

## Excerpt

### *Touching Rune*

#### Second Chance book 2

By S. E. Smith

Rune wanted to bang her head against the window in frustration, but she figured the only thing that would do is give her a bigger headache than the one that was building. She had gotten lost in the maze of corridors as she tried to find an exit. She had gone through one door only to find herself in another long hallway. After almost two hours of wandering in the dark, she was ready to start screaming.

She thought she might have actually been on the right track when she stumbled through the last doorway and saw light at the end of the corridor. She headed for the tall windows at the end of the long passage only to realize as she got closer that they were solid. She had turned to go back when the man from the auction called out to someone. She had swiveled around to find the other man from the atrium staring down at her with cold, merciless eyes. She knew what death looked like and the man staring at her had it in his eyes.

“Stupid, sorry ass window! Open, damn it,” Rune muttered as she adjusted her position on the large washing machine.

“It is sealed,” a deep voice commented behind her.

Rune turned so quickly she almost fell off her perch. She did fall onto her ass. Seeing both men

staring coldly at her sent her backing up as far as she could until her back was pressed against the cold window. She hit it with her elbow, hoping it would magically pop open so she could just tumble out of it backwards.

*Hell, snow is soft, she thought desperately as they both took a step closer. I'd even settle for mud.*

"Get down," the leaner of the two men demanded.

Rune shook her head back and forth and gripped the back of the cold metal device she was sitting on. They would have to pry her off it first. She was not going anywhere near either of the men. She hadn't realized in her other form just how damn big they both were.

"It looks like I'll get to have some fun," the broader of the two remarked to the other man. "I was wanting to break some bones. I think I'll start with his feet. You know there are twenty-six bones in the human foot? I know how to break each one of them, one... at... a... time," he added slowly.

Rune's eyes widened and she quickly pulled her feet as close to her body as possible. She wondered if there really were twenty-six bones. Personally, she didn't want him to start counting them. She bit her lip and flashed her eyes to the other man. If she thought he might be the easier of the two, she was mistaken.

"At least he won't be able to run away again when we start breaking the other bones in his body," the leaner man said as he cracked his knuckles.

Rune swallowed and drew in a shaky breath. Okay, going out the window wasn't going to work.

Her eyes darted to the door behind the men. If she could make it to the door, she could possibly find her way back to the atrium and beg for Micha's help after all. Pulling her feet up under her, she loosened her hands from the back of the metal machine and drew in one final breath.

*They won't expect me to attack, she thought. I just need to throw them off guard long enough to disappear again.*

Refusing to think what would happen if she wasn't successful, Rune tensed as both men took a step closer. It was now or never, she thought, as she launched herself off the huge metal machine. She hit the broader man in the chest.

She realized immediately that she would have had a better chance of escaping through a brick wall. What little breath she had disappeared as she hit him. Instead of knocking him backwards into the other man, he wrapped his huge arms around her and squeezed until she was sure he was going to break her in half. Scared, she did the only thing she could think of doing – she threw her head forward and hit him in the nose.

*“сукин сын!” Son of a bitch!*

Rune melted in his arms when they loosened. She didn't understand what he said, but from the viciousness in his tone, she imagined it was one of her favorite phrases when she was mad or frustrated. She dropped to her knees and started to crawl through his legs as the other man reached for her. Rolling, she brought her sock covered foot up and kicked at him.

He grabbed her foot, but she was able to slip free when the oversized socks slid from her foot as he pulled on it.

Looking up, she kicked the other man in the groin as he turned. He stumbled backwards with an even louder curse into the metal machine she had been sitting on just moments before. His hands gripped the front of his crotch as he bent slightly and drew in a ragged breath.

Rune didn't wait. She rolled onto her hands and knees and tried to scramble to her feet. The long coat twisted around her making it difficult, but she was finally able to stand. She had barely taken half a step when another set of strong arms wrapped around her. She tried to head butt him as well, but he had obviously learned from his friend to beware of her head. She struggled to undo the two buttons holding on the coat. She shrugged free of it just as the man she had kicked in the balls stepped forward with a low, threatening growl.

Terrified, Rune went limp again, leaving the man holding nothing but Micha's old coat. She stumbled as she fell free before bolting for the door leading to the corridor. She thought for sure she would finally make it when she grabbed the door handle and started to pull it opened. She wasn't prepared for the two hard bodies that flew into hers or being spun around so fast her head swum. Before she knew what was happening, she found herself pinned between two hot, furious male bodies.