

## Hannah's POV:

A few minutes later, the Mother Superior returned with Sister Murray and a huge folder of records. The nun brought a chair and Sister Murray sat down next to us. I knew that she was here when I arrived at the orphanage, but still it was a shock seeing someone like her so many years later. Back in that time, she was an energetic nun responsible to keep all the girls in line. She was the one responsible for organizing and cleaning the orphanage, and when one of us didn't behave properly or didn't help to keep the space neat, she was also the one who would apply the detentions.

She didn't recognize me at first as I did to her.
Instead, she looked at me for a few moments with
a blurred vision, but suddenly, her eyes focused
and she seemed to recognize me.

She smiled broadly, grabbed a sheet of paper from the Mother Superior's desk, and wrote, "My sweet little girl! It's so good to see you all grown up. You are all right, aren't you?" she asked me.

I didn't know how to answer her at first, should I write down my response or talk directly?



"You may speak, Mrs. Brown. Only Sister Murray took the vow of silence," the Mother Superior told me.

"Yes, I'm fine, thanks for asking, how about you, sister?" I asked her.

Sister Murray just smiled kindly and nodded. She held my hand for a few moments, enchanted.

Then she went back to the paper sheet: "I'm fine.

Don't you worry about me. What about your friend Lucy? I remember that you two were two peas in a pod. Are you still in contact with her?" She asked.

"Yes! We are still best friends and now, also business partners. We started a coffee shop together. She's doing great," I told her, and she smiled at me.

"Sister Murray, this is my mother Georgiana. And this is my brother Timothy," I told her and pointed to my mother and brother.

Sister Murray smiled at both of them and wrote,
"It's great to meet you! And I'm so glad you found
your family dear. How did you find them?" she
asked.

"Well, long story short, we luckily have the same friendship circle in the city. Well, maybe not luckily. Maybe it was by divine providence," I told



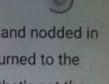
her and she nodded. "So, one day we were sharing our stories and they were a lot alike. Then we thought it couldn't just be a coincidence. We decided to run a DNA test and it turned out that we're family!" I told her.

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"I'm so happy for you dear. I really am.
Unfortunately, many of our girls didn't find their familes, and there others who wouldn't like to be found," Sister Murray wrote.

My mom read what she wrote, and she said: "But our dear Hannah wasn't abandoned by me. She was taken, and I never gave up on finding her."



Sister Murray smiled at my mother and nodded in acknowledgement. And then, she turned to the paper again and wrote to me: "But that's not the only reason why you came here, is it?" She asked me.

I shook my head and told her, "No, ma'am. I came here to find out from you if you remember the circumstances under which I got here," I told her hopefully.

Sister Murray thought for a minute or two and then began to write:

"Well, as you all know, I believe Sister Wallace, the Mother Superior at the time, told you, right?" Sister Murray asked me.

I nodded, "I know a cop named Corvin found me wandering around town and brought me here," I confirmed for her.

Sister Murray nodded and continued writing, "It was a rainy night when Officer Corvin brought you here. He said he found you earlier walking aimlessly in town, and he was watching you to see if any adults would come and get you. You were dirty, and battered, and looked like you came from somewhere with a lot of dirt. We assume you came from a farm somewhere.



First of all, when he brought you to us, you only had a little chain with a pendant in your neck. The one you used until your last day here. There were no names, you didn't speak, and we could only wonder who you might be. We welcomed you temporarily, as the system works like this.

You were very dirty. We cleaned you up and gave you food and a warm place to sleep, and still you just looked at us scared. I think whoever was with you previously traumatized you in some way.

Officer Corvin continued his investigation of you, and discovered that you had been seen with a ragged fellow who was passing through town. He had slept hidden in the barn on the Watson farm for a couple of nights. The Watsons only noticed when they found the traces of your passage through the farm. Officer Corvin concluded that you must have run away from this man.

We waited about a month to see if anyone would come around town looking for a little girl matching your description, but no one did. So we gave you a name, and you were registered on the system," she wrote.

"I see, and do you know anything about this man I was hanging out with?" I asked her.



Sister Murray shook her head seriously and wrote, "Sorry dear, we didn't hear anything else."

I sighed and mumbled, "One more dead end.

Thanks for telling the whole story though, sister."

She nodded with a sad smile on her face, and then she wrote: "I'm sorry I couldn't help you more.

Maybe Officer Corvin can help you better with this, dear. Maybe he knew something else that he eventually didn't tell us. You should look for him.

He doesn't live far from here," she advised.

I nodded and told her, "I will. Thank you so much, sister."

She nodded, squeezed my hands again, and withdrew. The Mother Superior then drew our attention:

"Well, Mrs Brown, this is the folder with your documents: a photo of when you were found, the list of belongings, which unfortunately wasn't very long, and then your school documents, adoption certificate and other details. You can analyze, but I found nothing about the said man who brought you here," she said.

"Well, I think our best option right now is to talk to Officer Corvin, isn't that right?" I looked at everyone who came with me and said. My mother



and Timothy nodded, still hopeful. Tom remained impassive.

So I turned to Mother Superior and muttered,
"Well, thanks for your help, Mother. Sister Murray's
enlightenment has already given me insights into
how I came to be here. Now I'm going to follow
that lead she gave me."

The Mother Superior looked at me and said: "Good luck, daughter. If you don't find anything, at least you have the consolation of having found your mother even if belatedly," she told me and squeezed my hand. Then, she walked us out as we left the orphanage.

When I was outside, however, the girls playing in the courtyard brought back memories of my childhood.

"Mother, I would like to contribute to the orphanage and return some of the affection you have shown me," I told her.

Her face broke into a smile as she told me, "We really appreciate it. Any help is greatly appreciated."

"I'll get in touch with you to adjust the details.

Have a nice day," I told her. After saying goodbye,
we went back to the car.



"Well, it was an uneventful visit," Timothy said as we got back to the car.

"I told you. But then again, what else did you expect? A bunch of kids who do Karate and spy nuns?" I told him sarcastically.

"You know you can't be too careful when it comes to my family's safety," Timothy blushed and muttered a little sheepishly.

"Well, now you know the nuns at the orphanage are safe, right?" I asked him.

"Just...let's go to Corvin's, okay?" Timothy told me irritably.

I nodded and Tom continued driving to Corvin's house.

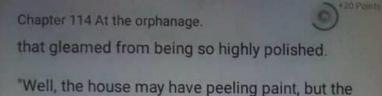
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"Alan Corvin must be some eccentric guy. We've been on this dirt road for about half an hour! Couldn't he live closer to the center of this tiny little town?" Timothy asked as he complained.

"Well, maybe he retired from the police and became a farmer," my mother suggested.

A few minutes later, however, we arrived at a hut.

There was an old but still strong man sitting in the porch rocking chair. Beside him rested a shotgun



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gun is gleaming," Timothy muttered.

"Can I help you?" the man asked suspiciously.

"Sorry to disturb you, sir. We're looking for Alan Corvin. Do you know him?" I asked him.

The man narrowed his eyes and asked, "And who wants to know?"

"My name is Hannah Brown. I'm here to talk about the little girl he found wandering around town in 2001," I told him.

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He nodded and relaxed the arm that was resting on the gun. "Come in," he murmured and turned his back on us.

My mom, Timothy and I looked at each other but continued anyway, with Tom right behind us. I noticed that his eyes were alert and he had a posture ready to attack if necessary. Well, maybe Timothy and Lucy were more right than I had previously realized.

"Do you guys want some coffee?" The man asked as soon as we entered his hut.

"I'll have some, thank you!" My mother said, and I rolled my eyes. I don't think I've ever met anyone who was as addicted to coffee as Georgie Chesterfield.

"What is your name again?" the man asked.

"I'm Hannah Brown, sir. And who are you, sir?" I asked him.

The man sighed and said, "I'm Alan Corvin, and there's a very private reason why I live in isolation, and that reason has everything to do with that little girl."

"Would you mind telling us what happened?" I asked him.



"And who wants to know what happened to her?" Corvin asked me suspiciously.

I swallowed hard and told him, "I'm that little girl."

Corvin looked at me in astonishment and then returned to his monotone, "I'm glad you survived all of this girl, because with what I'm about to tell you, I wouldn't be surprised if you had permanent trauma," he said.

"What happened, sir?" My mother asked him in anguish. She hugged my shoulders in support for whatever Officer Corvin was going to tell us.



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