## 269 Recapture

Eve 1

The chain snapped forward, catching one of the guards at the knees with a sickening thud. He grunted as he hit the ground, cursing loud, but before I could finish the motion, the second one lunged toward me.

"Move-"

> "Now, Evie!" Rhea's voice cracked like a whip in my head, lending a burst of clarity to the haze.

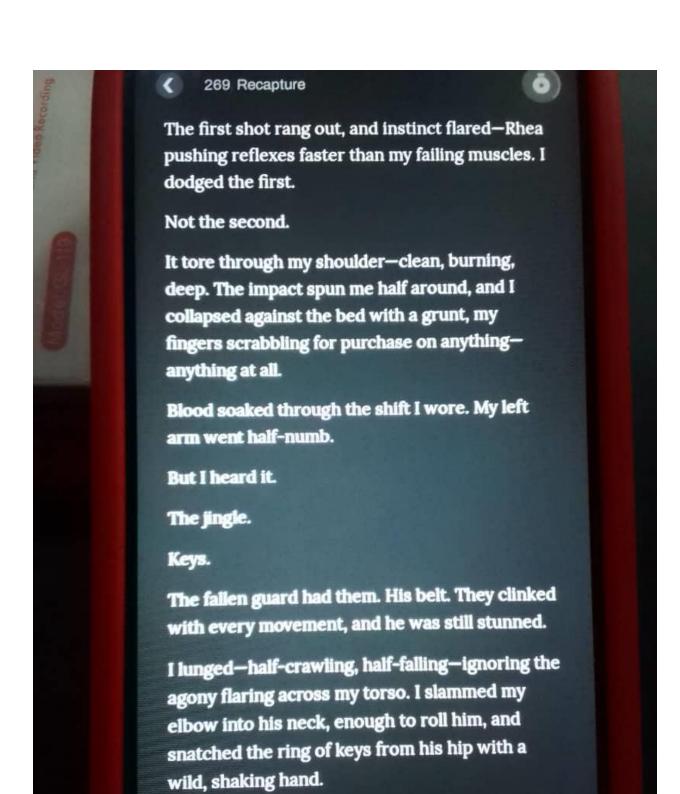
I pivoted, just enough to avoid the full brunt of the impact, but not enough to stop the swing of his baton from catching my ribs. Pain lanced through my side, white-hot and immediate. I gasped and stumbled back.

No room to think.

No time to scream.

The third—someone in the back—shouted, "She's up! Take her down!"

Gunfire.



> "Yes-yes, you have them! Do it!" Rhea cried.

I didn't hesitate. I crawled backward, chain clinking, dragging across the blood-slick floor as the reinforcements poured in through the door.

I jammed the key into the shackle's lock.

Clicked.

One off.

The second took longer—my hands were slick, trembling—but I managed.

Click.

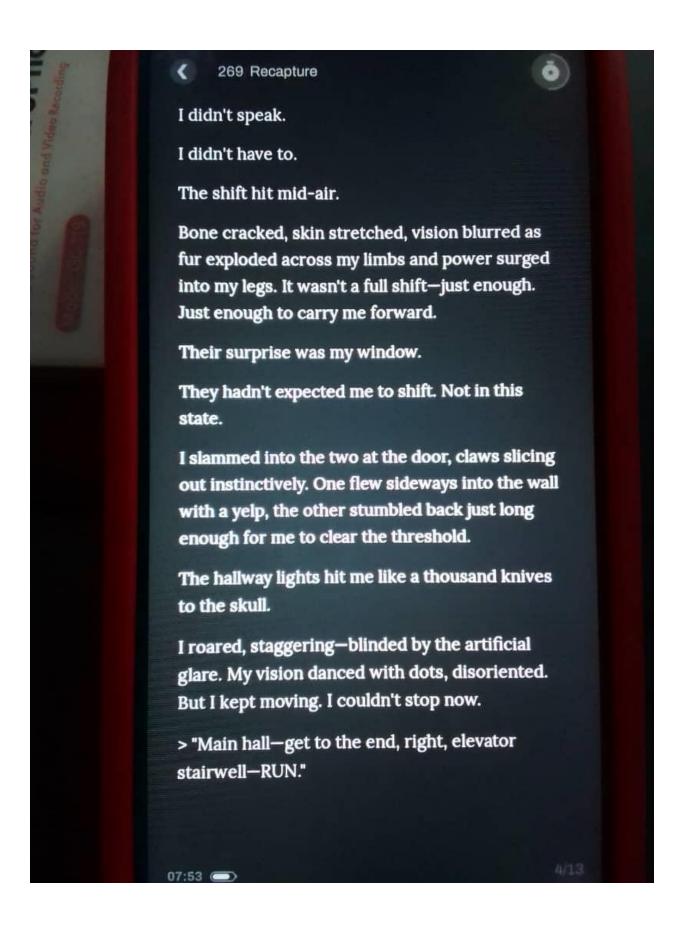
The chains fell.

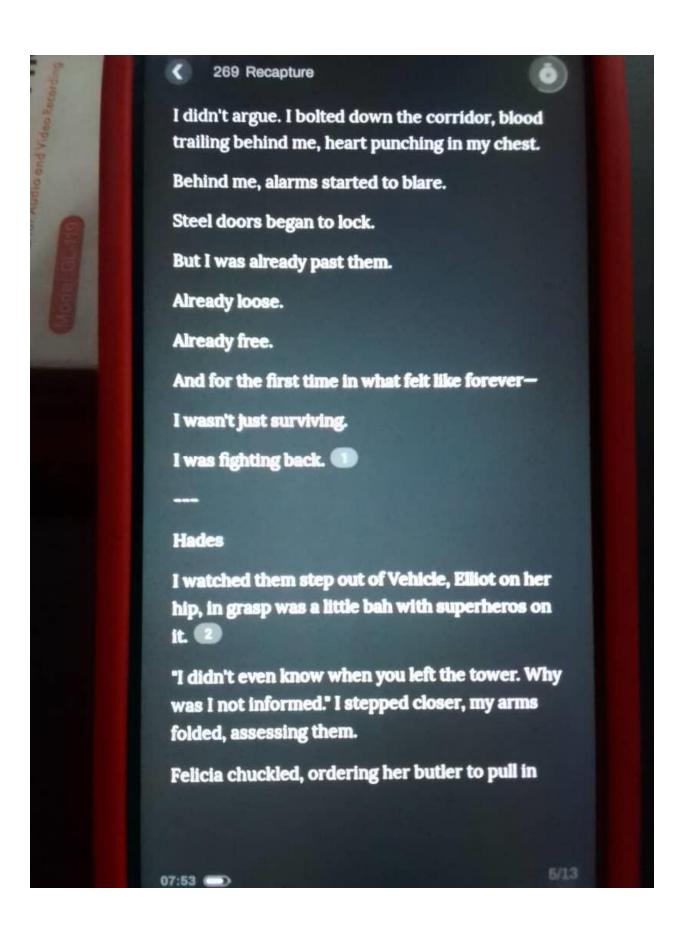
Someone yelled, "Get her! Don't let her—!"

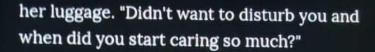
Too late.

I kicked off the floor with what was left of my strength and hurled myself forward, right into them. I didn't fight to overpower—I fought to get through. I barreled into one chest, used his weight and momentum to vault upward.

> "I'm here," Rhea said, a snarl curling under her words. "Let me in."







I didn't answer that question.

"We just needed to get some more of our belongings because we are not sure how much longer we will living here."

"Why didn't you send your workers, if would have been less of an hassle?" I didn't bother hiding the suspicion from my voice.

Only then did she meet my eye. "It's my belongings, Hades. I know what exactly I want here with me as this goes on."

I made a non-committal sound as my gaze strayed to Elliot was we made our way up to the tower to their quater floor.

The boy seemed unharmed, his little fingers clasped around the bag.

I narrowed my eyes when I noticed that his chuckled were white. He was gripping on the bag like his life depended on it. 2

I flashed him an easy, coaxing smile. "Hello there."

