

## Chapter 18

"Given the high profile this case is and your clients record or evading the guards, I believe it is in the best interest to keep Ms. Hailey here. I am revoking bail. However, if I see a new bruise on her body, I will reverse my decision and give Ms. Lilith what she is asking for. Understood?"

We knew we were going to get rejected but it still hurt. Jasmine was grinning from ear to ear with that news. By the way Charlotte kept twitching her neck, I knew she could feel me but she refused to look at me. I wanted to tell her to keep her head up, to have some faith. I wanted to say that I was sorry for how things went down but I was trying to help. If she would only meet my eyes, I would relay that to her but she refused.

"Monday we will hear opening statements and get this started." Judge Janelle ordered.

"Your honor! That is only one day! We need time to prepare our defense!" Lilith tried to plead her case.

"Then I suggest you get to work." Judge Janelle stood up.

"All rise." Everyone stood up as Judge Janelle left the court room without another word. Small chatter broke out after her door closed and Charlotte was escorted back to her cell. Lilith was saying something to her but I couldn't hear what it was exactly.

"Good. That was the right decision. Let's head home."

Jasmine said. "Where is Axel? Someone needs to get my bags."

"Carry them yourself." I said as I walked away from her. My legs didn't stop until I was in front of our door, trying to unlock it.

Charlotte POV

"Don't worry. I will be down shortly to talk to you." Lilith muttered as a guard came up to me. "Take her to the interview room. We are having an attorney/client meeting."

The guard didn't acknowledge Lilith as he grabbed my arm and pulled me towards the door. The whole process, I could feel Waylon's eyes drilling in the back of my neck. I knew his chosen mate was sitting next to him and I had no plans of giving him the satisfaction by looking at him. It was only when I was in a different room that more throbbing pain came back to my injuries. He must have had some guilt if he was taking away some of my pain. Too bad he couldn't take away the pain in my heart.

As we turned the corner, the guard suddenly just fell over. He almost pulled me down with him. My body froze as I looked around and didn't see anyone. Looking at the guard, there was a dart sticking out of his neck. My heart was racing as I realized what was happening. Grabbing his keys from his pants, I quickly unlocked the chains that were around my wrist. Grabbing his body, I managed to drag him into a closet. My shoulder and arm was protesting but giving up was not an option. In two weeks, I would be dead. This was literally life or death.

Coming out of closet, I was looking which way to go when I heard someone whisper my name. Looking up, I saw Axel in the air vent. NO! There was no way he was the one breaking me out! He reached his arm down, looking around frantically for me to climb up.

It was either him or the guards. I chose Axel. Grabbing his hand, he slowly lifted me up into the air vent. It was hard since I had to jump to reach him and then my one arm was not in the right condition to be doing this. Inch by inch he pulled. My shoulder protested as I grabbed the edge of it and tried to help pull myself up.

Finally, my torso and then my legs cleared the vent. Axel quickly placed the cover back over the whole. Not talking, he signaled me to follow him as we made our way. I wasn't sure where he was going but I didn't really have another option. We went up and to the left and then the right. It was a maze and I had no idea how he even knew where he was going.

Finally, he stopped and removed another vent. He let me go first before he jumped down himself and again replaced the vent. Using a small pocket knife to tighten the screws. As he was doing that, I looked around. We were in the bathroom off the foyer. How the fuck did he plan on getting me out of here? I couldn't exactly walk out in the foyer, filled with guards!

I got my answer when he unzipped his large luggage and pointed for me to get in. My eyes darted from that to him a few times before I decided that it was the best option there

was. It took me a few times to move myself around before he kneeled down.

"I will be as gentle as possible but whatever happens, do not make a sound. Understood?" I nodded. He handed me a phone before zipping it closed. I heard him spray something before opening the door.

"You have been in there for hours! Wha-what is the smell?" I recognized it as Jasmine's voice.

"Whatever I ate last night didn't agree with me. The toilet clogged and I was cleaning it up."

"Come on, let's go." Waylon's voice sent shivers down my spine. I could feel his presence and I knew he could feel mine. Especially the way my pain went away again. Which just annoyed me. I wanted to grab it and pull it back. Just like that, we walked... well, I was drug out of the palace and placed into the trunk of a car. I could hear them talking but I couldn't exactly make out what they were saying since I was in the trunk. The phone flashed green once before it was still again. Pressing a button, it lite up that I had a message from Axel. Opening it, it read:

Axel: You okay?

Me: Yes, thank you.

Axel: We aren't in the clear yet so just stay put.

Me: Okay. I need to get out of jumpsuit in case there is a tracker in it.

Silence, finally a few minutes later,

Axel: Okay

The way the car sped up and went upward, I wondered if we were getting on the interstate. Actually, I wonder if they knew I was missing yet. Surely my lawyer did. There was a quick turn and the car was slowing down again. After a few stops and turns, we were on gravel road. All too quickly, the car came to a stop. A door slammed shut and then the trunk opened. The zipper unzipped, and the sparks that erupted over my body told me Waylon was helping me out. The sun was blinding me. After being in the dark for so long, it felt really nice on my face.

"Get undressed." He demanded.

"In front of you?" He must be crazy. Looking around, my eye sight was slowly adjusting.

"It's either do it or I can rip it off of you. I did not let my beta break you out for this to fail over a tracking device." His words stung as I slowly started to strip. Thankfully, I had on a decent bra and underwear set. I saw his jaw harden at the sight of all my bruises. Taking it, he walked it to the side of the road, poured something on it and lit it on fire. It went up quickly before he turned around and met my eyes.

"We need to leave." I understood what he meant. Climbing back into the suitcase, he zipped it shut and shut the trunk. The car started and we were off again.

Tears filled my eyes as my reality slapped me in the face. I was now a fugitive on the run. I was that before but I had a level of freedom that I didn't have now. A mate that doesn't

want me but still broke me out of the palace jail. He could lose his pack for that but I guess that is why Axel was the one that did it. Axel would take the fall, not him.

The car stopped again and I could hear the sounds of plane engines. I was one step closer to my freedom. The trunk opened and whoever grabbed my suitcase was not being gentle. Thankfully, I made sure my head was at the handle so I wasn't upside down as they drug it behind them.

"That's the last of it. They are ready to take off." I heard someone yell as I heard a door slam shut. The sound of the engine was deafening as the roar got louder and louder. The pressure in my ears built up as the whole suitcase I was in started falling backwards. The plane was rising in the air. It wasn't until I hit something hard that I was able to breath. I didn't just fall out of the plane in a suitcase.

What felt like forever, the plane started to level out. Pressing my phone, I realized I had a text from Axel.

Axel: Are you okay?

Me: I think I lost all my hearing.

Axel: We will get you out shortly and you will see a doctor soon.

I was a little disappointed he didn't laugh at my half attempt of humor. I wasn't lying but I was trying to lighten the mood. After what felt like hours, the suitcase started unzipping. Waylon was helping me out but also was handing me some clothes. They were his by the smell of it but I welcomed it. Anything to cover myself up right now.



“Listen, I don’t have much time. This is a parachute. Axel is going to come down here and open that door for you. You need to jump. This opens your parachute.” I pointed at a yellow handle. “You will be over a piece of land that I own and should be safe there. I have a very few trusted men that are going to be waiting for you. Find them. They will take you to a safe house. Axel or I will be there as soon as we can but for now, trust those men. I do, with my life. Their names are Arlo, Ezra and Leo. Code word is blackthorn. Do you understand?”

My mouth was hanging open as he kept looking behind him. His hands grabbed my shoulders and shook me. Looking at the parachute and back up to him, he was talking but it wasn’t registering. It wasn’t until he pushed his lips against mine that I snapped out of it and pushed him away.

“Blackthorn, got it.”

“Good girl.” The way he said it sent shivers down my spine and my panties to wet. It felt like my body was betraying me. “I have to go. Be safe, I will see you again.” Jet stood up and made his way over to the hatch and lifted himself up again. I heard the toilet flush before he left the bathroom and I was alone again.

Looking down, I saw a plate of food that Waylon must have left. It was basic but I was happy to have something. A peanut butter sandwich, a Granny Smith Apple and a handful of carrots. This must have been what they had on board. I ate it all before laying down as much as I could comfortably and tried to fall asleep.

My body was shaking so much that I thought the plane was going through some turbulence. "Charlotte!" I heard before I was pulled upright.

"What?" Looking around, I saw Axel holding on to me.

"It's time. Quickly, you only have a few second window." Axel helped me put on the parachute. My heart was racing so fast that I think I started having a panic attack.

"I-I can't jump!" I said quickly.

"You don't have a choice." Axel wasn't looking at me but looking at his watch. "Three...two... one." Axel opened the door and the wind almost knocked me off my feet. "JUMP!"

"I CAN'T!" I yelled as tears hit my eyes.

Axel grabbed my parachute, made sure it was tight before he physically picked me up and tossed me off the plane.



**Mrs. Smith** Author

" Thank you all for reading!!! "



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