shaking his head.

"No!" I whisper in disbelief shaking my head in denial but the tears that leave my dad's eye are a lot more of the confirmation of my worst nightmare.

I lose my balance and fall backwards.

My mum disappeared. It is like my world came crashing down. My breath hitches and I just stare at my dad with wide terrified eyes.

"Where is Max dad? He must be hidden somewhere. He can't just disappear like that he is just a kid. We have to find him. I have to find him." My voice turns to whisper in the end.

The sound of the front door banging against the wall and a frantic yell of my name brought me back to reality.

"Lyn! Lyn!" it's Troy.

I turn around to find him in the front of the hall, tears stain his cheeks, pure fear in his eyes, perspiration glistening on his forehead and he's breathing heavily.

"Troy." My voice comes out a mere whisper.

"Lyn! H-he is gone. He is gone, Lyn. I searched for him everywhere in the house but he is nowhere to be seen. He is gone!" Troy cries and falls to his knees on my doorstep and I know exactly what he means.

I rush up to him and hold his face in between my palms. He looks devastated. Tears keep falling like a waterfall and broken sobs escape his mouth.

Looking at him so scared I couldn't control my emotions and let the floods go.

"Sh- She is g- go- gone too. I can't f- find her. I can't find Max." I stutter and a sob escapes my lips which causes Troy to stop his crying for a second and just look at me. Within the next minute, he pulls me in his arms and we both let go. We cried so hard hugging each other like one of us would disappear too if we let go.

I don't know for how long we sat there hugging each other, crying. Once our crying died down to soft sniffles and sobs we let go of each other.

"Hey kiddo, come here" my dad called. I completely forgot about him for a minute there. I reach towards him and he immediately engulfs me in his arms making me cry once again.

"We'll find them kiddo. We'll find them both. Don't worry okay, I won't let anything happen to them. I'm gonna find them and bring them back." my dad assures me.

"But how dad? You know what happens to those who disappear. They never return."

I whisper the last sentence against his chest tightening my hold on him.

"Hey. Look at me." he unwraps his arms from around me and tilts my head up.

"Listen to me. Both of you." he directs his head towards Troy.

"We will get them back. You hear me? We'll ge-"

"Lyn! Daddy!"

The sound of Max's little voice echoes from behind us and we all turn to the door again to see him running along with Freya and Rose at us. Seeing my six-year-old brother running towards us was such a relief. He came at me full speed and crashed into me hugging my stomach so tightly. My poor baby was shaking so badly he must've been so scared when all of this happened to be away from us.

"Hey Maxxie you're ok baby, you're fine." I hugged him back and kissed his head a few times to calm him down. By this time he was full-on crying my dad came and picked him up in his arms calming him down.

"Where's mommy? I want Mum." He asked us. Dad and I shared a look not knowing how to tell him.

Freya was in Troy's arms and asking about her father's whereabouts. We don't know what to tell the kids to make them calm. But then I had an idea.

"Max, Freya, my Mum and your Dad are playing hide and seek with us. They're in hiding from all of us now and we have to go find them. Ok, don't worry you guys we all are going to find them." I said to him.

After our little talk, we all sat in the living room now with Rose, Troy's mother. She looks completely shattered. Rose and Jared are a lovely couple they have so much love for each other that she looks empty without him.

I can't even imagine what she is going through. The kids fell asleep so we put them to bed on the other sofa that was attached to the one we all are sitting on. After what happened we couldn't keep the kids alone they are terrified right now.

"What do we do now?" I questioned.

My dad releases a stressed sigh leaning his elbows on his knees and running his palms through his head to think about what to do now.

"We can start looking around in the neighbourhood," Troy suggests.

"Do you think that they just vanish to be found up in the neighbourhood?" Rose snaps.

Troy shrinks in his seat on the couch frowning, I sigh and move a little closer to Troy and put my hand on his and rub small circles with my thumb making him feel better somewhat.

"Rose, what Troy meant is that we don't know where exactly they are so we can start looking for them from our neighbourhood to the whole town if needed." I explain calmly.

"Exactly Lynda, We don't know where they are!" Rose emphasize.

"Rose, I know you're hurting, I'm hurting too. you have to calm yourself down snapping and getting angry won't help us." my dad calmly said to her.

She sighs in defeat.

"I just-" she trails off and sighs again.

"I'm so sorry kids I shouldn't have snapped at you." she apologises.

"It's okay Rose, we understand." I assure her.

"Yeah, Mum we get it." Troy agreed too.

"So now what?" the question lingers in the air.

Chapter 03

Questions



It's been three days since Mom and Jared disappeared, three days without sleep and rest, three days of searching this whole town for them but nothing. We found nothing. Not even a clue.

I don't know what to do now. It's really hard without her. I miss her so much. Me, Dad, Troy and Rose are all sitting in the living room having a sip of water and just sitting without any other words. The kids are playing in the room upstairs.

It feels so empty. My dad doesn't sleep in his bedroom anymore. We barely spoke to each other. Every night he just comes into the hall sits on the sofa and stares at mom's pictures crying silently.

He thinks I don't know that but I heard his sniffles and sobs at the first night. My door was open and I couldn't sleep so I came down to get some water from the kitchen and found him on the sofa crying hysterically trying to muffle his cries so that I didn't know. Seeing him like this tore me from the inside even more seeing my dad in pain and I'm not even able to do anything for him. I went back upstairs afterwards closed my door and sat at the window crying and wishing for my mom and Jared to be okay and for us to find them soon.

"Where the hell did they go? We've searched everywhere, every nook of this bloody town but couldn't even find a trace of them. How is that even possible?" I voiced my tone a little louder than normal.

"We have to search again we might have missed some places." Troy suggested.

"Yeah, I think you're right. We need to search again this time thoroughly." my dad agreed and Rose nodded her head in agreement too.

"So it's settled we'll go for the search again tomorrow morning. Now we have to rest we haven't had proper rest in three days. We should take some rest and start fresh so that we are not exhausted and miss something important okay." Dad told us and we all agreed.

We had breakfast for dinner as nobody had an appetite for food really but we needed to eat and stay healthy so that we can search for Mom and Jared without messing with our health.

Nobody said anything we just ate and quietly went to bed.

Rose and Troy are staying with us Dad suggested we should stay together. Rose, Freya and Troy are staying in the guest bedroom.

I am laying on my back on my bed facing the ceiling and thinking about everything and Max is asleep beside me when suddenly I heard a knock on my door. My door is open so whoever knocked made themselves in. I didn't shift my gaze from the ceiling and felt the bed dip beside me the familiar scent of mint captured me and immediately I knew that it is Troy.

We just lay together not saying a word and staring at the ceiling. After about 5 minutes Troy asked quietly to me.

"We'll find them right?" there is a hint of fear in his voice and my heart started beating loudly in my chest thinking about my mom and Jared.

Jared is like a second dad to me he always had a soft spot for me in his heart. I miss him too. A silent tear fell from my eye and I replied just as quietly

"We'll find them." but my voice came out unsure.

We have decided to stick up posters on the streets for Mum and Jared. It's been a whole week since they disappeared and neither of us has spoken anything apart from the occasional talking about whether we found any leads or not.

I feel so numb right now, feeling lost kind of like an orphan. I feel as if I lost both my parents that day. My dad hasn't spoken to me properly just the occasional hints and leads we've gotten so far which are close to nothing.

I wonder why? Why did this happen? What the hell did I do for this to happen or for anyone else this has happened to?

Why?

I start to question why any of this has happened. Why do people disappear and where the fuck do they go?

This town is peculiar and not in a good way. We have to get out of this town as soon as possible after finding our parents of course.

Why did we come to this town in the first place I wonder?

People don't disappear just like that, well unless you're a witch and you cast an invisible spell or something other than that no it's not possible. So I have to find out what happened that day, why people disappear and why after only every 13 years.

I have to find some answers real quick to find my mum and Jared because, without the answer to these questions, I don't think I can even be close to finding them.

Chapter: 04

Haunting



I'm currently at home it's 5 pm and I'm lying on my back staring at the ceiling. I have to talk to Dad, find out what is going through his mind and how he's holding up.

I got up from bed and walk over to my bedroom door just as I was about to open it there was a knock on the door.

I open the door and found Troy looking restless. I stepped aside allowing him to enter.

He flop down on my bed releasing a tired sigh. His shoulders slumped and his whole demeanour looks tired.

"Hey, how are you holding up?" I asked him closing the door and making my way towards my bed, flopping down beside him and squeezing his shoulder.

He looks at me with red glossy eyes his bottom lip trembling. He is on the verge of a breakdown and a choked sob escaped his lips immediately I engulfed him in a tight and protective hold pulling him closer in my embrace.

He buries his head into my shoulder and cries. Listening to him cry wells my eyes with tears too I sniff a little blinking my eyes a couple of times I try to calm myself. I know if I started crying too there would probably be a flood in this house.

His cries turned louder and I hope nobody listens to him wailing like this. He has been such a strong soul till now handling everything while composing himself the best he could.

He misses Jared too much they were pretty close with each other just like Mum and I were.

After about 15 minutes of crying his sobs calm down, soft sniffles escape his lips and he pulls his head from my neck to look at me.

He looks even more broken than ever. His face is warm and red from crying so hard, eyes red and lips swollen from biting at it hard to stop more tears to flow.

"Why Lyn, why did this happen? Why him or Samantha? They didn't do anything to anybody then why?" he questioned me in between his sniffles and soft sobs.

My own eyes prick with tears once again and this time I couldn't hold back as silent tears start flowing down my cheeks.

"I don't know. I don't know." I answer defeatedly because I seriously don't know why this is happening. All we know is that every 13 years 13 people disappear and of the same families. Where? Nobody knows. Why? Nobody knows.

"We have to find them Troy, we have to find them before it's too late. We have to do something, anything but we have to find them as soon as possible. I don't think they are dead I think they are still alive and maybe they are here only in this goddamn town. I stated".

"But how Lyn it's been a week since they vanished without a trace. How are we going to find them without a clue?" he stated angrily.

"There has to be a way. I know there has to be. They can't just vanish like that, no that's scientifically not possible. They are still here we just have to find out where exactly."

After his little breakdown, Troy calmed down a little and fall asleep on my bed curled up like a baby. Max and Freya are with Rose playing.

I sigh and got up from the bed after kissing his forehead and letting him sleep for a few hours. He needs it I can tell just by seeing the bags under his eyes that he hasn't slept at all the past week just like the rest of us and the thought takes me back to my father.

I quietly move towards the door and slip out as quietly as I can closing the door behind me.

I see my parent's bedroom door and I walk up towards it knocking lightly on the door before turning the handle and opening the door.

The first thing that comes into my vision is an empty dark bedroom that seems so familiar but unfamiliar at the same time. The curtains are closed, the items on the dining table are scattered and some are even broken, the bedsheet is a mess, clothes are scattered on the ground and the room is completely shattered.

I didn't see my dad anywhere in the bedroom causing my brows to furrow in confusion. Closing the door I walk inside and called for him.

"Dad!" I yelled but got no response in return making me more confused.

"Dad! Where are you?" I called again a little louder than before.

The sound of water running caught my attention and I see the bathroom door ajar light coming from the space down the door and I make my way towards the bathroom door cautiously.

I go to knock on the door but just as my fist made contact with the door it opens slightly indicating its already opened. My brows crease more as I step into the bathroom opening the door slightly again calling for him.

"Dad! Are you in here?" still no response but the sound of water is making me slightly concerned now.

I enter the bathroom feeling wetness pool under my feet. I look down at my feet to see there is water everywhere in the bathroom.

My eyes widened and my heart sank into my stomach when I saw the water flooding from the bathtub down onto the floor making a mess everywhere and the curtains were closed.

But that didn't make my heart leap out of my chest and caused a painful lump to form in my throat. It was the sight in front of my eyes. A hand hanging from the bathtub, lifeless and water dropping from the fingertips. But not any hand it was my father's hand.

I screamed and ran towards my father ripping the curtains aside, causing a loud gasp to leave my lips.

"Dad!" I sobbed and quickly pull his lifeless body out of the bathtub full of water. The tears fall down my eyes at a faster pace now. I managed to pull half his body out of the bathtub the lower part of his body still in the tub.

I hear a commotion from outside and soon I know what the commotion was about as Troy and Rose poke their heads inside the bathroom and both of their eyes widened at the sight.

"Oh shit!" Troy immediately came to my aid and help pull my dad out of the tub and lay him on the floor leaning down to check his breathing.

I released a sigh of relief when he nodded signalling that he was breathing and alive.

"We have to take the water of his lungs." Rose stated and Troy quickly started pumping my dad's chest to get the water from his lungs out.

"How long was he in the tub for?" Rose asked worriedly.

"I—I do—don't know I—I came to check on him and didn't f— find him in the be— bedroom a—and then I heard the wa—water an—" I couldn't finish my sentence as a painful sob escape my lips.

"Oh, sweetheart come here." Rose came quickly to me and embrace me in her arms tightly. I bury my face in her chest and loud sobs escape my lips shaking my whole body.

"I—If anything hap—pend to him—" I choked on my sentence. Rose quickly shushed me and started tracing her hand down my hair in a calming manner.

"Daddy!" I heard Max scream. He was running towards us followed by Freya.

"What happened Daddy? Wake up." He was crying now kneeling beside Dad trying to shake him awake.

"Hey, Maxxie. Come here baby Daddy's going to be fine okay." I pull Max into my chest, hushing him trying to calm him down.

"What happened to him, Lily? Why isn't he waking up and why is he all wet?" Max questioned.

He calls me Lily instead of Lynda or Lyn his reason, he prefers Lily over Lynda and maybe because he loves lilies.

Just as I opened my mouth to answer him I was interrupted by a loud cough that makes us turn our gaze in the direction of the tub and see my dad coughing up the water I immediately went to his side keeping Max with Rose and Freya.

"Dad!! Dad! Are you okay?" I ask him in concern taking his head and placing it on my lap brushing his hair back from his face.

"I'm sorry. I just wanted it to stop." he whispered.

"Stop what Dad? What did you want to stop?" I quietly ask him my voice comes out shaky and my hands are also trembling from fear.

He only muttered a single word. A single word and I knew what he was talking about and that alone made my heart squeeze in my chest.

"Her"