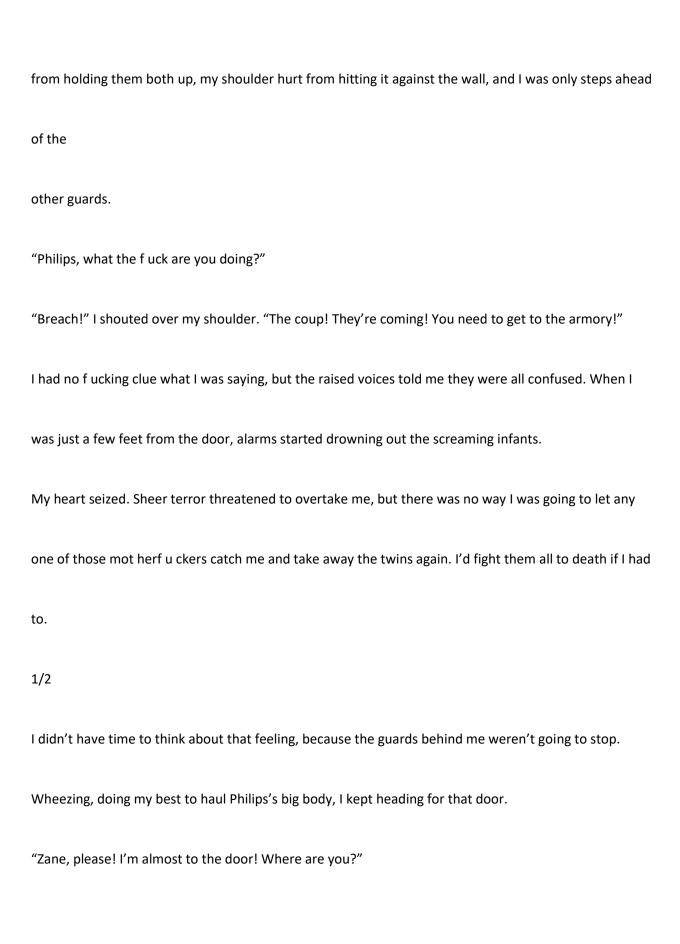
Chapter 209
Lanie
Running with two babies strapped to my chest and feet four sizes bigger than I was used to was harder
than I'd thought it would be. I caught myself as I stumbled, muttering a curse, and my heart pounded at
the
thought of what would happen if I dropped the twins.
My shoulder hit the wall, and I spun in a half-circle. Alaina shifted against my chest, letting out a mu
ffled
yelp.
"Shh, shh," I soothed. If she started crying, this was going to get that much harder.
Light shone into the corridor that didn't look like it came from overhead fluorescents, and when I turned
the corner, I let out a small yelp of my own at the sight of a door to the outside. I mumbled more thanks
to all
the g ods above. Nobody was standing guard. I ran for it. I was never going to make it through the front

His Beta 209

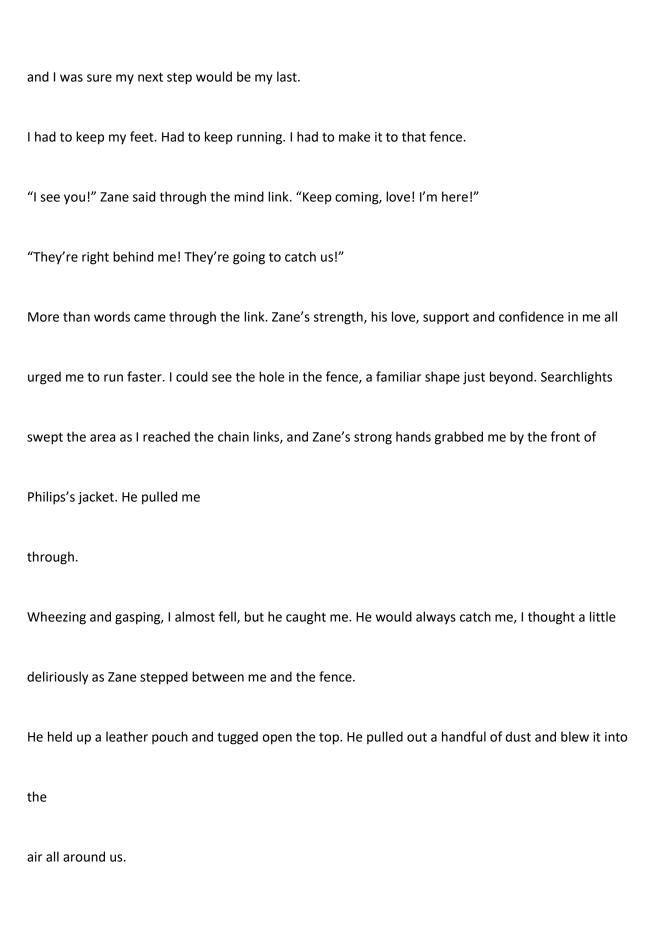
door without getting caught. I wasn't going to get out this door, either. Just as I passed one of the many closed doors lining the corridor, one flew open. A guard came out, looking as startled as I felt when I screamed. Philips's mouth let out a high-pitched and shrill shriek that would've had me busting into hysterical laughter under any other circumstances. The guard reeled back for a moment before getting himself under control. "The f uck?" "Out of my way!" I shouted with as much authority as I could. "There's been a breach in security! You gotta get...f uck!" I kicked the door shut in his face. From behind it came a shout, but I didn't stop. I kept running toward thé door, and freedom. Behind me, I heard half a dozen voices and the heavy clomp of boots as more guards spilled out of the doorway. Shouting like thunder. The floor, rumbling.

I did my best to send him a m ental picture of where I'd be exiting the building, but I couldn't tell if he would understand. Against my chest, the babies screamed and wriggled in the sling. My arms ached

"They found me," I sent to Zane. "Where are you? I need you!"



"edge of the fencecut a hole"
His voice broke up but gave me fresh determination. flew out the door, banging it open so hard it
bounced off the wall and came back, almost knocking me over, I sta ggered, holding the babies tight
with one
arm while the other grabbed the railing to the short flight of concrete steps.
From behind me, a voice shouted, "No, idiot! Don't shoot him! he's got those kids with him!"
I didn't dare close my eyes, even though I wanted to freeze, tense with expecting to feel a bullet
between
my shoulder blades. I leaped off the steps, hitting the pavement beyond and rolling my ankle. I went to
one
knee, shredding Philips's uniform pants, but I kept the babies safe against me.
I could see the fence in the distance. There were a few vehicles between me and it. The alarms blared.
Other doors were opening with more guards appearing.
I
All I could do was run as fast as I could. My legs pumped. My breath seared my throat, sharp as thorns,



The babies went instantly, eerily silent.
Everything. I realized, was quiet.
"What the f uck?" I managed to say as four guards made it to the fence and pushed through the hole
and kept on running right past us as though we didn't even exist.