

The Addiction
Valentina Argueta

Blood, skin, Blood, skin, blood, skin, BLOOD, SKIN the voices chanted over and over. Never stopping, never resting, pushing me further and further to the edge. “STOP IT” I screamed , I kicked and thrashed and struggled, begging to be free of these horrid metal chains. “You really need to stop struggling” a voice purred “It will only make it worse, there’s no way out y’know.” “Really?” I said with mock curiosity “Well then, looks like i’ll have to make one”. Suddenly a young thin woman emerged from the shadows, she could only be the owner of that voice that kept taunting me. “You look hungry” she said “ If I unchain you...promise to be good?” she was met with silence, she laughed “ Ah well I guess i’ll take my chances. UNCHAIN HER” she shouted to people I couldn’t see. For a moment nothing happened and then my prison started to loosen until my frail limbs could slip through, I climbed off the experimentation table, my body aching from cuts, bruises and injections. The woman groaned “ I don’t have all day number 45”. I limped faster, hungry and weak I should have realised then that something was wrong because all I could think about was picking that young woman’s delicate sharp bones from my teeth and biting into her body and listening to her scream and beg for her life. Just the idea made my mouth water. My own thoughts stopped me in my tracks *Am i that hungry? What have they done to me?* In the end I just chalked it up to human survival instinct. I walked up to the woman glaring at her with immense hatred. “ Oh come on, is that how you treat the hand that feeds you?” “ oh please if anything I should be feeding off of you” as soon as the words left my mouth I immediately regretted it, her cold bony hands cupped my face and jerked my head so i had to look at her. “What did you say?” she sneered “ For days I’ve been trying to figure out what you are and I think you might have just narrowed my options for me sweetie so thanks”, she threw me on the ground like a ragdoll, “Dinner time!”. Someone threw in a piece of meat I crawled toward it and found it was the remains of an arm. “Eat up” the lady said “ or starve I don’t care”. At first I was filled with disgust, but the more I stared the more I realized *Well this persons already*

dead... It'd be a shame to just let their death be for nothing so with resignation I took a small bite at soon as I heard the satisfying crunch of those bones I was hooked. I began to tear through that thing like it was my last meal. Blood dripping from my face, My mind was racing *What did they put in this? Jesus christ this is delicious. I've never had a meal like this* When I was done I was completely out of breath “ MORE” I managed to scream “MORE”. The young lady spoke, “tsk tsk tsk, Seems like someone thinks they have a say things, perhaps we should put her in her place...JOHN” she shouted. A young fit man stalked into the cage and whisked me up. I weighed nothing. He slammed me back onto the table and jammed my wrists and ankles back into the chains. As the chains began to tighten the realization of what I had just done began to set in. It was them, that woman did something to me. I began to thrash “ YOU! You drugged me with something I know it!” I accused, glaring at her from my metal restraints. She didn't look up from her phone screen “ The first stage is always denial” she stated flatly “ I didn't drug you, you ate that because you wanted to”. I screamed “That's not true and you know it !”. She scoffed “Okay fine, whatever you need to tell yourself to get to sleep at night” and with that she exited the cage, her heels clicking behind her. That night I had a dream about the arm, a heaven where there were millions like it. An infinite amount of limbs where I could munch all day and hear the bones crunch whenever I wanted to. The lady was right, I really did want to eat that arm deep down. I was just too afraid to admit it. The next day was the same thing except this time it was a torso which I feasted on with no objections. This became a regular routine. First the experimentation, then the silence, and then the food.I found out the woman's name was Agnes, and she had three kids at home. I also found out that I hated Agnes more than anyone could possibly imagine. I relished in the thought of her death. One day, after the scientists were done with the day and I waited for my food a young man walked in and said, “Agnes has decided to not feed you today”. I was shocked, “WHAT?!” I screamed in rage. The man recoiled in fear, clearly scared I was going to hurt him “ I-I'm sorry m-miss, b-boss's orders” he stuttered. A dark shadow passed over my face. I gathered

myself "Fine" I said " your boss wants to play let's play". That night The final pieces of my emergency plan fell into place. As the next day came and I felt yet another wave of pain and torment subside, Agnes came in, "Long time no see Agnes" I purred "Been busy I assume?". "Yes very busy but no matter how much you sweet talk me I still won't feed you" she said matter of factly.

" Oh is that so" I said " Well then we'll just see about that". With a surge of adrenaline I broke the chains and charged at her with godlike speed, wrapping my hands around her neck and pushing her up against the cage bars. "Now you listen girl" I sneered, " You are going to tell me exactly what I am or else". Agnes choked something that I couldn't understand "LOUDER" I screamed. "DEMON!" she said, desperation dripping from her voice. I threw her on the ground just like she had done to me. "What? Demon?" I questioned, unable to process what I had just heard "You heard me, monster" Agnes spat. My heel pressed into her throat " Shut up, now tell me, how do I work?". "The more you feed off of people, the more powerful you get" she responded. After not being fed for a day and a half I was feeling peckish so I stared at her and lunged, trapping her between me and the cold concrete floor, I took the first bite and heard her scream. "I've never had a full human to myself before" I taunted, "please, please spare me" she cried and I laughed before diving in. When I was done I left what I found was a small building in the middle of nowhere. In front I found my car and my keys on the ground next to it. As I began to drive I had to stop for gas, that's when my phone rang. "Hello?" I answered "Lizzy! Hey sis how was the camping trip?" said the other voice. "Oh it was ok but I'm glad to be headed home, I'll be there in a bit I just need to grab a bite to eat first."