

GLORIOUS TRAGEDY

By Paul Hooker

The sun, peeking over the horizon, crept into my eyes slowly. I flipped over onto my other side trying to get some needed rest.

"Man, I am so hungry!!!" I whispered under my breath.

"We will get some food later. But for now we need to stay put and wait until we are sure that those people are gone and won't find us." Annie replied as she stood up and walked over to our tent.

"Don't you think that we have waited long enough? I mean we have already been up on this mountain for two days!!!!"

"What do you think? They followed mom and dad home from Israel! I think they can find two kids!"

"Whatever, I am hungry and I am not eating berries and canned food any more!"

My stomach started to growl a little. I got up and began to rummage through our backpacks and suitcases for anything I could eat.

"Well where do you propose that we get some money to buy something?"

"Let's see, definitely not home because I am sure they are watching it, and I really don't know anyone around here that we could trust..."

"Don't we have an uncle like an hour away from here?" Annie asked.

"Umm... ya I think so. But we don't even know him! I don't want to go to someone who we don't even know, and plus there must have been a good reason why we never saw him."

"Ya, I guess you are right... Well I have Moms and dads debit card... They gave it to me right before this all happened." Annie said.

"That's great! Now all that we need to do is go to the bank and get some money out. It will be risky but it is something that we need to do! I mean if we ever want to get out of this mess we will need money to survive."

"Ya, I guess... but how will we even get there?"

"I don't know yet. I haven't gotten that far. But we probably should go at night. So we should start our hike back down the mountain here in an hour or so. Ok?"

"Ok, I guess, I don't really have a choice, now do I? I still say that we should wait up here for a couple more days!"

"What good will that do for us? A couple more days will just give Adrian all that much more time to find us! Do you not get that?"

"Well I guess I do..."

"We need to start packing our stuff up now. So let's hurry before it gets dark."

"Ok."

Annie and I began to pack our things and threw it onto our backs and began our hike down the mountain to our car. When we were nearing our car I quickly jumped to a stop and began looking around us frantically listening intently for any sounds.

"I thought I heard someone." I said.

"I did to!" Annie whispered back to me.

As we continued to look around we heard it again. Our heads both darted in that direction to see if we could see what we heard. Both of us began to creep over there slowly and I peered my head through the bushes and right there was one of Adrian's men! (I could tell by the ring he was wearing) This guy was a look out to see if he could spot us, which we think he saw our car because he couldn't take his binoculars off of the area right around the car.

"We need a diversion" Annie said to me in a quiet voice.

"Here I have an idea lets..."

I whispered into Annie's ear some stuff and then she started to creep around to the other side of the man. In one instance we both made a really loud noise then ran to a small opening in a rock that was hidden from plain view. In about a minute or so we heard a car start up and drive away. I looked up and saw that the man was gone!

"He is gone! I whispered excitingly to Annie!
Common lets go, we need to hurry."

So we ran down the rest of the way to my car,
threw our stuff into the trunk and then drove off.

As we were nearing the bank I started to get a
little nervous... I mean what is going to happen if
Adrian's men spot us? What will they do to us? Well we
finally arrived at the bank and I found a place to
park right outside of the front door.

"Hey why don't you stay out here in the car while
I go get the money." I said in a somewhat stern voice.

"Ok please hurry though!"

"I will."

After about ten minuets of being in the bank I
was almost done and then the earth began to shake
vilently. A loud roar rang through my ears. I spun
around and as I looked at the door I stood in shock at
the sight of my car burning. It looked like the things
that you see on the TV about over seas where someone
blew up a car and killed a lot of people.

I ran outside to see if Annie had miraculously gotten out somehow. But I could not tell if she had or not.

"How could this happen to me?" I yelled at the top of my lungs! "First my parents, and now this? Why?"

My breathing quickened. The world around me stopped. I started to become dizzy. Then I was out.

One Week Earlier

"Mom! Dad! Oh it is so great that you are home!"
I said

"Well we missed both of you!"

"How was your trip?" I asked.

"Good but really long." They replied.

"We love you!"

"We love you too."

My parents go on a lot of really long business trips and my sister and I never know where to or why. About an hour or so after my parents arrived home from the airport we received a phone call from a number

that none of us really recognized but my dad went ahead and answered it.

"Hello? My dad said. "Who is this? What??? What do you mean?" By now my dad had a horrified look on his face. "How did you get this number? Hello? Hello? Are you still there?"

"Who was that?" my mom inquired.

"I don't know but I don't think it was anything that we should be concerned about." My dad replied.

"What do you mean dad? What did they want? I asked.

"It is not a concern of yours." My dad said to me sternly.

"Yes sir." I replied in a respectful voice.

"I wonder who that was." I said to Annie.

"I don't know but it seemed like it really scared dad!" Annie said.

"Ya I know! Dad has never jumped down my throat like that before. But maybe it has been just a hectic week while they have been gone."

"Well ya that could be it I guess but I still think that it was really weird."

We all went to bed that night with a little tension in the air it seemed. But we were all tired so we all went right to sleep.

"Jake, Jake, wake up! Wake up!" Dad whispered.

"Ya? What is it?" I replied in a groggy voice.

"I need you to promise me that you will look after Annie no matter what happens."

"What is going to happen?" I replied.

This was so strange! Why would he be waking me up so early in the morning?

"I don't know but if anything does I need you to be ready for it."

"Ok, but what is going on? What have you and mom not been telling us?"

"I guess it is about time you two found out... your mom and I are agents for the FBI. And I know that it might be hard for you to believe that but whenever we need to go on a 'business trip' that is actually a mission. And this one that we just got back from went south."

"Dad, I am not three any more! Stop pretending and actually tell me the truth!"

"I am not pretending son! You are just going to have to believe me on that one!"

"Ok let us say that you are 'agents' why are you in trouble?"

"Well on this last mission your mom and I were retrieving a data disk that was very important to national security and in doing so we had to steal it from Adrian Calvert, who is the head of one of the largest terrorists operations in the world, and that is who the phone call was from last night. I think he might be here in the U.S. looking for us. Everyone in that was in Adrian's terrorist group all seemed to be wearing a ring with a king cobra on it. Watch out for that! I also need you to promise me that you will keep your sister safe no matter what! Ok?"

"Ok dad, I promise."

Wow! Are you kidding me? I am only 17! Why cant he just protect us?

"Here, I want you to have this key, it is to a safety deposit box in Switzerland and that is where the disk is. Your mom and I need to leave within the hour, because I think Adrian is getting close. I have something that he wants and I need to protect it, and hide it. So, pack up a few things that you need to live, like some clothes and food and put them in the car and I will have Annie do the same."

"Yes sir."

"Once you are done with that I want you and your sister to head up to the mountain to the west of here and park your car in the middle of some trees so it is not visible by anyone and then hike up half of the mountain and make camp in a thick part of the forest. Then stay up there for at least a week or so."

About a half an hour later my sister finally finished packing her things and put them in the car. At this point it was around four a.m. and I was getting tired by then but I did not have the time to sleep right now, I mean our lives could be at stake right now! My parents made us hurry up and leave as quickly as possible in order to not be detected by any of Adrian's men that he might already have in the area.

"Bye you two! We love you both dearly! Please stay safe!" My parents said in almost a whisper but as if they were trying not to cry.

"We love you to! Please stay safe as well!!! We don't want anything to happen to you two! What would we do without you?" I said

"You two just stay strong, and don't give Adrian that key no matter what! Now get going and don't look back!" my dad said in a stern but gentle voice.

"Ok, bye mom and dad..."

Annie and I both jumped into the car and began our drive to the mountain. As we got to the end of our street I could see a car in my rear view mirror come zooming down our street and stop right in front of our house. Just then two men stepped out of the car and walked up to the front door and went inside.

"Did you see that Annie?"

"What?"

"Two men just went inside our house."

"Well should we go back?" Annie asked me.

"No, Dad told us to not look back and to just keep on going. So we need to."

I didn't want to go, I just wanted to run back and stop them! But I knew that my dad knew what he was talking about.

Right as I was turning off of our street I took one more glance at our house and I saw those same two men come out of the front door but this time not with empty hands, this time their hands were carrying two limp bodies.

Chapter 2

"ANNIE!!!" I yelled at the top of my lungs.

"Annie... O god! Please let her still be alive!" I whispered.

I began to look around the charred metal that scattered the parking lot to see if I could find her anywhere.

"Annie? Annie? Are ok?" I said in a kind of searching voice.

"Where are you?"

I continued searching but the scraps left of the car were so beaten up and burnt I secretly knew deep down that she could not have survived a blast like this one. While I was searching, I must not have

noticed that a fire truck pulled up behind me and some firemen began to search the debris with me. They were starting to go through the debris trying to find any sign of life.

"Was anyone in the care?" a fireman asked me.

"Yes my sister was!" I replied in a rushed voice.

"Ok well we will find her... why don't you just go and sit inside, and we will get you when we know something."

"Are you kidding me? She is my sister! I'm not just going to go sit on my butt and do nothing!"

"I understand your frustration but it will be best if you just go inside and sit down."

"Ok whatever..." I turned away from the fireman and walked back inside.

I got inside and sat in a chair that faced the door, so I could see the firemen work, and so I would know if they found anything. While I was sitting there it just felt as though time stopped completely I mean this all happened so fast! But then again, what really did happen? Why would anyone want to blow up our car?

"ADRIAN!!!" I kind of said under my breath.

Why had I not thought of that before? How stupid was I not to listen to Annie! This was entirely my fault! If I had listened to her, we would still be up on the mountain right now. But instead I am in a bank and Annie is probably dead!

As I stared out the window thinking to myself, a fireman walked into the bank and came straight to me.

"We cannot find a sign that anyone was in the car at the time of the explosion." He said gently.

"Ok then where did my sister go? She couldn't have just vanished!" I replied. I already knew where she had been taken, but I thought I would just play along so I don't have to tell them about Adrian and my parents. I mean if they find out, then I am sure that Adrian or some of his men would be able to figure out that I had the key and who knows what they might do to Annie if they get the key.

"I don't know... maybe she was able to escape."

"And how exactly do you propose that she escaped? I mean my car just blew up! I would say that it is kind of hard to escape that!" I replied.

"Well we have not gotten that far yet but some investigators are coming out right now to see if they can find anything."

"Ok then what can I do? I would prefer to not just sit around and stare into space. I would rather be kept busy."

"Not right now," He said, "for now the best thing you can do is call your parents and have them come down here."

"They... they are out of town and cannot be reached by phone." I stammered.

I don't really want to tell them about my parents being killed right now. I mean if they find out, then I am sure that Adrian or some of his men would be able to figure out that I had the key.

"Well do you know where they are?" He asked as he shrugged his shoulders and kind of rolled his eyes at me.

"Umm... no..." I replied trying to hide that I did.

"Ok well we will try to find your parents." He said as he turned and walked back outside.

Whew! That was a close call! However, I am not sure whether he bought it or not. Well, I guess I don't need to fret over it right now... I mean my first priority is just figuring out what in the world happened to Annie.

Wait! If they figure out who my parents are then key personnel in the government will find out about where I am, and that I hold the disk. The mole then would know exactly where the disk is!

"Jake, we found your uncle Lewis, and we have contacted him and he is on his way here now. Ok?" some police man said to me.

"Ok... How long until he gets here?"

"He told us about an hour. So, until then I need you to tell me everything that you saw and heard leading up to the explosion, and if you know who could have done it."

"Ok, well my sister and I came here to get some money out, and I left her in the car for like five minutes and then "BOOM" and now here we are."

"So who do you think could have kidnapped your sister?"

"I have absolutely no clue! Who would want to even kidnap a girl that is only eleven years old? I mean it makes no sense!" I said to the man.

"I have not a clue but when we find one, we will tell you. Thank you for talking!"

"Ya, I guess..." I shrugged my shoulders and turned around to walk over to a chair. What is Adrian doing to Annie right now? I thought to myself. For all I know he could be torturing her. Is she hurt?

Chapter 3

"Hey, Jake?" someone said from behind me. I turned around to find a scruffy looking, middle aged man.

"Hello? Do I know you?" I replied.

"Probably not. I mean I haven't seen you since you were one and a half. So I don't expect you to remember me. I am your Uncle Lewis."

Are you kidding me? Why would he just now care about me after my sister is kidnapped?

"Oh, hey there... how are you doing?" I said with a little sarcasm in my voice. I mean he has not been apart of my life since I was just a little guy so why does he care about me now?

"Good! I am sorry about your sister. But let us still hope that she is alive! Just because the car blew up does not mean that she had to be in it."

GRRRRRR! Yes I already know all of this stuff! I am seventeen! Seriously stop treating me like I am five! I thought to my self.

"Okay, thank you." I said.

"Well, why don't we get in my car and head over to my place so you can get some rest. Then we can start to try to figure some things out. Okay?"

"Okay." As we walked out to his car I began to look around at the remains of my car. It was almost as if time began to slow down as the things that happened throughout this past week flashed before my eyes.

First, my parents tell Anne and I that they are "secret agents." Then, Annie and I have to leave our house and go to a mountain to hide. Next, our parents get killed. And then, my car blows up and Adrian kidnapped my eleven year old sister!

What in the world would be that important to someone that they would want to kidnap an eleven year old girl? What is on that disk that is in Sweden? Neither of these questions Uncle Lewis would be able to answer and even if he could I will not be able to tell him because my dad told me not to trust anyone. Since I don't even know Uncle Lewis I probably should not tell him anything.

"So, when did your parents leave?" Uncle Lewis asked.

"Umm... like a couple days ago." I replied.

"Ok did they not even tell you where they were going?"

"Well not really..."

"That is not like them to not tell anyone where they were going!"

How in the world would he know if they did or not! He does not even know my parents! He is practically a stranger! But then again I do have to remember that he is my dad's brother and they did grow up together... Then why in the world did they not talk much any more and why did we never get together and see him?

"Hey, random question... why did you and my dad stop talking?" I asked.

"Umm... well I am not quite sure. I guess we just had a lot of differences in a few areas and could not work our differences out. So we stopped talking to each other and just grew further apart."

"Oh... ok..." I said in a some what sarcastic voice.

"Maybe it is just me, but I feel as though that you are holding something back and are not telling us something. Are you?"

"No... why would you think that?"

"Well you are not very talkative."

"What would you expect? My Sister was just kidnapped and my parents were just..... Ummmm... never mind... But would you be talkative if your sister was kidnapped?"

"Wait! What was that about your parents?"

"Oh nothing... So how did the find out about you?"

"Well I was at home watching the news when I saw the story about the car blowing up. Then I saw you. So I came down there to the bank and told them who I was and then they came and got you to make sure that I was who I said I am."

"Oh... But how did you know what I looked like?"

Because he has not seen me since I was two!

"Well I recognized you from the picture your mom and dad sent to me this past year in the Christmas letter."

"ok..." I said in a kind of sarcastic voice.

I thought that I had seen those pictures the week before in our house still waiting to be mailed! Well actually I was sure that I had! Because I remember going to get stamps for them the day before mom and dad got home! So there was no chance that he had gotten my picture, and how did he even know that we were sending out Christmas cards this year? Because we never do and we never have in the past...

"How much farther is your house?" By now we had been on the road for about an hour and a half and we turned off the highway. We began to drive down a really narrow dirt road that had what looked like wheat and corn growing on either side.

"Not much. We are almost there."

"Ok sounds good. Hey what is for dinner? I am really getting hungry."

"Well there is some pizza that I had last month. There is also some sardines in mustard sauce, and a coke or two in the fridge."

"Umm... I really am not all that hungry. Sorry some moments I feel hungry and the next moment I am not any more."

"Well if you do get hungry just let me know and I will throw some thing together for you!"

"Yup! Sure thing!"

Chapter 4

"Good morning Jake." Uncle Lewis said as I walked into the living room.

"Good morning" I replied.

"How did you sleep last night?"

"Ok I guess."

Considering there were spiders crawling all over me and tons of different bugs everywhere biting me! I mean who in the world could live in this mess?

"Hey when you get hungry I made some scrambled eggs. It is over there on the table getting cold."

"Oh! Yum! Thank you!" I walked over to the table and sat down. As I began to eat I kind of started gently picking apart my food because by now I had become unsure of everything in this house. And sure enough, as I was picking apart the food, I found something moving in it! A lump quickly formed in my stomach. I felt like vomiting! That was absolutely disgusting! I did not even care what it was, I was just absolutely sure that I did not want to eat anything in this house at all and I did not even want to stay here in this house even one more night!

"How do the scrambled eggs taste?" Uncle Lewis asked.

"Umm they are good... hey what is this thing that is moving in the eggs?" I inquired.

"What do you mean? I thought I got all of the maggots out of there! Grrr! I guess I missed one... oh well... why don't you go and get ready for the day and I will take you to the diner up the road."

"Ok sounds good to me!"

So I went back into my room that I had slept in and got my clothes that I had worn the day before and put them back on. Because we did not go back to my house... (I was able to talk Uncle Lewis out of it pretty easily...) because if we had then that means that Adrian would have been able to track me more easily than he is able to now.

Once I had gotten ready Uncle Lewis and I hopped into his car and drove down to the diner that he had told me about.

We both went inside and sat down at a booth.

This place is awesome! I thought to myself. It was like one of those diners that you see in old movies!! I had never been in one like it in my life!

"Hello, would you like something to drink?" A waitress asked us politely.

"Yes, I would like one glass of coffee, strait." My uncle said.

"And I would like... ummm... a glass of orange juice sounds good to me!" I said.

"Ok I will have those right out." Said the waitress.

"Thank you." I replied.

"I have something for you that I know your dad would want you to have."

Right then he took off his coat and set it beside him. Then he reached in to his pocket and pulled out a long gold chain.

"This was your dads when we were growing up and he left it behind at our house when he moved out as kids."

"Are you sure? I am sure that this is very special to you if you have held onto it for this long!"

"Yup! Take it..."

So I went a head and took it out of his out stretched hand and put around my neck.

"Hey, I need to go use the restroom so I will be right back." Uncle Lewis said.

"Ok." I replied.

Right after he had left the table, a cell phone in his coat pocket began to ring. I reached over the table and grabbed the coat. I then reached in to his pocket. When I grabbed his phone I felt something else rattling around in the pocket and so I pulled it out.

It was one of Adrian's rings!!! I could not mistake that ring and I new it was real! I looked in side the ring and it had my uncle's initials in it! How could this be? Uncle Lewis? One of Adrian's accomplices?

A sudden chill ran down my spine. I was suddenly not hungry any more. How was I to know that my own uncle was one of Adrian's men?

"Heelloo?" I muttered.

"Hello? Jake?" a voice on the phone said.

"Yes!?!? Who is this?"

"I can not tell you right now but you have to trust me! Do not ask any questions just listen. Ok?"

"Ok..." I said in a questioning voice.

"You can not trust your Uncle Lewis. Get away from him at all costs. You are not safe at all when you are with him. Proceed with extreme caution! Do not trust anyone. We will contact you again soon. Tell your uncle, when he gets out of the bathroom, it was a wrong number."

"Wait! What do you mean? Who is this? Hello? Hello?" I said looking around the restaurant frantically.

"Uggg... They hung up!" I said quietly.

How did they know where I was? How did they know that Uncle Lewis was in the bathroom? This was all not making much sense right now. But I knew one thing was for sure I could not stay with Uncle Lewis any longer. I knew I had to get away from him.

Just then he came out of the bathroom and came back to the table.

"Did some one call for me?" He said as he picked up his phone from the table.

"No they said that they had the wrong number."

"Ok well in the future never answer my phone again! Do you understand me?" His eyes stared me down. As if he was ready to kill me.

"Yes sir." I replied.

Once we had finished eating we got back into his car and began to drive back to his house.

I need to get out of this car and away from Uncle Lewis before I get too far out of town. I looked over at the speedometer and it read that we were going over sixty miles per hour. Well I am defiantly not going to jump out of the car going that fast! So I sat back in my seat and started to look for good places to jump.

When we were couple miles out of town there was a four way stop that we had to stop for.

This is it! I thought to myself.

We pulled to a quick and abrupt stop. I threw my seat belt back, swung my door open, jumped out, and

plunged myself forward, running as fast as I could through a field of corn.

I briefly turned my head because I heard tires peeling out. Uncle Lewis was tuning around! He rammed his car off the road and began to come after me.

Chapter 5

"Where in the world did that car come from?" I asked myself.

As I was running through the field and Uncle Lewis was chasing me another car came out of no where and slammed into the side of Uncle Lewis'!

I continued to run for a little bit. But after a while I began to get tired. I came to rest in a little ditch in the middle of another field.

"Aww... what should I do now?" I asked myself out loud. "Where am I? Where should I go? What should I do next in order to find Annie?"

These were all really good questions that I had. But I could not answer any of them for my self. I just laid there in that ditch for a while and began to doze off because all of the questions were wearing me out.

As I was about to fall asleep I heard a plane drawing nearer and nearer to me, until it was flying right over me.

"Man alive, that plane sure was low! I hope they did not see me!" I said.

Just then, as I was looking up in to the sky I saw something floating down towards me.

"What is that thing?" I thought.

It was something attached to a little parachute and it was directly over me!

It finally landed on the ground just a couple feet away from me, crunching the corn as it came down. I inched slowly closer to it, unsure of its contents. But the closer I got the more pronounced I could hear something!

It was a cell phone ringing. I picked up the box, took the parachute off of it, and then I opened the box carefully.

The box was completely empty except for a cell phone and a wad of money.

I picked up the phone and answered it.

"Hello?" I said.

"Hello Jake." Said a very deep voice.

"Who is this? And how do you know where I am all the time?"

"No questions. Just go to the 'pond of life' and find the 'token of true friendship'. You will receive further instructions when you get there and have the token. And one more thing, there is a car parked up the road about a half mile by an old barn. You can not miss it!"

"Wait! How do you know about that? Why should I trust you? How do I know that this is not a trap?" I said frantically.

"Just do it!"

Then, the line went silent.

Who is this who keeps on calling me? How do they know so much about me? Do they really expect me to believe that this is not a trap so that they can take me and the key? I mean I might be stupid but one thing is for sure, I am not that stupid!

And how did they know about the pond and that old dime?

My grandma used to take me to this old pond by our house and would always say that it was the pond of life because it was the prettiest pond around. Then on one of these times she showed me that there was a dime in one of the trees around there actually in the bark. She always told me that one day two people met there at that tree and became best friends. Then one time those two best friends came back to that tree and put a dime in between some branches. After they placed it there that little dime actually became a part of the tree. Now when you go and look at the tree there is a

dime that you can see in the tree and it is called the "token of true friendship."

I never quite understood why two people would put a dime in between some branches to show their friendship. But, I just kind of acted like it was really cool every time my grandma told me that story (even if that was all that it was!)

Where should I go now? I asked myself.

Should I go to the lake with that tree by it? Or is it a trap?

Well I guess I do not have any better ideas but then again an old barn? That would be so easy for Adrian to be setting me up and take me, just like he took my sister, right when I get to the barn.

Well I guess I better start walking... because there might not be much time before Adrian does some thing to my sister.

I looked around, started to drag my feet in the dirt. I wondered how in the world I could disappoint my dad like I did. He left me with the duty to protect my sister and I failed.

I began walking along the side of the dirt road, trying to stay out of the sight of any one who might

drive by. It took me a while to find to a barn that had a car beside it but I eventually did.

I wonder if any one is home.

"Hello?" I yelled.

"Any one here?"

I started to kind of snoop around the place a little and went over to the old rusted out car. I looked inside of it and found that the keys were in the ignition. So I hopped in the car, and turned the key.

Ya, it probably will not even work! I thought to myself.

As I turned the key, the car started to make a clicking noise and it would not turn on. So I tried the car again and this time when I turned the key, without any hesitation it began to roar. I closed my door and put the car into drive and took off towards the lake.

Chapter 6

"Hey! Get down from there!" Some man said to me as I was up in a tree.

"Oh I am sorry sir. I am coming down right now." I was pretty high in the tree but I saw every thing that I needed to see for right now.

"What were you doing up there sonny?" the man said in a Texan accent. He was dressed in a tan work suit with a shiny badge In the middle of his chest pocket. The badge was a lot like ones that you see park rangers wearing.

"Umm... well would you believe me if I told you that I just felt a sudden urge to climb a tree?"

Right then as I was climbing down I missed a branch and slid a little.

"Oh common boy! Just tell me what you were doing up there and I will go away!"

"Ok well I was looking for the tree with the token of true friendship in it, could you help point me in the right direction?" I replied.

When I got close enough to the ground I jumped the rest of the way to the ground.

"Whew!!!" I exclaimed. So are you going to help or not?"

"Well why do you even want to go to the tree?" he questioned.

"I have my reasons. Why do you need to know?"

"Well if you answered my questions then you would be there by now."

GRRR!!! This guy is patronizing me with all of these questions! Why won't he just leave me alone and tell me where it is?

"Okay, well my grandma used to take me there every day when I was a little kid, and she just passed away. So I would just like to go there in memory of her."

"Oh, well why did you not just tell me that in the first place? Come this way sonny."

Wow! I can not believe that he actually bought that! But at least it worked.

We continued to walk for a little while, well actually it felt like a long while but anyways It had to have been a mile or so...

"I don't remember it taking me this long to get to the tree in the past!"

"do not worry it is not that much further from here"

As we continued to walk through the park a large pond came into view. The leaves of the trees were just now turning beautiful colors. The vibrant reds, purples, greens, browns, and oranges were so attractive to the eye. The reflections of the leaves were able to be seen glistening off the water of the pond.

This pond looked familiar. It was very over grown and the banks were covered in a green, algae looking substance. But the shape of it reminded me of the one that I remember seeing whenever my grandma and I would come here when I was little. The tree was within view of the pond and I would go climb it while my grandma went and sat on a bench by the lake.

But this could not be the same pond because all of the trees around it were still quite small and could not compare in size to the tree of true friendship. That tree was absolutely massive in size when I was little and that was over ten years ago!

"Hey sir? Where is the tree?" I questioned.

"Just through these trees." He replied quickly.

He continued to lead me through the bunch of trees.

I heard some rustling of the leaves behind me. I turned my head quickly around to see what it was. Nothing was there

"It must have just been my imagination I guess..." I thought to myself.

I turned my head back to the direction where the man who was taking me to the tree.

He was gone!

"Hello? Sir? Where are you?" I asked.

The trees around me began to rustle again. But this time not just behind me. I would hear something from one direction and look that way and it would seem to instantaneously happen from the opposite direction.

I began to look around frantically. My pulse rose. Beads of sweat dripped off my forehead.

"Hello? Is any one there?" I shouted.

The sounds still persisted. My heart leaped in my chest.

"Hey this really is not funny any more." My voice was shaky and was getting softer in fear.

"You can seriously stop now." I whispered.

With all the energy that I had stored up within me, I took off. I sprinted as fast as I could back in the direction that we had come from.

"Whoa! Whoa!" I yelled.

I fell face down into the dirt. I quickly flipped myself onto my back. I looked up into the trees trying to see what had tripped me. When someone reached out from behind my head and covered my mouth with a firm grip.

"Shh! Do not say anything! Just get up and follow me." The woman who was covering my mouth whispered in my ear.

She helped me as I got up from the leave covered ground.

"Who are you?" I questioned.

"I am here to help you, and to get you to a safe house."

"Ok, well you still have not answered my question."

"My name is Jennifer and I am a field agent with the FBI."

Yeah right! That could not be! She looks like she is the exact age as me and I am, and she expects me to believe that? I am not just going to follow anyone! Besides Dad told me to not trust anyone! So why in the world should I trust her?

"Ok well if you truly are with the FBI, where is your badge or identification of some kind?"

"Right here."

She pointed to a pocket in a black jacket that she had on.

"Would you like me to show it to you?" She asked.

"Ya! That was kind of the point!" I shouted.

By this point I had had just about enough. I just want to go somewhere and rest up a bit!

"Hey! Shhh! Be quiet! We can talk softly but do not yell like that again! Lets just hope that they did not hear you." She said as she was panting.

It was almost as if she was trying to hold her breath in order to stay completely quiet.

"Why? What would happen if 'they' did? And who is 'they?'"

"Adrian and his men are right around here and are looking for you so we need to get out of here."

What? She knows about Adrian? This is weird!

"Ok where are we going?" I said.

"This way. Follow me."

Jennifer pointed towards some thick, unkept grass still surrounded by trees.

"GET DOWN!" Jennifer shouted.

Jennifer tackled me to the ground just as a shot rang out.

"It is Adrian!"

Chapter 7

"We have to get out of the open! It is too dangerous in this field!" Jennifer said.

I looked around us frantically to look for any possible places that would be a good place for us to hide out.

"Hey what about that large tree over there that is down?" I said as I pointed to a tree that was about five-hundred feet away from us.

"Ok that will do for now. We need to crawl over there slowly. Be sure to stay very low to the ground." Jennifer whispered

We began to slowly creep over to the tree. The bullets raced over our heads, Adrian's men barely missing us with every shot that they took.

I held my breath. Moved one arm in front of the other. And tried to stay as low to the ground as possible. I began to sweat and my stomach started to churn. This was too much like a movie, only thing is, these are real bullets. It only takes one bullet to hit me and I am gone.

It was so hard to move in the grass, trying intently not to be seen. My arms and legs were getting more and more tired by the second, almost beginning to feel like jello.

At last, after what had seemed like an eternity, we reached the moderate safety and disguise of the downed tree.

"Hey, what do you suggest we do now?" I asked in a cold whisper.

We could hear the bullets hitting the side of the huge tree that was shielding us. Sweat was covering my forehead. My heart was racing. It was increasingly hard to breathe. My hands began to shake.

"Hey calm down. I will get us out of this." Jennifer replied.

"And how exactly do you suggest you will do that?" I said as I turned my head towards her.

"I do not know quite yet, but I am sure I will think of some thing."

"Ok, so you have no clue what you are doing! I mean you look like you are sixteen, and you say you are an agent with the FBI? You still have not convinced me that you are on my side and not with Adrian, but now you want me to believe that you will get me out of here?"

"First of all, I am eighteen. And second of all, why would I save you if I worked for Adrian?" She said.

"Umm... Because you need me to tell you where the device is. I said in a sarcastic tone of voice."

"Ok may be that was not such a great example, but you just have to trust me."

Trust her? Are you serious? I just met her! And the second that she showed up people started to shoot at me. My dad specifically told me to not trust anyone, so why should I trust her? I guess she is one of the only options that I have though...

"Well I guess you are my only option." I replied.

"So you have anything that could through them off for enough time so they will stop shooting and we will have enough time to get out of here?"

"Umm... not really..." I stammered.

"Ok, just follow my lead." She replied.

She wants me to follow her lead? The only thing that she can do is have me run right out into the direct fire! I guess now is as good as any.

I reached into my coat pocket and pulled out my uncles ring from Adrian. I quickly put the ring on my right index finger and threw my hand up above the log.

The shooting seized almost immediately.

"What did you do?" Jennifer asked

"Oh nothing, but we have to go now before they figure us out." I replied.

I can not tell her about it yet. It is just better that she does not know that I have one of Adrian's rings.

I could not believe how well that worked! It was amazing!

I quickly took the ring off of my finger and put it back into my coats inside pocket.

"Ok let's go! Come on Jennifer! Run!" I said.

Jennifer and I stood up and took off running. As we were running, the shooting started up again.

"We can not stop! Just keep on running!" I yelled.

"Ok, here follow me!" Jennifer yelled back.

She took off into what looked like a forest. We ran through the high grass and dead leaves on the ground.

She was running straight towards the side of a little hill.

"Hey in here." She yelled.

"Where?" I replied.

"Right over here!"

She threw up some leaves that were at the base of the hill and it revealed a small opening. She then crouched really low to the ground and went right in.

I was unsure about going inside. I mean anyone could be right inside there just waiting for me to come in and who knows what they might do to me.

More shots rang out from behind me.

It sounded like they were getting closer. So I guess I didn't really have a choice. I crouched down and went in.

The little cave was very dark and the air in there almost felt wet. The floor of the cave was kind of slick.

"Hey where are you?" I asked.

"Right over here." Jennifer replied

"I can not see anything in here!"

"I know. But here follow my voice. I know a way out of here."

"Here I am, just keep coming this way." Jennifer said.

"Ok I am." I replied

With my arms out stretched I walked very slowly, trying to be careful not to slip or hit my head on anything.

"There you are!"

I touched here arm and held on.

"No I am over here! And no one is touching me!"

"Wait! Why did you move? And who is this then?"

I immediately let go of the arm that I was holding onto and took a few steps back. When suddenly the person turned on a flashlight shining right into his face.

"Hello!" the man said in a deep ugly voice.

The light was almost blinding but once my eyes adjusted I was finally able to see who it was.

"Uncle Lewis!" I yelled in pure horror.

Chapter 8

"Who is your Uncle Lewis?" the man said.

"Wait! You are not Uncle Lewis? I replied.

This man looked very similar to Uncle Lewis when it was dark! But now that I can see him clearly, I can tell it was someone else.

"No, that is not your uncle Lewis. Sorry for the confusion but this is Daniel Jones. He is my partner. We are both on your case." Jennifer said.

"What do you mean 'on my case'?" I questioned.

"Well let us just say... We are here to help you." Daniel said.

"Okay, but how did you even know that I needed help?"

"We just did! Okay? Now we need to move on." Jennifer replied in a harsh voice.

"NO! I am not leaving until I get some answers!"

"Okay, what do you want to know?" Jennifer said after taking a deep breath and relaxing.

"Well first of all, who are you both and where are you from and what do you want with me and how do you even know about me and..."

"Whoa, whoa, whoa! Slow down there! Ok now lets start with one question at a time. So lets try this again. What do you want to know?" Jennifer replied.

"Ok how did you know about Adrian?"

"Well Brian and I work for the same department of the FBI that your parents worked for. When they went on their last mission, we found out that they were in trouble and we were called to help."

"And a great job you did with that! Where were you when my parents were killed in their own home? And why did you just now contact me? And why did you not help when the car blew up and Annie was kidnapped by Adrian?"

They just turned and looked at each other in a mindless stare.

They don't know anything! I backed up slowly. Inching myself closer to the entrance of the cave.

"We went over to your house and we were not able to help. It was just to late. We could not compromise our cover in order to save your parents lives. It was hard to just sit there and see it happen but what could we do?" Jennifer said.

What could they do? They could have saved the lives of my parents! So what if they "lost their cover" But it would have saved my parents life!

"Then your sister and you we lost after you left your house in such a hurry. Then you just disappeared until the thing at the bank happened. When we heard the explosion we went and saw the aftermath and saw you there. That is when we started to follow you and make sure you were ok."

"And why was Adrian and his men able to find Annie and I but you weren't? That just makes absolutely no sense to me!"

"Well Adrian has a lot more man power than we do." Jennifer said in a calm voice.

"Ok so what do you suggest we do now?"

"First, Brian and I are going to get you to a safe house and then we are going to go and find your sister!"

"NO! I am not going to just go sit on my rear and be in some safe house in the middle of no where! While Annie is with Adrian! And what guarantee do you have that Adrian will not just kill her any ways?"

"We do not have any but then again no one does."

They said in a quiet voice. They turned and looked at each other and smiled briefly.

"Well I do, and I can guarantee you that he will not kill her if I am the one who finds her!"

"Oh and how do you suppose you will do that?" Brian questioned.

"Well my parents gave me some information that he will be very interested to hear." I replied.

"And I am guessing that it is on the location of the disk?" Jennifer asked.

"Yes I do. But shouldn't you know where it is already since you work with them and all!"

The questions that they were asking me were almost suspicious. I mean seriously! They don't need to know the location of the disk! But they should already know where it is!

"Well no they were not debriefed yet so they were not able to get us the information."

"Oh ok." I replied.

I did not have anyone else to help me so I decided to follow them.

We began to walk further into the cave. It was pitch black inside and quite muggy. The only light we had was Brian's flashlight. The ground was sopping wet. It was all mud!

"So where are we going?" I asked.

"Well we think we might know where Annie is. So we are going to head over there. But first we need to loose Adrian's men." Jennifer said in a quiet voice.

I looked ahead into the dark ness and saw a little light peeping into the cave.

"So what exactly is your plan to loose Adrian?" I replied.

"We do not believe he knows about the cave so we should have lost him already. But if not, we have a car hidden right outside."

"And what will we do once we are in the car? I mean how will it even protect us from them shooting us?"

"All of the windows are bullet proof and the likelihood that we will even need them is so slim. Who says that they even know where it is?" Brian said.

"You have a point there."

We continued walking closer and closer to the cave exit.

They really did have everything figured out and ready for our way out from the park.

In order to exit it looked like we would have to get on our hands and knees and crawl out of here. Jennifer laid down and peeked her head out of the cave.

"Look's clear to me." She said.

"Ok let's go! Run and stay low!" Brian whispered to me.

Jennifer crawled out very slowly and disappeared from my sight.

"You go next." Brian said to me.

"Ok." I replied.

I hugged the floor and began to push myself through the hole. My head emerged out of the darkness of the cave into the bright light of day. There were

trees all around me. Jennifer was just ahead of me. She waved her hand to me to follow her, so I did.

My eyes burned from the brightness of the sun shining through the colorful leaves.

We ran as fast as we could. I didn't even know where I was going! I guess I just had to trust her.

I heard something hit a tree right next to me. My head quickly turned to it. It was a bullet hole!

"Jennifer its Adrian! He has found us!"

Chapter 9

Bullets, racing over my head. So close I could feel them wisp through my hair.

"Brian, NOW!" Jennifer Yelled

Brian pulled a black box out of his jeans pocket. It had a single red button right in the middle of the box and what looked like a light switch right underneath it. He flipped the switch and pushed the button.

"Run!" Brian yelled.

I was hiding behind the relative safety of a tree, when bright flashes of light surrounded me! Those flashes were soon followed by an enormous sound ringing in my ears.

I ran as fast as I could, keeping close to Jennifer. Through the trees I began to see the car that they were talking about. It was an old four door ford torus. Nothing all that special, other than the windows were really tinted.

As we neared the car I began to really question how much we could rely on this piece of junk?

By now the explosions had stopped but we were now being covered in debris.

Finally we reached the car. I flung the back door open and jumped in slamming it shut immediately behind me.

Jennifer hopped into the passenger seat and Brian went into the drivers seat.

He put the key into the ignition and tried to start it. The engine grumbled a little but would not start. He tried it again. Yet again it would not start.

"This was a great plan!" I said sarcastically to Jennifer.

What were they thinking? All that they have accomplished is getting us out of the cave, Adrian's

men relocating us, us getting shot at and now being stuck in some old car that won't even work!

"Hey! This car has been through a lot! And it has not failed us yet! And it wont!" Jennifer replied.

Brian kept on trying to start it. Over and over again he tried, but the engine just would not turn over!

The bullets began to fly again. They were beginning to hit the car. One after another they bounced right off the car.

"Hey what is the problem with the car?" I asked

Just as I said this the car roared to life and we were speeding off.

"Nothing is wrong with it." Brian said sarcastically.

"Oh ok." I replied

The shooting soon stopped as we got further and further away.

"So where do you think she is?"

"Well the lead that we got said that she was in an old ware house just about twenty or thirty minuets away from here." Jennifer said

My stomach began to growl as I looked out the window and saw a bill board for a restaurant. On the bill board was some different sandwiches that looked really good. I began to think of the last time I ate and I realized that I had been so worried about finding Annie that I had not eaten for almost two days!

"Hey do you have any food in here?" I asked.

"Umm I don't think so." Jennifer said as she looked around the car. "Wait, yes, here is a little granola bar."

"Oh sweet! Thank you!"

I tore open the wrapping on the bar as fast as my hands would let me. I bit off a huge chunk of it and gulped it down. I don't quite know why but the second that bar hit my tongue, I felt as if I had not eaten in a month or so. My taste buds just practically exploded.

That granola bar was gone very quickly. But of course I was still very hungry but there was no way I

was going to stop anywhere to eat until we get to the ware house.

"So do you think they saw our car?" I asked

"Ya they probably did, but we have that covered."

Brian said as he looked at me through the rearview mirror at me.

"And what might that be?"

"Well we have a car waiting for us in a parking lot just right up here." Jennifer said

"Okay cool." I replied

We took an exit off the interstate that seemed like it was in the middle of nowhere. We continued down a little back road until we came up to a little family owned truck stop. As we pulled in I saw some really weird green dinosaur looking statue in the front of the truck stop. We pulled up beside the dinosaur and just on the other side of it was a new infinity G35 coup!!!

"Hey is this our car?" I asked as I ran over to it.

"Yup!" Brian replied.

"This is awesome!"

"Ya I know it is. It is one of my favorite cars."

Brian said.

We all got in and got back onto the interstate.

"So what makes you so sure that Annie is at this place?" I asked

"Well we have had our eye on this warehouse a lot lately because it has been a very active place for Adrian to reside out of." Jennifer said. "But right after your sister was kidnapped it seemed as if all activity just froze there. So we are almost positive that they stopped all activity so that they would not attract any more attention to the ware house."

"Ok so how do you suggest we get in there without being seen or detected?"

"Well there is a back entrance through an underground tunnel that only we know about. (Because we are the ones that made it) So we are going to sneak in through there and that will lead right into a back storage room inside." Brian said.

"And what exactly do you suggest we do once we are inside?" I said.

"Well we will come to that when we do." Brian said.

We were driving on the interstate for another ten minuets or so. We were headed to what looked like down town Chicago, the traffic getting continuously thicker as we got closer and closer to the down town area.

Finally we pulled up behind a large building. It was one of the largest buildings on the downtown skyline! We got out of the car and went inside, down a long staircase, through a hidden door and into a long, poorly lit tunnel.

We were walking down through the tunnel but it abruptly stopped at a brick wall!

"And how are we supposed to get through this?" I asked to Brian.

"Here let me show you." Brian said.

He went to the wall and then turned around and looked at Jennifer and me.

He reached into his pocket and pulled out a gun.

I began to look around frantically and back up.

"What is the matter? This is for you."

He handed me the gun.

"Sorry I just... thought..."

"Ya it is ok. Ok lets all stay together. Follow my lead." Brian said.

Brian pushed in a brick in the wall and it caused the wall to crumble straight to the ground.

We were in.

Brian rushed into the room, it was a closet of some sort, and looked around.

"Clear." Brian whispered.

My heart began to pound faster and faster. This could be it! My sister is inside this building!

Brian opened the door to the room a crack and took a peek out.

"Looks clear." He said.

We went into a larger room and no one was in it.

"Shh, wait, listen close?" Jennifer whispered.

I froze like a statue. You could hear people talking.

"Ok lets keep on moving." Brian said.

As I was looking around the room and I saw that there were two doors. One on one side of the room and

one on the other. There was absolutely nothing in the room. It was completely void of furniture, paper, trash of any sort, and it seemed like even dust!

Chills ran down my spine. Something just didn't feel right.

Brian peeked into the next room and then quickly closed the door.

"There are some guards in there. So Jennifer, you and Jake go in from that door over there on my count." Brian whispered to us.

We did as he told us and went over to the other door.

Brian motioned to us with his hands three, two, one then we were off.

Brian and I simultaneously opened the doors and stormed the room. Jennifer aimed with her gun and shot one of the guys.

The men were seemingly caught off guard, but quickly began to shoot back.

We all quickly found some protection. I was behind a desk, Brian was behind a crate of some sort, and Jennifer a large pole.

I looked around frantically for a way into the room that was supposed to have Annie in it. The only way in looked to be through a door that was directly behind eight to ten guards.

Brian motioned for Jennifer to move to a wall that was well shielded from the fighting but it also gave a better angle to shoot from.

I popped my head up over the desk and started shooting my gun to provide some extra cover fire.

Jennifer croched down while running over to the wall in order to avoid the shooting.

Brian began to move to the opposite side of the room to another wall just like the one that Jennifer was now at.

Jennifer successfully picked off another couple of guards. But while all of this shooting was going on I felt something cold hit the back of my neck. It wasn't normal like ice or something it felt more like...

I took a huge gasp of air. It was a gun.

I turned around slowly. The first thing I saw was a gold ring on this man's left ring finger. It had a cobra on it!

"This is all over now." The man said.

Chapter 10

"Woe, woe, woe... Hey you don't have to do this." I said.

Where did this guy come from? How did he get behind me without Brian or Jennifer seeing him?

Jennifer and Brian still had not seen this guy behind me, because they continued to fire at the others that were blocking the door to Annie.

"Ok now get up slowly and don't make any sudden movements." The man said.

I looked around the room frantically trying to get Jennifer and Brian's attention, but no luck. Bullets were still filling the air all around us.

He jabbed the gun harder into my neck trying to urge me to get up. So I stood up slowly. I now got a clear view of everything. There were only three men left in front of the door.

"Backup slowly" he said.

I did as he said and backed up slowly to the door that we came in.

Just as we were reaching the door the shooting stopped. I stopped walking. A siring pain went down my back. It felt like I had just been hit over the head with a crow bar.

"Move!" the man shouted.

Jennifer and Brian looked right at me. They motioned something to each other and both aimed right at me.

The man behind me started to freak out. He swung his gun from left to right aiming at Brian then at Jennifer and then back at me.

My stomach dropped, my heart practically stopped, and I was absolutely motionless in fear.

Jennifer set her gun down on the ground and began to walk towards me slowly. The man behind me aimed his gun right at her.

"Hey, just put your gun down and no one will get hurt." Jennifer said calmly.

"Ya right! I saw what you did to those other men! You just killed them all!" he replied.

At this time Brian was creeping down the wall getting closer to us with his gun still aimed at the man.

Jennifer kept on coming closer and closer. The man behind me began to shake. His hold on my shoulder loosened.

Suddenly the man went completely limp. He fell to the ground. Brian had shot him!

My vision got blurry. I fell to my knees. My heart was overwhelmed with fear and great emotion. I just witnessed over fifteen people get killed in less than five minutes!

Brian and Jennifer just saved my life! This is the second time in the last two days that I owe my life to them!

I looked up at the ceiling and then back to the door where all of the guards were. Annie!

"Let's go! We need to hurry before Adrian gets away with Annie!" I yelled to Jennifer and Brian.

"Ok, follow me." Brian said.

We went over to the door and Brian got on one side and Jennifer on the other.

"One, two, three." Brian whispered to Jennifer.

Once he said three Jennifer swung the door open and Brian and I ran into the room.

It was as if they had just been there but had gotten up and left in a hurry. There was trash all over the ground and papers everywhere.

"No we missed them!" I said

If only we had come a little bit sooner! Man we were so close! I began to wonder if we would ever find them.

"Hey I am sure that there must be something in all of these papers that could help us out!" Jennifer said.

"Ya! Good Idea." Brian replied.

We began to rummage through the papers on a desk in the corner and the papers scattered all over the ground.

I got down on my hands and knees and started looking through some papers.

I truly didn't think that we would actually find anything in there. I mean who would be stupid enough to leave something that is actually important?

We searched for a little while with no luck. This just seemed like a waste of time! We could be out

looking for Annie right now but instead we are in a ware house going through bank statements and bills to pay.

"Here! I found something!" Jennifer said, motioning for us to come over to her.

"What is it?" I replied.

Brian and I rushed over to her to see what she had found.

"It is a location of another building that Adrian owns."

"And what is so special about another building? I have found a lot of buildings that he owns."

"Well this is the only one that I have never heard of before. And plus it is only an hour or two away so it wont be that hard to go and check it out." Jennifer replied.

"Ok then, what are we waiting for? Lets go!" I said.

Two Hours Later

"Hey, Jake." Jennifer whispered. "Hey, Jake? We are here. Hey Jake wake up."

I turned over and moaned a little.

"Hey Jake? Common wake up."

"I am awake." I said as I briefly opened my eyes.

I forced myself to sit up in the car and look around at where we were. Brian was not in the car. We were in front of a small office building.

"Hey where is Brian?" I asked.

"He is checking out the building to see if there are any signs of activity." Jennifer replied.

Just after she said that Brian ducked around the building and sprinted to the car.

He opened the car door and jumped in.

"She is in there! I saw her in a second floor window looking outside. But it will not be easy getting in there. There are guards everywhere." Brian said.

Chapter 11

"Ok I think it is dark enough now. Let's move."

Jennifer said.

We all hopped out of the car and went up to a window in the rear of the building. Brian took out a special screw driver that he had in his pocket and inserted it into the window seal.

I looked around from left to right trying to see if anyone was there. It was completely dark outside other than one street light that was a ways away. My heart was racing and I felt like I always feel right before I do something in front of an audience. It felt like I was going to lose my stomach. Thankfully I hadn't eaten in so long there was no chance that I was going to throw up.

"Ok I got it." Brian said. "We are in."

Brian crawled through the window and into the pitch black room. Jennifer and I waited until we had the all clear by Brian before we followed him in.

"Clear." Brian said.

We got inside and all went over to the door. It lead into a hallway that certainly had guards in it.

Brian peeked out the door and quickly shut it.

"What is it?" I whispered.

"There were two guards walking down the hall way."

Brian reached again for the door knob and opened it a crack again.

"Ok, two cameras, elevator on one end of hall and stares on the other. We will go stairs because elevators have cameras. Stay close and we wont be spotted."

Brian opened the door the rest of the way and went out into the hall way. The guards must have turned down another hall way because they were gone.

I slipped out of the room right behind Brian, and Jennifer was right behind me. The cameras were not stationary but they rotated slowly.

Brian paused for a moment in order to avoid being caught by the cameras but soon resumed the fast pace down the hall.

As we neared the stairs we started hearing the guards coming our way. Their voices sounded like they were getting closer and closer to us.

We finally reached the stairs. Brian swung the door open and we all ran in. I quickly shut the door.

Just as we closed the door the guards turned the corner.

"Few! I don't think they saw us!" I said.

I felt like I was just about to ride on one of the largest roller coasters of my life. The feelings in your stomach right before you get on? That is what I was feeling.

"Good that was to close for comfort!" Jennifer whispered.

"Ok now we just need to start looking in the rooms up stairs." Brian said. "I am going to stay down here to cover you. If you need anything I will be down here."

"Ok sounds good." Jennifer said.

Jennifer and I ran up the stairs to the second floor. We pulled out our guns and caulked them.

We looked through the window in the door to the stairs to look into the hallway. There were like three or four guards just roaming around the hall way in seemingly no consistent pattern, and there were five rotating cameras.

"I think our only choice is to just take them out by surprise." Jennifer said.

"Ok and how do you suppose we do that without alarming the other guards?" I replied.

"Well lets wait until all of the guards are in the hall way and then lets storm them."

The guards were all carrying machine guns and we only had pistols. But we had the element of surprise on our side.

We stood their staring down the hallway for about two or three minutes. We needed to know exactly how many guards there were in the halls. We finally figured out that there were four.

Two each? I wondered how in the world was I supposed to take care of two guys? I have never shot a gun before in my life besides this morning!

"Hey you ready? This is our chance!" Jennifer said.

I had to be if I wanted to save my sister!

"Yup! Lets do this!" I said.

"Ok three, two, one, go!"

Jennifer swung the door open and began to shoot. I flung my gun around the door and began to fire as

well. To my amazement we took them all out without them getting off even one shot at us.

"Ok lets find your sister!" Jennifer said.

We began at one end of the hall and worked our way to the other. We went through every room and we could not find her in any of them. Until the very last room that we searched. We walked into a completely dark room. I shined a flashlight around and didn't see anything.

"Well she must have been moved." I told Jennifer.

"Ok well no one has left this building so she must have been moved to a different floor."

We started to walk out of the room when I heard something.

My heart leaped with joy when I heard that! It was just a grown but I knew, somehow I just knew that it was my sister. I ran over to the corner where the noise came from. Annie was curled up in a ball shivering. I picked her up and held her close.

"Annie? Are you ok?" I whispered softly into her ear.

"Yes, I am." Annie stuttered.

"Ok we need to get out of here." Jennifer said.

"Agreed!" I replied.

Finally! At last! I had my sister back! I still held her tight. I was not going to let anything else happen to her.

Jennifer opened the door and we all walked out of the room. Just as we exited the elevator doors opened. Jennifer aimed her gun and was ready to fire.

There was some man in the elevator. He was wearing a very nice high dollar looking black pin striped suit.

"Hey, step out of the elevator nice and slow." Jennifer said.

"Hey Annie? Is that Adrian?" I asked.

Annie looked towards the elevator while still shivering.

"Ye-ss." Annie mumbled.

Adrian stepped out of the elevator. The doors closed behind him.

I had a suddenly felt sick with hatred. I just wanted to shoot him! He killed my parents, and kidnapped my sister! But I could just not do it right in front of my sister.

"Aww... you came to rescue your poor little helpless sister..." Adrian said.

"You will not get away with all that you have done Adrian!" I said.

Right then the elevator rang. Someone was coming!

"Lets go!" I yelled.

Annie and I took off running towards the stair well, while Jennifer backed up slowly keeping her gun's sight on Adrian.

My heart was racing, sweat soaked my shirt. Me getting my sister out of this place safely was my only concern.

We raced down the stair case as fast as we could. It was a lot harder to run while holding Annie. We quickly looked out of the window of the door to the stair case to see if any one was there. It was clear.

We ran out of the stair well and back into the room that we had come in through. I set Annie down and

helped her through the window. Then Jennifer went through next and then me.

We ran around the building to the car where Brian was waiting for us.

"Hey lets go!" I said.

"I am sorry but I cannot let you do that." Brian said as he pulled out his gun and aimed it right at us.

Chapter 12

"Good job Brian!" Adrian said.

"Thank you sir!" Brian replied.

What? He isn't on our side? I just stood there speechless. What could I say? I trusted him! And what does he do? He just traps us?

Adrian walked around Jennifer, Annie, and me several times just looking us over. He didn't say anything he just walked.

Adrian motioned for one of his guards to come outside. Once the guard arrived he pulled Annie away from me. I tried to hold on to her as tight as I could but I just couldn't match the strength of this man.

He took Annie beside Adrian and held a gun to her head.

"So Jake?" Adrian said.

"What?" I replied.

It was hard for me to even look at Adrian let alone talk to him.

"I believe you know where something is that belongs to me?" Adrian questioned.

"And what would that be?"

"You know exactly what it is! Don't play games with me or I will kill your sister without hesitation."

Just as he said that he walked over to Annie and yanked her hair. Annie let out a little scream. I just wanted to go and start punching him! It really made me angry when he did that.

"Where is the disk?" Adrian asked.

"What makes you think I know where it is or even what it is? My parents would have never told me about anything like that!"

"Ok well if you wont tell me then..." he pointed to Brian to go over to the guard that was holding Annie. Brian took his gun out and calked it. He then shoved it into Annie's temple.

"Ok, ok, ok, I will tell you... just please leave Annie alone!"

Adrian motioned for Brian to back off.

What do I do? This information would help all of America! But I cant let him just kill Annie!

"The location, Jake!" Adrian said.

"Ok it is... in a swiss.."

Right then gun shots rang out from all around us, we all instinctively dropped to the ground. It was too dark outside to see what was happening. After about thirty seconds of continuous fire, it all stopped.

"Hey, Annie? Are you ok?" I asked.

"Ya. I am fine, You?"

"Yup!"

"Jennifer are you ok?" I asked.

"Ya, I am good." She said.

I tried to look around and see who was shooting. But yet again it was still too dark.

We all got back up. I checked to see where Adrian and Brian were but they weren't around there anymore. I began to walk around but then I stumbled over something. It was Adrian! And then Brian! And then all of the body guards. Whoever was shooting defiantly had certain targets.

"Hey Jennifer, who would have done this?"

"I don't know. I didn't even know anyone knew where we were.

"Well we did."

I turned around to see who had just spoken to us.
The voice sounded really familiar!

"Mom! Dad!" Annie yelled.

Mom and Dad? They were dead! They cant be here!

I ran over to Annie and sure enough it was mom
and dad!

"We thought you were dead!" I said.

"Well that was the plan." Dad said.

"I am sorry but it was the only way to get the
information that we had learned, to the FBI." Mom
said.

"So your death was just a set up?" I asked.

"Well Jake, when we got back from Israel we
didn't go by our office for our debriefing right
away." Mom said. "So, when we got that phone call from
Adrian, it seemed like the only way to get us out of
there with the information. Because if Adrian believed
that we were dead then he should have gone away. But
instead he found out about you two."

"We had no intent to put you two in danger. We are truly sorry that you had to go through this." Dad said.

"It is ok. I am just glad that we are together as a family again." I said.