

CHAPTER THREE:

'Reunion?'

"Hush little baby don't say a word, Mama's gonna buy you a mocking bird.  
If that mocking bird won't sing, Mama's gonna buy you a diamond ring.  
If that diamond ring turns brass, Mama's gonna buy you a looking glass..."

Andrya: "(.....) ...mm ...Mom?...."

"Yes dear, I'm here for you."

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Danny: "Mmmh?... We're... Alive?"

Momo: "It would seem so, and by the way nice job blowing up my home -you'll have to invite me over to your place so I can return the favour."

James chuckled "that's funny, he already beat you to that one."

Momo just stared at Danny.

Danny: "....."

James: "Look!, what's that!?"

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Danny: "Get away from her!!"

James: "We have to do something."

Danny: "What can we do while it has her?"

Andrya: "Danny?.... James?"

Andrya slowly awoke to the smell of distant smoke and a dark figure rocking her. Even though her friends were panicking and yelling in the background only a few words would reach her ears as she began to come to.

Dark figure: "Don't be frightened, I'm here to keep you safe."

Danny: "There has to be something we can do!"

Momo: "Guys, just relax!"

James: "RELAX!?? What's there to relax about!?"

Momo: "Take a minute and look at where we are."

James: "We're up near all the stores... How? We were all the way down by the water front."

Momo: "Exactly, now look at the two of them... It's not going to harm her."

Danny: "How can you tell?"

Momo: "I can read its vitals -its body signature... Therefore I can feel its intent."

The dark figure stood up with Andrya.

Andrya: "It's okay guys, ..she's ..my Mom."

Danny: "What?.. How could you know that... I didn't hear anything?"

Andrya: "She told me... I... I could hear her."

James: "This is too weird."

Dark figure: "I told you Andrya the strength of a mother's love will always overcome."

As Andrya leaned in to hug her mom a warm dark redish-purple liquid hit her face and the figure dropped to its knees, then fell on its side -life less. Andrya shocked and speechless looked up to see a fully equipped soldier with a sleek sniper rifle aimed at them. He was kneeling in front of a helicopter that was on top of the hardware store. Three other men climbed down a ladder to the ground below and began walking towards them.

Andrya rubbed her glossy red watering eyes and looked up towards the approaching men, ignoring the soldiers on either side she focused on the man in the middle.

Andrya: "....Dad?"

Suited man: "Yes my dear, it's me."

Andrya: "Dad! They've killed mom!!!"

Suited man: "I know sweetheart, your mother was very sick."

Andrya didn't like the answer her father had given her but wasn't ready to speak, let alone ready to argue. She just had someone speak to her -in her mind -saying it was her mother. Then watched her die and now stood in front of her father... The two very people she thought had died over two and a half years ago.

Suited man: "Come with me Andrya! You and your friends. I will take you to the island across the water where I can keep you safe but we have to go now."

Danny: "Andrya?"

Andrya: "It's my dad, I've been waiting a long time for this."

James: "Then we all go."

Suited man: "You're all, more than welcome to come along" They nodded and the two soldiers escorted them back to the helicopter.

Once everyone was on it slowly rose into the air towards the island across the water.

Suited man: "I've been trying to find you for quite some time now Andrya. The facility we're headed to is called Vigilance. It's a fully active, protected, mobile island. There's both hot and cold running water and electricity. Plenty of plants and food, markets and stores..."

Andrya: "I don't care about any of that! Dad they shot mom!"

Suited man: "I'm sorry dear but it was necessary, your mom... She was very sick... I don't know what I would've done if I had lost you after all of this time."

Momo: "Alright how long are you going to drag this on for? Why not just tell her the truth? hasn't the poor girl gone threw enough? Stop lying to her."

The two soldiers stopped and looked at Momo.

Suited man: "What are you talking about? I haven't lied about anything, who is this little girl?"

Andrya: "What are you trying to do Momo?"

Momo: "I'm sure you're telling some truth but you're definitely not her father."

Momo reached over and ripped off his dog-tags -tossed them at Andrya and jammed her two fingers into the side of his face. This muscled some of his skin back exposing a few circuits and wires. The two soldiers went to withdraw their weapons but she pushed the suited man in to the one soldier and kicked the other soldiers leg in his knee -fracturing it and dropping him down. Once down she broke his neck, grabbed his gun and swept her arm around to shoot the other soldier before he could even react.

The pilot door opened and a third soldier came out but before he could take in the scene Momo had his gun in her other hand and pointed at his face. She motioned him towards the nearest bench and tossed the other gun aside.

Suited man: "Andrya... I can... explain, I..."

Momo shot the suited man in the head to put an end to his rambling.

Andrya: ".....?"

Danny: "Momo, how did you know?... How long did you know for?"

Momo: "I knew once he first starting speaking, I have a built in lie detector so once I couldn't tell I knew he wasn't a natural life form."

James: "If you knew the whole time, why wait until now to call them out on it -why not when we were back on the ground?"

Momo: "On the ground we had no protection, if I called them on it we would've more than likely been taken as prisoners. He said it himself he had been looking for you for a while. Since the man claiming to be her father was a machine and soldiers themselves are basically the same thing, then that means someone else has been looking for her. The best way to face that is on our own terms, so I said nothing until we were in the air. We'd be on equal ground and I could make my move, now it's just a waiting game until we reach the island."

Danny just shook his head. "I wanna go back to bed..."

The helicopter made its descent to the massive man made island-ship. It contained four city sectors with a few small forested areas. In the middle was a tall layered building with a few landing strips on the bottom. They seemed to be landing on what looked to be a small personal landing pad for someone high in the chain of command.

When they landed a soldier slid the door open and standing on both sides were formations of five soldiers. The person in the middle was a fit, well dressed man in his mid-fourties with short brown hair. He was holding a cigar with a tight leather glove on his left hand and checking an old pocket watch with his other.

To his right was a young girl in her late teens with light blue hair. She was wearing a black dress that hugged her body and ended just under the knee. It was complimented by a black pair of short high heeled boots.

To the mans left was a young in his early twenties with long blond hair that draped over his face. He looked like a high ranking soldier but wasn't dressed with a soldiers outfit, instead was dressed in sleek red combat attire. He was wearing a blood red leather trench coat and held a modernized spiked gauntlet with a spade shaped blade off the end of his fist. Up his right arm up to his shoulder was a few linked straps that wrapped around his other shoulder and held a sword that was peeking out from behind him.

The older man from the middle looked inside of the helicopter to the sight of two dead soldiers, a motionless robotic man, four kids, and a third soldier held at gun point by one of the young girls -and laughed.

Momo shot the window behind the soldier and released the empty shell while still pointing it at the soldier, in response the two rows of soldiers readied themselves and aimed their guns towards her.

Momo: "Do you think this is funny? You need to explain yourself real quick."

Continuing to chuckle the man replied "Put your weapons away, My name is Reigh and you're right, I can explain everything if you'd just step out."

Momo: "Easy for you to say seeing as you're the one with the control and man power -and you know that's always a friendly greeting."

Reigh: "I need protection from the unknown, just like you... If you allow my soldiers to reclaim my property and wounded soldiers they can leave... I'm sure we can talk this over... perhaps even get everyone a bite to eat."

Danny: "If you keep in mind we won't be staying long and allow us to keep all of our belongings, weapons included and I think we have a deal. Come on, we couldn't be that big a threat to an entire island can we?"

Reigh: "It's a deal -Oh, and miss. the gun too, I'm its rightful owner if you would be so kind."

Momo handed the pistol over to the soldier as the others were carried off.

Reigh turned to the young blond man next to him. "L.T. Sythe, wake the doctor, I'd like it if you personally handled the soldiers debriefing."

The soldier holstered his pistol as the Sythe grabbed his arm leading him forward then gave him a quick smack upside his head as they entered the doors back into the building.

Reigh: "Now that we're in more of a formal and less hostile setting please allow me

to introduce my daughter Gwenith, she helped me form all you see now."

The young woman smiled and spoke with a sweet -yet profound voice. "Actually Gwen will do just fine, and my father is giving me too much credit -he thought up all of this but he was very ill for a while so I took control for him until he gained some of his strength back."

Andrya: "You have a machine that looks and sounds exactly like my father..... Why!!..... Why me?"

Reigh: "If you must know, hundreds of years ago a formula was created that was meant to cure all known illnesses and diseases, maybe even the unknown ones as well. It was called 'V13'. The original data was lost and there's only one scientist that still knows anything about the specifics... A Dr. Peirson -luckily I have him here on the island working for me."

Andrya: "What does that have to do with me!?"

Reigh: "Well my dear, your father happened to be the one and only person transporting Dr. Peirson. His findings on the lost data were extraordinary. I'm sorry to say though that the people Dr. Peirson worked for had business rivals that wanted the data for their own greed."

Gwen: "Andrya, your father was attacked by the rival businesses, they tried to recreate 'V13' the best they could. They sent a troop of their own hired soldiers -all infected with an unstable experimental serum to retrieve the data. Dr. Peirson called for help but it was too late, by the time they had arrived they had found only remains of his colleague, but the doctor or your father were never found."

Reigh: "It was believed Dr. Peirson was working for both sides. We also believe your father may have expected this and took the data from the Doctor during all of the commotion but no one could confirm it, the outbreak started and distracted the entire globe from... well everything else."

Momo: "Alright enough! This poor girl has lost two of the most important people -twice in her life now -more or less because of you... I guess you're saying it's all for some great plan you have?"

Reigh: "Yes, and we believe Andrya may be carrying the data on her. It could be the information needed to give this world a fighting chance against the plague that has befallen us."

James: "This is a lot to take in all at once, do you mind if we have some time for ourselves to relax and talk."

Reigh: "I insist, I have to go and see how my troops are doing anyways. Gwen would you show these four around the island?"

Gwen: "Yes father."

Reigh: "If they're hungry or would like to purchase anything at the market let the merchants know they are comped' and will be reimbursed. Our entire community works with trade, strictly with quality and weight. Seeing as you're guests, I'd like you to enjoy our hospitality and our apologies for the mistakes we've made with our introduction. You can't be too careful nowadays right?"

Reigh formally crossed his right arm and fist over the left side of his chest, bowed' then walked back to the building.

Gwen: "Shall we?"

The boys looked at Andrya and she gave a slight nod, so they followed Gwens lead. Danny held Momo back for a second to have a quick and private word with her.

Danny: "I know you're trying to help -I can see that, but you need to be a little less abrasive with people. Someone could get hurt and I'm not sure if I want to stay here for very long."

Momo: "I understand your concern but we're here due to what could have easily been kidnapping. Until we are sure of their intent we have to be on our toes."

Danny: "Just remember... We... still bleed."

Momo: ".....I'll be nice."

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'Later in the Market Sector.'

Gwen: "You know, if you guys choose to stay, you'd have no need for any of that survival stuff you've been picking up. Here the island 'Vigilance' is always moving to avoid chance of conflict and infection, also to find as many survivors as we can."

James: "Don't get me wrong -it's very nice here, but we may not be ready for this place."

Gwen: "It's a shock -I know, we have been doing this since this all started so I understand."

Andrya: "Can I ask you something?"

Gwen: "Please, by all means."

Andrya: "Your dad, why has he put so much effort into this -what gives him the passion for this?"

Gwen: "When the world was all business -before it became all death -my father was stricken with a very rare flesh-eating disease that was isolated to the host, so it wasn't contagious. You see... It won't kill him, in fact his body even gets to heal from time to time but he's constantly in pain, the saddest part is he's almost gotten use to the pain.

In the world of business the companies look at him as if he became a liability so he lost almost everything. Whatever he had left he gave to me to help him find a cure. When we found out about 'V13' we were all over it but then the breakout happened and we lost all hope -that's when my father and I went and gathered everyone we could trust and we turn someones unfinished idea for a 'mobile island/cruise/theme park' into our haven... and after that all the pieces fell into place."

Andrya: "I guess I can understand that."

Gwen: "On a lighter note there is much more to see before I show you to your rooms, did I happen to mention our drinking age limit starts at thirteen, but believe me we do have strict laws, anyways this way please."