

Chapter 4

On the way home

Mary got out from the kitchen door, into the garden and was walking down the gravelled path toward the iron gates of the manor. She reached the gates and bid goodnight to the watchman who opened the gates for her. "Good night Mary, should I accompany you to the town it is getting really late." said the watchman.

"Thank you for the kind offer Mr. Baker but I will manage." replied Mary and made her way down the lane and through the woods. The night was still and silent except for the occasional hoot of owls and the chirping of crickets, a low mist was hanging in the forest and a gentle breeze rustled the tree leaves.

Mary was halfway through the forest when she heard a low sound of the crunching of leaves on the ground made by footsteps. She turned around looking for the source of sound but there was no one there, she thought it must have been her imagination and continued walking.

A little while afterward she heard the same sound again this time closer than before, she was scared, was someone following her could it be that the watchman had thought to accompany her regardless of her refusal and was now following her, but if so why would he hide that didn't make sense.

She started walking again this time more cautiously than before with one hand inside her shoulder bag gripping the electric teaser tightly, she had reached a clearing in the woods when she heard the same sound again. "Who's there." she shouted turning around, this time something moved in the nearby bushes.

"I am warning you I am armed, who there show yourself." she waited with bated breath for an answer or any sort of movement but there was none, then she felt the vague feeling that someone was standing behind her but before she could turn cold strong arms gripped her from behind.

One arm chocking her and the other pinning stopping her hand holding the teaser from reaching himself. Mary struggled to break free from the grip of those hands but she could barely breathe and her arms were going numb with fear and lack of oxygen. Then with all her might she elbowed the man holding her hard in the gut, he let go of her hand for a split second and that was enough Mary grabbed the electric teaser on the man's arm he howled with pain letting go of her.

Mary didn't stop to see the man's face she ran as fast as she could down the narrow lane trying to reach the road leading to the town, if she made it till there she would be safe, she could stop a passing car and ask for help, she doubted the man would follow her that far.

Mary was halfway through the lane, she could hear rushing footsteps behind her she turned her head slightly to see how far behind the man was, "Ahh." she trampled falling down hard on the ground, her head had hit a rock and she could feel hot blood dripping from her forehead as a pain shot through her head and her ankle, she only hoped she hadn't sprained her ankle.

Mary tried to get up from the ground but before she could properly stand the man caught her from behind strangling her he pinned her hard on the ground. Mary tried to turn around with all her strength, she could see her attacker now.

"Let go of me please I didn't do anything please let go." She screamed her voice choked, her eyes filled with tears.

"I know you are innocent but we need you to be out of our way." said the man and struck her on her head with the metal bar in his hand twice he struck her and she stopped moving her breathing stopped, the man got up and bent down to take a look at her pulse. He intended to carry her and dump her in the forest where animals would eat her and there will be no traces left of her.

Mary knew this was her only chance the electric teaser was inches away from her, she knew if the man found out that she was not dead yet he would not stop until he made sure she was. The man grabbed her from the sides and tried to drag her, She knew this was her chance she did not know how long she will be able to stay conscious she grabbed the teaser and once again grabbed the man with it.

This time she struck right on the side of his neck. The man howled in pain and fell backward. Mary got to her feet and ran with all the strength she had left in her body, she didn't care how badly injured she was or how much her body hurt, she tried not to think about how much blood she had lost.

Her face was now half covered in blood that dripped from her chin, she could barely see, at last, she could see the road leading to the town ahead she reached it. At the same moment, there was a blinding flash of light in front of her a car appeared on the road.

Mary stood in the middle of the road "Stop' she shouted. Please help." She waved at the car with her hands in the air. "STOP Please." she shouted before fainting on the spot and falling down on the ground, the car stopped just a few inches from her.

A man stepped out of the car with a look of surprise and worry on his face 'Mam are you all right ' he said as he step closer toward Mary to look at her. "OH God." exclaimed the man as she looked at the limp figure of Mary who was a mess.

The man bend down to check her pulse and was frightened out of his skin when he barely felt it. He tried to jerk her awake. "Miss please wake up." he said, he was now checking his pocket looking for his phone he found it. "Hello' he said holding the phone to his ear 'hello police, I am near the Wilber house there is a lady badly injured'

Chapter 5

Nightmares

Evangeline was once again inside her parent's car she was sitting in the back seat her father was driving and her mother was in the passenger seat next to him, they were arguing about something and for some reason, Evangeline couldn't hear what they were arguing about or maybe she could not remember what they were arguing about.

"Eve are you listening to me once we get home you will tell us all about it, is that clear " said Eve's father "don't be so harsh on her Charles, children these days make such mistakes" said her mother trying to calm her husband down.

"don't take her to side you will spoil her like this, she needs to understand her responsibilities." replied her father angrily. "Dad I do understand my responsibilities I am not a kid anymore." said Eve defensively.

" Then stop acting like one" spat her father turning around to look at her daughter in his range he did not see the truck coming toward them from the other side of the road. "Dad lookout" Evangeline

shouted her father turned around to kick the breaks but it was too late the truck collided with their car causing it to roll upside down causing Eve to hit her head hard on the window

The glass shattered and cut through the skin of her face and arm "Dad " she screamed but before she could say anymore another car hit theirs from behind. Their car toppled down from the highway through the edge of the road into the valley hitting hard on the rocks and rolling until it reached the edge of the cliff.

Evangeline's head was buzzing from hitting her head her arms and legs were bruised, she had sprained her neck and she was sure she had broken a bone or two. She didn't know for sure her body hurt too much and she couldn't make sense of anything, she felt dizzy and the only thought that came to her mind was of her parents.

She focused her gaze to look at her parents, their bodies were dangling upside down from their seats supported by their seat belts, they had not said a word and neither of them were moving in the slightest. They both had injuries and their blood was dripping from their bodies forming a puddle on the ground.

Eve tried to talk but no voice came out it was an effort to speak "dad are you all right" she said her voice coming out as a croak "Dad, Mom are you ok say something" neither of them moved "Dad please wake up I'm scared" said Eve her eyes were filled with tears she hoped they were only unconscious she couldn't bear the thought that was hovering at the edge of her conscience.

"mom wake up please" she said again but how can she be unconscious when her mom's eyes were wide open and they were staring at her with no sign of life in them, she didn't want to believe what she was seeing, she turned to look at her dad he was bleeding badly but his eyes were closed which meant at least there was hope. He was unconscious but if the blood keeps flowing like this she didn't know how long he would stay alive "dad mom please wake up" she said in vain.

"please someone helps us " she shouted. She didn't think anybody could hear her. Their car was at the edge of the cliff she was afraid if she moved too much they would fall further down and then there would be no hope for any of them surviving. "Help someone, anyone please help" she shouted with all her strength but what good it was if no one could come down to save them, she looked back at her mother.

"mom, please say something," she said but her mother's eyes were staring at her blankly, she turned to look at her father he was still unconscious and he was losing more blood with every passing minute and if she didn't do something soon he would be dead, she tried to take off her seat belt but it was stuck, she tried harder the car creaked and moved causing Eve to freeze with fear, cautiously she took off her seat belt and with a thud she fell on the car roof now beneath her feet.

She moved toward her mother first she tried to wake her up but it was no use, she turned to her father instead and shook him slightly to wake him up "Dad please wake up you are scaring me" from above the cliff she could hear the sound of sirens and a helicopter, the police were here they would be safe now "Help please were down here" she cried with a bit of relief in her heart.

She moved toward the car door and tried to open it, it was jammed the only way to get out now was through the broken window and she doubted she could get through that hole, above her, she could hear the sound of a man calling "Hello can anyone hear me" the feet of a man standing on a rope ladder were visible through the window. A man stepped down from the ladder on the rocky surface of the cliff and bent down to look inside the car "mam are you alright" he asked.

"the door is jammed and my parents are unconscious please help them first my father has lost too much blood" she said pleadingly to the man "clam down miss i need to get you out first" the man said "no please save them first" she said to the man she didn't know why but she had a feeling that if she left her parents behind something worse would happen.

"please mam try to understand it would be easy for me to save them if I got you out first, please I promise I will save them as well" he said trying to reason with her "promise me you will save them" said Eve still not sure if she should leave them alone.

The man looked her in the eyes and said "I promise, now please let me help you" he opened the door and gave Evangeline his hand, Evangeline took it and with an effort tried to stand but her neck hurt and so did her left feet that was sprained, the man pulled her out of the car and tied a rope around her waist to carry her up.

" we need to get you up first" he said and signalled the helicopter to move upward, Evangeline looked back worriedly at her parents " don't worry miss we will come back for them once your safe" said the man seeing the look on Eve's face, the words had hardly left his mouth, when there was loud noise behind them of shifting rocks and the car fell down in with a loud crash.

"NO" Evangeline shouted she was sitting up right in her bed her eyes were filled with tears, it took her a moment to take in her surroundings. It was a nightmare she realized, her room was dark except for the moonlight coming from the open window. She remembered that she was home, she was safe and her parents were no longer with her.

They had died in that car crash and it was her fault, and now she was stuck with witnessing their death over and over again in her nightmares. She was so tired of it, tired of waking up every night and crying her eyes out, tired of being alive and tired of being the only one who survived.