

Excerpt: High Seas

No sea siren could ever call to him like Shauna MacLeod did.

Robert shook his head as he pulled his wet sweater over his head and tossed it across a chair, followed by his linen shirt. He doubted she had even been aware of the way she aroused him. The look of concern on her face had been for Albert and she'd been nothing but practical after that by building the fire and arranging the tartan tent to keep the man warm.

He took the washing cloth that Abigail had put out for him, dipped it into the hot water in the bucket, and began wiping the salty brine from his arms. He started to dip the cloth again to squeeze some water over his shoulders when he heard a gasp and turned around.

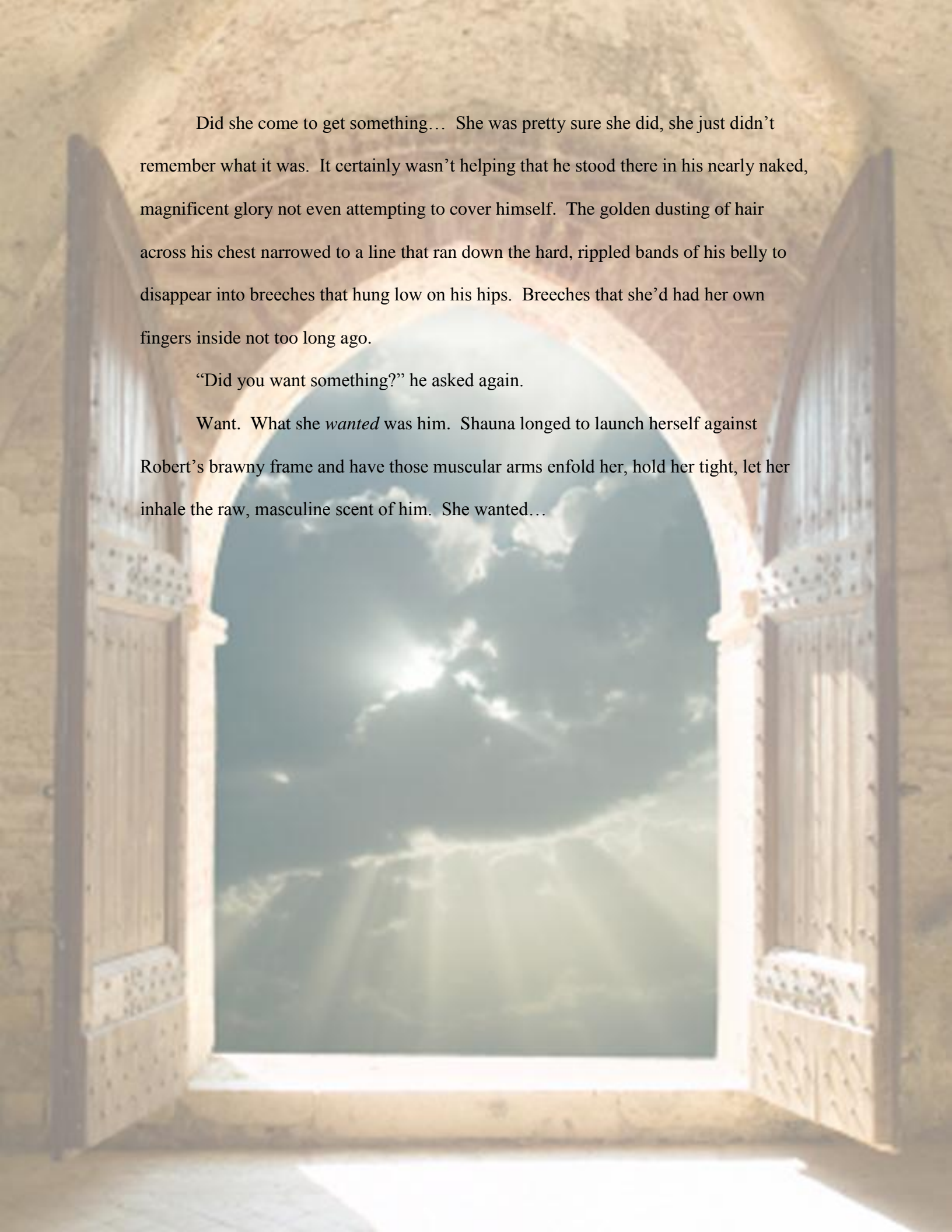
Shauna stood in the doorway, wearing a wrapper of soft, green wool which accentuated the hazel in her eyes. Her auburn-tinged hair curled loosely around her shoulders and her feet were bare. The sight of her pink toes sticking out from beneath the wrap did oddly curious things to his insides. He found himself wanting to caress a silken foot and suck those luscious toes.

She truly was a siren and she didn't even have to sing to lure him in.

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Shauna gaped at Robert, trying to remember why she had come to the kitchen. Her breath had caught at the sight of the muscles of his back flexing and when he'd turned at the sound, exposing an impressive chest that looked as though every defined ridge had been sculpted from marble, all rational thought fled.

"Did you come to get something?" he asked.



Did she come to get something... She was pretty sure she did, she just didn't remember what it was. It certainly wasn't helping that he stood there in his nearly naked, magnificent glory not even attempting to cover himself. The golden dusting of hair across his chest narrowed to a line that ran down the hard, rippled bands of his belly to disappear into breeches that hung low on his hips. Breeches that she'd had her own fingers inside not too long ago.

"Did you want something?" he asked again.

Want. What she *wanted* was him. Shauna longed to launch herself against Robert's brawny frame and have those muscular arms enfold her, hold her tight, let her inhale the raw, masculine scent of him. She wanted...