

The Guardian Corps.

# The Guardian Corps.

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A story around the struggle of survival of three people with an unique gift being hunted for their very existence. Set in the year 3025 select people are born with the ability to turn their lifeforce into a lethal weapon for the use of protecting people or personal gain. Who will win this struggle for power? The regime that governs over the world who want these people killed to control the source of power in the world, or these people with abilities who want to go back to their lives and stop the regime from wiping out their existence.

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## Chapter 1: Chapter 1: Alexis

I knew I had to get away, running as fast as I needed to get away from the regime guards. The alleyway was dark and it was hard to see where I was going but I only had one goal to pursue. Don't die. I can hear the guards yelling and screaming for me to stop behind me but if I was to stop they would only greet me with one thing, death. I look behind me and I can see their shadows slowly creeping towards me, they would reach me any second. I look around for an exit knowing if I kept running I wouldn't be able to run much longer, exhaustion was starting to get the best of me. I saw a ladder a good ten feet above me a few feet ahead, I needed to get up there somehow.

"Where did she go?" the regime guard said to the other one.

"I don't know, let's keep going. She couldn't have gotten very far." The other one replied.

They rounded the corner of the alleyway not noticing the little girl above them. She dropped down into the shadows behind the regime guards, unnoticed by their presence. Her eyes an electric blue pierced through the shadows. The guards turn around and she is nowhere to be seen. The guards turn around again to finish their pursuit of this girl only to be confronted by her head on.

"There's nowhere left to run. Hands in the air where I can see them." said the regime guard.

The guards raised their guns at the girl preparing to fire. The girl looking defeated slowly starts to put her hands up. The look of fear then changes in her face, to a look of hunger.

"This is going to be fun." she said as she grabbed her necklace. The necklace was a medallion of sorts a chain that held a small ring with spikes around it. Just then it began to glow and the girl's eyes turned a brighter electric blue. A sphere of light appeared and the medallion that was around her neck became a full size lethal weapon. She lunged at them with lightning fast speed and all you could hear was the sound of two men gasping for air as the guards fell silent to the ground now lifeless.

"Release" the girl whispered and the weapon glowed and was now back around her neck. "That was fun." she said as she stepped over the two guards' bodies and made her way back through the alley.

The year is 2035 and human biology has evolved in a way that people chosen by fate or however you want to look at it are given the ability to manifest their life force into a weapon. These people who develop their ability by the age of ten are one day shown a medallion right before their very eyes of their weapon that is linked to their life force. On this day their weapon becomes one with the user. It is up to the user whether they will use it for the betterment of the people or for their own personal gain. Those that chose to use it for the betterment of the people join the Guardian Corps. A program developed by the Regime over 200 years ago is a group of these people with abilities who fight to preserve the peace of the nation. With their motto "Protect. Serve. Honor." they are the justice of the nation under the direct command of the Regime President. Since these weapons are an extension of the user's life force if the user were to die, their weapon would die along with them.

To become a Guardian member was something I strived to be as a little girl, but now it's a one way ticket to get yourself killed. I used to be one of the top ranking officials of the Guardian Corps at only sixteen. But since that fateful day I only now run for my life, killing if I must trying to find others like me, before we are all wiped out.

## Chapter 2: Cole and Matthew

### Chapter 2: Cole and Matthew

Three days earlier...

The woods outside of brothers Cole and Matthew Taylor's house only lit up by moonlight. The wind rustling the branches of the old oak trees and throwing leaves into the air like confetti. They each take a fighting stance only a few feet away from each other.

"You ready" said Cole.

"Let's do this!" said Matthew.

"Don't go easy on me, full force!"

"I thought you wanted this to last? If I go full force you will be done in seconds."

"That's what you think!" exclaimed Cole as he reached for his chest to reveal a necklace and medallion that displayed two small daggers.

"Bring it little brother!" shouted Matthew as he threw his left arm forward to reveal a bracelet made of leather that sported a medallion as well. They both grabbed their medallions at the same time and matching red orbs appeared before them as their eyes flashed the same color red. Their weapons came to life Cole's weapon two daggers make him both a formidable long range and close range attacker while Matthew's weapon manifested into a double edge curved blade that could slice through just about anything in its path. The brothers ran towards each other displaying both weapon and fighting skills that persisted no one brother showing any signs of weakness or giving up. Their blades contacting over and over. Cole throws one of his blades at Matthew missing his face by an inch and into the nearby tree. A quick raise of his arms the blade came flying back to him, and the battle continued. Their weapons connect again in a gridlock neither one of them letting up in the slightest.

"Getting stronger I see little brother, been practicing without me?" said Matthew.

"Now to finish it!" Cole responded.

"Not so fast!" Matthew retorted. With that he lurched forward throwing Cole off guard and a swift kick to the stomach sent Cole backwards gasping for air. Matthew reacting was down at Cole's throat blade against skin in seconds. "Looks like I win again." he backs off Cole and extends his hand to help him up.

"One of these days, I'll show you." he said panting and grunting in defeat. Takes his brothers hand and is helped off the ground brushing leaves and dirt off his body. "Let's go again!" he said eagerly.

"Five times is enough Cole, besides I would just win again." He looks at Cole and mutters "Release" and his blade glows and reverts back into the medallion on his bracelet.

"Fine...release!" His daggers glow and revert back to his necklace.

"You rush into battle too quickly and don't allow yourself time to think of a defensive strategy, keep that mindset up and you will never become a Guardian Corps. member."

"You say rush I say acting on instinct. I fight better in the heat of the moment. I don't have time to think of a defensive strategy." Cole said mocking Matthew.

"Mock me all you want, without offense and defense you will never win against me."

"We'll see...come on Matthew let's go again!" Cole reaches for his necklace when he hears his mother's voice in the distance.

"Come on in guys you have been here all afternoon, time for dinner so get yourselves cleaned up and be ready for dinner in twenty minutes." their mother said after wiping some dirt off Cole's clothes.

"Yes mom" they both replied in unison.

Cole with his short brown hair and muscular stature makes a dash for the house leaving Matthew behind. Matthew with his dirty blond hair and taller than Cole by a few feet made a dash for the house as well catching up with him in seconds. Matthew got to the front door first and opens the door for his mother in gentlemanly fashion.

"Why thank you dear." his mom replied graciously.

"You're welcome" he said flashing her a smile of perfect white teeth. Cole begins to make his way for the front door when Matthew steps in front of him closing the door in Cole's face locking him out from the inside.

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Cole glares at Matthew as he has a giant smirk on his face. They both laugh and Matthew releases the lock on the door and they both go upstairs to washup for dinner. Their mother continues to make dinner for her family while their father is beginning to set the table. In the background the local news was starting:

The Guardian Corps. was released today after a bank was robbed by individuals who showed the ability to manifest weapons came in and attacked the employees and hostages. Seven are reported dead and many are in critical condition. A tatment was releaseaed by the Regime President Mason earlier this evening.

A man was at the podium surrounded by newscasters. He towered over the microphones and cameras that were in his face and proceeded to make his statement. " The Guardian Corps. were dispaacted as soon as the crisis appeared. Appropriate actions will be taken to bring these criminals to justice. " his voice loud and clear. "Mr. President." The newscaster began. "This is the third time in two weeks that people with abilities have made themselves known and have used their power for their own personal gain, any comments?"

He cleared his voice "More and more people are beginning to develop powers and using them for their own selfish agenda. That is not what this regime stands for and anyone abilities or not acting out against the Regime is committing treason and will be persecutied to the fullest extent of the law." His look darkened and his voice got more serious. "We live in a time where peace is beginning to fall apart thanks to these people and abilities. They are not gods they are not better than anyone...they are just humans, just as vunerable as we are, and it is time they began to know that." The television flashes back to the reporter,

"Thanks to Regime Preident Mason and the Guardian Corps. we will hopefully have some better news about this tragety in the near future. To wrap up tonights news, all citizens and are encouraged to attend tomorrows dedication to the neverending sacrifice of the Guardian Corps. and to President Mason who has preserved the peace of this nation since his reign began almost twenty years ago. If you or a loved one possess the ability to manifest weapons we also encourage you to sign up into the Guardian Corps. training program. Join the ranks of the elite who fight to preserve the peace of our nation. The festivities begin at noon at the town's public square, until then I am Maddie St.Clair, have a great night everyone."

The heavy stomps of Matthew and Cole running to the kitchen drowns out the television and their father gets up from his chair and turns the televison off.

"It's just awful to hear about all those people, I'll have to say a little prayer tonight for a speedy recovery and hope that the Guardian Corps. can find these criminals." Their mother said while passing out the dishes to her children.

"If I ever find out that you gys have used your abilities for such crimes like these I'll take those medalions away myself." Their father said harshly. Matthew and Cole looked at their father and stifled a laugh.

"Here." Cole said taking off his necklace and presenting it to his father. "Take it, see what happens." Their father walked slowly and takes his necklace from his hand and is shocked when he sees it begin to glow and then disapears from his grasp. The necklace now glowed back around Cole's neck. They began to laugh a little harder. "We told you so many times dad, its connected to us. Until the day we die they will always be bound to us."

"I know, I know. But I hope we have raised you well enough to know you would never harm another peron with your gifts." their father stated.

Cole walked over and hugged his father. "We know dad, you both raised u well, and that's why tomorrow we are going to sign up to join the Guardian Corps to train with the best and to protect this nation."

"But you guys are so young, an't you just wait a few more years before joining. I mean don't get me wrong what you guys are doing is so admirable and I am so proud of you guys but I won't get to see you guys for like ever!" their mother said.

"Relax dear, training last only a few year and from the way I have seem them train, they ight as well be captians of the Guardian Corps." their father reasured all of them.

"Well regardless I am very proud of you both and I for one will be cheering for you both at tomorrows festival, so be prepared!" their mother ran up and kissed both her boys.

"Here here!" their father exclaimed and raised his glass in the air.

\* \* \* The Next Day \* \* \*

Cole and Matt were getting dressed in their rooms before the festival. Each both eager for what awaits them at the festival. Where they will put their talents to the test to become a member of the Guardian Corp. Cole

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putting his necklace under his t-shirt leaves his room to check on his older brother.

"Matt! Are you ready to go?" he said impatiently.

"Where is mom and dad?" he said checking himself in the mirror.

"They already left, something about wanting to get good seats for the festival. Come on we are going to be late." Cole said leaving Matthew's room. He walks downstairs waiting for his brother at the door. "YOU LOOK FINE!" Cole exclaimed. Matt fixing his hair in the mirror chuckles to himself.

"I'm coming!" Matthew said in a huff leaving his room.

The town is decorated in banners and flags representing the Regime and the Guardian Corps. The townspeople are littered everywhere trying to find a place to sit for the opening ceremony. Vendors and merchants are yelling and shouting hoping consumers will buy their products on this momentous day. Cole and Matt are mesmerized by the beauty of the town. Matthew puts his arm around Cole's shoulder and they walk into the town's public square to begin their journey as Guardian Corps trainees. They approach a white tent that has a huge banner with the Guardian Corps motto "Protect. Serve. Honor." written in gold letters. They approach the tent and the two regime guard at the front table and are asked to show proof of their abilities. Cole and Matthew simultaneously grab their medallions their eyes flash a blood red as their life force manifests their weapons. The surrounding crowd cheers with oohs and ahhs as their weapons appear.

"Good, please write down your names and proceed to the left." the regime guard says.

They both write down their names and smile at each other their dream of becoming a Guardian is almost within their grasp. The deafening sound of cheering from the townsfolk drown out all other noise as they approach the center of the town's square. A stage is lit with hundreds of flashing bulbs and flags and banners fly with the regime colors and silver and green and the red flags of the Guardian Corps. displaying their insignia of three circles interconnected to show the three principals of the Guardian Corps., to protect the citizens of the nation, to serve the regime and President Mason, and above all to have honor in yourself and your ability. Standing on stage in the center is President Mason with a full smile on his face waving and greeting his townspeople. To his left and right are the current members of the Guardian Corps. of all different shapes and sizes. Some proudly display their medallions for the crowd to see. Swords, daggers, even someone with a bow and arrow. Large TV screens behind the stage are displaying each member of the Guardian Corps. along with their name, their weapon, and a small video of what they can do. A muscular tan male was being profiled on the screen with his weapon, a giant hammer that was able to break through almost any surface. They showed him bringing his weapon to life, his eyes flashing black before a black orb appeared and his weapon manifested. They showed him gripping his hammer and obliterating a building with two swift swings. The crowd yells even louder and the man in the video is on stage smiling and waving to his fans. Cole and Matthew take in the atmosphere knowing that in a few years they will have a video of their own and the crowd will be cheering for them but until then they acted along with the hysteria of the townspeople and cheered for all the members. The crowd erupted with cheering when the next person was profiled. A young girl no more than sixteen was shown in her Guardian Corps uniform. Her name was Alexis and she was a captian.

"A CAPTIAN!? THAT PIPSQUEAK IS A CAPTIAN!?" Cole screamed to his brother over the roaring of the crowd.

"She must be something else!" Matthew said completely in shock. Something else indeed, her video showed her bringing her weapon to life. Her weapon both suitable for long range and hand to hand combat was a ring fashioned with multiple spikes that were shown slicing through objects with just a lunge of her arm and a precise throwing instrument when given a target. Her video ended with her throwing her weapon at a stone maniquin slicing the head right off. She called back her weapon and Matthew noticed her smile was not one of accomplishment but one of desire, hunger, a look that said I kill for a living and I am not afraid to do it again. Matthew shuddered at that thought because Guardian Corp members were forbidden to kill unless there was no other way. The screen went blank and then live to the middle of the stage where President Mason was about to begin the opening ceremony.

"Thank you everyone and greetings to all of you and thank you to our special guest the Guardian Corps."

President Mason throws his arms in the air and confetti burst out of the sides of the stage and the crowds enthusiasm reaches a new level of excitement. "Countless years of dedication and service our nation has never

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seen a longer period of peace in its two-hundred years!" The crowd applauds in agreement. "Today we take time to honor and commorate the members of the Guardian Corps who rih their lives everyday to ensure the afey of our nation. We pride ourselves on three principals which are what?"

"PROTECT! SERVE! HONOR!" the members of the Guardian Corps exclaim.

"That's Right" President Mason says with a smile on his face. "But now we are here to celebrate the people who make this happen! Those chosen people lucky enough to be granted such a gift, to use to combat the injustices of the world. Those people wanting to create chaos in this world are brought to justice by these men and women. Given recent events more and more people are being born with this gift, and more and more are begining to use these gifts for their own personal gain. These gifts are not yours to ue for yourself. These gifts are used to protect this nation, and those who use these powers for personal gain like the ones who slaughtered innocent people at the town's bank have been brought to justice today!" The crowd cheers and boos are uttered when two people are brought on stage. "These people think they are above the law, and to act against the regime is an act of treason, and will not be tolerated." The president paused, the look on his face from triumphant to serious causes the crowd to stop cheering. "People with abilities today are becoming greedy, thinking they are above the law and NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW! These people choose to ignore this, and I am sadden to show what now must happen because of these turn of events. It only takes one person to set off a revolution, and it must be stopped here and now. I am implimenting a new decree as Richard P. Mason PResident of the Regime that all people with abilities be hunted down and exterminated. It is time we take back the regime from these people with abilties who think they can do anything they want! More and more people will be born with tese gifts and use them for their own speical needs."

Regime guards surround the stage and front area blocking in the Guardian Corps members and potential members. "The time of the new regime starts today and anyone who opposes will be considered a traitor and be killed on the spot!" the President exclaimed. At that moment the regime soliders picked up their guns and fired on the shocked members of the Guardian Corps members. They began to drop one by one as the crowd began to scramble in panic. A few members of the Guardian Corps were able to evade their killers and make a run for it. The man with the hammer doged his killer and with one fluid movement summoned his weapon and swung his hammer at the stage crumbling it to pieces. The regime guards fell and the remaning Guardian Members either made a run for it or helped protect the other members and potential members that were being slaughtered in the public square.

Matthew takes Cole's hand and pulls his through the crowd as people are being shot left and right, those who were able to summon their weapons attack the guards some succeed but some are no match and the brothers watch as the dying people with abilities weapons fade along side of their users as they lay there lifeless. Two guards focus in on Matthew and Cole and raise their guns at them. They both quickly summon their weapons only to not need them as the guards fall down to the ground and reveal a small blonde hair girl behind them with her spiked weapon in the back of the head of one of the guards.

"Get out of here now!" Alexis ordered Matthew and Cole.

"There's no way out!" Cole says with fear in his voice.

"MARCUS THE WALL, DESTROY THE WALL!" Alexis ordered the man holding the hammer. Marcus acknowledges the command and pushes through people in the crowd striking a guard sending him flying into the rubble that was once the stage. With one loud grunt and a swing of his hammer the wall explodes into a million pieces of fragmented stone.

"THIS WAY---" Marcus is cut short by the bullet that went through his head. He falls to the ground instantly and his hammer disapears. Dozens of people make their way through the rubble and into the roads desperately hoping not to be caught by the regime guards who are rentless, shooting into the crowd of unsuspecting people both abilitiy and innocent people. Bullets fly by Matthew and Cole grazing buildings and hitting pavement.

They make their way to the end of the road to see more and more regime soldiers filling up the town hunting down the people with abilities who got away.

"Over here!" shouted a citizen. "There's more over here! All hail the new regime!"

Matthew grabbed Cole's hand again and made their way into the open wood that surrounded the town.

THinking that the coast is clear they get under the cover of the woods and lay low until night fall where they

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will then make their next move.

Night falls and Matthew and Cole are still hidden in the woods that surround the town. Every now and then you hear a shot echo through the air and wonder who had just been killed. Their thoughts were interrupted when a mother and small child, from the looks of it have been through hell and back and running through the streets begging for someone to take them in.

"Please help us, he's only ten years old!" the mother is sobbing while running frantically holding her sons hand. A small medalion is around the kids' wrist and people begin to back away slowly.

"Anyone found helping these people are consider traitors as well and will be dealt with the same punishment as these abominations." the regime soldier yelled into the streets before raising his gun and firing on the mother and child both dropping to the ground with a hard thump. Matthew closed his eyes and Cole moved away from Matthew and began to throw up.

"Get a hold of yourself Cole, you're going to get us spotted." Matthew rushes over to Cole and grabs him by the arm and vanish further into the woods. "It's not safe here anymore, we have to keep moving. We can take this path all the way to our house, get mom and dad and make a run for it." Matthew said to Cole.

They approach their house as silent as they can be to see the kitchen light on through the window of the house. A sense of relief floods them as they know their parents are safe at home. They enter the houe and head towards the kitchen.

"Mom....Dad" Cole says frantically.

"Mom...Dad" Matthew says as well. "You guys here?"

They make their way further in the kitchen to see them sitting in their chairs watching the news. Reports of today's events are replaying and comments from the PResident are being shown on the screen. Along with this decree anyone that is found helping or harboring people with abilities will be considered a threat to the regime and executed on sight. On top of this all that report or turn over people with abilities will be rewarded five thousand dollars per person, and with people greedy for money people were being turned in left and right.

"Thank god you guys are ok. I was worried for a moment that you might of been caught up in the chaos today." Matthew makes his way towards his parent. "How can they get away with something like this, it has to be an abuse of power right?" His parents didnt respond they just sat there with their backs away from their sons watching the television.

"Aren't you guys going to say anything?" Cole said furiously.

Matthew continues to walk towards his parents and is frozen in fear. For what he saw was every childs worst nightmare. His parents hands tied to the armrests of the chairs were not watching TV, they were dead. Each having a matching bulletholes right between the eyes. Matthew his voice shakey and in shock

"Mom...dad.."unable to keep his composure dropped to his knees. Cole came running over and was instantly hit with sadness at the sight of his parents and brother.

"No no no no no no no no no no no, this can't be happeining. This isn't real, this is not happening!" Cole sobbing frantically. He clawed away at his mother's restraints while Matthew untied his father.

"Why would someone do this, they don't have abilities!" Cole said choking on his sobs.

"Don't you remember what the President said? Those who help or harbor people with abilities will receive the same punishment as traitors." Matthew said in a flat monotone voice. Shock and dismay had clearly taken over Matthew and he was holding his dad's hand. Cole with his mother wrapped around him began to cry even harder.

"But how did they even know where to find us, it's not like we blantly display our abilities for everyone to see?" Cole asked.

Matthew just knealt there still in shock closing his dad's eyes, the same hazel eyes that he had. His body numb soon began to shake in anger, rage filled his entire body as he laid his father on the kitchen floor and began to smash objects in the room.

"HOW COULD THEY DO THIS!" Matthew screaming at the top of his lungs. "They had no right attacking innocent people, people who couldn't defend themselves. Matthew gasping for air, he couldn't breathe, he slumped to the ground once again. Cole still holding their mother laid her down and closed her eyes and went over to Matthew. MATthew burried his hands in his face as Cole came over and wrapped his arms around Matthew and just sat there for what seemed like an eternity. Cole's head bucked up.

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"THE PAPERS!" he exclaimed. Matthew brought his head out from his hands. "The registration papers we signed at the festival. They must of used those to track down each person one by one to make sure we were all dead. They came here hoping to find us but found mom and dad, and when they refused to help they.....they.....they...." Cole's voice trailed off. Matthew wiping tears from his eyes got up to his feet. "If they are using that paper to find people with abilities, to find us, then they must know we are still alive. It's not safe here anymore Cole and we need to leave before they come back. They must know that we would eventually return here." Matthew said, his voice getting back to normal. "We can't just leave them here Matthew, it's not right. They need a proper burrial. Matthew they need a --" he was interrupted by the house going completely black. Outside you can hear the footsteps of people running towards the house, the sound of guns being cocked and ready to fire. The door is busted through and a half dozen regime soldiers infiltrate the house. The room is completely blacked out and through the darkness all the soldiers can see are two pairs of glowing red eyes.

## Chapter 3: Chapter 3: Alexis

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#### Present Time

"Release" she says as her weapon disappears and turns back into her necklace. She steps over the dead regime guards bodies and makes her way out of the alleyway and into the towns busy streets. She constantly looks behind her in fear that the regime soldiers have found her. She takes a deep breath and slows her fast pace walking into a gentle stroll as she puts up her hood to hid her face. The banners and flags from the festivities have been replaced with a more dreary type of propaganda. Billboards flashing the new decree by President Mason along with clips of people with abilities killing people. It comes to Alexis's attention that these bilboards and displays are a little off. She thought to herself, I have seen these videos before during training. These have to be at least 80 years old when there was no Guardian Corps and people were ruled by fear of these people. This is all a lie to perpetuate fear now that it is starting all over. Her thoughts were interrupted by someone screaming.

"Somebody please help me! Get off of me!" a girl in her early twenties was shouting to the townspeople. No one would even look up at her. The regime has made everyone so scared that they wouldn't even look at the girl in fear of being considered a traitor. If the regime has done anything, it has shown that they still have all the power to make the people do as they please. The girl was thrown into the street and executed on sight. No one said a word and quickly moved away from the scene. Alexis tightened her grip around her hood and moved with the mass of people across the street. She needed to get out of town, somewhere safe and away from the regime headquarters.

All the bilboards and display TV's were interrupted by a message from President Mason.

"My fellow people. We are in the presence of a new era in which we no longer depend on people with abilities to fight our own battles. It is time for us to take our own destiny into our own hands and with the new regime that will happen. Destroy these abominations and bring real peace to our nation. Anyone helping or harboring these people will meet a swift death."

The screen went blank followed by a list of people that were "still at large" many people she had never seen before, some where people she knew from the Guardian Corps and were glad to see that they were still alive. But right there on the screen was the one thing she was hoping he would never have to see. Her name in big black letters stating "Dangerous". Rage fills inside her as she punches the display cracking the screen. The display turns off and she quickly composes herself and makes sure that no one was watching her. She was lucky this time, she turned away from the display board and made her way to the edge of the town. The streets become quiet as she approaches the boarder her footsteps echoing in the distance. She is almost there when she stops suddenly.

"This isn't going to be as easy and I thought." she said to herself. Not easy indeed, for what she saw would definitely put a kink in her plan to leave the town. At the boarder stood more than two dozen regime guards checking each car and person trying to leave the town. She quickly backs away hoping no one has seen her. She goes to turn and runs directly into someone walking towards the boarder.

"I am so sorry, I wasn't watching where I was going" she said apologetically. As she looks up she is horrified to see that she has ran into one of the regime guards with an evil grin on his face.

"It's no problem at all....Alexis." the guard said still flashing his gruesome grin. Alexis quickly jumps back a few feet and summons her weapon and before the guard can even call for help or draw his gun her blade cuts straight through the guards neck decapitating him. Getting more anxious by the second Alexis drags the body behind the nearest alley way and takes his clothes off. She quickly puts on the soldiers clothes and makes way towards the border. No one even questions her as she walks through the line of people and obstacles blocking her from temporary freedom. She exits the town and makes a straight line towards the woods camouflaging her from the outside world. Weakened from exhaustion, she walks further into the woods and finds a place to rest for the night.

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Daylight breaks through the trees and casts a ray of sunshine on Alexis's face waking her up with a startle and a summon of her weapon. Seeing that the woods were completely deserted she mumbles a release of her weapon and gets up. She takes a look around and doesn't exactly know where she is at the moment. Thinking everything that has happened so far was just a dream only to be hit with the truth when she looks down noticing she is still in the soldiers uniform. Still weakened from fatigue and hunger she struggles to get a hold of her balance and falls to the ground again. She gets back up more determined than ever to keep going for the fear of getting caught is her driving motivator.

I can do this! I can do this! she thought to herself repeating the lines over and over again as she shuffled her feet along the leaf covered ground. If she could only make it to the next town, she knew people there, people with abilities like hers that he could depend on. A faint rustle of bushes and crunches of leaves makes her stop dead in her tracks and hit the ground fast. Distant voices echoing through the woods makes her breathing uneven and panic begins to set in. One, many two people about twenty feet to her right, she glances over in that direction to see two fairly tall boys one with brown hair and one with a darker blonde shade of hair. From the looks of it have been through hell themselves. The reflection of light from the one boy's medalion flushes the sense of fear from her body and she quickly gets up and runs towards them. The sudden rush of noises causes the boys to look over and one yelps in fear and they both summon their weapons ready to attack. Shocked to see them raising their weapons towards her, relief turns to anger.

"What do you think you're doing, raising your weapon against another with abilities. We are both running from the same thing aren't we?" Alexis cried in desperation.

"Yeah we are running from people like you. Killing people, innocent people for what reason, that one day someone MIGHT use their abilities for personal gain. You dogs of the regime no nothing of who we are, the lives we live, people you kill. You killed our parent for what!?" the boy's voice echoes in the distance.

"If you're here to attack us then prepare to defend yourself, we are not dying. Not today!" the other boy exclaimed as he raised his blade pointing it at Alexis's chest.

"What are you guys talking about? Why would I want to attack you, I AM one of you." Alexis says pulling her medalion out from her shirt and summoning her weapon.

"Then why the hell are you wearing a soldier's uniform, you can't play both sides!" the boy with the brown hair said.

She stopped for a second wondering why they would think she was playing both sides. She stood there for a moment and then started to laugh. It made the boys nervous and they both took a fighting stance.

"No, no guys don't worry! I am not a soldier!" she said waving her hands around as she started to take off the uniform. "I knocked out a guy last night and took his uniform so I could get past the barrier." she said still giggling. Both boys sighed in relief and released their weapons.

"I'm Cole and this is my brother Mathew." he said walk towards Alexis and shaking her hand.

"Hi." he said while walking behind Cole and shaking Alexis's hand.

"Hi, I'm Alexis" she said finally getting the last bit of uniform off of her and releasing her weapon.

"I KNOW YOU!" Cole shouted nearly giving both Mathew and Alexis a heart attack. "You're from the Guardian Corps. the captain at only sixteen! You saved us from getting our brains blown out the day of the festival, thanks by the way!" Cole said smiling and nudging his brother Matthew.

"I'm sorry but that day was so hectic I don't remember who I saved or killed." Alexis said. "How did you guys get out of the town? I had to get a uniform in order to pass all the soldiers." Alexis questioned.

"Well after we got out of the range of fire we went home to get our parents and leave the town, but when we got there it was too late." Matthew's voice wavered. "They came in and killed our parent and were waiting for us to come home."

"I honestly don't think they were expecting a real fight out of us, but our anger was high then and we let it take over. Never killed anyone before." Cole said. "We made it out of the town before they even put up the barrier and we have been hiding out here in the woods waiting for our chance to get further away from this place but guards from all over the other towns have been patrolling the roads and its become very difficult to move without getting caught." Cole confessed to Alexis.

"You over there! Identify yourself!" said a regime guard sprinting towards them.

## The Guardian Corps.

"Crap, I didn't even see them coming" Cole said. About four regime guards came running towards them guns aimed at them. They backed up and started to run further into the woods. Bullets were flying by them nearly hitting them, they all broke running in different directions and the guards divided to each runner. Two had followed Cole while one was pursuing Alexis and one was pursuing Matthew. Getting anxious Alexis summoned her weapon, she her do that caused a reaction in Matthew and Cole and they each both summoned their weapons. A bullet grazed Matthews arm and he sideswipped a tree making him fall over. He summersaulted into a crouch and threw his blade penetrating the regime guard's chest making him fall backwards. He reached for his weapon and it appeared back in his hands. He quickly got up and made a dash towards Cole. Cole sprinting as fast as he could threw his dagger at the nearest tree and then threw his next one above his first dagger and made a ladder up a tree to the nearest branch clearing thirty feet in ten seonds. He called his weapons back to him and threw one at the guard piercing the guards foot to the ground. A grunt is heard from behind the guard as Matthew thrust his blade into the guards back killing him in seconds. Everyone regrouped as Cole made his way back down from the tree.

"Where are you guards Alexis?" Matthew said.

"Back there." she pointed. "You don't want to go that way, it's a little messy."

Just then another guard approached Alexis from behind slowing creeping up behind her.

"Behind you!" shouted Cole. But before the guard took another step he stopped dead in his tracks and then fell over. He revealed to have an arrow in his back and it quickly disappeared.

"I guess I came at the right time." the mysterious stranger said. Matthew, Cole, and Alexis all got into a fighting stance ready to attack.

"Woah woah woah...calm down, I am here to help. Seesh, saving a person from a bullet in their head and this is the thanks I get. Remind me to not do it again." he said with a sarcastic tone as he walked over towards them.

"Sorry we've been through a lot recently" Matthew said apologetically.

"I can see that, but don't you worry we will get you some new clothes and fixed up in no time. I'm Alistar by the way." he said releasing his weapon. It was a bow and arrow that glowed a bright gold as it materialized back around his right arm.

"Cole." he said shaking hands with Alistar.

"Matthew." he said also shaking his hand.

"Alexis." she said keeping her distance with a cold stare in her eyes. "Can we please get out of here already."

"Oh, right!" said Alistar. "Follow me everyone." he said as they walked even further into the wood. "We have a little underground tunnel somewhere around here. We knew something like this might happen one day in the future so we have been preparing for it."

"We?" questioned Matthew.

"Yeah myself and the rest of the regime haters." Alistar said.

"Why would you hate the regime? Other than what has been going on right now, they have provided peace for this nation for centuries." Alexis was quick to combat Alistar's words.

"So you think, this isn't the only time this has happened." Alistar began to explain. "The same thing happened about forty years ago when a group of people with weapon abilities attacked the regime to gain control because they were uing us as tools of war. We were fed up with being pawns in the regime's control so we started to rebel." he continued explaining as the leaves crumpled underneath his feet. "There were so many casualties on both sides that a treaty was formed that people with abilities were granted their freedom from the regime control and could willingly choose to fight for the regime for not, hence the formation of the Guardian Corps. anyone wanting to live a normal life could do so. I for one knew that this negotiation would never last, the regime could not use us for their own personal needs, then we were no longer of use to them."

"Kind of like what is happening now. More and more people are using their abilities for their own selfish gain and Mason thinks that its only a matter of time before there is another uprising. But what I don't get is that the guardian corps are a group of people that willing use their abilities for the regime, why kill them too." Cole asked Alistar.

## The Guardian Corps.

"I believe this time he wants to take it one step further and completely wipe out the race. Or he doesn't want to have another rebellion within the Guardian Corps. like last time." Alistar said.

"Last time?" said Alexis.

"A captian of yours...what was his name, Wilson. Sought to leave the Guardian Corps because he didn't like the way Mason was directing things. He planned to take other members with him who believed the same thing but Mason was quick to act and well, he's gone now." Alistar said watching for a reaction in Alexis.

"That's a lie, he died on a peacekeeping mission in Edentown." Alexis said.

"So you think. It was all a coverup." Alistar said as he slowed down and finally stopped in the woods. Alexis just stood there trying to put the pieces back together. Wilson was her commanding officer before going on a peacekeeping mission with some other Guardian Corps. members. She did find it strange that she was not asked to tag along being that most of the members that died that day were part of her squad, but she just ruled it out as her being too young. She shook the thoughts from her mind and caught up with the other guys.

"Well here we are!" Alistar said with a triumphant smile on his face.

"Where are we exactly?" questioned Matthew.

"Rebel headquarters. Watch your step." he said taking one step forward and disappearing into the ground.

"What the..." Cole said running to where Alistar last was to reveal a deep hole that seemed endless. He took another step forward and half tripped half stumbled down the hole. The hole turned into a series of underground slides that curved and twisted until landing on the hard ground sliding face first into Alistar's shoes. A few seconds later you could hear Alexis's and Matthew's voices echoing down the slides as they approached the ground.

"Well that was unexpected." Matthew said landing feet first on the ground, looking around to find Cole on the ground still, he came over and helped him to his feet. They all walked over to Alistar and followed him through a series of dark tunnels, each twisting and winding like a serpents body until they saw a light at the end of the path they were taking. The tunnel opened up to a huge room lit up by lights and television displays. Alexis was mesmerized by all the equipment they had around the headquarters. She was even more taken back when she saw the series of displays that showed the town Cole, Matthew, and herself lived in but all the other towns in the regime. They had cameras everywhere watching everything all the time. She was amazed at how organized and how prepared they were regarding every town. Maps and grids of all the towns displayed on their own personal screens as well as lists of people who had abilities as well as up to date records of people on the run, people in hiding, as well as people who were caught by the regime and presumed dead. But she saw something that made her smile a bit, a huge area dedicated to training and fighting, something she knew she was very good at and she felt at home.

"Welcome to your new homes everyone, lets get you some rooms and we will get you into squads and some food in your stomachs!" Alistar said guiding them to another section of headquarters.

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"I'm starving!" exclaimed Cole as they all followed Alistar. A small smile crept up onto Alexis's face as they proceeded into the rebel headquarters.

## Chapter 4: Cole and Matthew

### Chapter 4: Cole and Matthew

"This room is huge!" Cole said in awe as Alistar showed them their room.

"Alexis your room is down the hall and to the right. Matthew I hope you don't mind sharing a room with your brother. We are getting kind of low on rooms." said Alistar pointing to where Alexis's room was.

"Thanks" Alexis said walking towards her room.

"I don't mind." Matthew said walking into the room.

All the rooms were set up with large TVs and computer. For being down underground everything was so nicely furnished and polished. Every room had nice hardwood floors and black leather furniture, although there were lighting fixtures everywhere since there was never any sunlight. There was even an escape hatch under everyone's floorboards in case they were ever found out. They really had their stuff together, everything that could possibly go wrong was accounted for.

"We will get you some clothes and they will be in your room after you have been placed on a squad." said Alistar.

"Squads?" Matthew questioned Alistar.

"What are you guys talking about?" Alexis said entering the room.

"It's how we run things here in good old rebbeltown. We make squad of five people to search nearby towns that the regime guards are hitting. We round up people with abilities and either help them escape to somewhere more safe, or recruit them here. Either way it is completely up to them." Alistar began to explain. "Right now there are a lot of people on the run and fear is the only emotion most are feeling being driven away from everything they knew and loved. It's up to us to make sure they are all safe."

"That's very noble of you Alistar." Alexis said softly.

"Well noble isn't exactly what I was going for. We are being hunted for being who we are. Sure there has been greed in the past that can't go unnoticed. But it does not deserve us being slaughtered in front of everyone. Mason says he wants justice, but what he really wants besides total domination, is genocide of our people. He never liked us to begin with, he sees this as getting rid of human imperfection." Alistar said his mood darkening. The look on everyone's faces causes him to shake the thoughts from his head. "Well then, shall we get started?" Alistar said leaving the room.

"Started?" Cole interjected.

"Well we need to sort you into squads from the group of people already on missions and whatnot. We have different types of squads ranging from offensive teams to recon teams."

"I demand that I be placed on an offensive squad" declared Alexis.

"As you wish, what about you two boys?" Asked Alistar.

## The Guardian Corps.

"I have only one request, and that is that Cole and I stay together." Matthew said firmly.

"Well there is an opening in the collection squad. They are in charge of gathering the information collected by the reconnaissance team and going to different towns and collecting people with abilities to be brought here."

"That's fine anything to help." Cole said.

"Then that's settled. Alexis please go into conference room six where you will meet the offensive captian and you two follow me to conference room twelve where you will meet your captian." said Alistar

Matthew and Cole said bye to Alexis and made their way to their conference room. Along the walls they saw numerous pictures of people lining all the way down the hall.

"Who are all these people?" Cole asked Alistar.

"These unfortunately are people who have died who were part of our organization. We all risk a lot to do what we do, and sometimes it doesn't go the way we plan." Alistar said with a sadden look.

"I'm sorry." Matthew said placing a hand on Alistar's shoulder.

"It's ok, we all know what we are siging up for, no war is ever fought without some casualties." Alistar said preceding to the conference room. "Here you go guys, Captian Kline will be with you two in a few minutes."

Alistar left the room and Matthew and Cole were left alone with their questions, growing more and more nervous about what they were really getting into.

"Is this something we should be doing?" asked Cole worried.

"What else do we have left? Our parents are gone, we are on the run from the place we called home. I personally don't want anyone else to go through what we have gone through the past few days." Matthew responded.

"But that's not the point, people are dying, we could be next. Why do I want to risk my life for someone I don't even know. Being a hero never solved anything, look at Alexis for example, she was once regarded as someone who protected our nation and then one day, she becomes public enemy number one. I don't want to be that person, let's just leave and go into hiding together away from all of this." Cole said grabbing Matthew's arm leading him towards the door.

"JUST STOP COLE!" Matthew glaring at Cole his anger rising even more with every passing second. "It was just a few days ago we were willing to go into training to protect this nation by joining the Guardian Corps, how is this any different, we are still protecting this nation, protecting people like us! If anything this cause is greater than the Guardian Corps. Right now you are in shock of what's been happening, but the Cole I know would go in daggers swinging trying to bring justice to this world, and I think this is where it's at. Us helping Alistar bring peace to this nation by saving everyone and moving them into a safe place." They stared at each other for a few moments, neither of them budging from their feelings. Matthew's expression softened and he pulled his brother into his arms. They sat there hugging each other.

"They're really gone aren't they?" Cole said as he began to slowly cry into Matthew's shoulder. "They didn't even do anything wrong. This is just so crazy, something out of a horrible, horrible dream, but I can't wake up. I know this is the right thing to do, helping people, but we already lost so much, the thought of losing you, is just..." his voice trailed off and Matthew's arms tightened around Cole.

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"We are in this together and I will protect you with my life. I promise you that." They both nodded at each other and broke their embrace. A subtle knock on the conference door brought them to reality as who they assumed Captian Kline was entered the room.

Captian Kline was a very tall serious looking guy. Standing around six three and pretty much built like a brick wall, he stared at Matthew and Cole sizing them up with his eyes. He spoke, startling them both.

"Jesus Christ, you guys are just kids. Are you sure you guys are in the right place, shouldn't you be getting new ID's and a safe place to live?"

"No this is where we belong, we want to help bring peace to everyone and stop this maddness...sir." Cole said in the best confident voice he could muster. With this new wave of confidence coming from Cole, Matthew stood next to him both ready to do what they had to do.

"When do we get started?" Matthew said looking Captian Kline in the eyes.

"HA! Started, oh no, you guys are not starting anytime soon." the Captian said holding two pieces of papers. "No, you guys have to go through training first!"

\* \* \* \* \*

Weeks had gone by as Cole and Matthew trained with members of their new team, using scripted information and running simulations one after another were really started to wear them out. They all moved fluid as a team and were able to extract targeted civilians with accuracy and speed that resulted to little casualty on both sides. They were ready for their first real mission. The collection team gathered in the conference room with Captian Kline.

"Listen up everyone! We have recovered some intel from the reconnansance team that we need you guys to check up on. This is not what we have been training for so listen up. They have caught on that people are going from town to town and extracting people with our abilities so we need to start being extra careful in our missions. More regime guards have been deployed and are more ruthless than ever, so please be alert. There are approximately sixteen targets that we must acquire, failure is not an option is that clear?" Captian Kilne explained as he passed out folders with pictures of the terrain and pictures of the targets. started to get up and get ready for the mission but was cut off by the Captians' voice.

"Remember its force only if attacked, we are not here to start a kill frenzy. Our targets are our main priority and nothing else. Their saftey comes first, use force only when provoked."

"Yes sir!" the memebtrs of the collection team said in unison. Cole and Matthew began viewing their folders and corrdinating the team accoringdly. They agreed with two teams of five, matthew was in one group and cole was in another. They were uneasy about this but they were needed in different groups for a reason. Matthew with his single blade ability was needed in the first group to extract the targets while Cole's double blade ability was needed in the defense and attack group incase the targets came under fire. They were then directed to the preparation room where they met up with the offensive team and Alexis.

"Hey Alexis." Matthew said.

"You will refer to her as Captian Alexis from now on!" shouted a member of the offensive team.

"Captian!?" Matthew and Cole said in awe.

## The Guardian Corps.

"Someone had to show these people how to fight, I strive to be the best and this is where it got me." Alexis said as if it was no big deal.

"But it's only been two months! Why didn't you tell us about this sooner!" Matthew said.

"Need to know basis." Alexis said. "Well we are off, have a search and rescue mission to complete. See you guys later." Alexis said walking off with her squad.

Matthew and Cole round the corner and met with their new squad members in the preparation room. They were greeted with a half a dozen faces, some older and some younger. You could tell who has been around longer from scars on the face due to hard missions. There was one man in the center approaching Matthew and Cole. His name was Alex Stevens and he was the commanding officer for the collection squad.

"You must be Matthew and Cole the last two new recruits." Stevens said shaking both their hands.

"Yes sir. I'm Matthew and this is my brother Cole." he said looking around the room.

"Welcome aboard. Now that everyone is here I can now brief everyone with today's mission." Stevens said as the lights went out in the room and a projected screen lit up the room.

"Here we see the small city of Travena. We have word from the reconnaissance team that there are at least ten targets that we must acquire. Now remember just because it's a small town does not mean it's not under the regime control. The reconnaissance team also stated in their report there are at least fifty to one hundred regime soldiers patrolling the town." He stated looking around at everyone's expressions. "I know we have stated this before in the training scenarios and for those who have been on missions let me repeat this again. It is killed or be killed. The regime guards will not hesitate to fire and neither should you. Now we're a team but if you put any of your fellow comrades in danger you will have to answer to me. Is that understood?" Stevens said with a forceful voice.

"Yes sir!" the team replied.

"Get ready to go we leave in twenty minutes. It will take us two days to complete this mission so make sure you plan accordingly." Stevens said leaving the room.

Cole and Matthew left the room and returned to their room to get ready. They regrouped with the rest of the team and headed out towards Travena town. They boarded two trucks and made their way to the town. Matthew looked across from him and saw Cole's hands shaking. Matthew got up and walked over towards Cole and sat beside him.

"You ok Cole?" Matthew said looking at his hands.

"I'm fine it's just that sure training was easying killing mannequins and whatnot but to kill an actual person. I'm still not sure sometimes if I can even do it." Cole said looking teary eyed at Matthew.

"Then don't. I know it's hard to think about but if I was in danger and someone was about to kill me you'd get them first right?" Matthew said.

"Of course, I would never let anything happen to you."

"Then think of it that way, we are constantly in danger, and knowing that the majority of people signed the list to be recruited into the guardian corps, they have a list of people who have abilities and we must save them, or

## The Guardian Corps.

they will end up just like mom and dad, and if it really bothers you that much don't go for the kill, knock them out do something else, just make sure they don't get back up until we are done."

Matthew patted Cole on the back and Cole gave a half smile and a reassuring nod towards Matthew. They sat in silence for the rest of the trip only making eye contact a few times. Both in their own state of mind pondering the possibilities of what was to come as soon as they got to Travena Town. Night time had penetrated the sky rendering everything in shadows by the time they arrived outside the town. Both trucks stopped and everyone unloaded their gear and equipment and made a small camp to go over their mission details once more before starting. This would all be over before daylight.

"Remember no force unless necessary. We are not here to murder and inflict chaos on this town. We are here to extract the hunted and leave. Is that clear" Stevens whispered. The group nodded in unison. Remember the terrain and be careful everyone. I don't want any casualties on either side. And with that we departed to Travena. We divided into three groups. One was to make sure we had an entrance and exit, one was to collect the civilians in danger and one was to provide backup to the collection group. Cole and Matthew were part of the backup group along with two others. Their eyes flashed a deep red and they willed their weapons into existence. With daggers poised to attack at a moments notice they moved towards the town. Since the servalence team is always the first to go before the collection team the civilians were given a destination point to meet the collection team at so they wouldn't be scrambling around to find everyone. The rendezvous point was the local elementary school. The backup team formed a diamond around the collection group as they approached the school but found that there was no one there.

"Where the hell are they?" One of the team members whispered.

"What should we do?" Another one responded in panic.

The group began to get unsettled as suspicion began to form that they were being led into a trap. Matthew looked over at Cole and their eyes met and instinctively took a defensive position. Just then in the distance Matthew saw three people running towards them and signaled to the rest of the group. They all at once willed their weapons into existence ready for the incoming battle.

"Wait wait wait! We are one of you!" one of the civilians whispered.

"You are the collection team right?" another civilian said. The three walked up to the team all battered and bruised. One kid who could not have been more than ten had a bandage over her eye while the rest of them had a few cuts and gashes on their bodies.

"What happened to you guys" Cole said immediately going into his bag and taking out some bandages.

"We were on our way here and we were caught by the regime guards. First they started to punish us for being out past curfew but when Adam here got angry he decided it would be a good idea to attack them with his weapon." the younger boy said glaring at the other boy. "If it wasn't here Amy here we probably wouldn't be alive." he directed his attention to the little girl with the bandage over her eye.

"I may look small but I can pack quite a punch." she said with a small smile on her face. Her face very bruised and blood still seeping through the bandage around her eye. Cole slowly removed the bandage from her forehead and eye to reveal a rather large gash from her right temple all the way down her cheek. Cole got some fresh bandages and some ointment and dabbed it on the girls face. She winced but didn't show signs of pain.

"It looks worse than it is, I'm ok." She said helping Cole put the bandage around her eye and forehead.

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"We have to get moving, if they were being chased or had anything to do with the regime guards there will probably be more coming soon." One of the collection members whispered. They met up with the other teams and proceeded to make their way back to the trucks with Stevens leading the group. They all quietly sighed in relief as they got back into the trucks and made their way back to headquarters.

"Good job men." Stevens said while ordering two medical unit member to assess the children's injuries. "Could not of gone any better." Stevens continued to say. The group all nodded in satisfaction and patted one another on the back. It would be a while until they got back to headquarters and after everyone was treated Cole and Matthew leaned up against one another and fell asleep with a simle on their faces.

## Chapter 5: Alexis

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### Chapter 5: Alexis

"Listen up everyone. I know I am young but I have years of experience serving the Guardian Corps. I command respect and I will respect everyone of you equally. If anyone has anything to say speak now. If you question my authority from here on out you will be removed from my team is that understood." Alexis sternly said looking every one of her subordinates in the eyes. No one dared to move.

"Very well." A small smile appeared on Alexis's face. "Our mission today is a simple search and rescue mission. We are going to infiltrate a small camp of regime guards. Disarm them and take their weapon supply before they reach the town of Oakdale and get back one of our members who is being held captive." Alexis said giving each member a folder of the terrain they would be ambushing the guards in.

"Isn't this something another squad can do. This doesn't look like a job for the offensive team." A member of the team said. Alexis quickly approached the member of her team with lightening quick speed causing the man to gasp.

"Are you questioning my reasons." Alexis said her eyes staring straight through the man.

"No Captian." The man quickly said backing away slowly from Alexis. "I just think--"

"You are not here to think!" Alexis quickly snapped. "You do what I say is that clear?" Alexis said staring straight into the eyes of her subordinate.

"Yes Captian." The man quietly said.

"We move out in twenty." Alexis said walking out of the conference room. She proceeded down the hall and was met by Alistar who was holding a file.

"Here you are Alexis" Alistar said giving the file to her.

"This has all the information I need for tonight?" Alexis said skimming through the files. She stopped on a page with a few mug shots. Reading the information she discovered the real reason for her mission tonight. Rumors were circulating that one of Mason's right hand men were going to be with this platoon and he must be taken out. There was also rumors that this person had a copy of all the files relating to everyone who was registered as having an ability.

"So secure these files and take out this man." Alexis said point to the man on the file. She stopped walking and turned towards Alistar. "And the prisoner, is he the main priority or is it this man?" Alexis said keeping her voice down so no one overheard.

"Our main priority is to take out this man who is Mason's right hand man. He took out a whole village for protecting one person. Didn't even bat an eyelash. He is one sick son of a bitch. Secure the prisoner if you can but your main target is him." Alistar said anger building up in his voice.

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"Understood." Alexis said not hesitating. She knew that this mission was not about the prisoner. If it was he would of sent another team. They continued walking down the hall.

"Have you ever met him before Alistar?" she questioned noticing the change in expression. Alistar stared off into space for a breif second, shook his head, and then looked at Alexis.

"Only heard of him. Never met him." Alistar replied.

"Well I have to meet with the rest of the team. We are moving out in a few minutes." she said nodding and Alistar and moving down the hall to meet her team. She arrived and met with the rest of her team and running into Matthew and Cole with their team. She was huddled up with her team when Matthew broke through the crowd and spotted Alexis.

"Hey Alexis." Matthew said.

"You will refer to her as Captian Alexis from now on!" shouted a member of the offensive team.

"Captian!?" Matthew and Cole said in awe.

"Someone had to show these people how to fight, I strive to be the best and this is where it got me." Alexis said as if it was no big deal.

"But it's only been two months! Why didn't you tell us about this sooner!" Matthew said.

"Need to know basis." Alexis said. "Well we are off, have a search and rescue mission to complete. See you guys later." Alexis said walking off with her squad.

They left the area and boarded their truck and left for their destination. Alexis kept going over strategies in her head of every possible senario she could think of. What if it was a trap? What if there were more guards than she expected? Should she tell everyone the real mission? What if Mason's right hand man used the hostage as leverage? These thoughts swirled around her head as they approached their destination. The truck slowed to a stop.

"Ok everyone listen up. Here is what's going to happen. We are going to split up into three teams. One team is going to do survalence of the terrain and see how many guards there are, what weapons they are using, where there amunition is and most importantly where the hostage is. Another team is going to lay traps and explosives around the camp to make sure we cannot be followed and to ensure leverage if anything bad happens. Last team will remain with me and plan our stragety once we get all the necessary information. Is that clear?" Alexis said. The team responded and were divided into three groups. The survalence team moved out first along with the trap team. They were given one hour to do their part and to return to the camp. Alexis met with the remaining members and discussed a strategy for the upcoming battle.

"Look here everyone, I know this battle is going to result in us fighting. There is no way around it. They say disarm but I see it as a kill or be killed. They even make a move for a gun or anything you kill them on site. Does anyone have a problem with that?" No one made a gesture towards an argument and Alexis smiled. "Good." she said. "Now then. Once everyone returns--" her voice was cut off by an explosion a few miles away. Her radio went off and she heard an unfamiliar voice on the intercom.

"Nice of you to join us rebels. As you can tell your team has been discovered. Turn yourselves in now or they will die. You have ten minutes." the intercom went dead.

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"Team one and team two respond immediately." Alexis commanded on her radio.

All she heard was static. She repeated her command again. Static was her only response. She took off her headset and threw it against a tree shattering it into pieces. Her eyes illuminated and her weapon came to life. The other team members responded to her action and brought their weapons to life.

"No!" She screamed in fury. The team members were startled by her command.

"I will go alone. Is that clear!" she made certain that no one would go against her. "If I am not back in twenty minutes you leave without me. Is that clear?" she looked at the remaining team members in the eyes. Whether or not they were scared to defy her or didn't want to risk their lives no one stood against her wishes. She tightened her grip around her weapon and proceeded into the battle field. It was getting darker out by the second and she knew that if she was going to make any attempt at a rescue she would have to do it before daylight ran out. She crept closer and closer into the enemy camp and stopped a few hundred yards away. With great force she threw her weapon at a tree and the ring stuck into it with great ease. She ran at all force towards it and used her weapon as a spring to launch herself up the tree and onto a branch to view the whole camp from higher ground. She saw her team that was being held captive with regime guards weapons pointing at their faces ready to pull the trigger at a moments notice. She saw the man in the file, Mason's right hand man. He was a rather tall and built man with scars on his face and body from previous battles. He was laughing as he kicked someone on the ground repeatedly. She heard a crunch noise and winced knowing all too well that the person being beaten had just broken a rib, maybe even two. The prisoner cried out in agony and Alexis called back her weapon that was still in the tree. She began thinking of strategies on how to approach the situation. Should she go after her team first freeing them? But that would put the prisoner's life in danger. Should she go after the guards holding the team hostage? No, Mason's right hand man would just kill everyone in retaliation. Should she go after Mason's right hand man first hoping the guards would be distracted enough to take out one by one? Too many lives were at stake and Alexis didn't know how to approach the situation. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath. Either way lives would be lost in this battle and she hoped that she could have the fewest amount of casualties as possible. She knew what had to be done. She calmed herself and held her weapons in both her hands with gentle force she disconnected her ring of blades into two half circle blades and held one in each hand. Her eyes glowing electric blue almost burning with determination she made her way to the camp. Her plan of action was simple in her mind. Go after the guards first, free her men and simply use them as pawns to create a distraction to get to Mason's right hand man. The thought of losing anyone didn't effect her at all. She was given a mission by Alistar. Mason's right hand man must die at any cost. If he was willing to risk the prisoner's life then she was willing to risk whatever needed to be risked to get the mission completed. She approached the camp only a few yards away from her men and the regime guards holding them prisoner. She took one of her blades and hurled in through the air piercing a regime guard in the head causing him to stumble back bullets from his gun shooting in the air. There was pandamonium and chaos in the camp and Alexis quickly used the guards shock to infiltrate the camp and dispose of two other guards slashing through ones throat and decapitating the other one. There were five guards left three of them ran in fear while the other two opened fire on the held captives. Alexis quickly picked up a dead guards body and used him as a shield as her team behind her were not so lucky and met a bullet in the arm or for two of her team members one in the face and one in the neck. The remaining team members summed their weapons and charged the guards. The regime guards opened fired. One of the rebel members threw his sword at a guard piercing his chest before it vanished into thin air as a regime bullet pieced his temple. There were one guard left and five rebel members left. The last guard ceased fire and put his hands up in defeat. Alexis came out of nowhere and slashed his neck letting the guard bleed out all over the ground. Just then three shots were heard and the of the five rebel members fell to the ground dead as Mason's right hand man came fast approaching with the other three guards that ran away. Alexis and the other rebel members ran in opposite directions avoiding the avalance of bullets that were aimed for them. One of the rebel guards quickly climbed a tree and came crashing to the ground with his earth shattering hammer causing the earth to quake and send shockwaves towards the regime guards and Mason's right hand man making them

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all fall to the ground. Another rebel member used this to his advantage and used his spear like weapon to target the last three guards and threw his spear with all his force piercing all three guards through the chest killing them instantly. All that was left was Mason's right hand man and the prisoner he was holding at gunpoint.

"Well isn't this interesting" the man said with his gun at the prisoners temple. The rebel guards man a move towards him. "Stop or he dies." the man said cocking his gun. The other rebel guards turned to Alexis for the next move but she was no where to be found. In the ongoing confusion of where Alexis went Mason's right hand man put a bullet in all three rebels in mere seconds. They fell to the ground instantly.

"And that leaves one." he said quietly laughing. Alexis was no where to be found. The man quietly looked around the area scanning every tree and shrub to see if he could find any sign of her. The mans confidence quickly began to shift into concern as to where she went. Did she go back to get more men, or was she hiding waiting for the opportune moment to strike. The man was beginning to get impatient.

"You have thirty seconds to come out or this prisoner is dead." the man said pointing his gun at the prisoner. Slowly walking back towards him to deliver the final blow. He cocked the gun again and slowly turned around towards the prisoner. But before Mason's right hand man could react he was met face to face with not the prisoner but Alexis. With two swift movements one blade fast contact cut the mans hand and gun clear off his body. The man emitted a blood curdling scream and he fell to the ground clutching his now handleless stub as Alexis with a small smile on her face issued the final blow cutting the man's head off. The screaming stopped and Alexis turned away walking away from the camp ground covered in blood.

The rest of her team was waiting by the truck arguing back and forth about whether or not they should go in and help. The chatter was silenced as Alexis made her way back to them.

"There are no survivors. But we now have this." Alexis slowly said raising Mason's right hand man's head in the air in her left hand. "This is Karl Mason. President Mason's younger brother. This is the real reason why we were here. We are returning to headquarters now and Alistar will let us know what to do next." She threw the head in the back of the truck and got in. The rest followed her and closed the truck doors and went back to headquarters.

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