

The Raven Prince – chapter 6 – Carrion

By Martin S. Beckley

Raymond raced after the eagle, his wing muscles ached but he pushed on towards the cliffs longing to glide on an updraft for a while. As he drew closer, he saw the eagle perched on a ledge with the rabbit. Raymond settled on a rock at a respectful distance watching the eagle eating. A number of interested birds had gathered by the time the eagle departed and Raymond let them fight hungrily over the remains. He waited patiently, allowing them to dissect the rabbit for him. Finally, they uncovered the red displacement stone and Raymond sneaked in claiming his prize.

Olivia opened her eyes to the flickering green light of Corvidae devouring yet another bird's life energy. Edward whispered to Olivia, 'She seems to be building up her power, that's the twelfth bird she has killed since you fainted.' Olivia asked him, 'So how are we going to get out of here?' 'I don't know.' 'But you always have a plan Edward.' 'The only chance we have is when the Mortifera arrive. The witch will have to let us out of this green stuff and that is when we run for the door.' Olivia looked worried, 'That sounds too easy.' Edward did not have an answer. Olivia looked at Nina, her face wet and sore from tears she could not wipe away. 'Nina, are you ok?' Nina's eyes filled with tears again. 'No.' she thought, still unable to open her mouth. Olivia heard Nina's voice in her mind. Without moving her lips, Olivia spoke

to Nina by thought, 'Say that again.' Nina opened her eyes wide in surprise at the sudden voice in her head. She looked at Olivia, who smiled at her. 'How are you doing this?' Nina thought. 'I have no idea but I am going to see if it will help us out of here.' Olivia concentrated her thoughts on Corvidae and soon gained access her mind. The first thing Olivia found seemed to be an archaic prophecy. "A mighty protector will become prince and will defend the rightful metamorph possessing the Royal stone." Whilst searching Corvidae's mind for a way to escape, Olivia discovered the location of the warlock Prudens. The birds Corvidae fed off must also be her spies. Olivia broke the connection as she heard Raymond return. He dropped the stone next to the seeker tablet and Corvidae placed it in one of the remaining indents. Instantly the crystal globe shone with a purple light. A delicate scent of lavender billowed around the room as the light gradually expanded beyond the globe and engulfed Olivia. The amethyst pendant she wore around her neck gave off a deep purple glow and a sharp pain spread through all her bones. The crystal globe on the seeker tablet cleared, leaving a purple blip flashing on the surface. Olivia's pendant blinked in time with the flashing blip. Corvidae walked up to Olivia and grinned. 'The Royal stone – I believe I am the rightful owner now.'

