

My eyes are closed. My breathing is steady. My mind is clear. The air is cool, the fabric soft. My teeth clench slightly as I swallow. I take a deep breath, my chest filling completely before slowly falling again.

One... Two... Three...

I can count the beats of my heart. Even. Steady. My body's metronome. The rhythm to which my thoughts and desires flow. His image resurfaces in my mind. I think on it, like a memento of my own happiness.

One... Two... Three...

Every detail is clear. Charcoal fur. Luminous, golden eyes. White marks beneath them. Scar on his lower lip. Smooth cheeks. Full smile. White nose. Big ears. Thick coat. Familiar scent. Warm to the touch.

One... Two... Three...

Tall. Broad chest. Wide in the shoulders. Strong arms. Firm grip. Callus hands. Thin trail of white near his navel. Three piercings in each ear. Silver studs. Faint smell. Coffee. Old Spice. A touch of musk. Familiar.

One... Two... Three...

"It's been a while, hasn't it? I've really missed you, babe..."

One... Two... Three...

Loving embrace. Close. Warm. My muzzle buried in his chest. His arms around my waist. Gently rocking me. Softly spoken words.

"I love you..."

One... Two... Three...

Linger. Hanging in the air like drops of rain. Smooth. Relaxing. Reassuring.

One... Two... Three...

Move back. Fingers intertwine. Lean up and close my eyes. Our lips touch. Spark. Heat. A moment without equal.

One... Two... Three...

Passion flutters in my chest. Lust pulses in my mind. Pleasure courses through my veins. The heat of our intimacy makes me feel safe. He makes me feel safe.

One... Two... Three...

Fingers pull apart and my arms curl around his waist. He does the same to me. I take a deep breath. His scent is so familiar but still so special. Another breath. Remember. Memorize. Indulge.

One... Two... Three...

He leans down to kiss me. Soft. Tender. I feel his breath against my hair. He smiles.

“Just as I remember it... like a bouquet of the most beautiful flowers...”

One... Two... Three...

I want to stay like this. Close. Safe. Happy. I want to be with him, no longer apart. His presence is what I desire more than anything.

One... Two... Three...

I miss him so much. I miss the little things. I miss his scent. I miss his touch. I miss his voice. I miss him...

One... Two... Three...

Slowly, it begins to fade again. The lines blur. His features warp. Everything becomes distorted and abstract until it all returns to dark.

One... Two... Three...

What I would give just to be with you...

One... Two... Three...

“Stay strong for me, please. We’ll see one another again soon... I promise.”

One... Two... Three...

Wet. Tears. I pull myself close to the spare pillow. Soft whimpers push past my lips and into the air.

One... Two... Three...

Need to be strong. Can’t let up now.

One... Two... Three...

The fabric still smells faintly of him. I press my forehead against it as I slowly begin to relax again.

One... Two... Three...

Sleep. Need sleep. If I just close my eyes... And try again... Then maybe... Maybe I can go back...

One... Two... Three...

Heavy. Slow, deep breaths. Quiet once more. The weight begins to lift as I feel his arms around me again.

One... Two... Three...

Comforting. Loving. Warm. Just as I remember it...

One...

Two...

Three...