

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

By : **FutureMarinesGirl**

Can a friendship turn into something more? Bailey Williams is an 18 year old marine brat with more strength then you can even imagine. After watching her father leave since she was little and having to fight for her life as well can change a person. But the one person who kept her sane was her best friend Jayden, who she is head over heels in love with. Can she keep from telling him her true feelings? Or will someone else come in and steal her from his grasp? Or will something even bigger than the three of them take Bailey away for good?

I guess you will just have to read to find outâ | ***Sequel to My Hero's My Marines***



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Chapter 1: Don't Forget To Remember Me

Whole milk or just skim milk? Well whole milk has 8 grams of fat, as skim milk doesn't have any fat. Whole milk has 150 calories as skim only has 80. "Which to choose, which to choose." I mumbled to myself. I looked down at my cup of black coffee. Well skim milk is healthier for you, but when have I cared. I picked up the whole milk and pours a little into the large cup. I put 2 sugars into the caramel colored coffee. I put the top back on before making my way back to the ring. I sat back down were my school books were scattered over the bleachers. I looked up at the guys boxing and smiled. I always came here with Jayden. He came here at lease twice a week to practice his boxing.

"Okay Boys, 5 minute break." Coach Curtis yelled at the guys boxing. He looked over and smiled at me. "You know if you drink so much coffee you're never going to sleep at night Bails." He smiled at me. I looked at him taking a long sip of my coffee.

"Yeah but you try doing my Calculus homework Coach." I shook my head at him. He picked up my notebook and looked at it.

"Damn, you are smart to know this crap." He whistled at me. I nodded as Jayden jumped down from the ring. He pulled off his combat gloves and spit out his mouth piece.

"Oh it is not that hard." He snorted at me. Coach looked at him.

"Come on Jay, you're doing Trigonometry. I have to do Calculus." I sapped at him. He looked at me and raised his eyebrow. Jayden wiped the sweat off his face and shook his head at me.

"Whatever Bailey." He smiled putting his hands on his bare hips.

"I hate you Jay." I pouted at him crossing my arms. He smiled walking over to wrap his arm around me.

"Sure, sure. Whatever you say Bailey, I know you love me." He smirked at me. I rolled my eyes pushing him away.

"Yeah whatever Jayden, just don't hug me. You're all sweaty and I don't want to smell like jock strap." I laughed at him. He laughed letting go of me as I handed him a bottle of water. He gulped it down as Colt came over.

"Nice fight Dude." He smiled shaking hands with Jay. Colt and Jay fought together here all the time. They have been friends since they both started to come here back in middle school. "I could say the same to use, Colt." He smiled. I rolled my eyes at the two of them and started on my homework again. Colt put a hand on my shoulder.

"Why hello there gorgeous." He smiled at me with his cocky smile.

"I wish I could say the same to you." I smirked at him. He chuckled at me running a hand through his dark hair. I can say he was a looker, tall, dark and handsome. Both Jay and Colt are fit. Both of them play football in the winter and baseball in spring and summer. I smiled at Colt. I used to have a small crush on him when Jay and Colt first met, but it's long gone now. Now he is dating my best girlfriend.

"Boys the wifey wants me home so shower and go. Bails get Mick to lock for me when he gets out in a few minutes." I nodded at him as he pulled on his coat. Jay high fived Colt before he came over to kiss my head.

"We are going to shower than Colt is calling Jenna and we are going out to eat. Stay here." He smiled before running off to the locker rooms. I told Mick, Coach Curtis owns the gym and Mick is the manager and he loves it. He is as built as a body builder. It's kind of funny if you ask me. He nodded and went back to what he was doing. I pulled all of my books together and pushed them into my back pack. I pulled into onto my back before grabbing my coffee and gulping down the rest of it. They came out fresh from a shower joking around. Jayden slipped my back pack off my shoulder right as he was in arm length away. "Did you talk to Mike?" He asked taking sip from his water bottle.

"I did, he said he will lock up when he is done since no one is here. Colt did you call Jenna?" I asked Colt.

"I sure did. She is finishing off work right now so we are going to go to Lenny's." He nodded as he walked out. I couldn't keep my eyes off Jayden's shirt. It was an Under Armour shirt so you could see every nook and cranny of his chest and abs. I must say, it was a sight. "You ready to go Bailey? You can call Wyatt and see if he wants to come." I nodded looking at him.

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"I'm giving you a ride, right?" Jayden asked as we walked out into the cool autumn air of North Carolina.

"Yeah Jay, just let me call Wyatt see if he wants to come. I think he was going something with my Dad, but he should be free to have dinner now." I nodded pulling out my cell phone and calling speed dial number 5. Jayden helped me into his pick-up truck as my phone rang.

Wyatt* Hey Sis

Me* Hey Bro, How are you?

Wyatt* I'm good, had a long day. Can't wait for it to be over.

Me* Tell me about it. Have you had dinner?

Wyatt* No I haven't why?

Me* Well Jayden, Colt, Jenna, and I are going to the Lenny's for some food because I'm sure they are starving, and Colt wants to see Jenna some more.

Wyatt* Sure, I'll me you there in like 20 minute.

Me* Dr. Pepper?

Wyatt* You know me so well.

Me* See you soon.

Wyatt* Bye.

Me* Bye.

I looked over at Jayden. He smiled at me leaning over to turn on the radio. "He's coming?" I nodded.

"Of course." I smiled back as the sound of Nickelback started to blast through the speakers as Jayden drove to the Dinner me and Jenna worked at

Jayden

Chapter 2: Get A Room

Jayden pulled up to the dinner before turning to me. I raised my eye brows at him. "What's up Jay?" I asked pulling my seat belt off. He shook his head.

"Nothing, nothing at all. Did you finish your homework?" He turned the truck off before get out.

"I just have a little bit of my calculus left." I sighed as we made our way to the old dinner that my Grandma and Grandpa used to go to all the time. It didn't really change since then Grandpa says, but we still think it's awesome. Jayden held the door open for me as we both walked in. The waitress smiled at us as she walked by.

"Colt and Jenna are at your regular booth kids." She smiled before walking off to a family sitting at a table. I pulled Jayden to our booth and rolled my eyes. Colt was face to face, lips to lips, with my best friend Jenna.

"Would you two please get a room." I said in fake disgust. Colt pulled his face from Jenna's and looked at me.

"Sugar, if you want some just ask." He smirked. I rolled my eyes at him and slid into the other side of the booth from him.

"Sorry Honey but you aren't what I am looking for. You're just too cocky." I said as Jayden slid in next to me. "What do you see in him Jenna?"

"There was just something about him that made me want him. I'm just waiting for someone better." Colt looked at her. Jenna fit Colt perfectly. She has brown hair that falls around her shoulders happily. She is a small little 4 foot 5 inches, which is so funny when she stands next to Colt, since he is about 6 feet. I still laugh at them some times. She evens him out. She makes him, well a better person. I remember before her Colt was a pain in our asses. He was the school player. Had a new girl every week. He was cocky, annoying, flirted with everyone. But when Jenna came last year he straightened himself out, for her. He toned down the cocky, player. When someone asked him why he stopped being a player all he would say is 'I am playing, playing for my girl.' I like him more, as I can stay in a room with him and not want to punch his face in.

"Oh really Jen, well I guess I'll just go over there and find me some other girl." She turned her head to look at him. He knew she was joking but, it still hurt him that she said that. He changed her a lot. She let him be himself and not the cocky jock that rules the school.

"Are you kidding me Colt? I was joking don't give me that look." He looked at me as I looked down staying out of there little argument, like I always do.

"Children, children, would you two ever stop fighting?" A voice called making us all look over to the owner of it. Walking over to us was my big brother Wyatt. He looked just like Dad. They had the same brown hair and warm brown eyes. Both had the same personality too which always made Mom laugh when Dad was away. She said it was like having her spear at home ready to cheer her up. Wyatt pulled out the chair at the end of the table and sat down.

"We aren't fighting Wy. We are just talking." Colt said wrapping his arm around Jenna and pulling her to him.

"Sure, sure, and my sister had black hair." He said rolling his eyes. I looked down at my light blonde hair. I hated it. It made me seem like a bimbo. No one in my family had such a light color. Sure my Mom and Grandpa, well Grandma told me he had cause right now it's all gray, had blonde hair but it was dirty blonde. Mine, well mine looks like I sat in the sun too long and dried my hair out. It doesn't look dyed because it isn't but I still hate it. I look so different than everyone else.

"Dude." Jayden said balling up a napkin and throwing it at Wyatt's head. He pulled me to him. Wyatt put his hands up in surrender.

"Sorry, Bails. I didn't mean to diss your hair again. I shrugged. I know he doesn't mean it but still.

"Whatever Wyatt, just order your food and don't be a dick." Jayden said at him taking a sip of his soda. Jayden really was my best friend. I wonder some times if he's gay because he always knows what I want or need comfort, or tell my brother off for being a dick. I love him I just wish he would love me like the way I love him.

"Sure, whatever Jay. I'm sorry Bailey." He gave me one of Dad's half smiles making me smile back at him. My brother might be an idiot but he knows how to make me forgive him, no matter what. The waitress came over giving us our food, and taking Wyatt's order.

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"Do you need to baby sit Alycia and JJ tonight?" Colt asked as he ate his burger. Jenna looked at him from where she was eating her grilled cheese sandwich.

"When don't I have to baby sit them? It's like I have two kids instead of my brother and sister." She rolled her eyes at him stealing a French fry from his plate.

"True, true." He nodded taking a bite from her sandwich.

"Are we still going to play pool tomorrow?" I asked dipping my chicken finger in honey mustard.

"Of course we always play pool on Wednesday nights." Jayden said taking my chicken finger and shoving it in his mouth grinning. I rolled my eyes, used to him eating everything he could get his hands on, and I hate to admit it but I think it's kind of cute.

"Yeah, Mom is going to be home so I can go out without the children. Colt your coming right?" Jenna asked looking up at him from under her eyelashes.

"Of course. I wouldn't miss it for the world." He nodded going back to eating. I shivered as a breeze blew over my bare arms. Jayden pulled me to him wrapping his arm around me as he ate. I snuggled into his side, loving the feeling of being close to him. Here I was, deeply in love with my best friend. And he didn't even know itâs.

Chapter 3: A warm hoodie and a ice cream sundae

We sat there finishing off dinner. "Who wants dessert?" Wyatt asked licking his fingers. I rolled my eyes as Jayden ate the last of my French fries. I could never eat a lot, so he would always finish mine. It just worked out that way.

"Well I'm not that hungry." Jenna said shrugging. I nodded in agreement.

"Well Babe, we can always share a sundae." Colt said rubbing her shoulders. Wyatt looked at him.

"Dude where are your balls?" He asked pulling a face.

"Right where they are supposed to be. You want to see?" He said moving his hands to unbuckle his belt. I covered my eyes.

"Please don't, I don't want to go blind." I said as I felt Jayden laughing from where he was holding me to his side.

"Come on Bailey, I know you want to see them." He teased wiggling his eyebrow.

"Hell no! I rather get in a fighting ring with Coach Curtis than see you naked. I don't want to go lesbian." I shouted making everyone laugh.

"Why would you go lesbian when you could have me?" He still pressed making Jenna slap him playfully.

"Because your mine and I want you all to myself." She giggled pulling his shirt down so she could kiss him.

"Damn, how did we get from balls to kissing?" Jayden asked looking down at me.

"Not sure. But with Colt around I would wonder how we could get from cows and milk to dogs humping." He nodded chuckling to himself.

"Well easily-" Colt started.

"Colt!" He all snapped at the same time.

"Okay, okay, I'll shut up." He mumbled as our waitress came over.

"Dessert guys?" She asked picking up the empty plates. I looked at everyone.

"Yeah," I nodded. I looked up at Jayden. "Will you split an oven waffle sundae with me?"

"Of course." He nodded looking up at the waitress.

"One oven waffle sundae." He said picking up his drink and taking a sip.

"Make that two." Wyatt said closing the dessert menu. She scribbled it down on her notepad.

"And for you two?" She asked looking at Jenna and Colt.

"Umâ can we have a double deluxe hot chocolate sundae?" Colt said looking up at her.

"Sure sugar." She smiled writing it down before walking away.

"Where are your balls Jay?" Colt smirked. Jayden smiled.

"Happily lying between my legs. I know you want to see Colt." He smirked raising his eye brow. Colt shrugged.

"Sorry, I'm not gay dude. I rather be with my girlfriend. Not like youâ!" He trailed off.

"Dude, don't even go there. I'm straighter than you." He smirked at him.

"Sure dude, you're as straight as a circle." He snorted. Jenna and I looked at each other before rolling our eyes. They had this conversation every other week. We have gotten used to it by now. Wyatt rolled his eyes as well as Jayden and Colt bickered at each other. A giant sundae was put in front of me making me smile. It was my favorite. It has freshly cooked waffles with vanilla ice cream, topped with chocolate sauce, and whipped cream, nut crumbles, and the chef always put little bits of peanut butter crumbles on mine. He knew it was mine because I was the only one who called it an oven waffle sundae, because it was really called a waffle sundae with whatever ice cream you wanted. I could never eat all of it by myself so I always had to have someone with me.

"Eat up kids." The waitress smiled before walking away. I took a half of a waffle and shoved it in my mouth savoring the taste. Jayden smiled at me before starting to devour the ice cream. All I can say about my boys is that they can eat. When we finished eating we paid, well I paid for my chicken fingers as Jay paid for the sundae.

"You want me to drive you home?" Jay asked as we walked out of the dinner.

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"Nah, Wyatt drove here so I can get him to drive me home." I said rubbing my arms. Jayden unzipped his hoodie and put it around my shoulders. "Thanks." I mumbled breathing the smell of Jayden's body wash from the warm fabric.

"You sure? I could get drop you off on my way home." He said putting his hands in his pockets looking down. "I'll see you tomorrow Jay." I smiled bumping him with my shoulder. He nodded.

"Night Bails." He smiled handing me my backpack before getting in his truck.

"Night." I said running off to Wyatt's truck getting in. Wyatt looked at me.

"Ready?" He asked smiling gently as he turned on his iPod letting it filter through the speakers.

"Yeah it's getting late and I still have some homework to do." He nodded driving off into the direction of the house. I walked into the front room with Wyatt behind me holding both of our backpacks. I heard the sound of SpongeBob SquarePants coming from the living room. I walked in to see my two younger brothers lying on the floor.

"Dillon Williams what are you doing up?" I asked him putting my hands on my hips. He looked up at me.

"Mom said I could. The movie is almost done I promise." He said looking back at the screen. I shook my head at him. I looked at the curled up ball on the couch picking it up.

"No sissy I watching movie with Dilly." Said the voice poking out from under the blanket.

"Bentley it is way past your bed time. Come on I will tuck you in and read you a story." I laid his little two year old body on my shoulder as he closed his eyes, letting the sleep take over his little body.

"Where's Mom Dill?" I asked him. He looked at me, only because it was a commercial.

"She's in her room Bailey. Can I have a cup of warm milk please?" He asked me.

"Sure get Wyatt to get it for you please I have to put Bentley in his bed." He nodded getting up and running to find Wyatt. I walked upstairs walking into Mom's room. She looked up from where she sat on her bed holding the house phone to her ear.

"Well would you look at that. She just walked in. Bailey come talk to your father." She said sitting up.

"Let me put Bentley in his bed and I'll come back." I smiled. I can't wait to talk to Dad, it's been weeks since I talked to him lastâ

Chapter 4: Why Hello There

I laid Bentley on his race car bed in his room that he shared with Dillon. Mom and Dad only planned to have another baby after I was all better, but when I got sick again a couple years later it was put off. That's why there is almost a 10 year difference between Dillon and Me and Wyatt. The story is they thought it would be better if they didn't have any more kids, after what happened to me, but I told them I wanted a little brother. No sister, I'm my daddy's angle. No one is taking my spot, and I'm not sharing. Boy did Mom laugh at that. Dad just smiled and held me. So about 2 months later I got the second best news in my life. I went into remission at the age of 9. Well the first time I went into remission was when I was about a year and a half. My Dad held me tightly in his arms crying as I sat there not really knowing what was going on. Well when we got home Mom already looked happy but when Dad told her she was spinning around in circles. It was a sight. Then she told me I am going to get a little brother or sister, and me being the cute 9 year old I was said 'better be a boy or else Mommy, I'm not sharing.' Of course it was. Dillon Hunter Williams was born a happy healthy screaming pooping machine. Wyatt was happy to have a little brother to play with now, well Jay was like his brother, but older. I was happy it wasn't a girl. I know but hey, I like my Daddy to be mine.

I guess you can say my world came crashing down again when I was 12. Dillon was a health 2 year old, and I had cancer, again, for the third time. I can safely say I was jealous of my little brother so much. But I was wrong. I had so much to live for that helped me fight it. Dad sadly was away on deployment when I got the diagnosis. But we did like he always did. I shaved my head, I hate to watch the hair fall out one by one it made me feel sicker than I already was, got some good movies, Wyatt even shaved his head saying he wanted me to feel like I wasn't alone. I love my brother. He was the best big brother ever. He always sat with me watching movies as I lay there sick out of my mind. Well Jayden, I met him when I was 5 at a local park near the base we were stationed at, shaved his head and would come over all the time and we would sit around and watch TV. Dillon used to crawl into my lap and just fall asleep with me. I loved my family. Now Bentley, he was a 'oops' shall we say.

Mom and Dad went on a second honeymoon on their anniversary. Grandpa and Grandma took us and we spent a whole week at their house in New York. Asher, Lucas, and Mason, My mom's brother Hunter's three boys, and Uncle TJ, mom's twin brother, boys, Sawyer and Gabriel, all were at Grandma's house because all Mom's brothers went with her and Dad with their wives. It was nice having all the cousins together again. Wyatt loved it since Lucas, Asher, and I are all around the same age we got to play together. Grandpa and Grandma got the farm from Grandpa's Auntie and Uncle because they didn't have any one else to give it to. But we loved it! It was amazing. It was a whole farm. It had horses, Cows, pigs, it had the whole sabang. Grandpa let us out on the ATV's and we had a blast. Best week ever. Well a couple of months later Mom told us she was pregnant again. Big shock to all of us, even Dad. Well about 6 months later Bentley Thomas came into the world a healthy baby boy. Everything has quiet down since then. Now Wyatt and I were 18, Dillon was a happy popular 8 years old, and Bentley was a cute little 2 years old.

I gently lay kissed Bentley's head before walking out back into Mom and Dad's room. Mom smiled at me handing me the phone.

Me* Why hello there Father

Dad* Why hello there Daughter. How are you?

Me* I'm good Daddy. How are you?

Dad* I'm as good as good can be here Baby. How are your brothers? Is Wyatt doing good in school?

Me* Yes Dad he has been doing his work. I have been helping him.

Dad* And Dillon? Has he been any less 'I want to stay up and watch this'?

Me* Nope. He is still up watching the end of the SpongeBob movie right now.

Dad* Why doesn't the surprise me?

Me* Because he is as stubborn as you. It just shows he is your son.

Dad* So true. How's Bentley? Is he sleeping in his own bed?

Me* Well we got him a race car bed that he loves so much it's kind of funny. But yeah he sleeps in it now.

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Dad* Is he still trying to be like Dill?

Me* Oh of course. He tries to stay up but always passes out before it gets too late.

Dad* That's good. When I get home Dillon and I have to have a nice long talk together. So how are you baby girl?

Me* I'm okay Dad.

Dad* Just okay? Is something wrong? Have you gone to the doctor? Do I need to call your Grandfather about this?

Me* Dad calm down

Dad* Bailey Williams answer my question.

Me* Dad I'm fine. When I went to the doctor he said there was no sign of any cancer.

Dad* Good. You scared me Baby.

Me* I'm sorry. Everything is fine. I promise. Okay?

Dad* Okay. I love you. But I have to go. It's getting late and I need to sleep I have to leave in a couple of hours.

Me* Okay I love you Daddy.

Dad* I love you too Baby.

Me* Be Safe.

Dad* Yes Ma'am.

I heard the phone click as he hung up the phone. At lease I can sleep good knowing my Dad was okayâ for now.

Chapter 5: Torn in Half

I closed my eyes slamming my book shut. Why did math have to be so hard? Did they make it that way so we couldn't do it? I took a deep breath opening my eyes. "Stupid math." I muttered. I picked up my book and notebook walking out of the dining room where I usually do my homework. The TV has been off for awhile now because when the movie ended Mom shipped Dillon off to bed. I dropped my pencil making me sigh and pick it up. When I looked up Dillon was standing there in his pajamas. "Dillon what are you doing still awake?" I ask him putting my books down. His eyes filled with tears making me walk over to him to try to comfort him. "What's wrong buddy?" I know my brothers and they don't just cry for nothing.

"I can't find Bubba." I moved his hair out of his face.

"Did you ask Mom if she saw him?" He shook his head.

"Mom's sleeping and I can't find him." He started to cry.

"Shhh Dilly it's okay. I'll help you find him." I took his hand as we started to walk through the house to find my brother's little stuffed dog. Dillon can't sleep without Bubba. Mom has been trying to wean off it since he is turning 9 soon but he just snuck it, so she stopped trying for now. As time went on and we didn't find him Dillon started to cry harder. Just as we walked back into the family room something dawned on me. "Dillon where's Maxi?" Max was our almost 3 year old golden retriever that Dad got us for Christmas 2 years ago. "I don't know." He cried clutching my hand tightly. I pulled him to my room to see Max happily lying on my bed, chewing on something. I switched the light on to see Bubba in Maxi's jaws.

"Max let go." Dillon ran over grabbing at Bubba.

"Give me Bubba. Maxi no. Bad dog. Bad." He yelled pulling at the stuffed dog in our dog's mouth. Wyatt must have heard the yelling and came running in.

"No Dillon, don't pull." I said quickly but it was too late. The sound of seams ripping made Dillon stop in his tracks. In his hand was half of his stuffed animal he has had since he was a baby. I watched as the tears fell as he started to sob. Max got scared dropping the other half of Bubba and sitting up looking at Dillon. "Wyatt take Max to the laundry room and lock the door." I said picking up the halves of Bubba and hugging Dillon to me. Wyatt grabbed Max's collar and pulled him out as Dillon cried onto my shoulder.

"He killed Bubba Sissy. He killed Bubba." He cried as Wyatt came back through the door.

"It's okay Dillon I can fix him. Here Wyatt pass me my sewing kit." Wyatt handed me my little blue bag as I put both halves of Bubba together. "See all I have to do is sew right here. See." I threaded my needle and started to sew Bubba back together. Dillon watched as Bubba became one again. "See buddy, all fixed." I said getting ready to tie a knot to finish.

"No do two Sissy." I looked over at him.

"Yeah Sis you should do two, just in case." I nodded going over the line again so he didn't rip him again when he was sleeping. I finished sewing, tied the knot and handed the scruffy dog back to my little brother. He took hi, and hugged him crying.

"I'm sorry Bubba." He cried hugging him tightly.

"Come on Buddy let's get you to bed so you are ready for school tomorrow." He nodded taking my hand as I pulled him gently to his room so he could go to bed. Thankfully Bentley was still fast asleep on his bed curled up in his blankets. Dillon climbed onto his bed and laid down hugging Bubba. "Go to sleep and I will see you in the morning." I smiled kissing his head. He nodded as I pulled the blankets up as he turned onto his side, falling asleep. I walked out grabbing my textbook and notebook before walking into my room. Wyatt was cleaning up the sewing kit for me.

"Hey you did good." He smiled at me.

"Did you put Max away?" I asked putting my books down.

"Yup. He is still whining to get out and back on your bed right now." He picked up my book, opening it.

"How are you doing on this?" He asked looking up.

"It's really hard. It's taking hours to do." I sighed rubbing my forehead. He chuckled.

"That's what she said." I smacked him.

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"Get your filthy mind out of the gutter. Man Wyatt how are we related." I said rolling my eyes. He nodded. "True. So back to all seriousness, do you want some help?" He asked pulling out my pen and looking at me. I nodded. We spent the next hour doing my stupid calculus homework. When we finished it was about midnight making me rub my eyes. "Damn. I'm tired." He mumbled. I nodded in agreement. "Me too." I said laying down closing my eyes. Wyatt smiled pulling back my blankets and laying me down pulling the blankets over me. I pulled my blanket to me quickly falling asleep. I pulled into school the next day pulling my back pack out from the back seat. The North Carolina winters always cold so I was dressed in a thick hoodie that I stole from Jayden. I pulled the sleeves down so my hands weren't cold. I speed walked into school to get out of the freezing cold and looked around for Jayden as I walked to senior hall. I swear my breath left my lungs and forgot to go back in at what I saw. Jayden was standing there, face to face, arms wrapped around her waist, making out with a girl.

Chapter 6: A Stolen Hoodie

I felt the tears forming in my eyes as I stared at him. I knew we weren't dating but still. It hurt like a bitch. I took a deep breath blinking the tears away, like I always did. Never show how it really hurt. I walked over silently before clearing my throat. Jayden looked over and blushed. "Uh Hey Bailey." He said not moving his arm from around her waist.

"Yeah hi Bailey." The girl smirked at me. What hurt worse than me finding Jayden kissing someone, was it was her. Sophia was the queen of all bitches. The whore of all whores. I happily stay far away from her every chance I get.

"Jayden, Sophia." I said giving both of them a nod in a 'hello there' fashion. Jayden looked between the two of us as I stood there awkwardly.

"So the weather today." Jayden said rubbing his head.

"It's cold out." I nodded rubbing my hands, still in the sleeves of Jayden's stolen hoodie. Jayden looked down at the hoodie before raising his eye brow.

"Is that my hoodie?" Sophia looked me up and down with a disgusted look on her face.

"Maybe it is. Maybe it's not." I said raising my eye brow in return.

"Whatever Bails." He smiled shrugging.

"Sure whatever." I said rolling my eyes fixing my bag that was on my shoulder. A cool breeze blew in from the doorway as someone walked in from the door way.

"Jay-Jay I'm cold." Sophia whined tugging at Jayden's t-shirt. Jayden looked at me then at the hoodie I was now hugging to me.

"Do you think I could get that back?" He asked me. I looked down at my jacket. I have had it for like, 3 years now and he wants it back? But why? I looked up at him as Sophia looked at me with that look that was saying 'I won, you lose' in her eyes. I unzipped the hoodie and threw it at Jayden. He smiled handing it to Sophia helping her zip it up. I shook my head turning around walking away as Sophia started to kiss him again. I walked as fast as I could. I ran around the corner as fast as I could. I spotted Colt walking down the hallway looking at me as I ran. I ran straight into him holding on to him for comfort. Colt might be a complete ass hole, who is cocky, annoying, a pain in my ass, but he was like my brother and I love him. Even if he annoys the crap out of me and flirts with me all the time, I loved him.

"What's wrong?" He asked hugging me to him slipping my back pack off my shoulder. "What happened?" He whispered laying his chin on top of my head.

"He, he was kissing Queen Bitch." I whispered sniffing burying my head in Colt's warm hoodie.

"I'm sure his mom must have dropped him on his head a little too many times." He said moving me over to the side of the hall, away from the people who were starting to come in. Jenna was walking down the hall when she saw us.

"What's going on?" She asked putting her hands on her hips.

"Jayden was making out with Whore bag in front of her and he stole her hoodie." He said rubbing my thin t-shirt covered back. I looked up at him.

"How do you know he stole my hoodie that I stole from him?" I asked rubbing my eyes so you couldn't see I was really crying. Colt nodded over to the end of the hall way where Jayden was walking down with Sophia on his arm. It was gross I can tell you. She had that cheaply dyed blonde hair. By cheaply I mean you could see her black root coming in through the dye. I mean really, it's kind of weird. I turned my head back to Colt shivering in the cold air.

"Colt give the girl your hoodie." Jenna scolded him slapping his arm. He shrugged giving her a half smile taking off his hoodie and wrapping it around me tightly making me sigh.

"Ah it's warm." I smiled making both of them laugh as Wyatt came over smiling at us.

"Sup peeps." We all turned to look at him like he was crazy.

"Dude." We said at the same time making all of us start to laugh.

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"Okay, okay, hey guys. How's it going?" He asked looking around at us frowning. "Where's Jayden?" He asked.

"Hey guys." A voice called before we could answer. I rolled my eyes getting out of Colt's arms zipping up his hoodie. I looked over at Jayden came over, thankfully without Sophia on his arm.

"Hey." Colt mumbled putting his hands in his pockets.

"So I got a date tonight." He smirked looking at us. My heart dropped into my stomach. Tonight? But it's Wednesday why would he plan a date on the night we all go out?

"Sounds great." I said faking a smile at him. He nodded looking at me like nothing was happening.

"It is." He said rubbing a hand through his hair.

"Butâ " Jenna said looking around like we were all crazy for not saying anything about tonight. I just shrugged at her.

"But what Shorty?" He said raising his eye brows. Jenna frowned. She hated it when we called her short. I can't believe he just did that.

"Nothing. I just forgot that me and Bailey had to get to homeroom early because we have to drop something off." Jenna pulled me out of the group away from the guys.

"What the hell was that?" She asked looking at me as I opened my locker.

"I don't even know Jen." I sighed pulling out my books remembering that Colt had my backpack. I closed my locker walking with Jenna to her locker a little down the hall way.

"I hope he isn't like this later when we go out." She said pulling her books out.

"Let's hope he even *comes* out with us later." I shrugged walking away from her to go to homeroomâ ã ã ã

Chapter 7: Babysitting

School was somewhat uneventful from then on. Lunch I sat with Wyatt, Jenna, Colt, my younger cousin Lucas, as well as a whole other bunch of guys. Jayden did not grace us with his pain in the ass presence or his 'girlfriends' either. My cousins Lucas, my Uncle Hunter's middle son who was 18 just like Wyatt and me, came over with his brother Mason and sat with us and chatted with the guys since they were all on the football team. I was walking to my truck getting ready to go to work when I heard my phone start to ring. I opened my backpack, pulling it out looking at the screen to see who it was.

Me* Hey Mom

Mom* How did you know it was me?

Me* I do have caller ID so your picture popped up and also you have your own ring tone too.

Mom* Oh really. Know what would that be?

Me* Yours and Dad's wedding song.

Mom* Okay your off the hook.

Me* Soâ ¤ Why did you call? What do you need?

Mom* I need you to do me a big big big favor.

Me* Oh no, what do you need me to do?

Mom* I need you to go pick up your brother from day care, than pick up Dill and watch them for me.

Me* But I have to go to work Ma. Can't Aunt Emmy or Aunt Kelsey do it?

Mom* Kelsey is working and Emmy is taking Johnny to the doctor. Remember he has been coughing so she wanted to get him some cough syrup.

Me* Right sorry I forgot.

Mom* Please Bailey I really need to finish work here. I have so much to catch up on.

Me* Fine I will pick them up and bring them to the dinner with me. But please tell me your going to watch them tonight because you do remember it is Wednesday and you know what we all do every Wednesday.

Mom* Yes of course I will be able to watch them later for you. I'm sorry I had to make you watch them it just I need to finish these papers and grade homework, and I have to go a whole crap load of paper work since the marking period is almost over.

Me* Don't worry. Remember Paul said it was fine if I or Jenna ever needed to baby sit that they could just sit in the back row in the booth for our shift.

Mom* Can you feed them too? I will give Paul the money tomorrow. Oh please it will be a load off my back.

Me* Okay Mom, I will put food in their stomachs. Feel better?

Mom* Tons. Thank you so much Baileys. I should be home around 5 is that okay?

Me* 5 is good because I get off at 5 and I'm meeting the guys at the billiards place at 6.

Mom* Perfect. Okay I have to run.

Me* Okay Mom, I love you and I'll see you later.

Mom* okay, I love you too.

I hung up the phone rolling my eyes smiling. I didn't mind watching the boys it's just its Wednesday and I love to spend Wednesday's child free. "Hey Bailey wait up." I looked over my shoulder as I slipped my cell phone into my pocket. Jenna came running up to me skidding to a stop next to me.

"You okay?" I asked putting my hand on her shoulder.

"Yeah sorry." She said trying to catch her breath.

"okay What do you need Jen?" I asked looking at her unlocking my car and throwing my bag into the back.

"I don't know if I can come tonight because My mom on taking the kids till late on." I cocked my head to the side.

"So you can't come to pool tonight?" She shrugged.

"I hope I will be able to go, but I can't work because I will have Alycia and JJ with me." Alycia and JJ are Jenna's siblings. Aly is 8 and JJ is only 4.

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"Bring them. I have to bring Dillon and Bentley because my mom is working. Bring them and we can sit them together and have them eat. The old kids can do their homework and JJ and Bentley can color on some place mats and some kids' menus. It will be fun." I nodded smiling at her.

"Maybe your right. Hmmm I'll go pick them up and meet you at the dinner?" She asked walking towards her car.

"It's a date." I called out to her as I got in my truck and pulled out. I looked over at Jayden's truck giving it one last look before I drove away. I drove to the Day Care Center where Mom puts Bentley in all day till he can start kindergarten in a couple of years. He really loved it so it really was no big deal. I walked in and was soon being hugged at my legs.

"Sissy!" Bentley smiled holding his painting in his hand while his backpack was on his back.

"Hey Bubba. Come on we have to go pick up Dilly before we go to the dinner." He nodded grabbing my hand as I waved to the day care worker who worked there. I picked up Dillon from elementary and drove to the dinner while we all sang along to the radio. We walked in and I told them to wait here. "I will be right back." They nodded as Dillon took Bentley's hand and held onto it so he didn't run off. I walked to the back knocking on Paul's door. Paul owned the place, so he was my lovely boss.

"Come in." He called. I opened the door and closed it. It was a small office but it was nice. Paul looked up from his paperwork and smiled at me. "Hey Kid, what's you need?" He said taking his glasses off.

"I was hoping you could cut me some slack and let my brothers sit in the back booth that no one sits at. I would love you forever if you did because my mom needed me to watch them and I had to work, Wyatt is at football practice and Dad's still away." I rambled making him laugh.

"Don't worry about it Bails. Sit them down. They can stay there for as long as you need them to be. Don't fret over the little things. You and your father have that in common. You worry over the littlest thing." He smiled leaning back in his chair. You see Paul and my Dad were platoon brothers for about 8 years. Paul got hurt while he was away and almost got killed. He says my Daddy saved his life when we got him to a hospital. So you see Paul knows my family, and how hard it is to be a military family since he is married with 2 little girls. There sweethearts. SO when I came looking for a job, the minute I said I wanted a job he said you're hired. Well that was when I was 16, 2 years ago. I have been working here ever since.

"Yeah yeah whatever." I smiled rolling my eyes. "Can I also feed them? Ma said she could give you the money tomorrow." I said putting my hands in my pockets.

"Sure, tell her not to worry about it." He chuckled. "Jenna's little ones coming too?" I nodded.

"Yeah her mom can't watch them so I said to not miss work and just bring them since I brought Dill and Bentley." He nodded.

"That is best." He said with a thoughtful look. He looked at his watch. "Well you better get to work. I will talk to you later Sweetheart." He smiled getting back to his paperwork.

"Got it Mr. Bossy." I giggled walking back to the boys. They were right where I left them so I guided them to the 8 person booth.

"Okay guys I need you to stay here while I work. Dillon if he needs to go to the bathroom I need you to find me or Jenna when she gets here okay? Just so we know where you are. Bentley you can color okay? You have your book." He nodded pulling out his big coloring book. I looked at Dillon. "Do your homework buddy and when Jenna gets here you and Alycia can do it together." He smiled pulling out his math book.

"Okay sis. I love you." I kissed his forehead.

"Love you too goofball." I smiled walking into the back to get ready to start work. ! ! !

Chapter 8: Double Bacon Deluxe Burger

I put down Bentley's chicken tenders in front of him making him look away from his half colored picture. "Yummy Sissy." He smiled at me reaching to grab one of the waffle fries.

"No Ben, wait till they are a little cooler so you don't burn yourself." He looked up at me and pouted.

"But I don't want to wait." He said as Dillon started to dig into his cheese burger.

"Okay but eat your chicken first, its cooler." I smiled putting some ketchup on his plate.

"Okay Sissy." He put a chicken tender in his mouth taking a bite of it. I shook my head as he spit it out pulling a face.

"Owie." He said as tears formed in his eyes. I looked around before sliding in next to him.

"I told you it was hot. Here try this." I dipped the bitten chicken piece in the ketchup and put it to his mouth. He bit it and nodded enjoying it. "Better buddy?" He nodded taking the chicken out of my hand before he dipped it in the ketchup.

"Better." I kissed his head before getting out of the booth. Jenna walked up to me holding her little brother JJ's hand.

"Hey Bud, how are you?" I smiled at him as Alycia got into the booth next to Dillon and put her bag down.

"I'm good Bailey. Look Bentley I got a new coloring book." He said getting into the booth showing Bentley the book. Jenna rolled her eyes as we walked away from the kids.

"So can you come to pool tonight?" I asked looking at the clock since I was on break right now.

"Yeah. My mom said she should be back by then." She nodded as she walked back to the staff room to get changed. I walked back to the table with the kids and got what Alycia and JJ wanted for dinner and went to the kitchen to go get it. When I came back Martha looked at me.

"Sweetheart, breaks over back to work. Table 6 needs waitressing." I nodded walking over to the table.

"Hi my names Bailey and I will be your server today. Are you guys ready?" I looked at the two guys sitting looking at menus.

"Hmm can we have two beers please?" He asked looking up.

"Yeah sure. Let me go get someone to get them for you." I smiled walking off to get one of the other waitresses that were over 21 to go get the guys there beers. I couldn't find anyone to get it so I went to Paul. He looked up as I knocked on his door.

"Two visits in one day. What do I get for this lovely grace of your presence?" He smiled at me.

"I need you to go get two beers for table 6." He nodded.

"Sure can do Baby Doll." He nodded walking out of the office as I brought Alycia and JJ there food. Aly smiled at me as I put her food down.

"Thank you." She smiled before looking back at Dillon who was showing off to her. I walked back over to the table with the two guys.

"Okay you guys ready to order?" I asked looking at the two of them. They were twins, you could tell. Well them looking exactly like the other might give it away. But just saying.

"Well here is our dilemma. All of this food sounds really good and the pictures look good so we don't know what to choose. What do you suggest?" The one on the left asks.

"Well what are you looking to see? Ribs, burgers, kids Mac and cheese? Maybe a wrap or a sandwich? I don't class you boys as looking for a salad." I laughed to my left. Most girls would be all over these two. They had brown shaggy hair that looked like they really needed a haircut, and these amazing piercing blue eyes that I swear were going to make me go to mush. Don't forget they are fit. They both have to have six packs under their t-shirts.

"Oh burgers sound amazing right now. Which one do you like?" The one on the right asked almost raising his eye brows.

"Well you see I'm more of a bacon person so I used to go with the bacon cheese burger but then they come out with my personal heaven. So I get the double bacon deluxe with waffle fries. It has double bacon and double

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cheese with some of the dinners 'secret' sauce on it. Then me and my brother split a side of onion rings." I closed my eyes just thinking about it. Man I'm hungry now. I opened my eyes to look at the guys who were now staring at me. "What?" I asked putting my hands on my hips.

"I have never heard of a girl eating that much." The left one said. "Man you can eat and your blonde." He shook his head.

"Just because I'm a Blondie doesn't mean anything." I huffed. They both laughed.

"I'm Taylor and this is my brother Skylar." The one on the left smiled at me bring out a dimple.

"As I said before I'm Bailey, I guess the Blondie." Taylor, the one on the left, chuckled.

"Well we can see that Blondie." Skylar smiled at me looking back at his menu. "Okay I can't get the burger out of my head. Can I have one of those please?" He asked closing his menu.

"Sure, and for you?" I asked looking at Taylor. He studied the menu before looking up at me.

"Yeah one of those burgers, but no pickles, and can I have honey mustard on the side with my waffle fries?" He said closing his menu handing it to me. I chuckled. "What?" He asked scrunching up his noses as I wrote down what he wanted.

"That's exactly how I eat it." I smiled before walking away from the two guys to put their orders in. Taylor stared at my retreating figure before taking a swing of his beer. "Dude come on, just ask her for her number." Skylar said staring at his brother.

"Dude don't even go there. Not after last time." He sighed looking out of the window of the dinner. Taylor and Skylar

Chapter 9: Got To Go Potty

I walked over to the table with the Taylor and Skylar's food. "Here you go guys. Here is yours," I said putting down his burger in front of Skylar. "And here is yours, no pickles, and honey mustard on the side." I put the plate down in front of Taylor. "And here is your onion rings." I smiled putting them in the middle. "Can I get you guys anything else?" They looked at each other.

"No I think we're-" Bentley ran up to me and pulled on my pants making me look down. "Fine." They said looking at him. I picked him up.

"What's up Bud?" I asked him as he looked around.

"I got to go potty Sissy." He whined. I looked at the guys.

"Um, I'll be back in a little while to check on you guys." I smiled before walking away with Bentley. "Do you want to come into the girlie room with me Ben, or into the boy's room with Dilly?" I asked him moving his blonde hair out of his eyes.

"I want to go to the girlie rooms." He said pointing to where the bathrooms are. Jenna walked past me.

"Jen can you watch my tables for a minute I need to take Ben to the bathroom." She nodded.

"Sure." She said going back her tables. I helped Bentley go potty and made him wash his hands, before I washed my hands. I put him down and he ran off back to the booth all the kids were at. I smiled and went to serve my other tables.

"Man Tay, maybe you're wrong." Skylar said taking a bite of his burger. "Man this is good." He said chewing and swallowing. Taylor shook his head before he looked over to where I was serving a customer another table.

"I just don't know any more Sky." He sighed taking a big swing of his beer. He looked at it. "Damn I'm done. Are you driving?" Skylar nodded eating an onion ring. Taylor looked around for me. "Ma'am." I stopped and looked at him.

"What can I get up?" I smiled.

"Can I get another beer?" He asked me. I nodded.

"Sure let me go get it for you." I walked over to Martha to have her get it since it has quieted down as it got a little later.

"Tay come on you can't take your eyes off her." Skylar said stealing some of his brother's honey mustard. Taylor looked at him.

"I have not." He said in a quiet voice. Skylar shook his head.

"Dude I am your twin brother. I know you might not like it, but I'm in your head. You like her. I know it." Taylor looked at him.

"Screw off Sky." He said as Martha put the beer down before walking away. "I don't want to hear it right now." He took a swing from his beer.

"I'm just trying help you out Bro." Skylar said throwing a waffle fry at him. Taylor just shook his head and ate his burger.

I ended my shift happily and changed back into my jeans and t-shirt. I went to the table where the kids were and smiled. JJ and Bentley were coloring a picture as Alycia was blushing as Dillon talked to her. "Come one Kiddies it's time to go home." I smiled Jenna walked over ready to go.

"Yeah come one Aly and JJ, we have to leave now." All the kids packed up their stuff and got ready to leave, as they already finished eating.

"Come come you little monsters." I laughed As Dillon walked in front of me. I held Bentley as he was getting tired. I strapped Bent into my truck in the back and let Dillon sit in front as I drove onto base.

"Now what can I help you with Ma'am?" The marine smiled at me at the gate.

"I don't know maybe get on base?" I smirked at the marine. He looked at me.

"Well you look like you're going to hurt someone so let me see some ID Ma'am." I pulled out my ID and handed it to him.

"Here you go." I said. He nodded.

"Hmmm I don't know you might have to step out of the car." He said putting his hand on his gun.

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"Asher let me in you big idiot." I said smacking his cheek lightly. He smirked.

"Hey Dill. Hey Bent." He smiled at them. I rolled my eyes as he signed for the gate to open.

"Hi Ashy." Bentley mumbled from his half sleep state. Asher smiled tapping the car.

"See you soon twerp." I rolled my eyes at him before driving home. Dillon ran into the house as I got Bentley out of the car. I smiled as I picked up his teddy bear that he slept with. Yes all my brothers and sisters at one time slept with a comfort abject. I know I still have my blanket, even when I'm 18. I took Bentley inside the house and laid him gently onto his bed. He curled up onto his lion king sheets. I moved him so his head was on the pillow. He hugged his raggedy teddy to him. I smiled pulling the blanket over him. I walked out back into the living room as Wyatt walked in, fresh from a shower. Mom smiled coming in from the kitchen.

"Thank you so much Bailey for watching them tonight it was a life saver." She sighed kissing my head.

"Don't worry about it mom it was easy. Anyway JJ and Alycia were there and they stayed together. Bentley is sleeping so he should be good for awhile." I nodded.

"You ready?" Wyatt asked as he put on his sweatshirt.

"Yeah I just have to get one of my hoodies from my room." I said walking off to get a hoodie since I gave Colt's his bad after school.

"What happened to the one you had from Jayden?" He asked as he started to drive to the billiards place that we always go to just off base.

"He took it back." I said looking out the window. Wyatt looked at me before back at the road, knowing I really didn't want to talk about itâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

Chapter 10: 25 dollars

Billiards wasn't usually as crowded as it usually was that is why we always came on Wednesday. But today it was packed. Almost every table was full with men and woman playing pool. We walked up to the counter. "Hey Bernie, what's going on?" I asked pulling my hoodie sleeves up. He looked up at us from where he was cleaning some old pool balls.

"Hey Kids, I didn't think you would be coming today." He said pulling the ball back.

"We always come on Wednesdays." Colt said putting a hand on my shoulder, as he held Jenna to him.

"Yeah but with the tournament going on I just thought you could go bowling or something." My eyes widened.

"The tournament is today?" I asked smacking my forehead as he nodded. "Fuck I thought that was next week."

"Nope. It's today, sorry." He said giving me a half smile.

"Well do you have a table for us?" Wyatt asked him with a hopeful look. Bernie gave him a disapproving look.

"I have known you kids since your fathers first brought you here to play. Of course I saved you a table. Any way Bailey always calls if you guys aren't coming." He smirked taking a set of balls out from under the counter and handing them to us. "You know I still got some spots left in the tournament if you're interested." He said leaning on the counter to look at the 4 of us. "Win gets 500 dollars and the trophy." He said wiggling his eye brows. I looked over at the trophy. He knew I loved that thing. My eyes were fixated on the golden metal that it was. I have wanted it since it came in last week. You see when I was 15 I wanted to buy a car so I got a job. When I saw it was going to take a long time I got another one. Here. I loved to come here and Bernie has known me for a long time. I could come in on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Thursday night and Monday night. I work at the dinner on Monday afternoon after school to 6, Then Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. I know I work a lot, but I like it. It keeps my mind off a lot of things that I don't want to think about. I only work from 6 to 8 on Mondays, and 3 to 8 the rest of the time. It keeps good money in my bank account, and I liked to have money. Just in case something happened. Or I got sick again. But not know, that's a story for another time. "Come on Kid, I know you want it." I swallowed nervously and looked at Wyatt.

"You want to give it a shot?" I asked Wyatt. He shrugged.

"It's it too late to join. Don't you have to do this an hour ago?" Wyatt asked looking at the poster. Wyatt worked here on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday during football season. He didn't work Mondays or Thursday s because he had football practice, and Fridays he had games. I usually go to them then go back to work. Bernie said its fine because he knew Wyatt and knew how much it meant to him to see me there. On the off season he worked here every day. Joy, I know.

"Boy, you and your sister have been working for me for almost 2 years. I have known you since you were both babies and would come in with your father when they all come out to play. They, and I, have taught you everything you twins know. You come here every Wednesday to play, your good. I trust both of you will get far. So a yes or no?" He said looking at us.

"Yeah, I'm in how much?" I said taking my wallet out from my back pocket.

"1,000 dollars." He smirked opening his hand. I stopped and looked at him.

"Not funny, how much?" I was glaring at him not. He chuckled.

"50 dollars for a team Sweetheart." I looked at Wyatt.

"You in?" I asked him. He nodded pulling out his wallet.

"Yeah might as well." He chuckled pulling out a 20 and 5 singles and handed it to Bernie. I rolled my eyes handing over my 25 dollars before I put my wallet back into my pocket. Bernie handed us a set of balls.

"Go to your table and practice. Colt and Jenna you guys can still play after the tournament starts. Don't worry about it." We nodded taking the balls and walking over to the last empty pool table. My phone started to vibrate in my pocket. "Colt break, I will be right back. If I'm not Jenna just take my turn." Jenna was on my team this time. I walked into the bathroom and answered my phone.

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Colt looked at the time on his phone. "You think she is okay?" He said looking at the girl's bathroom door. "Do you think want me to go see if she is alright?" Jenna asked looking at Wyatt as he hit a striped ball into the left third pocket. Wyatt shook his head putting the down of his pool stick on the ground so it went up to about his waist.

"We should just leave her to her thoughts it could be important. You never know." He said going for another ball.

"I don't know maybe I should just go check." Jenna said trailing off still looking at the bathroom door.

"Don't worry Jenna. Come on it's your turn." He said standing up letting her get to the white ball.

Me* Hey Jay that's great.

Jay* I know it was amazing Bails. Like magic. Hey where are you? Your cars not at the dinner? I thought you worked till 8? Are you home?

Me* No I'm with Wyatt doing something for my Mom. Don't worry.

Jay* Aw I was going to come over and tell you more. You know the parts that I can't tell you over the phone.

Me* I'll be home later and I'll -

Jay* Sweet its Sophia I got to take this.

With that he hung up the phone, not even letting me finish my sentence. I shut my phone and sighed. I stood up from where I was sitting leaning on one of the bathroom walls. I walked out back to the pool table as Jenna looked at me. "You okay?" I nodded looking around the room at some of the people I would be playing against tonight. My eyes landed on a newly familiar pair of piercing blue eyes.

Chapter 11: Good Luck Blondie

I couldn't help but chuckle at him. Him as in Taylor from the dinner. Skylar looked over at me and laughed as I waved at them. He winked at me as I took my shot after Colt went. "Hey Bailey when are you going to go pick up Harley?" Colt asked as Wyatt took his shot.

"I get to pick him up at 6 o'clock tomorrow. I cannot wait." I smiled. Harley was my Rottweiler. You see I have to pick him from the air plane landing tomorrow since he has been training at Camp Pendleton with some M.P.s and other dogs. You see Ley-ley is a service dog. He works with Dad when he is deployed. But since Harley sadly got hurt he couldn't go on the last deployment with Dad, but he's better now and he is coming home. Harley is my dog. When he is home he is mine. I take him out for walks, feed him, he sleeps with me, cuddles me when I'm sad. I love him. That's why Dad got Max. Dillon and Bentley wanted to have Harley so Dad got them Max, sadly he is still in his puppy stage and since Harley isn't putting him in his place he is going crazy. I can't wait to have my baby home.

"So are you going to pick him up after work or is your Mom?" He asked.

"Nope I am picking him up before school. I'm going to go for a run with him than go to school." I nodded as people started to crowd around the tournament table.

"You're going to leave him in your truck?" He said raising his eyes brow. I nodded.

"Harley loves to lay in the back with some blankets. I take him out during lunch then take him home since I have my free after lunch." I nodded as Bernie came jogging over to us.

"Come on Bails, you and Wyatt are up." I nodded.

"Okay be there in a minute. Let me get Wyatt." He nodded jogging back over. I walked over to Wyatt grabbing his pool stick making him look at me.

"What?" He asked looking at me.

"Come on we have a game to play." He nodded as we walked over to the table.

"Took you two long enough." Bernie said as we walked into the circle were the table was.

"Yeah yeah whatever old man." I snapped at him playfully. He rolled his eyes at me.

"Okay so I want a clean pool game no cheating. We all know the room here." He nodded looking at the four of us. 4 as in Wyatt and me and the two guys we were playing.

"Well maybe you should tell them because this is going to be a easy win." One of the guys laughed. I looked at Bernie.

"Bernie." I said nodding at them.

"I said a clean game so shut your mouth or you two are out. Do I make myself clear?" They nodded. "That's what I thought. Okay Bailey brake." Bernie said setting it up. I walked past Taylor and Skylar who were in the crowd. Taylor leaned down so I could feel his warm breath on my neck.

"Good luck Blondie." He chuckled making me shudder. I looked up at him and rolled my eyes leaning down to brake. I hit the white ball sending it into the other balls in the triangle on the table. The balls went everywhere. Two striped ones made it into the sockets on the corners of the table. I over and winked at the guy looking at me in disbelief.

"Oh this is going to be fun." Was all I giggledâ lâ lâ lâ ;

We were about half way done with the contest when I decided to call Mom.

Mom* Hello?

Me* Hey Mom.

Mom* Oh Hi sweetie how is pool?

Me* It's fun. I miss Dad was here though.

Mom* I know Baby but he will soon. I'm sure of it.

Me* Yeah I know Mom.

Mom* So what's up Sweetheart?

Me* Well I was just calling to say that we are going to be home later than we had planned.

Mom* Okay, I'll bite, why are you staying later?

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Me* Well you know that pool contest Bernie always holds that Dad played in?

Mom* Yeah, of course your Father was a sore loser after he lost last year. I must say it was funny. But why are you bringing that up?

Me* Well we came here today and it was today so Bernie said we could get into it.

Mom* Oh that's awesome honey! Are you and Jayden winning?

Me* Ha that's the funny part, it's not Jayden. He had a 'date' today so it's just me and Wyatt.

Mom* Oh sweetheart, I'm sorry.

Me* Don't worry about it. But me and Wyatt are doing really good.

Mom* That's good sweetie, just don't be home too late it is a school night and remember you are picking up Harley tomorrow at 6 right. Cause you know if you don't want to go there at 6 your Uncle Jesse said that he could take Harley home for us.

Me* No, no, no I am going to get him. I haven't seen him for like 3 weeks now and I miss my puppy.

Mom* Okay News flash Bailey, Harley is not a puppy.

Me* To me he is.

Mom* Okay Sweetheart I trust you.

Me* You think I'm crazy don't you.

Mom* A little but I know you get it from your father.

"Bailey come on you have another match to play." Bernie called. I nodded.

"Be there in a minute." I called back with my hand over the phone speaker.

Mom* Got to go?

Me* Yeah Mom, Wyatt and have another game to play.

Mom* Okay Baby. I love you and wake me up when you get in so I know you two are safe.

Me* Okay Mom. I love you

Mom* I love you too.

Me* Bye.

Mom* Bye.

I hung up the phone running back to get into the games.....

Chapter 12: Gravities Hands

"Okay now we are on the last game of the night. Now we have Wyatt and Bailey vs. Taylor and Skylar." Bernie said. I looked at Wyatt as he looked at the two guys. I couldn't help but laugh.

"Wyatt come on we kick ass." I smiled bumping my shoulder with his. Most people have left since it was getting really late. So it was really about 10 people were still here. Taylor laughed.

"Sure Blondie, I want to see that." He laughed. I rolled my eyes at him.

"I could kick your ass." I laughed. He raised his eye brows.

"Okay let's make this more fun. If you win I will take you out for dinner." He said putting his hand out for me to shake.

"And in the really small change that you win because I got too tired to play, what do you get?" I asked at Bernie set up the triangle for us to start the game with. He put his hand to his chin rubbing the line of stubble.

"When I win you give me 20 dollars and I get your number." He gave me a half smile.

"Let me thinkâ a free dinner? You're on." I laughed getting ready to break. Wyatt shook his head as the game started. We were almost done. It was tied. I must say Taylor and Skylar were pretty good at playing pool. They had two striped balls left when we only had a solid 2 to get in to win. I got the 2 in easily and now all I have left to go is get the 8 ball in and not scratch like I usually do under pressure. I took a deep breath and looked at Wyatt. He smiled, telling me with his eyes 'you can do this'. I nodded looking back at the ball with the perfect angle to get it into the right middle pocket. I hit the ball sending the 8 ball in. The white ball kept going making it silent in the room. This was the last thing that ended the game. If the white ball goes in, we lose. If it doesn't, we win. The fate of the rest of the game was in gravities hands. I watched the white ball as it got closer and closer to the hole tillâ it stopped. Right before it was going to fall into the pocket. We won. I looked at Wyatt as a smile spread across his face, from ear to ear. Dad was going to be so proud of us. We won! We won! Bernie gamed as Wyatt hugged me. This was amazing. We won! The rest happened in a blur as Bernie gave Wyatt and me the check for 500 dollars and took our picture. He handed the trophy to Wyatt as I walked over to Skylar and Taylor.

"Nice job Bailey, you really can play." Skylar smiled shaking my hand.

"Thanks you're not so bad yourself." I chuckled. I looked at Taylor as he itched his neck. "Good game?" I asked putting my hand out for him to shake. He smiled taking my hand and shaking it.

"I guess. But I don't see how we lost to a Blondie and her team mate." He chuckled making me smile.

"Well he isn't my team mate, he is my big brother." I shrugged at him putting my hands in my pockets.

"Big brother?" He asked as the corners of his mouth pulled up a little higher.

"Twin brother really." I nodded checking the time on my phone. Man it was late, like almost 3 o'clock. Now I had to be on the air way at 6 to pick up Harley, which is in 3 hours and I still haven't slept. Great.

"Hmmm Twins vs. Twins kind of funny if you ask me." He said as we all started to walk out of the place since Bernie wants to go home.

"No the funny part is Twins won." I laughed as we got to Wyatt's truck.

"So about that dinnerâ .." He trailed off making me look at him.

"You don't have to take me if you don't want to its fine. I understand." I nodded disappointed. Taylor put a hand on my shoulder.

"Hey that wasn't what I was going to say. I haven't really been around here so I don't know any good places other than that dinner you work at. I was wondering if you have any ideas." I looked up into his piercing blue eyes.

"Uhâ I know a couple that are on the broad walk that many people don't really go to since it's the winter time and they think is freezing." I chuckled. Taylor looked at me like I was crazy.

"Blondie it is freezing." He chuckled rubbing his hands together. I shrugged.

"I don't feel it." I giggled at his red cheeks.

"So how about for dinner I give you my number so we can plan it when we both aren't so tired." He said shivering.

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"I will take your number on one condition." He looked at me.

"What would that condition be Blondie?"

"Only if you take my number too." He chuckled.

"I guess I'll take your number. But only because I have to." He winked at me pulling out his car keys getting ready to go home.

"Well if you say it like that I might not even give you my number. Maybe I take that condition back." I shrugged playfully folding my arms.

"Okay, okay, I would love your number Blondie so I can love it forever and ever." He smiled at me happily.

"Whatever." I rolled my eyes chuckling again as I pulled out a pen and took hold of Taylor's hand. I pulled up his hoodie sleeve and wrote my number on his arm. I put Blondie with a little smiley face next to it above the number. Taylor stole the pen from my hand and did the same for me pulling up my hoodie sleeve and wrote his number on my arm. He smiled handed me my pen back.

"I better get going its pretty late. I guess I'll talk to you soon?" He asked hopefully.

"Yeah soon." I nodded hoping into Wyatt's truck, not able to wipe the smile off my faceâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !.

Chapter 13: A Billion Pictures

Wyatt and I crept into the house quietly since it was about 3.30 in the morning. I walked into Dad's office that no one ever went into when he wasn't home. I looked around slowly. No one ever had the heart to come in here anymore till Dad got home. It felt wrong. I looked around at all the pictures Dad hung up since we lived here. It was amazing at how many pictures of Wyatt and Me were in here. Every year Mom would take a picture and he would keep it. Now 18 years was a lot, and with all the other events that hung on the walls and in photo frames on his desk and on the book shelf. It was overwhelming sometimes. But I wouldn't change it. It shows that Dad really loved us, all of us. I put the trophy down on the desk next to his computer and turned the lights off, feeling like I needed out. I needed to try to forget that Dad was over 4,000 miles away from here. I needed to forget that he may not come home. I just needed to worry about myself right now. I shouldn't be worrying about this. I needed sleep. I rubbed my eyes before making my way out of the office. I shut the door tight, so Max wouldn't get in and be his puppy self and made my way to my bed room. I looked into the boys' room to see them happily asleep, not worrying about anything. The biggest worry Bentley has is what crayon he will use tomorrow at Day Care, or what sleeping mat with he sleep on. How I missed being his age.

Not a care. Not a worry. Doesn't have to worry about how he could be in love with his best friend, or how his best friend has the bitchiest, dumbest, annoying girl in the school as a girlfriend. Or how tomorrow he is going to have to sit through listening about how 'great' their date was. Or how his best friend got 'lucky' last night when he had plans to play pool with us. Nope. Bentley didn't have to worry about that. All he worried about was if he was going to catch the cooties from the girls if he touched them. Boy what I would give to be his age again. I smiled as I saw Max cuddled up my Dillon's feet but lifting his head to look at me. I sighed even though I wish I could do something else than have to go to school tomorrow, well today, I know I had to go to bed so I could be okay to go get Harley in about 2 hours. I closed the door and made my way to my room. I striped and slipped into some pajamas before laying down on my bed ready to go to sleep. I closed my eyes slipping into the memories from when I was younger and everything was simple.

I woke up two hours later to Nickelback blasting from my alarm clock speakers. I turned over shutting it off getting up rubbing my eyes. 5.30. I quickly got into a pair of running things grabbing a change of clothes and my gym bag so I could shower at school. I put it over my shoulder as I walked out of my bedroom into and into the kitchen. "I made you some coffee to take with you so you won't fall asleep while you are driving to get him since you got about my guess 2 or less hours of sleep last night." Mom smiled at me handing me a big coffee mug.

"Thanks Mom." I said weakly rubbing my still tired eyes. I pulled on my thicker hoodie since it was cold out.

"Maybe you should put on something thicker than that Bailey it is pretty cold outside today and I don't want you to get sick." She said handing me a nice warm bagel with cream cheese.

"No I will be fine I have on my under armor on so I will be nice and warm while I run with Harley later." I nodded taking a bite.

"Okay sweetheart. I put a hold bunch of blankets in the back of your truck for Harley while you're at school so I'm sure he will be fine till you get out to bring him home." She nodded. I looked at her.

"Thanks Mom you're the best. I love you but I should get going so I'm not late." I smiled kissing her cheek before I ran out to my car throwing my bag onto the passenger seat before I started to make my way to the air plane lanes on the far side of base. I got there just as the Marine Corp C-17 made its way onto the air way. I pulled my truck to a stop and watched as the doors dropped and Marines started to unload the aircraft. I got out of my truck and waited to see Harley, my beloved puppy. Next thing I know I see him. Harley was bog, I must say. He was up to my waist and scared many people. He was a Rottweiler. I wouldn't blame them. Harley was trained to kill. He worked side by side with my Dad on the last three deployments. But after his little accident he couldn't go on the last one but he was all better now. The marine who had Harley's leash looked around till he saw me. He smiled at me. Harley saw me and started to bark. He was jumping trying to get free to run over to me. I smiled getting down. "Come here boy, come here." I smiled as his tongue fell to the left side of his mouth as he barked at me. The marine let him go as he ran as fast as he could to get to me. I

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put my arms around him as he licked my face jumping on me wanting to be pet. I rubbed him down as I took off his marine jacket that he wore when we was working.

"Aw Harley I missed you so much." I cried hugging him as he wagged his stump of a tail at me. I hugged him close to me as he calmed down as licked me. I put on his family collar, putting his work harness into my pocket. I clipped on his lease standing up as he jumped around. "Ready to go for a run Harley?" He barked at me making a dash for my car turning back to see if I was coming before coming back to my side as I walked to the car letting him in. I got in making my way to school where I was leaving my truck as I had a long overdue run with my favorite running partnerâ lâ !

Chapter 14: Showers Hate Me

I walked back over to the car panting. Harley sat next to me panting looking up at me. I smiled leaning down to pet his head. "You are my best friend Harley." I smiled as he barked.

"Oh thanks and what am I?" I heard behind me. I turned on my heels to see Jayden standing there laughing. "Your Jayden duh." I smirked at him. He rolled his eyes.

"Gee thanks Bails I am happy I mean so much to you." He laughed petting Harley's head. Harley whined at me getting as far away from Jayden as we could without leaving my side. I looked at him confused as he nudged my leg with his head. "What's up with him?" Jay asked as I opened my truck door.

"I'm not sure. Maybe he is just cold." I said looking down at Harley like he had something to tell me. I know it must mean something because Harley does not do this. I patted the blankets in my truck. "Up Harley." I said. He of course followed command and jumped up onto the blankets looking at Jayden weighing up if he should growl at him.

"What is up with him Bailey?" Jayden asked as I grabbed my gym bag and back pack from my truck losing the door. Harley sat looking at me whimpering as I started to walk away. "Bailey?" I looked at him.

"What?"

"Never mind." He huffed walking next to me as we walked into school.

"Where's Sophia?" I asked trying to keep the disgust out of my voice.

"Probably still sleeping. You know girls need their beauty, not like I think she needs it." He smiled to himself before he looked at me. "You could use some though." He smirked. I don't know what was worse from that. The fact he said Sophia didn't need it or the fact that he said I needed some. I stopped and looked at him. He stopped a little while down to see I wasn't next to him. "Bailey come on." He sighed annoyed I had stopped. I looked at him, not seeing my best friend anymore. I shook my head turning down a different hallway to get away from him. I was fighting tears as I ran into the girl's locker room for a shower before class. I turned on the hot water and waited for it to heat up as I started to strip. I looked down confused as I saw 698 com out from under my under amour. My eyes widened as I ran and grabbed my phone. I almost lost Taylor's number. I typed it in breathe a sigh of relief as I didn't lose his number. I put my phone back into my bag and ran to get in my shower. I slipped as I got in banging my head on the tiled wall as well as the handle of the shower. I slid down the wall holding my head in agony as the hot water hit my back.

I took a deep breath and looked up at the shower head, closing my eyes letting the hot water pour over my face. I slowly took another deep breath and washed my hair and body as fast as I could as my head and left eye throbbed uncontrollably. I stepped out of the shower wrapping my cold towel around my warm cold sending a shiver down my spine. I walked over to my bag grabbing my t-shirt and jeans and walking into the changing room to change. I walked out to look at myself in the mirror. Oh crap. I could see the dark bruise already starting to form on my forehead right above the lovely black eye I got from where it hit right into the shower handle. I put my hand to my head trying to stop the horrible throbbing from the headache I now have. I brushed my hair before pulling on my new hoodie. I pulled out my tooth brush putting some nice minty tooth paste on it and started to brush my teeth. My cell phone started to ring making me stop, pull the tooth brush from my mouth and answer it.

Me* Hello?

Jenna* Where are you? I just got to school and saw your car.

Me* I'm in the locker room.

Jenna* Okay I'll be there in a couple of minutes.

I hung up my phone going back to brushing my teeth as Jenna walked into the little bathroom locker area outside the shower. I looked over at her and smiled as I spit into the sink. "Hey."

"Hey Bail- Oh My God what happened to your face?" She said running over to turn my chin so she could get a good look at my eye.

"Showers don't like me so it tripped me and caused me to bang my head." I said pulling all my stuff away.

Jenna grabbed my chin again making me look at her.

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"Your lip is split too." I looked at myself in the mirror.

"Now how in hell's name it that happen?" I asked myself looking at the glob of blood on my lip from where it split. I wiped it off on a tissue that Jenna handed me.

"Are you sure no one hit you?" She asked raising her eye brow as I finished packing up.

"Jenna I promise you on every dollar in my bank account that no one hit me. I feel in the shower and smacked my head on the handle." She sighed and nodded.

"Okay but if I catch wind that someone did hit you I want every single dollar in there." She smirked. I rolled my eyes as her, making the throbbing hurt so much more.

"Do you have any Advil or Tylenol on you I have the mother of all headaches right now." I sighed rubbing the side of my head.

"Yeah here." She said pulling a packet of Tylenol from her purse. I cut it open and put the pills into my mouth and gulping them down with the rest of my water bottle. I smiled as the cold water slid down my throat making me smile.

"Thanks." I smiled as I grabbed my back pack and gym bag and closed my eyes to see if my head hurt a little less. Nope. Great.

"Ready?" She asked putting a hand on my arm.

"Yeah, let's get this over with." I sighed walking out with her.

Chapter 15: Thump

I walked with Jenna over to Colt as he turned to smile at us. "Hey g- Bailey what happened to your face?" He gently took my face in his hand turning my face to the side moving my hair away from my face.

"I smacked it into the shower." I sighed flinching away as he tried to touch it.

"That must have been a nasty hit if it just happened." He said tucking my hair behind my ear. "You okay? Does it hurt?" I shrugged.

"A little." I sighed as he took my bags from me.

"You should go to the nurse and get that checked out. It looks pretty bad." He said as he kissed Jenna. I shrugged opening my locker to grab my books.

"Bailey maybe he's right. You should get the nurse, or even the trainer to look at you." Jenna said snuggling into Colts side.

"I'm fine Jen, don't worry. Come on let's get to homeroom." I closed my locker walking off. Everyone noticed the dark marks on my face and they loved to point them out. I ignored them most of the time but it was really getting to me. I wanted to snap at everyone right now but no, I didn't. I was the bigger person. Lunch came fast, thank god. It was like someone was shoving splinters under my finger nails. I could not wait for this day to be over with. I kept rubbing my eyes, since they were burning. I had my hoodie hood up as I walked into the lunch room. My head was pounded uncontrollably as I walked over to get some food. I grabbed a cheese burger and fries as well as half of a cream cheesed bagel before grabbing a Dr. Pepper.

"7.50." She said pushing the buttons on the cash register. I pulled out my wallet ready to give her a 10 dollar bill as a hand stopped. I looked up as Jayden pulled a 20 out of his wallet handing it to the girl. She nodded putting it in the cash register. "12.50 is your change." I watched him as he stuffed the money into his wallet before shoving it into his pocket again. I looked at him not knowing what to say as I held the tray my food was on.

"You coming?" He said in a quiet voice. I nodded walking next to him looking at my sneakers so I didn't hurt myself anymore than I already did. He walked us over to the others not saying a word as we sat down next to each other.

"So Jayden where's Sophia?" Wyatt asked eating his sandwich.

"Sitting with her friends I'm sure." He shrugged looking at me. I looked down taking some ketchup and squirting it on my burger and fries. I took a big bite of food not wanting to look up at him. Wyatt and Colt were deep in conversation about the school football game that was tomorrow. Jenna looked at me.

"You okay? You look kind of pale. Does your head hurt?" She asked.

"No Mom I'm fine." I smiled at her. She rolled her eyes at me.

"You are going to the game right Bails?" Wyatt asked stealing a French fry and dunking it into the ketchup.

"Yeah Bernie gave me the day off tomorrow to see you play." I nodded putting my burger down to rub my burning eyes again. I flinched as I touched my black eye, but played it off as I was fine before going back to eating my lunch.

"Good. You're playing tomorrow right Jay?" I looked up from under my hood to look at Jayden. He shrugged.

"I should be. Unless coach says he doesn't want me to play." Jay looked at me but I looked away before he could get a good look at me. I put my bagel into my pocket not wanting to eat it yet. I finished off my food before getting ready to put my tray back.

"I'll be back in a minute." I said standing up to throw my trash away.

"Bailey can I talk to you for a minute alone." He said looking at me. I nodded.

"Sure come with me than we will talk in the hall." I grabbed my back pack and my garbage as Jayden followed me. I threw out my trash and walked to the door of the lunch room and waited for Jayden to hurry his ass up. I took a deep breath walking out of the lunch room.

"What did you need to talk about Jay?" I asked looking up at him. He ran his eyes over my face, almost in horror for seeing my bruises for the first time.

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"What happened?" He asked gently touching my cheek with his hand. I turned my face away from his gaze and looked at the door behind him.

"I slipped. Klutzy me." He nodded putting his hands in his pocket now looking at me.

"You alright? It looks like it really hurts."

"I'm fine. What did you need to talk about Jay?" He took a deep breath.

"I wanted to talk about this morning about what said." I looked at him quickly, before looking away again.

"What about it?" He looked at me about to say something when he got cut off.

"Jay-Jay what are you doing?" A very annoying voice called down the hall. I groaned as Sophia came running down the hall pushing her boobs onto Jay's chest.

"I was just talking to Bailey." He said nodding at me wrapping his arms around her waist. She looked over at me.

"Oh, Well come with me I need you." She said not looking at me.

"I will be there soon I just need to finish talking to Bailey and I will be right there." He said looking at me with an apologetic look.

"But Baby." Her high pitch voice was killing me. It was making the throbbing in my head worse and worse.

"Sophie I will be right there." Sophia turned to look at me before laughing.

"What happened to your face? Did your pimp take a good swing at you finally to put you in your place?" She gave a high pitch giggle slipping his hand into Jayden's jeans. I narrowed my eyes at her.

"Fuck you Sophia. Go be a dumb ass idiot somewhere else. I'm really not in the mood to look at you or even hear your good offal voice. Just leave me the fuck alone." I snapped at her. Her jaw dropped as I crossed my arms pissed off.

"Jay-Jay are you going to let her talk to me like that?" She asked running her hand up and down in his pants.

"Bailey don't talk to her like that." He snapped at me. I looked at him.

"Why not? Because than I hurt your little fuck buddy's feelings? We don't want that do we?" I rolled my eyes at him.

"She is my girl friend so get the fuck over yourself. Just because no one wants you because you're just a sick skinny kid doesn't mean I can't get a fucking life away from your fucking face." His eyes widened as He heard what he just said. I looked at him as I felt my jaw clench knowing I was about to cry. No, not for him.

"Baileyâ " I shook my head and walked to the front door wrenching it open and walking out as he yelled

"Bailey!" I ignored him running to my truck getting in before I burst into tears. My head was pounding so all I heard was the blood throbbing in my ears. Harley climbed between the two front seats and laid his head down on my lap whimpering as I cried my eyes out. He nudged me as if to say 'don't cry.' I hugged him tight as I tried to stop my tears. I heard running footsteps and looked up to see Jayden running out of school with Sophia standing in the door way glaring at me. I put my keys in the ignition and sped off as he reached the truck. I sped off base and pulled up to the ocean and looked at it before getting out. It was freezing out, but there was no snow on the ground. Harley was walking next to me trying to get me back into the truck by pulling on my jeans. I just petted his head and looked at the ocean from where I stood on the sidewalk.

"It's okay Ley- Ley." He whimpered at me staying as close as possible to me. I put my hand to my head as the pounding got worse and worse. I stopped as I suddenly got really dizzy. The pounding in my head was so loud that it was all I could hear. Just my heartbeat. Thump. Thump. Thump. Thump. I felt so woozy so I tried to get my cell phone out to call someone but I couldn't get it. I couldn't take the pain any more. I felt my eyes roll into the back of my head as I fell to the frozen ground smashing my face into the sidewalk as everything started to go back. The only thing I could hear was, thump. Thump. Thump. Thumpâ !..thumpâ lâ lâ lâ !

Chapter 16: He Is a Smart Dog

A group of Marines were running down the beach on morning exercise. One of the marines looked at the one next to him as they ran in lines of 2s. "Taylor you okay? You seem out of it today." Taylor looked at him brother and shrugged.

"I don't know really. I can't get Bailey off my mind." He sighed as their unit came to a stop for a break before they finished.

"Dude did you get her number yet?" Taylor looked down at his arm and couldn't help but let a small smile form on his lips.

"Yeah. I get to take her to dinner too." Skylar chuckled at him.

"Nice job bro." Sky patted Taylor on his back. Another marine worked over to them.

"What did he do now?" He asked raising his eyes brows.

"Got a date with this girl he met at a dinner." Skylar smirked rubbing his arms as the heat from the ran left his body since they stopped.

"Are you going to get her to write to you when you're away?" The marine asked.

"I'm planning on it." Taylor nodded thinking about me. Skylar looked into the distance.

"Did you hear that?" Skylar asked looking at the two men.

"Hear what?" The marine asked him.

"Shhh listen." They all listened as the sound of barking got closer.

"Yeah is that a dog?" Taylor asked. Sky nodded. "Look." He pointed as Harley came sprinting onto the beach barking.

"Whoa what is it doing here?" the marine asked as Harley skidded over to them.

"Do you think it's friendly?" Skylar asked cautiously. Taylor bent down reaching his hand out to Harley to see if he will growl at him. Everyone in the running group was now watching as the big dog sniffed him. Harley whimpered, but licked his hand.

"Good Boy." Taylor smiled looking his collar. "He's got a collar on him. I wonder were his owner is." He said looking up at the group. He pulled the blue bone dog tag hanging from Harley's collar and looked at the number. "Wait a minute this looks familiar. This is a street on base. He's a devil dog." Right as he said that Harley ran back in the direction he came in. Taylor stood up and watched him, not moving. Harley stopped and turned back around to look at the men before barking.

"I think he wants us to follow him." Skylar said looking at his brother.

"I think your right. Come on." Taylor ran after Harley with Skylar as the Marine that he was talking to went to go tell the commanding officer what happened. "Come on this way." The two ran till they hit the side walk and looked around for Harley. Harley barked at them making them look before he started to run farther down the sidewalk. Taylor chased him till he saw me laying passed out with Harley licking my hand, trying to get me up. "Bailey." He yelled scrambling to my side as Skylar ran after him. He fell to his knees next to my motionless body. He turned me over taking my head into his hand pulling me closer to his arm body. He gently moved my hair from my face making his jaw clench. He put his hand on my white cheek moving it back and forth trying to wake me up.

The pounding in my head was worse. So much worse. The thumping of my heart still loud in my ears. I know my cheek must be cut open because I could feel the coldness of the air hitting the sticky liquid of my blood making me even colder than I already was. "Bailey come on wake up." I heard over the pounding in my ears. I could barely move my arms and legs but I felt warmth, as if someone was holding me. I tried to move but was having a very hard time with all the numbness in my arms and legs. I groaned in pain as I tried to open my eyes. "Come on Bailey you can do it." The voice called again. I force my eyes open to feel the burning light from the sun. I blinked a couple times to try and make the burning less till a head came into my line of vision. "Hey long time no see, hey." Taylor smiled as he gently moving my hair behind my ear. "I'm cold." I whimpered at him as my eye lids got heavy again. He looked at me before he took his sweatshirt off laying it onto my body.

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"Better?" He asked. I nodded and flinched as the pounding got worse and worse. "What happed?" He asked lifting me up into his arms letting my lay my head on his shoulder.

"I guess I must have passed out." I whispered closing my eyes to try and stop that damn pounding. I started to finally get the feeling back in my arms from passing out and lifted one to grip Taylor's t-shirt in pain as I felt the tears forming in my eyes as the pain got worse. I don't know how I am staying conscious right now.

"Shhh it's okay I'm going to get you to a hospital." Taylor whispered pressing his lips to my hair.

"Where's Harley? Is he okay?" I whispered trying to open my eyes to see if he was here and okay.

"He's right here, don't worry. He got me and Skylar and we found you. He is a smart dog you got here Bailey." As if he knew we were talking about him Harley whimpered. I felt like a weight had been lifted. He was safe. Good. My puppy was safe. "Is this your car Bails? The black pick-up?" I tried to open my eyes again but failed horribly.

"Yeah," was all I could whisper. I felt the tears roll down my face. Taylor opened the back door and sat down with me on his lap still. I whimpered in pain as I moved with him.

"Shhh I'm sorry. We are almost done." He whispered looking up. I heard the front door open and the sound of Harley jumping into the truck and climbing in next to Taylor and me laying his head on my lap.

"Bailey where are the keys?" I heard Skylar say.

"In the ash tray." I mumbled into Taylor's shirt. Skylar must have found them because I heard my truck roar to life before it started to take off. I felt my mind start to slip into unconsciousness as the pain from my head just got too much againâ lâ ;

Chapter 17: I.D. Please

"Sir I'm sorry but I can't help her unless she is part of the military." The nurse said to Taylor as he stood in front of her with me in his arms.

"Please Ma'am you have to help her." The nurse just sat there looking at her nails picking at her nail polish.

"Sorry I can't help you." She said not even looking up.

"Ma'am all I am asking is you take a look at her to make sure she is okay. Please." Taylor begged as I laid there unconscious in his arms.

"Look kid I said no so get over yourself, begging isn't going to get me to change my answer. You should have thought of bring her to the right hospital when you found her." She said rolling her eyes at him.

"Ma'am." He said clenching his jaw.

"Berta what is going on?" a voice asked. Both of them looked over at the boy standing next to the desk asked.

"Some Marine thinks that we can look at any girl he picks up on the side of the street. I was telling him that he should have thought of where he brought her before he came here." He snapped. The boy looked over at Taylor before looking down at me. He rushed over putting his fingers to my neck checking my pulse. "Hey did you not hear anything I just said?" She growled at him.

"Shut up. Mom come here quick." He yelled down the hall way. Taylor looked at the guy thankfully as he opened my eye lids to look at my eyes. A woman in scrubs came running into the triage section.

"Landon what's wrong?" Landon nodded to me before trying to get my pulse again. "Oh my god." She gasped running over to Taylor and me. "Marine what happened?" She asked him as she started to pull him into the emergency room.

"Hey what did I say!" Berta said standing up looking at Landon and the woman.

"What are you talking about? I don't have time for this." The woman huffed at her.

"I said unless she is part of the military we cannot help her here." She snapped at the woman making her raise her eye brows.

"Watch who you are talking to because in case you forgot I'm your boss. So you watch your lip before you get your ass fired." I groaned at the loud noises opening my eyes once again to burning light making me raise my hands to try to rub my eyes. The woman grabbed my hand. "No, don't you dare try it." She said with a pisses off face.

"What's going on?" I asked moving my head to lay on Taylor's shoulder better.

"Uh, the girl pissed off my Mom." Landon said looking at me.

"Bailey where do you keep your ID?" The woman snapped. I reached over and pulled my wallet out of my back pocket handing it to her.

"What's going on Land? Why's she pissed?" Landon gently stroked my hair looking at his mother.

"Don't worry Bailey everything is going to be okay." The woman opened my wallet and pulled out my Military ID out and showed it to Berta.

"But, but I don't believe it. That could be fake." My eye brows shot up causing a deadly painful throb baking me woozy again. I clenched onto Taylor's t-shirt again whimpering. He pressed his lips to my head again trying to calm me down.

"Mom come on." Landon said taking my pulse again. "She's in pain." The woman put back my ID before walking over to us.

"Your right come on." She put her hand on Taylor's back guiding him to an empty ER room. "I'll have to make a call to the commander about her. " She rolled her eyes still pisses. "Land go get your father in here. Tell him it is an emergency." He nodded running off.

"Aunt Kelsey my head hurts." I cried into Taylor's shirt. She looking at me before dimming the bright lights.

"I know sweetheart. Let me get you on an IV so we can get some pain meds into you so it will hurt a little less." I nodded as Taylor laid me on the bed pulling a chair up so he still held my hand. I closed my eyes as I started to cry in pain again. Taylor rubbing his thumb over my knuckles trying to calm me.

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"Shhh Bailey I know. I'm sorry. I wish there was something I could do to make it go away." He sighed leaning his head down on the bed bars. I squeezed Taylors hand as I felt the needle going into my skin for the IV to work.

"All down Sweetheart. Now I'm going to give you some pain pills okay?"

"Okay Aunt Kelsey." I nodded at her turning to look at her. She smiled leaning down to gently kiss my forehead.

"I'm going to go make a call okay Bails, your Uncle should be here soon to look at you." I nodded at her as she walked out.

"Best thing about having your Aunt and Uncle as Doctors." I said quietly.

"What's the best?" He chuckled at me.

"You get seen right away, well once you get past the wicked bitch of the hospital as Landon calls here." I heard him laugh again.

"Oh she bad ain't she?" I nodded my eyes still closed.

"But not the usually one. Landon has the biggest crush on the girl who works the weekends. He always talks about her. It's kind of cute." I giggled.

"Should I be knowing about this secret little crush that your cousin has?" I shrugged as the pain pills started to kick in making me feel a better.

"Probably not but hmmm you never know what you will learn when you come here." I said turning to look at him opening my eyes. Taylor smiled at me from where he sat with his elbows on his knees looking at me.

"You got a haircut." I pointed out looking at his newly shaved head.

"Yeah you know got to shave the mess soon or later." He smiled at me. I looked at him about to saw something when a voice broke out.

"Bailey Kelsey Banks." I looked at the door and shook my head.

"Is the full name really needed?" I asked groaning looking at my uncle.

"Yes. Yes it." Uncle Rodger said walking into the room over to my bedside. "Let's get you fixed up Kid." He said looking at Taylor briefly before looking back at me. He pulled on a pair of rubber gloves getting ready to see what was wrong with me.

Chapter 18: 8 Hours

"Okay Bails lets me see your head. Where does it hurt?" Uncle Rodger asked. I shrugged.

"Everywhere. It's a really painful throbbing." I said wincing as he touched my bruise.

"What happened here Sweetheart?" He asked feeling around my head. I cried out in pain as he touched my forehead. Taylor squeezed my hand trying to comfort me.

"I slid in the shower banging it on the tile and jammed my eye on the handle." I whimpered the throbbing returning.

"I'm sorry Bailey I had to make sure there wasn't anything else." I nodded gently closing my eyes. "That must have been a pretty nasty fall when was it?" He asked getting something from the little supply chest that was hanging on the wall.

"This morning." He looked at me gently patting my knee.

"Have you talked to your Mom? Or even called Wyatt?" I shook my head.

"I left at lunch, I didn't have time." That made Uncle Rodger's head snap to look at my face.

"What time did you leave school?" I shrugged.

"12.30-ish why?" I asked opening my eyes to look at him.

"Bailey because it's 8 o'clock." My eyes widened. I sat up in the bed.

"How is it 8 already? But I just left school." I groaned falling back in pain.

"I found you at like 7 Bailey." Taylor said stroking my hand. Uncle Rodger looked at him.

"How did you find her?" He asked folding his arms looking at me.

"Passed out on a sidewalk by the beach. Me and My brother found her Sir." Uncle Rodger looked at me again.

"That explains that cut." He thought out loud. "Bailey can you look at me." I looked at him causing him to nod.

"Okay Sweetheart last thing before I patch up that scrap on your cheek. I need you to try not to blink okay." I nodded looking at him. He pulled out a little flashlight and shined it in my eyes. It started to burn making me close my eyes tightly and turn away from the bright shine that turned my eye lids red. The throbbing got worse till I felt myself get woozy and dizzy again. I put my hand to my head trying to stop the pain as I groaned. "Okay Sweetheart, all done." I heard Uncle Rodger as he put his hand on my shoulder.

"Bailey look at me." I heard. I moved my head painfully to look at him. "Do you remember what happened after you hit your head?" I closed my eyes trying to think.

"Yeah I went to my classes with Jenna. Colt kept saying I should go to the nurse because I was walking funny, I think." I took a deep breath trying to pull the memories out. "Then I went to lunch with Wyatt and Jayden. He bought me lunch." I nodded. "But then we got in a fight about something. I can't remember what it was about though. Then I know I ran, got in my car with Harley and drove off." I stopped making both Taylor and Uncle Rodger look at me.

"What happened after that?" Uncle Rod asked.

"I can't remember. The next thing I know Taylor was taking me to my truck." I looked at up at him. He nodded.

"Yeah it's just what I thought." He nodded to himself shaking his head at himself.

"What do you think it is Sir?" Taylor asked looking at me. Uncle Rodger looked at him.

"The walking funny, the memory loss, loss of consciousness, the uneven pupils." He shook his head. "Almost half of the symptoms of a concussion." Taylor looked at me as I lay there falling asleep. "No Bailey you can't sleep sweetheart. You have to stay up." Uncle Rodger said making me open my eyes.

"Why? I'm tired." I mumbled.

"Because I have to make sure everything is okay up here before you can sleep." He said tapping my head. "I'll be back in a minute. Bailey do not fall sleep." I nodded as Uncle Rodger walked out of the room.

"I'll be right back." Taylor whispered kissing my hand. "What are you going to do?" Taylor asked following after him. Uncle Rodger looked at Taylor as he stood there in what he was running in.

"I'm going to get a CT scan of her head to make sure there is no bleeding or swelling that would need surgery to correct. Then I might order a MRI of her head just in case the CT scan missed something." Taylor put his

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hand to his head and sighed, nodding at him.

"How long do think that will take?" He asked looking at Uncle Rodger.

"The CT only a couple of minutes, but the MRI takes a maybe a half hour." He said folding his arms looking Taylor up and down. "Why do you ask?" Taylor looked his in the eye.

"Because I don't want to leave her but I don't want to get in trouble because I missed out on the last mile in my work out today Sir." Uncle Rodger nodded, understanding were Taylor was coming fromâ !..

I picked up the telephone and dialed Wyatt.

Wyatt* Hello?

Me* Hey Bro.

Wyatt* Bailey? Bailey where the fuck are you I have been looking for you since after practice!

Me* I'm okay Bro, Don't worry.

Wyatt* No, Bailey you have been Missing for almost 8 fucking hours!

Me* I'm sorry Bro I didn't mean to.

Wyatt* Just please tell me your okay.

Me* I'm not sure yet.

Wyatt* What do you mean 'not sure yet'?

Me* I'm at the hospital

Wyatt* WHAT!?

Me* Wyatt calm down your making my head hurt more.

Wyatt* What do you mean you're at the hospital?

Me* I must has passed out off base.

Wyatt* Baileyâ !..

Me* It's okay Uncle Rodger is here helping me.

Wyatt* Who found you?

Me* you remember the guys we were playing pool with last night?

Wyatt* The twins? Yeah they were pretty cool.

Me* Well they were the ones that found me

Wyatt* How?

Me* I'm not really sure yet.

Wyatt* Do you want me to come and stay with you? I can, I'm just working now.

Me* No, no it's okay Wy, I'll called you later when Uncle Rodger knows what's wrong. Tell Mom I'm okay for me.

Wyatt* Of course. I love you Sis.

Me* I love you too Bro.

I hung up the phone and watched as Uncle Rodger talked to Taylor outside the room through the glass doorsâ !â !â !.

Chapter 19: I'm A Guy

"Okay Bailey I'm going to take you to your scan while your Uncle makes some phone calls. You ready to go sweetheart?" I nodded gently. Taylor looked at me from where we sat next to me again.

"I'm ready." I whimpered. Taylor held my hand as Aunt Kelsey rolled my bed out the door to get the CT scan done. When we got to the door Aunt Kelsey looked at Taylor.

"You're going to have to wait here okay?" Taylor looked at me but nodded.

"I'll be just out here okay?" I nodded as Aunt Kelsey rolled me in closing the door behind her.

"Where did you meet him?" She asked smiling at me.

"He was at the dinner with his brother." I said closing my eyes. Aunt Kelsey tapped my arm.

"Eyes open sweetheart." I opened my eyes to look at her. "Keep talking with me Bails. He seems like a nice guy." She helped me get onto the table that was connected to the machine.

"He is. He can play pool too." I said looking at her. She smiled. She fixed the pillow under my head.

"You need someone who can kick ass as well as you can." She chuckled. "Don't move your head okay." I looked at her as she gave the person behind the glass thumbs up.

"Okay Auntie." I looked up as the ring started to circle my head as I went through the machine. "But we aren't together." Auntie Kelsey looked at me.

"Really? You two seem together."

"Yeah well seeming together and together are two totally different things." I sighed. Auntie Kelsey walked over and helped me back onto the hospital bed.

"Aw Bails what's wrong?" She said stroking my hair.

"Jayden was being a ass hole to day and it is just playing on my mind."

"You and Jayden fighting? That isn't normal." She rolled me out of the room. Taylor was leaning on the wall opposite from the door and smiled at me when our eyes met. He walked over to us.

"How was it?" He asked taking my hand. I linked our fingers together and looked at him.

"It wasn't too bad." I nodded. Aunt Kelsey rolled me back to the room and hooked my bed back into the wall.

"Well I will go see your Uncle before I go see if the results are in. Marine make sure she does not fall asleep yet." Taylor nodded.

"Yes Ma'am." She looked at me.

"We will be finishing our little conversation later." She said pointing. I nodded at her reaching for the remote to the TV. Taylor looked as I changed the channel to the kids' movie channel. Toy Story 3 was on. I cuddled in my blankets. I looked at Taylor as he watched me.

"What?" I asked him. He smiled shaking his head.

"Nothing." He said looking at the screen to start watching the movie.

About half way through I started to fall asleep again making Taylor gently shake my shoulders. "Bailey you have to stay awake." He said as I opened my eyes.

"I don't want too." I mumbled at him closing my eyes again.

"Come on. Let's talk. Tell me about yourself. Let's keep you awake that way." I nodded.

"How about you tell me something about you and I will tell you something about me." I said rubbing my tired eyes.

"Okay, um let's see, I have a twin brother named Skylar." He nodded. I gave a little laugh.

"Speaking of Skylar where is he?" I asked looking over at him.

"He probably went back to the beach or maybe he went home. I'm not really sure." He shrugged. "But now you have to tell me something about you since I told you something about me." He smirked laying his arms down on the metal bars of the bed.

"Okay I have a twin brother named Wyatt." Taylor nodded.

"Cool. What's your favorite color?"

"Camo." I said automatically.

"That's not a color." He laughed.

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"Yes it is." I huffed crossing my arms. "What's yours?" He put his hand to his chin and tapped it.

"Well I don't really have one but I could have to say camo, or a real color which would be blue." He leaned back on the bars putting his chin on his arms. "Okay what is your favorite flower?"

"Easy a pink carnation." He raised his eye brow. "I like it because it is beautiful. Also for what it means." I said huffing at him. He cocked his head to the side.

"What does a carnation mean?"

"Well it matters what color you have. I like the pink one the best." I shrugged.

"What's the pink one mean?"

"Never Forget."

"So if I was to give you a pink carnation what would it mean?"

"It would mean if you gave it to me 'I'll never forget you'." He gave me a thoughtful nod. "What's your favorite flower?"

"Come on I'm a guy I don't have a favorite flower." He scoffed. I pouted at him. "Next question." He smirked.

"How many siblings do you have?"

"Well there is me and Skylar, my older brother Elijah, my other older sister Lilly, and my little sister Maria, but we all call her Ria."

"How old are all of you?"

"Hey you skipped yourself. You suppose to tell me your siblings."

"There is me and Wyatt, than my little brother Dillon, and lastly my little brother Bentley." I smiled. "Now answer my question."

"Okay Miss Bossy Blondie. Lilly is 25, Eli is 23, Skylar and I are 21, and Ria is 15." He nodded. "What about you guys?"

"Wyatt and I are 18, Dillon is 8, and Bentley is only 2." He nodded. "You saw Bentley when you were at the dinner."

"Yeah I remember. He is a cutie." He chuckled.

"So you're a marine?" I asked nodding at his t-shirt.

"Yeah, guess you couldn't tell with I first met you could you?" He said rubbing his newly shaved head.

"I usually can but I guess you were different." I shrugged.

"It's not like I knew you were military either." He said smiling at me.

"Well my Dad's a Gunny so I guess we were both off." I grinned at him.

"Sure what ever." He laughed at me as the door opened and Uncle Rodger came in holding the results of my CT scan in his hands.

Chapter 20: Hollywood

"What's it say Uncle Rodger?" I asked looking at the envelope in his hand. He smiled at me pulling out the dark paper from the large folder and putting it onto the light board.

"Well this is your brain." He pointed to me. "And it's completely normal. No bleeding. No swelling. No brain damage. You do have a concussion, most defiantly, but it wouldn't kill you." He nodded.

"So I can go home?" I said hopefully. Uncle Rodger's looked at me taking a deep breath.

"Do you promise to stay in the house and sleep?" I nodded.

"You don't know how great that sounds right now." I said looking at him.

"Okay you know that means no school, no work, no driving, no taking Harley out on long walks, no running." I looked at him in horror.

"But what if he has to go?" Taylor put his hand on my arm in support.

"Let him into the backyard to do his business. He's smart; he'll know what to do." I gave a little nod.

"I mean it Bailey. No nothing."

"I know Uncle Rodger. I get it. No nothing." I sighed folding my arms. "How long am I going to be out of school for?"

"Um, right now it's going to be a week, but don't worry about missing the days, I'm writing you a note so you don't have to worry about it. All you have to do is get better." I nodded. "And Bailey I will make sure I have either Landon, your Aunt, or me stopping by to make sure you aren't doing anything you shouldn't be doing."

"I get it Rodger." I snapped at him tired. He nodded.

"Marine you can drive her home right?" Taylor nodded.

"Yes Sir." Uncle Rodger nodded.

"Okay Bailey I will get the papers for you to sign for so you can leave." I nodded as a nurse came in and helped me get the IV out of my hand.

"You know I still don't know where you are from." I said leaning back in bed to look at Taylor.

"My family still lives in the same house we did our whole lives. It's in upstate California." I wrinkled my nose at him. "What?" He asked raising his eye brow at my reaction.

"That means you're a Hollywood Marine." He rolled his eyes.

"Yeah and your point is?" I shrugged giggling at his face.

"Nothing Hollywood." He rolled his eyes again making me smile.

"Whatever Blondie." Uncle Rodger came in and looked at us.

"What's so funny?"

"He's a Hollywood Marine." I giggled at Taylor's face again. Uncle Rodger rolled his eyes and handed me a clip board and a pen.

"You need to sign here, here and here." He pointed. I signed and handed it back to him. He looked smiled, taking back the clipboard and looked at Taylor. "It was good to meet you Marine."

"You too Sir." Uncle Rodger looked at me.

"Why don't you two go get some dinner before you take her home." He said as I reached for my jeans to pull them on.

"But I thought I couldn't do anything." I smirked at him.

"You have to eat Bailey and from what your brother said when I called the house you didn't eat lunch so I going to say you have to eat dinner. Also I called in a prescription for some pain meds. You can just go pick them up when you need them. I will see you tomorrow Bails. Have a good night you two." With that and a wink, he left the room. I shook my head at him rolling my eyes. Taylor looked at me but turned around as I pulled on my bra and t-shirt. I slipped back into my hoodie but rubbed my arms at the cold feeling. Taylor handed me his sweat shirt and slipped it onto my cold figure.

"Better?" I nodded as he helped me out of the hospital. We got to my truck and stopped as he opened it.

Harley's head popped up as I opened my door. He sniffed me and stepped forward for me to hug him. I kissed his head as he rubbed he head as me barking.

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"Shhh Harley." I whispered as I felt my head ache coming back. He whimpered but got into the backseat putting his head in between the two front seats and laying it down. I sat down and hugged Taylor's sweatshirt to me as he got in and started to drive out of the hospital parking lot.

"Do you want to stop somewhere and get something or do you just was a drive thru?" Taylor asked as he drove.

"Can we stop somewhere?" I looked at him. "I could go for breakfast and Ice cream." He looked over at me and smiled. The next thing I know he is pulling into an IHOP. He came around to open my door for me.

"After you Ma'am." I took his hand as we walked to the restaurant. "Table for 2 please Ma'am." He smiled at the hostess. She nodded looking at her little chart before sitting us at a table away from everyone else. "Thank you Ma'am." I slid into the booth. I picked up the menu as Taylor looked at me.

"What Hollywood?" I asked looking at him.

"Nothing. What are you going to get?" I looked at the menu.

"Can I get a breakfast supreme?" He looked up from his menu.

"You're asking me?" I shrugged.

"It has pancakes, two eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, and fruit." My stomach growled at me.

"You know that sounds really good." He nodded. The waitress came over.

"What can I get you kids to drink?" She asked smiling at us.

"Can I have a chocolate milk please?" I asked. She nodded.

"Sure, and for you?" She looked at Taylor.

"Just a black coffee please." She nodded. "Sure, do you know what you want?" I nodded.

"Can I have a breakfast supreme?"

"Sure, how do you want your eggs?"

"Scrambled please."

"And for you Sir?"

"The same please." He handed her his menu. I handed her mine as she walked off.

"Bailey I have to tell you something." He looked at me as I looked up.

"What's wrong Hollywood?" I asked cocking my head to the side.

"Bailey, I'm leaving."

Chapter 21: Don't Forget

"You're what?" I asked looking at him.

"I am leaving." He looked down. "I'm getting deployed." I closed my eyes. I opened them to look at him.

"That's why you and Skylar are in North Carolina right." He nodded slowly.

"Yeah, we had to be here last week to get ready to leave." I watched his face.

"But I don't want you to go." I said quietly making tears form in my eyes. Taylor closed his eyes.

"I'm sorry Bailey." He whispered as the waitress put our food and drinks down.

"How long are you going to be gone for?" I asked clearing my throat.

"Only 4 months." He nodded watching me as I squirted ketchup all over my eggs. "Ew why so much?"

"Cause it taste good." I chuckled putting a piece on my fork before smothering it in strawberry syrup.

"Okay that's nasty." He said wrinkling his nose.

"Don't knock it till you try it." I said putting it in my mouth savoring the taste. "Here try it." I said putting another piece on and dipping it in both the ketchup and syrup. I leaned over putting it to his mouth. "Open the tunnel for the train." I giggled at him. He started to smile letting me put the fork into his mouth. He chewed and swallowed.

"Hey not bad." He said surprised.

"I told you don't knock it till you try it." I smiled getting back to my breakfast for dinner. "When do you leave?" I asked not looking at him.

"Wednesday at 12." He said biting his toast.

"But that's in only 5 days." I said my heart dropping into my stomach.

"I know. I wish we had longer." He sighed looking at me. "I want to get to know you, but I can't."

"I know, it's your job." I nodded eating my sausage.

"We still have 5 days together." He smiled gently. I nodded looking at my food.

"Yeah, I guess." I shrugged. "But if you remember I'm on bed rest." I sighed.

"Then I guess I'll have to come to you than." He smirked. I couldn't help but giggle. "And you know you can always write." He said hopeful.

"Yeah and I guess I could send some of my Mom's famous cookies." His face lit up.

"I do like cookies." He nodded as I finished eats. He looked down at my food than at me.

"What Hollywood?"

"Where the hell did that food all that food go?"

"It went to Narnia of course. That's were all my eaten food goes. Everyone knows that." I huffed at him.

"Well then." He chuckled at me. I rolled my eyes at the waitress came over and took our dessert. I got apple pie with whipped cream and ice cream. Taylor rolled his eyes but got the same thing.

"Copy cat." I giggled at him. He shrugged but smiled at me. We sat talking till our food came out. I took my ice happily and mixed it in with my apple pie so it was a glob of apple ice cream mush.

"Okay that's gross." He said pointing at the mush as I took a bite of it.

"Didn't we go over this before, don't knock it till you try it Marine." I laughed shoving another spoon full into my mouth. He watched me as I took another bite. "Fine." I huffed getting half a spoon full and shoved it into Taylor's mouth.

"Okay your right that's amazing." He nodded doing the same to his apple pie and ice cream.

"I know. I love to get it." I nodded savoring my next bite. "Yum." I smiled making Taylor laugh. Once dinner was finished the waitress brought over the check. Taylor took it before I could even look at it and put his credit card in the leather folder and handed it back to the waitress. "Hey I wanted to see how much my food was." I pouted.

"Don't worry about it. I'm paying. It's your Winning dinner from the bet." He smiled.

"Oh right, but the deal was dinner, this was breakfast." I smiled crossing my arms.

Don't Forget To Remember Me

"Sure whatever." He chuckled. I pulled my wallet out and threw a five on the table for a tip as she gave Taylor back his card with the receipt. "You ready?" I nodded getting up. I hugged Tanner's sweatshirt tightly to my body as we got outside into the cold night. I gave Taylor the directions to get back to my house as we drove onto Base. Taylor pulled my truck into my driveway and shut it off. "I will call you tomorrow when I get of duty to see what time I can come over alright?" I nodded. I opened my door getting Harley jump out and run to the house. I pulled my hands out of Taylor's sweatshirt to give it back to him but he shook his head as he got out handing me the keys. "Keep it; I got a ton of them." I nodded as he kissed my cheek.

"Bye." I whispered.

"Night Blondie." He chuckled running off into the dark night.

"Night Hollywood." I said walking into the house hanging my keys up and walking into the kitchen.

"Bailey Kelsey Williams where the hell have you been." Mom said standing in front of me. Boy this was going to be a long night.

I stood at the parade ground looking at Taylor and Skylar. "You'll be save right?" I asked hugging Taylor before hugging Skylar.

"As Safe as we can be Bailey." Skylar smiled at me. "You'll take care of yourself right? No more fights with the showers?"

"Ha ha very funny Skylar. I see what I can do." I smiled as I hugged Taylor again. "Please stay safe." I whispered into his ear as he held me.

"I will Blondie." He smiled kissing my cheek. "Don't forget to write." He smiled as the tears formed in my eyes.

"Don't forget to remember me." I smiled wiping them with the sleeves of the sweatshirt he gave me. "Stay safe." I said my lip quivering as I heard the words that meant they had to get onto those horrible white buses. Taylor gave me one last hug before he and Skylar walked away from me. I felt something in my hand that made me look down. I broke into a sob as I stared at the pink carnation in my hand. Taylor stopped before he got onto the bus and looked at me. He winked before getting on. I brought it to my nose closing my eyes as I heard the buses take off.

Chapter 22: Next Week

I held my flower in my hand just staring at it. He knew what it meant. He made the last couple days so much better. Of course I had to stay in bed, all day, take my pills, and eat. Fun right? Well Taylor always came over with different movies to watch and take out. He is amazing. Harley loved him too. He of course next left my side the whole time, but when Taylor came over he let him pet him, rub his belly, and even take him for walks. I didn't want Harley to get fat cause he wasn't going for walks really so Taylor took him. They were gone for a while, but I was sleeping so it was okay. "Ma'am you have to leave." I looked up at the marine and nodded.

"Sorry Sir." I whispered.

"It's okay Ma'am." I turned around and walked back to my truck. I laid my flower down gently on my dash board as I pulled out of my parking spot and headed home. So I wasn't to be out of bed, never the less driving, but I had to see Taylor off. He and Skylar had no one lease because they already said good bye to their family back last week before they came to base. I felt bad for them. I pulled into the drive way and shut my car off. I picked up my flower and took a deep breath of its smell. My head was throbbing but it wasn't as bad as it usually is. It was more of a regular headache, but a little more painful. I stepped out of the car stepping onto the thin layer of snow we got. I got into the house and took a deep breath walking into the kitchen.

"Hey Mom what are you doing here?" I asked looking at her as she sat reading the newspaper. She looked at me and smiled.

"I took the day off. I dropped Bentley at daycare before I went to the gym. Than we had a doctor appointment so I took him and now he is sleeping." She took a sip of her coffee. "How are you?"

"I'm fine. My head hurts a little bit." I said laying my flower down and getting a cup of hot chocolate. I put my big coffee mug full of water into the microwave to heat up.

"It will get better sweetheart." She said standing behind me. I looked at her as.

"I'm fine Mom." I shrugged watching the blue mug spinning in the microwave.

"No you're not. You and your father do the same thing. I looked at her.

"And what would that be?" I asked folding my arms.

"You don't let the pain show. You hold it in not letting anyone see how much you really hurt." I looked away.

"I don't do that. Taylor and I are just friends." I shrugged at her.

"Who are you trying to convince me or you?" She asked taking my cup out of the microwave and putting in the chocolate mix into the hot milk. Mom looked at me. "Tell me I'm wrong." I shook my head as tears formed in my eyes.

"I miss him already." I whispered looking down as Harley came trotting into the kitchen. Mom pulled me into a hug.

"I know Baby." She said stroking my hair as I clenched my eyes shut to stop the tears from falling. "I know." I took a deep breath as I tried to calm down. Mom picked up my flower. "Where did you get this?" She asked smiling at it.

"Taylor gave it to me. He knew it was my favorite." I said picking up my hot coco and taking a sip from it. Mom looked at me.

"Does he know what it means?" I nodded.

"I told him when we were in the hospital." She moved to get a small vase and filled it with water.

"That is too cute Bailey." She smiled at my flower as it new home in the water.

"I know." I smiled looking down.

"Are you still getting your tattoo next week?" She asked. I nodded.

"Of course. I have been waiting for this for way too long to not get it." She gave a gently nod.

"I remember when I got my first tattoo. You and Wyatt were only about 10 months old and the cutest little things. Your Dad even came with us and held my hand as I sat there." She smiled pulling up her t-shirt to show me her hips. On one side was my baby foot print in pink with Bailey Kelsey written in blue with my birthday under it. On the other hip was Wyatt's baby foot print in little blue with Wyatt Cooper and our

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birthday written in red. I always loved it.

"When I have kids I am going to do the same thing." I nodded. She smiled.

"I always knew you would." She laughed as we both turned when we heard the little pitter patter of little feet coming down the hall way. Bentley stood there in his pajama's rubbing the tiredness out of his eyes holding his baby blanket. "Hey Baby." Mom smiled picking him up as he cuddled into her. "How about we all go watch a movie in the family room?" She asked looking at me.

"I'll be there in a minute I just want to change my clothes." I nodded I walked into my bedroom were Harley was lying on my bed sleeping happily. I sat down on my bed and picked up my picture of Dad and looked at it. "Oh Daddy I miss you." I whispered to it. It was a picture Mom took when I was littler. I was in my Dad's arms as he held me. We were looking at something in a store and Mom snapped the picture and framed it. I always kept it next to my bed so I could always see him. I looked at Harley as he whimpered at me. I patted his head before putting the picture back down and changed my clothes, but slipping back into the hoodie Taylor gave me of his, wanting to be close to him again, even if it was just in his sweatshirtââ !..

Chapter 23: Live In The Moment

The next couple of days being cooped up in the house were horrible. I never liked being stuck in the house for too long, and well this felt like an eternity. My head was feeling better, my bruises were fading fast. I was looking more like Bailey and not a zombie. I was taking a shower since I was going to sneak off to Wyatt's football game to see him. I was scrubbing my body and washing my hair. I shaved so I didn't look like Chubaka, not pretty I tell you that. I always wasn't a give fan of baths when I was little Mom always told me, but when I started to get older the warm water caressing my body, it always makes me feel better. It's so nice. I fishing in my shower and got out of the shower and sighed looking at myself in the mirror as I started to dry off. I don't know what it was but I felt different. I don't know why or how, I just do. I shook my head drying my hair before I slipped on my underpants and my bra. I wrapped my hair in the towel and sighed. I pulled on my t-shirt and leggings before I slipped on a pair of jeans and stepped out of the bathroom walking to my bedroom to finish getting ready for the game. I slipped my phone into my pocket before I started to put some makeup on to cover my bruise. I felt my phone vibrate in my pocket to I answered it.

Me* Hello?

Dad* Hey Princess

Me* Hey Daddy, how are you?

Dad* I'm doing okay sweetheart. How are you doing Baby?

Me* I'm fine Daddy.

Dad* Oh really how's the head?

Me* It's fine.

Dad* So you didn't happen to get a concussion on Thursday?

Me* Maybeâ !.

Dad* Bailey, I'm your father. I need to know this.

Me* Okay yes I did get one.

Dad* How Bailey?

Me* I slipped when I was in the locker room taking a shower after my run. You know I picked up Harley so I took a run and I tripped over the little step in the shower and slammed my head onto the wall and my eyes slammed into the handle.

Dad* Do you promise me it isn't some Boy?

Oh no. He thought it was someone who did it. Like my Mom had. When my mom was my age she had this crap boyfriend named Owen who beat and raped her. She never told Grandpa or Uncle TJ, Grandma or even Uncle Hunter. But that was before Dad. Now Dad protects her from that crap.

Me* Daddy I promise you that it was no one but my clumsiness. I swear on the Marine Corps.

Dad* Okay Princess I just don't want you to get hurt. I love you.

Me* I love you too.

Dad* How's your head feeling?

Me* It's feeling a lot better now.

Dad* Your taking your pain pills?

Me* Of course why do you think it feels so nice.

Dad* Oh Bailey. You are too much like your mother.

Me* So you have always told me.

Dad* Because you are so much like it and it always makes me smile.

Me* Happy to know that.

Dad* What are you doing Bailey?

Me* Nothingâ !.

Dad* Baileyâ !.

Me* I'm going to Wyatt's football game to watch him and Colt play.

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Dad* What happened with Jayden?

Me* We is just being a little crap so I'm not taking to him right now.

Dad* I hope you guys make up because you know you guys have been best friends for like 13 years.

Me* I know.

Dad* Stay safe at the game. Watch your head. Don't hit it on anything okay?

Me* I know Dad; I promise I will try my best.

Dad* I know I love you Baby and don't want you to get hurt.

Me* I know I love you too Pops.

Dad* You know how to make me feel old don't you?

Me* and I use it at the best of time.

Dad* Your horrible.

Me* But you love me.

Dad* I guess.

I heard mumbling and voices in the background. I sighed knowing what this meant.

Me* Got to go?

Dad* Yeah Baby I'm sorry.

Me* I know. I love you Dad.

Dad* I love you too Baby.

Me* Stay Safe.

Dad* Yes Ma'am.

I closed my phone feeling happier since I got to talk to Dad. If you haven't notice I am a complete Daddy's girl, and I love it. Grandma always says that seeing Wyatt and me is like seeing Mom and Uncle TJ again. We are just like them. Wyatt is like Uncle TJ, a strong, open minded, heart of gold, Mama's boy. Then I'm like Mom, a strong minded, short tempered, hot headed, pain in the ass, Daddy's girl. I love my family. Even if it isn't normal, or even sane on that count, but it's mine. All my Aunts and Uncles, my cousins, we all are close. Maybe not in age, or distance, since Uncle TJ and Logan, my Mom's cousin, are in Japan with their platoons and their families. Mom misses Uncle TJ so much since they are twins and where always close, but now they are on different parts of the world. I dread to think what's going to happen with me and Wyatt when he joins the Corps. I know I will never be prouder of him when he does falling in the Men in our families footsteps, but he's my twin brother. He was always by my side, cancer and all. I can't imagine what life is going to be like when he is gone. It will be so hard. Or if something happened to himâ I shook my head to get the horrid thoughts out of my head so I don't have to think of them. Live in the moment was what Dad always said. Live in the moment. Don't fret about the future; don't worry about the past, just live in the present. He would always say today is a gift, that's why it's called the present.â

Chapter 24: Green Eyes

I pulled into the parking lot of the school. I rubbed my face pulling the hood of Taylor's sweatshirt up hugging my coat to me as I got out of the car. I looked around and smiled as I spotted Jenna waving at me from the walkway that leads to the field from the parking lot. "Hey Bailey. Long time no see." She laughed hugging me.

"I guess you can say that. Who we playing tonight?" I asked as we made our way towards the bleachers.

"Some local civilian school." She shrugged.

"Oh so easy win." I said nodding.

"Oh course." She laughed high fiving me as we got to where she spread her blanket for us to sit on. I smiled at Grace, one of Wyatt and Colt's team mate's girlfriend.

"How's the head feeling?" She asked taking a sip of her hot chocolate. She is a sweetheart with a heart of gold. She has a nice honey brown shade of short hair that fell around her shorts that matched her little brown eyes. She has been dating Oliver since last year's football season. But I have known her since I was about 13. We actually met at the hospital because they messed our appointments up and became pretty close since then. Now Oliver I didn't know so well before he and Grace started dating but know I got the full view. He was an obnoxious, stubborn, pain in the ass. He was a class clown that loved to make jokes, but we really just liked to make people smile. The funny thing about him is if you're upset, he makes you laugh, even if it takes him all day. But the one thing you don't do is hit on his girl because he will beat you. I found it so cute. He was this 6 foot guy doing whatever made his girlfriend happy.

"Better than last week that's for sure." I sighed sitting next to her. She nodded.

"I know how you feel. I had a concussion last year when I was playing basketball with my brother. Remember?" I laughed.

"Oh yeah Oliver nearly ripped him a new one. I think the best part was watching a full blown marine cowering under the hands of the 'all mighty Liver'." I chuckled. Grace nodded looking at the field as the crew was setting it up. "You okay?" I asked looking at her tilting my head to the side. Jenna had gone off with a call from her mom about something.

"I'm not sure." She whispered biting her lip. I put my hand on her leg.

"Gracie you can tell me anything. I'm here for you." She nodded looking at me. She pulled up her sleeve to show me the dark bruise that covered her arm.

"Oh my." I whispered looking at it. I turned it gently before she quickly pulled her sleeve down again before anyone could see it.

"Ollie didn't do it before you ask." She said to me in a defensive tone.

"I wasn't thinking he did." I looked down at my cell phone to check the time before looking at her again. "Did you call your doctor?" I whispered to her. She nodded tears falling from her eyes.

"He sent me for emergency blood tests. He thinks it back." She wiping her eyes.

"Gracie I hate to tell you this but even I think its back." She closed her eyes fighting to not break down. I hugged her into a hug rubbing her back trying to calm her. "I'm so sorry Gracie. Come on lets go get you something to eat from the concession stand." She nodded as we stood up walking down to the concession stand to get some of the candy they sold there for the football game to support the school.

"What am I going to do?" She asked sighing. I looked at her.

"Have you told Ollie?" She looked down before looking at the freshman who was working the stand.

"Can I get a hotdog?" He nodded calling a hotdog to people would were cooking them.

"Anything else?"

"A coke please." He took out a bottle of coke from the cooler pulling it on the table before grabbing the hotdog wrapped in tin foil putting it next to it.

"Anything else?" Grace shook her head at him. "That will be 3.50." She nodded pulling down a five. He gave Grace her change before he turned to me. "What can I get you Ma'am?" He asked.

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"Um can I get an everything bagel with cream cheese please?" He nodded calling to the people cooking an everything with cream cheese.

"Anything to drink?"

"Can I have a hot chocolate?" He got me a coffee cup putting in a packet of instant hot chocolate into it before filling it with hot water before mixing it and snapping a top on it.

"Anything else?" I picked up a bag of sour patch kids and put it next to the cup before grabbing a Reese's peanut butter cup next to it.

"That's it."

"Okay that will be !" He looked at my food counting, adding it up. "That will be 4 dollars please." I nodded pulling out my wallet and handing him a five. He gave me a dollar back smiling at us as he put my bagel down. "Have a good night ladies." He smiled.

"You too." I smiled taking my food shoving the candy into my pockets before looking at Gracie. "Come on the game is starting. We can talk as we sit up there." She nodded as we walked back sitting back down next to Jenna who was chatting away to the person next to her. "So have you told Oliver?" She nodded her head.

"Yeah, he is not happy. Not at all, but we can't do anything about it." She sighed. I put my hand over hers.

"I'm always here for you Gracie." She smiled at me.

"I know. Thank you for that." She smiled looking out at the field taking a bite of her hotdog. I looked at the field looking at all the numbers till I saw the number I was looking for. I traveled to their face till I saw those amazing green eyes that I have fallen in love with 10 years ago. ! ! ! !

Chapter 25: Chemotherapy

I looked away from Jayden to look back at Grace. "So what has the doctor said?" She looked at me.

"Well so far that I was smart to go back to him when I couldn't figure out why I had that bruise. That since I only had a small fever thanks to the cancer. But he caught it early and that will be in my favor." She looked down.

"Is it the same from 4 years ago?" She nodded a tear rolling down her face.

"Yeah, Acute lymphoblastic leukemia." I hugged her.

"I'm sorry Gracie." I sighed stroking her hair as she started to cry again. "How did Ollie take it?"

"Almost as bad as I was. He broke down crying. It broke my heart because I felt like it was all my fault." She took a deep breath trying to calm herself so no one would look at her like she was crazy since we were sitting on the bleachers at a high school football match. Jenna looked over and patted Gracie on the leg.

"I'm sorry Grace; I wish I could do something to make it better." Grace nodded.

"I know Jenna, that's that counts." She smiled.

"What are they going to do for it this time? Are they going to give you chemotherapy again?" Jenna asked quietly. Gracie shook her head.

"Right now the doctor put me on this new drug called Dexamethasone. He said that it is going to kill off the leukemia cells and leave my normal not leukemia cells alone." She said wiping her noses on a tissue.

"That's good! It means you won't have to lose your hair again." I pointed out she nodded.

"He did say that if it didn't work he would try a different drug so I don't have to worry about the chemo or radiation because he doesn't want to give it to me." I nodded understanding.

"I'm sorry but may I ask why he doesn't want to give it to you? Isn't that what they always use when you have it?" Jenna asked pulling a face.

"No not always. It matters what you have and when they catch it. If they catch it late, they put you on high doses of chemo or radiation sometimes even both." Jenna pulled a face. "I know trust me. But if they catch it early you might not have to go on it. Sometimes they have drugs that kill off the cancer cells, sometime surgery can get it."

"Like for Bailey her liver if they didn't think chemo was necessary they could go in surgically and take the tumor out and spare her the chemo." Jenna looked at me with her eye brows down.

"Then didn't they do that when she had the, what was it called again?" She looked at me.

"Hepatoblastoma the first time and Hepatocellular carcinoma the second and third time." I nodded.

"Whatever she just said." Jenna said looking at Grace.

"It could have just not been an opinion." She shrugged. Both Jenna and Grace looked at me. "You know I don't know the whole story about what happened to you with your cancer."

"Me either. So maybe if you want to talk about it and tell us, if you want." Jenna nodded.

"But you don't have to if you don't want to. We understand." I laughed at the two of them finishing each other's sentences.

"Don't worry about it. Where to startâ I mumbled to myself. "Okay so when me and Wyatt were born we were both early, not by much actually. We were full term for twins. Mom said she had us at 36 weeks."

"That's pretty good for twin. I give props to your mom." Jenna smiled. I nodded shushing her with my hand.

"Well." She said sarcastically making us all laugh.

"Okay as I was saying before I was rudely interrupted." I smirked at Jenna as she shrugged innocently. "My dad was deployed when we were only 2 months old and didn't plan to come back till we were about 9 months old, I think, and my parents planned to get married. So Mom was planning a wedding, going to school to be a teacher for kids, as well as working, and taking care of toddler twins. You know being a good marine girlfriend. So when I was about 8 months old I got sick, really sick for an 8 month old. I was throwing up constantly, sleeping more than any baby should be, as I wasn't growing up as fast as a baby should, well as well as Wyatt was. I had a fever of a think 103 my mom said."

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"That's high for a baby." Grace whispered putting her hand over her mouth. I nodded hugging my hoodie close to me.

"So mom called my Grandma Patty to see what she should do since she was still a new mom, and only 18 to that, and Grandma said to rush me to the Emergency room, so Grandpa watched Wyatt as Mom took me there where Grandma had one of her friends take me right in and get me in a bed. Mom sat with me all night as I slept rocking me quietly whispering that she was there for me. They took so many tests from me, blood, urine, whatever you can think of they took.

"So the next morning the results came back. Now remember my Mom was alone since Grandpa took Wyatt to my Aunt Emilia's apartment as he had to get on duty and there house was crazy at the moment, and Aunt Emilia had Asher, my cousin who was 2 at the time, and was ready for Lucas to come so a crib was already set up for Wyatt to sleep in."

"So what happened?" Jenna asked cocking her head to the side to look at me.

"They told my mom I had liver cancer. That Wyatt would have it too since we were twins and that I needed to get chemotherapy right away before the cancer spread to the rest of my body." They two of them gasped. "So my called my Uncle since we was a doctor, and he delivered Wyatt and I and he came rushing over to help." I sighed looking down at my cold hands.

"What did they do?" Grace asked.

"They started me that day on IV chemotherapy to get rid of my tumor." I nodded sadly.

"What did your family do after that?" Jenna asked as the two of them looked over at me wanting to hear the rest of my life storyâ

Chapter 26: California

"Well My Grandpa got a call to my Dad so he could come home since he only had about a week left on his deployment. He came home and wouldn't leave my side. No me being me, even as a baby, I loved it. I had my Daddy by my side nonstop when he wasn't away." I laughed at myself closing my eyes remember when mom told me all of this.

"When did your parents get married?" Jenna asked wide eyed listening to me talk as the football game went on around us.

"I'm getting to it, hold on." I laughed at her. "Okay as I was saying my mom had been planning her and my dad's wedding since he proposed to her when she was pregnant with us. So it was really all done, ready to go, all it needed was a date so they planned the date as close as they could because Mom wanted to move onto base with Dad so they could be closer to the base hospital if something happened with me. Mom found a cancer specialist that could take me in whenever they got to him. It was a good thing, he was only 5 minutes off base, and he took Dad's insurance. There was that one little problem though." I said looking up at the sky. "What was the 'little problem'? He was only 5 minutes off base and could see you?" Jenna asked raising her eye brow.

"He was 5 minutes away from base, he was 7 states away." I laughed.

"California?" I nodded.

"Mom told Dad that she thinks it would be good idea if we moved to California so I could get my treatment from this doctor. My Uncle knew him and he was one of the best in Liver cancer. My Dad thought it was best if we did go, as a family. Mom, Dad, Wyatt and me. So they went to the Commander to see if he could help with anything. He could get my Dad a couple of passions he could take in California and Mom said some caught his eyes very quickly."

"What was it?" Grace asked.

"A Drill instructor at Camp Pendleton. The Doctor was only 5 minutes outside of Camp Pendleton; Dad wouldn't have to worry about being deployed again while I was sick or anything. Of course my mom being my Mom, Great Grandpa Jerry knew the Commander of Lejeune at the time and got Dad the interview in Cali, which he got because well he's my Dad so it means he's awesome." I laughed at myself.

"What happened after that?" Gracie asked taking a sip of her coke.

"Well we moved to Cali and I got better, Dad loved his job, Mom got a nice job, we were pretty good at that time. But when I was about 6 I started to get sick again. Same as the first time. I was throwing up, I was sleeping most of the time, and I was losing weight again. My mom took me to the doctor and sure enough my cancer was back. The doctor told my mom that I wasn't out of the woods yet since the chemo gives me a high risk of getting my cancer again for the first 10 years." I took a sip of my hot chocolate.

"That's what my doctor told me too. That I could get my cancer again in 10 years, if not I could be safe. But I guess I'm not safe." She looked down at her sleeved arm.

"What did your Mom do?" Jenna asked me.

"She did what any mom could do. She made me comfortable while I got radiation, in case I didn't survive this one. Wyatt spent the most time he would with me, just in case." I felt the tears stinging my eyes. "I remember being scared as I laid in bed not wanting to move because I might get sick again. Cancer took away my childhood. My mom always told me that it wasn't my fault, or Dad's, or Wyatt's that I was made to be a tough girl so when I got older I would be able to do anything I wanted to do. I spent two years like that. I remember lying with my Dad, watching a movie, trying to eat something so Mom didn't have to take me to the hospital any more than I already had to go. I would try to play with Wyatt but would get too tired to or I would get sick again. I felt horrible. Not because I was sick cancer, because I felt like my brother was suffering more than I was. I remember when I put my foot down and made Dad take Wyatt to the zoo so they could have fun together. Dad I was crazy, I love the zoo, and it was a nice zoo. So Dad took Wyatt all day they were gone. I watched some of my favorite movies with Mom as we cuddle on the couch till they got home.

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"I remember Wyatt came running into the house and sat with me for hours telling me what he and dad did. We showed all the pictures they took so it was like I was there with them. He even got me a stuffed tiger from the gift shop so I didn't left out." I smiled through the tears that were now rolling down my face. "I love my brother so much. He was and still is my best friend. I don't know how I would have got through my cancer without him. He's my rock." I wiped my eyes and looked at Jenna and Grace.

"What happened after that? I know when I met you in the doctor's office you had cancer." I nodded my head. "Your right. I did have it. When I was 10 the doctor said it was safe to move home. That I would fine, and living with family, would be good for me. So we did. Dad got his old Gunny position. Mom got a job at the elementary school on base and taught little kids. Wyatt and I started middle school where we met Colt, and I saw Jayden again." Jenna looked at me.

"Wait how did you and Jayden meet?" She asked.

"That's another story I will get to at another time. Now let me finish Missy." She held her hands up in surrender. "I'm almost done. Alright so we met that thing called Colt, and Middle school we made fun of his name. Of course he is a horse. But All is all. Dillon came into the world about 4 months later. I told Mom I wanted a little brother. Not a sister cause than I would have to share my Daddy with her and that would not be fun for me. Now Dillon was 2 years old when I got sick again. I was jealous beyond belief at him."

"Why?" Jenna asked.

"Why you ask? Because he was healthy and I wasn't. The doctor found out that none of my brothers was going to get sick because my cancer wasn't genetic. I was just unlucky. They test both Wyatt and Dillon to this day to see if they do have any traces of cancer in them but so far none and I'm happy for that. Because if they did, they couldn't become Marines. I wouldn't want to crush their dreams, because I didn't want to be sick. I love my brothers so much more than I love myself. I want them to be happy, even if it meant I would sick for awhile." Jenna hugged me as I closed my eyes not wanting to think of any of my brothers being as sick as I was for all those yearsâ !â !..

Chapter 27: Your Blondie

It got to half time for the football game with the boys winning 14 - 6. It was getting pretty heated as the other team got another touchdown right before the half time whistle. I finished off my food and was talking to Grace and Jenna as the cheerleaders danced around acting like they always do. I pulled a face at them before turning to look at Jenna again. "Can we get them a pole and start charging more?" I asked causing everyone to start laughing.

"Oh Bailey if we gave them a pole to perfect that dance we would get arrested for public nudity." One of the other girls we were sitting with laughed high fiving me.

"Come on it isn't that bad." One of the guys said watching them.

"Oh yeah? Then look away from them and look at me." I said folding my arms looking at him. He turned his head not taking his eyes off the bouncing girls.

"See I'm looking at you." He said turning back. His girlfriend smacked him.

"Would you stop it Mark, it's really annoying. Why don't you look at me like that?" She asked snapping at him.

"I do look at you that why when your half naked, going down on me ready to-" He stopped short as his girlfriend took her elbow and slammed it right between his legs making all of us look away from him as he doubled up in pain.

"What the hell Lucy? What was that for?" He groaned at her looking at her for the first time since the show started.

"Because you are a complete douche bag." She snapped getting up and storming off, away from him. I looked at Mark and pulled a face at him.

"Trouble in paradise?" He glared at me.

"Bailey I think she just crushed my balls okay, not in the mood to deal with your damn jokes." He snapped.

"Whoa there Nelly, I was just asking." He closed his eyes groaning again in pain. I put my hand on his back and rubbed it as he rocked back and forth trying to make the pain go away. "Want me to call you an ambulance?" I asked trying not to laugh.

"No, no, I'm good." He sighed looking at me.

"What did you do to piss her off so much?" I asked taking a drink from my second soda that Jenna got me when she went to go get something to eat since she got hungry.

"I'm not really sure but maybe it wasn't a good idea to look at those damn cheerleaders." He huffed out a breath.

"You had to have done something." I said tilting my head to the side.

"That's it. I don't remember doing anything!" He said putting his head in his hands.

"Then go talk to her and see what you can do to make it better, and if all fails, go buy her some flowers and diamonds." He gave a short laugh before standing up painfully and walking away the way she ran away. I looked at Jenna and we both shrugged and looked back at the game as it started to come to a close. We won, 50 - 20. Mark never came back with his girlfriend so I just said they must have made up already. I said good bye to everyone and made my way to my truck as the locker room door opened and Jayden came out. He watched me as I got in my truck.

"Bailey, please." He called. I looked over at him. "Please talk to me. You don't know how sorry I am." He shouted running over to my pick-up, still in his jersey. "Please."

"I'm sorry Jay. Not now." I whispered hopping in my truck, driving away from the school, away from him.

I got to the house as it was silent since it was so late. I had been just driving around not knowing where to go since I didn't want to go home yet. I pulled in behind Wyatt's car and went into the house, into my room not

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looking around to see if anyone was up. I closed my bedroom door, locking it before switching the light on grabbing my notepad and opening to a blank page.

Hollywood,

It's been about 3 days seen you have been gone. I can't believe I miss you. I have only known you a total of what? 6 days? But I miss you, like I miss my marines when there away. I miss them, I miss you. I never had a marine make e feel like this. Sure my cousins leave, as well as they come home, but I never felt like this. I never felt like my heart was in half, but strangely you are making me feel this way.

I was sitting in my room the other day just looking at my TV when Harley jumped on my bed with his toy you gave him. He still loves that stuffed dog. Don't ask me why, he just does. I always wondered why dogs loved stuffed animals so much till Max tried to steal Harley's stuffed dog and Harley nearly ripped Max a new one, if you know what I mean. I have never seen him so mad before, but it put Max back in his place so that was a good thing.

I was thinking. Maybe when you get back we could go down to Florida so I can show you what I was talking about that night. Remember? When you thought I was crazy when I said I think Disney World is better than Disneyland. When I still think that, even if you think I'm crazy. We can go down and go to SeaWorld too. It would be so much fun don't you think?

Man Taylor, My Hollywood, I miss you. I wish you were here, watching a movie with me like you did for those couple of days. I wish you were here, safe with me and Harley. Not in a warzone, where I don't know if I'll ever see you again. Hollywood please don't do anything stupid. I mean it Hollywood, stay safe. I promise you I will be waiting here for when you get back, ready to take back the life you left on that parade ground only a shy, 2 days ago.

Well I guess that's all I got Holly. I want you to know I'm at the other end of the telephone if you ever want to take. It's always on. You know my number. I made you memorize it. I swear I will beat you when I get back if you forgot it Tay. It's getting late here. I should be getting to sleep. Tell Skylar I wish him well too. Bye Hollywood, My Hollywood, My Marine.

Love,

Your Blondie

I pulled the page out and folded it in half slipping it into an envelope licking the flap so I could shut it. I put the envelope next to my alarm clock before I shut the lights. I crawled into bed next to Harley and fell asleep right as my head hit my pillowsâ !..

Chapter 28: Princess

A couple of weeks later I was getting the mail from the mailbox before walking back into the house. I put all the junk mail into a pile before separating Dad's mail from Mine, Mom's, and Wyatt's. I was looking into my pile and smiled as I got to a letter addressed to Bailey Blondie Williams. I opened the back of the envelope and pulled out the single sheet of paper.

Blondie,

Man that was corny. I must say, it was pretty cheesy. But I liked it. It was cute. When I read your letter out loud like we always do here I got kissy faces from all the guys. I'm just saying could you tune down the girly. Just saying.

Now where was I going with this letter. Right now I remember. I miss you too Bailey. More than you will ever understand. You're so different than any one I have ever met. You let me be me, no one else does that. That's why you're my Blondie. Because I'm your Hollywood.

I told Skylar that you call me Hollywood and he started to laugh. I must say the jokes I have heard since he spread around the platoon that you call me that, well let's just say I might spend some time in church when I get home.

Skylar says hi. He's been sitting there staring at me like I need to get my head checked out for what seems like about 2 hours, but it's only been about 20 minutes. I told him I was going to write you back since I got the time, and he just laughed saying to tell you that you promised him cookies, and he wants them. I'm not really sure what he's talking about really. The heat has been getting to his head lately. That so we just really likes that magazine that my brother sent him. One or the other. Only god knows which one.

But getting to a serious note here, I do miss those days. When I think it's not going to get any better, only worse, I just think of those times. I see that I loved that day when I gave Harley that stuffed dog, I'm happy he likes it, and see that when this is over I got some where to go. Somewhere that I have been fighting to protect. Sleep tight Bailey Williams, this marines here waiting for your letters. They should be getting the phones working soon so I should get to talk to you soon, but till then I won't get to hear the sweet sound of your voice letting me to screw off.

Okay I got to go beat the crap out of that thing I call a twin brother. He is reading over my shoulder saying what I'm writing to all the guys. I hope to hear from you soon. Stay safe Bailey, I miss you.

Semper Fi,

Taylor

I sat down rereading the letter over and over. I closed my eyes as a single tear slipped down my cheek.

The next couple of weeks weren't that eventful. School wasn't that bad, work was fine, everything was fine. It had started to snow. Like it does every winter so I took pictures and sent them to Taylor. I was pulling on my boots when I felt a hand on my shoulder. I looked up at Mom. "Bailey maybe you and your brother should stay home." She said looking out of the window.

"Mom it's going to be fine. Remember Wyatt got the tire chains on his truck so it won't be too bad." She gave me a pleading look.

"Look outside Bailey. It's going to snow so bad today." She said as Wyatt came in from outside.

"We know mom but it's only a half day at school and it's suppose to start snowing at 2. We should be okay."

Mom sighed giving both of us a defeated look.

"Okay please stay safe you too." I kissed her cheek.

"We will Mom." Wyatt opened the door sending an icy blast into the house. Dillon walking into the front room still in his pajamas. A big snow storm was supposed to be coming into the area. They were saying that we should be getting about 4 or 5 feet of snow. Almost all the schools in North Carolina have been shut down still farther notice, but not ours. Mom took the day off and is keeping Dillon home from school also. Wyatt and I have to go to school because coach wants all the football players there and I need to finish taking a test from my science teacher, so we are toughing it and going in. Mom gave a nod and kissed both Wyatt and I on the cheek.

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"Stay safe you too. I will have lunch ready when you get back." We nodded.

"Okay Mom, I love you." I said walking out pulling my jacket closer to me.

"Love you too Mom." Wyatt said coming out after me. We both got in his truck and left getting to the empty school in about 10 minutes. "Man it's deserted." Wyatt said scrunching up his nose.

"It is come on let's get inside, it's freezing out here." I said as we ran into the school. Wyatt looked around and scrunched his nose up again.

"Dude, no one's here." Wyatt took my hand as we started to walk through the empty halls.

"Okay, this is creepy." I whispered to him causing him to nod in agreement. Wyatt got to the locker room and looked at me.

"Stay here okay I will be right out." I nodded wrapping my arms around myself as Wyatt went into the locker room. A couple of minutes later Colt stuck his head out the door.

"You may come inside princess." He smirked at me. I shook my head at him and walked into the locker room as he held the door open for me. I walked into the heated room and looked around at the football team.

"Morning sweetheart, you might want to get comfortable because you aren't leaving." The coach said looking at me.....

Chapter 29: Closed

"I'm what?" I asked the coach wide eyed.

"You and I are both stuck here so far for the night." I put my head down and sighed.

"Great!" I groaned at him. He came over and put a hand on my shoulder.

"I know kid. We are both screwed." I gave a short laugh.

"Why do we have to stay here with them?" I said looking as all the guys were sitting around laughing at each other.

"Well you see the storm is supposed to be really bad so the commander shut down all the roads. Unless you want to take the chance to walk all the way back home now without your truck with the chance of 5 feet of snow dropping down on you as you go." He shrugged.

"Are you kidding me?"

"I wish I was kidding you Bailey but no we are stuck here."

"But come on we live on a marine base and we are stuck in a high school." I slapped my forehead.

"They are sending in marines, but they can't come till after the snow stops." He gave a little shrug.

"Damn!" I sighed looking around at the guys. My eyes landed on Jayden as he sat on a folding chair staring at me. Another football player was talking to him as he stared at me. My eyes locked eyes with his from across the room. I looked down not able to look at him anymore. Coach looked at me than him.

"You and him having troubles?" He asked. I shrugged.

"I'm not sure really." He put a hand on my shoulder.

"I hate to say it Kid but you are going to be here for the next 18 hours. You have been friends for what? How many years?"

"13 years." I said quietly.

"13 years is long to throw away. I care for you too. Not just for my star quarterback, okay maybe a little, but I care for you too. You're my players' lucky charm. You come to all our games. You're my linebacker's sister. You're Bailey. I don't know what this team would be like if you were gone. So go kiss and make-up. Or else. This might be the worse 18 hours for a while. Be safe kid." He smirked patting my shoulder.

"Where are you going Coach?" I asked putting both on my hands on my hips.

"Oh I'm going to a friend's house across the street."

"I thought you were staying here with us."

"Sure Bails I'm going to spend my night with a ton of high schoolers." I pulled a face.

"Come on Coach really? You have spent nights with them when they went to states."

"Your point?"

"Also when they go to football camp every summer."

"Alright alright so I go spend time with these dumb asses, I don't want to spend it with them now." I nodded.

"I guess you're right."

"I usually am. But if these guys are giving you crap, or you want to get away from them I'm just across the street. Also Assistant Coach Michel is in my office. He is going to be here with all of you alright." I nodded.

"Remember just a phone call away, even just a short little walk."

"I know Coach. Be safe."

"I will be." He nodded walking out of the locker room. Jayden looked at me again.

"Bailey can we please talk now." I looked up at him. He looked so tired. I nodded.

"Alright." He gave me a smile before he pulled me out of the locker room and into a empty class room.

"Bailey I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to say what I did. Sophia she screwed with my head."

"I don't think that's the only thing she screwed with." Jayden gave me a pleading look. "Alright I'm sorry, you can talk."

"Thank you. Bailey I am so stupid. I let her get to my head when I shouldn't even have let her get to me, let alone my head. She wanted to get at you; I was just good lay to her. Nothing more. I put 13 years of friend down the drain for sex. I am the dumbest person in that damn world." He put his head in his hands.

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"You're just a guy Jay. You got a one track mind I guess." He gave me a twitch for a smile.
"I'm an ass hole Bailey." I gave a thoughtful look.
"Yeah you kind of are an ass hole." He gave me a look. "Hey just speaking the truth here."
"Bailey I'm an idiot. I am sorry. I wish I never said that to you. I wish I didn't lose my best friend."
"You didn't lose me Jay. I'm right here." I smiled laying my head on his chest.
"I did lose you. I'm so sorry." He hugged me tight.
"I forgive you Jay. Just fuck up again and ah your parents will get that girl they were hoping for." I felt him shudder.
"I'm good; I would like to stay a boy." He smiled at me. I cuddled closer to him as I shivered from the cold.
"Come I got something for you." Jayden pulled me to his locker and opened it. "I feel horrible for taking away the hoodie so I got you a new one." Jay pulled out a thick hoodie from the locker. He wrapped it around me. I looked down at it.
"But this is your favorite jacket Jayden." I looked up at him.
"It's yours now Bailey. You deserve it. Not me. It's warm also so you'll get good use out of it since it's freezing here right now." I kissed his cheek.
"Thank you Jayden. I love it." I smiled at him. I looked down the hallway as a loud popping sound happened making both of us jump. "What the hell was that?" I asked looking at Jayden. He pulled me to him.
"I have no idea." He said holding me. Jayden took my hand as the sound happened again. I got closer to Jayden so I could feel his heart beat on my chest. Jay looked down at me as I looked up. I could feel his warm breath on my face as he started to lean his face into mine. Suddenly everything goes blackâ ;
A/N: Alright I haven't really done this before so give me a chance. I know I usually update people when I update but I am having a very hard time with Booksie lately. I can still update people, but I can only update you if you comment on the last that was posted. I'm sorry I can't update everyone every time.

Thank you so much for reading and commenting and becoming a fan. It really does mean the world to me. Happy New Year everyone. Let's make this year great.

Chapter 30: Powerless

"Jayden what's going on?" I asked looking around blankly. Everything was black I could not see anything, not even my own hands.

"It's alright Bailey I got you." I heard him say. I felt his fingers entwining with mine.

"I'm scared Jay." I whispered to him as I heard a sound down the hall way.

"It's alright I'm here Bails, your safe with me." He whispered. I heard fabric moving around as I looked on blindly.

"What are you doing?" I asked him. I suddenly saw a flash of light making me close my eyes for a minute.

"I was getting my phone so I open my locker." He said. I opened my eyes to see him trying to open his locker with his phone's light shining onto the dial. I chuckled making him look at me.

"What?" He asked, the world muffled by the phone in his mouth.

"Nothing you just look like an idiot." I laughed. He squeezed my hand as his locker popped open. He started to look through all the crap in it.

"Aha I found." He said loudly dropping his phone to the ground. "Damn." He cursed as the light went out. I blinked my eyes as the darkness once again took both of us into its dark, no pun intended, grip. I heard a clicking sound making me look around as a light flashed on.

"Jayden you have a flash light in your locker?" I asked raising my eye brow at him.

"Of course what if I needed it? Oh wait like I just did." He laughed nudging me with his shoulder.

"Shut up it's still kind of weird." I smiled. I pulled my keys from my pocket and flicked on my pocket flashlight.

"And you say I'm weird for having a flash light in my locker when you carry one on your keys." He snorted as we started to walk back to the locker room.

"No my dad got it for me when I got my car in case I needed them. Oh and look at that I needed them." I said in a matter - of - fact voice.

"Whatever." He said looking up at the ceiling. "You would think since it's only 9 o'clock in the morning there would be light in these hall ways but there isn't."

"That's because there is no windows to let any light in. When they were building the school they were not thinking to clearly." I said pulling a face.

"You can say that again." He said giving a little nod looking around.

"Bailey? Jayden? You here or is there a serial killer in here and they already got them." A voice called down the hall way.

"Yes you idiot a serial killer is in the school and killed both of us." I called back. I heard a laugh.

"Told you you moron that they were fine." Wyatt said laughing turning into the hall way with Oliver. They both had flash lights in their hands.

"Hey you never know dude. They could be dead right now." Oliver said shoving Wyatt as we laughed at him.

"Alright leave the poor guy alone." I smiled finally letting go of Jayden's hand. "So anyone got any idea what the hell is going on right now?" Wyatt looked around shining his flash light on the walls and ceiling.

"Coach thinks the transformer blew so we have to go see what's going on on this side while he goes and checks." Oliver said as we started to walk towards the side door that was on this side of the school.

"Holy crap!" I said looking outside. There were at least 6 or 7 inches of snow on the ground already.

"That's a lot of snow." Wyatt whistled.

"It snowed what? 6 inches in like an hour? That's crazy if that speed keeps up we are going to snowed in for a while." Jayden said pulling a face at us.

"Great, snowed in at school, not even at home." I sighed as we started to walk back to the locker rooms.

Coach Michel looked at us as we got back.

"6 or 7 inches Coach. But we couldn't see anything else. It's a blizzard out there." Oliver whistled just like Wyatt did before.

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"Well we are stuck in here with no power also Coach." Another football player on the team said shaking snow from his hair. "You were right. The wind and snow sent that tree that looked crooked and deformed to fall onto the transformer. We are screwed that thing is busted up pretty bad. We have no power at all Coach." He said rubbing his arms. Coach Michel sighed.

"This isn't good. With no power that means we are going to have no heat. Now with no heat that means we are going to freeze are asses off." He rubbed his shaven head. "Any ideas you 5? Some ideas will be a little bit of help here." He huffed. Did I forget to mention that coach started working here about 2 weeks ago? I did? Oops, my bad.

"You should probably should call the commander and tell him we are going to freeze to death if he doesn't send in some Marines to get us out of here." I suggested. "I'm 18. I don't want to die just yet." Coach nodded.

"Your right Bailey. What would I do without you?" He said pulling out his cell phone.

"Run around like a chicken with his head cut off." I shrugged.

"Any other ideas from the peanut gallery?" Coach asked looking at the boys.

"Blankets, food, water." Oliver said.

"Blankets are in the emergency cases in Coach's office. Food is in the kitchen or also in the emergency cases. Now we still have running water since it isn't power operated but it will be freezing cold since the heater does work on power." I said looking at everyone.

"Alright food, water, and blankets all done. Can you all go get that stuff for me while I call the commander?"

We nodded as we started to make are way back into the locker roomâ

Chapter 31: 4th Generation

"Bailey, what going on?" Oliver said standing up as we came in.

"The transformer blew so we are going to be powerless." I said quickly as Jayden and I started to make our way to Coach's office with the only light of our flash lights. I walked into the room looking around. I found the cabinet quickly.

"Did you find it?" He asked looking over my shoulder as I shifted through all the crap Coach had in the cabinet.

"Not yet. Hold this." I said handing him the flash light I was holding. I pulled papers and folders out from the bottom of the cabinet till I got to a camo bag. "Aha I found it." I said picking the bag up. I pulled the zipper open. Inside the bag was about 3 flashlights, 5 ponchos, 4 battery powered lanterns, 4 blankets, and a pack of batteries. "Food coach food." I whispered to myself. I looked back into the cabinet and sure enough there was a box of MREs. "Thank you lord." I said looking up pulling the box out of the cabinet.

"Man he is ready for a natural disaster in the making." Jayden said whistling. I shot him a look.

"Well his OCD to have this stuff just saved our ass so we are lucky." I zipped the bag closed. "Get the box I got the bag." He gave me a nod before grabbing the handle holes on both sides of the box. I took my flashlight back from him.

"Yes Ma'am." He mumbled as I threw the bag over my shoulder and started to make my way back to the boys.

"It's getting cold in here." One of the guys said rubbing his arms with his hands.

"Dude your such a pansy." His friend said pushing him.

"I am not." The first one said shoving his friend back.

"You are to." The friend said.

"Am not."

"Are too."

"Children shut up!" I snapped at them. "God, my 2 year old brother is more mature than you two." I said rolling my eyes.

"Am not" the first guy whispered to his friend.

"What the hell did I just say?" I said dropping the bag and folding my arms.

"That you love dearly?" The friend said smiling at me from under his eye lashes.

"Yeah right. Keep wishing." I looked at the rest of the guys sitting around. "Alright so here is what is happening right now. We are all trapped here with no power, no heat, and no way to get out."

"Isn't that what trapped means? No way to get out?" The friend of the guy that I was just arguing with, Kyle said raising his hand.

"Smart ass comments get you kicked out of the locker room and into the snow." His hand fell down as he looked around as the guys laughed at him. "Alright any questions?" three guys raised their hands.

"What are we going to eat?" One asked.

"We have enough MRE for everyone for 4 meals so we will be okay on that part." I nodded. One of the other guys sitting in the back by himself raised his hand but quickly put it down. I gave him a questionable look. He looked away from me. "Alright anyone else?" I looked around.

"What are we going to use for light?" Another guy asked.

"We have flash lights and lanterns to use for light." I nodded.

"Water?"

"We still have running water it's just going to be cold."

"What are we going to do without heat?" Another called out.

"We are going to do our best to keep everyone warm. Right now we don't know when we are getting out of here but the best thing we can do is back the best of it. Right now let's get everything ready so we have light other than two little flashlights." I opened the bag and tossed around the flashlights and lanterns. I look a lantern so I could see better than my little light. The room was light again as the flashlights and lanterns were lit. I walked around as Jayden passed around the blankets. I walked over to the guy sitting by himself, still

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looking down. "You alright?" I asked him quietly. He nodded his head not looking up. "You can talk to me it's alright. I don't bite unless you're my brother, but you're not so it's safe." He looked up at me with a little smile. "What was your question? It's alright to ask it now. No one is paying any attention to us." He shook his head.

"You are going to laugh at me." He said folding his arms and laying them on his knees looking down again.

"No I won't I promise I won't." He looked up at me quickly before he looked back down again.

"What's a MRE?" I smiled at him. He looked up at me. "See your laughing at me." He said hiding his face again.

"No I'm not. See? I'm not laughing. It's alright to ask what a MRE are. You don't have to be shy about it." He turned his head to look at me.

"Than what's it mean?"

"It's a meal ready to eat. Most of the soldiers around here have eaten them because they are easy to carry." He blush a red before he hid his face again. "Don't worry about it." He shook his head. "Your new here right?" He turned his face to look at me.

"Yeah I just moved onto base for the first time last week." He whispered looking around to see if anyone was listening.

"Well than I'm Bailey." I said sticking my hand out for a hand shake.

"Derrick." He said he said shaking my hand.

"Nice to meet you Derrick. So you a Marine brat? Navy Brat?" He blushed again.

"I'm really a Coast Guard Brat I guess, but My Dad's in the Navy so I guess a Navy brat too." I pulled a face.

"Man pushing it on this whole friendship there but it's alright your cool for a Coast Guard's kid." He cracked a smile at me.

"What about you?"

"Pure Marine, 4th generation actually." He nodded.

"Pretty cool I guess. My Dad always says that the Marines are just a department of the Navy but whatever." He shrugged.

"Yeah the Men's department." I laughed. I felt my phone start to vibrate in my pocket. I looked at the caller I.D. on the screen. I looked up at Derrick. "I got to take this hold on one minute." He nodded as I took my lantern and walked out of the locker room.

Chapter 32: Stay Safe

I slid down the wall flipping open my phone and pressed send, before putting it to my ear.

Me* Hey Mom

Mom* Are you okay Baby? Where are you? Where's your brother? Bailey why aren't you answering my questions? Bailey?

Me* Mom slow down and breath I'm fine. I promise.

Mom* Bailey why aren't you answering my questions?

Me* Because you asked about five questions in the space of like 20 seconds.

Mom* Okay your right. I'm sorry. Let's try this again. Are you okay?

Me* Yes Mom. I'm just peachy.

Mom* Sarcasm Bailey solves nothing.

Me* Sorry, I'm just getting pretty cold.

Mom* Which goes on the next question. Where are you?

Me* I'm at school. Sitting in the hallway outside the locker room.

Mom* Okay why are you cold? The school is heated.

Me* Yeah well that the problem because heat runs on electricity.

Mom* Your point is?

Me* We don't have any electricity.

Mom* Your in a high school with no heat?

Me* Ding ding ding!

Mom* Can't you leave?

Me* Nope. The roads are closed because it's already snowing.

Mom* Oh baby who else is there?

Me* It looks like just me, Coach Michel, and the entire football team.

Mom* Man sweetheart I'm sorry.

Me* Yeah well I'm freezing here Mom.

Mom* Let me call your Uncle Jesse and see if he can do anything.

Me* Coach already called him. He can only send in Marines after the storm is over.

Mom* Oh no that is not acceptable.

Me* Yeah well I'm stuck here.

Mom* No I am calling him right now and demanding he send in the marines.

Me* Mom just because the base commander is your Uncle doesn't mean it changes his answer.

Mom* It does when he hears his Great niece and nephew are stuck in there also.

Me* Alright, sorry I asked.

Mom* Alright I will call you back. I love you.

Me* Love you too Mom.

I hung up the phone and shook my head. I pulled the hoodie Jayden gave me closer around my body as the temperature dropped in the hallway around me. My phone started to vibrate again making me jump. I looked back at the screen before answering it.

Me* I was starting to think you were never going to call

Taylor* Oh really where you because I can hang up?

Me* Yeah like you haven't talked to a girl in what? Like a couple of weeks now?

Taylor* Not true.

Me* Your mother doesn't count.

Taylor* But-

Me* or your sister

Taylor* Okay your right. You are the only female I have talked to. Wait a minute! .what's a female?

Me* You're an ass hole.

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Taylor* I know. So how's chilly North Carolina?

Me* Fucking freezing.

Taylor* Dude you don't know how much I wish it was 'fucking freezing' here.

Me* No, you don't.

Taylor* Oh I so do.

Me* I'm trapped in a High School with 20 guys, including my brother.

Taylor* Hey, I'm trapped in the ass end of the desert with 20 guys including my brother too here.

Me* It's fucking snowing.

Taylor* We just get sand storms.

Me* Did I mention there is no heat here and the temperature is dropping fast than Justin Bieber's balls?

Taylor* Hey take some of the heat from here. We don't need it.

Me* I would love some right now. I'm so cold.

Taylor* Why? Isn't there heat or something?

Me* a transformer blew so we are powerless.

Taylor* Aw man that sucks Blondie.

Me* Thanks for pointing that out there Sherlock.

Taylor* Your welcome Mrs. Williams, I'm here to help.

I couldn't help but laugh at his horrible impressing of Sherlock Holmes.

Taylor* I got you to laugh. Do I get an award?

Me* You get a hug when you get homeâ.if I get out of here alive.

Taylor* Oh I can't wait to get home now. I'm counting down the days to when I get my hug.

Me* Hmmm you should. I do give nice hugs.

Taylor* I can't wait Blondie.

Me* Taylor can you do me a favor?

Taylor* What is it Bailey?

Me* Stay safe? For me?

Taylor* Of course. I can't miss out on my hug can I?

Me* You better not.

Taylor* Don't worry; I will do my very best.

Me* Okay.

Taylor* I got to go now Blondie.

Me* Okay.

Taylor* Alrighty then.

Me* Hollywood?

Taylor* Yeah?

Me* Stay safe.

Taylor* Yes Ma'am.

I heard the line go dead as silence filled my ears. The only sound that I could hear was my own heart beat as it fluttered in my chest. I felt a tear roll down my face as I stared into the darkness, of where the lantern could not bring light. I looked down at my phone as I thought of Taylor, my Hollywood. I closed my eyes as I fought the tears that wanted to escape and join their friend that was already rolled down my cheek. I wiped the tears away before I got up from my frozen spot on the floor. I grabbed my lantern before walking back into the locker room. Derrick looked at me as I walked in. He quickly got to his eat walking around all the guys that where on the floor tell stories and came to my side. "You alright?" He asked quickly so no one could hear. I nodded taking a deep calming breath.

"Yeah I'm good. Sorry it was my Mom calling to see where I was." I said walking over to where the guys had laid out a ton of blankets on the floor for everyone to sit down on. Derrick told me while I was outside the guys found a stash of sleeping bags and blankets for when the guys went to away games and didn't have something you use. I looked at Jayden as I examined the mess of blankets. He patted his lap.

Chapter 33: Northern Hick

"Because I don't want to tell you the story of how I lose my virginity." I said shrugging. He narrowed his eyes at me.

"I don't think that you really lost it yet." I slapped my forehead with my hand sighing.

"My twin brother is in the room as well as my cousin. Does it really sound like a good idea now?" I asked him.

"Yeah. I told my sister details when I lost mine when I was 14."

"And that is nasty. My brother does not need to know of my sex life." I snapped. Wyatt nodded.

"I really do not need the pictures of my baby sister having sex in my head. That's gross." Wyatt shuddered.

"If Bailey doesn't want to tell the story of how she lost her v-card then that's fine. She doesn't have to." Jayden said still tense against my back.

"Fine you don't have to tell us the 'gory' details but you have to say who it was, and what lead up to it. Deal?" I looked at him. Jayden's body seemed to relax as he realized that I wasn't going to talk about it.

"Deal." I take that back. Jayden, once again, turned to stone against my back. Kyle leaned back on the locker he was leaning against and looked at me.

"Alright. Who was 'it'?" I sighed.

"He was a boy I met when I was in New York." The made Wyatt look at me narrowing his eyes, but Kyle was intrigued.

"A Northern hick? Hmmmm never thought of you as a, what's the word? 'Northern Girl'." He said cockily making me wrinkle my face.

"Terms country boy." I snapped at Kyle. The guy next to him Gibbs slapped him before looking back at me.

"Okay so what was his name?"

"Cameron." Wyatt pulled a face at me.

"So manly there Bails." Kyle laughed.

"Screw of he was so much manlier than you are." I smirked as his face dropped.

"Come on how can you beat me? I'm as manly as they get." He said in a matter - of - fact voice. I gave a little laugh holding my hands about 8 inches apart making his jaw drop as I mouthed 'this big' to him. "Yeah well mines bigger." He said with his nose in the air like a little kid how didn't get what they wanted for Christmas. There was a dead silence before everyone burst out laughing. Kyle turned red before standing up. "Fine don't believe me? Look." He snapped unbuttoning his button and unzipping his fly. Jayden covered my eyes as I saw the first couple pubic hairs. I held his hand tightly to my head thanking the lord I didn't have to see what was happening in front of me. I felt Jayden's hot breath on my ear as I stared into total darkness our hand created.

"Don't look." He whispered making me shudder as his warm breath tickled my neck as it passed it. "It's not a pretty sight. But to keep all disappoint to a minimum it's not too small but it isn't that big either. I'll say about average, a little over." He chuckled as I elbowed him in the stomach. "Hey just telling you what I see." I turned my head to nib at his wrist that was next to my face. "That wasn't nice there Bailey." I shrugged.

"Never said I was nice." I giggled quietly at him. I felt him chuckle before I felt his lips press to the back of my hair.

"Bailey you can look now. Kyle has pants on and Oliver ducked taped them on so we don't have to ever see that again in the next 48 hours." I heard Wyatt say over the sound of Jayden's breathing in my ear. I moved Jayden's fingers to see if what Wyatt had said before was true. Oh it was. Kyle had duck tape wrapped tightly around his waist hold his jeans to him. It was quiet funny.

"Alright where were we before we figured out that Kyle really is a guy, and that he might want to see a doctor for that rash when we get out of here." I groaned closing my eyes.

"I did not need to know that." The guys laughed at me.

"But as I was saying. Finish the other half of the deal. What lead up to it?" I sighed.

"I was riding Murphy when I fell into a muddy puddle causing me to hurt my stomach." Kyle chuckled at me.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"You were riding Murphy? Man I didn't think of you as such a -" Wyatt punching his arm.

"Murphy is her horse and riding is also called horseback riding, it's a pass time." Wyatt snapped defending me.

"Aright go on." Kyle mumbled.

"So Cam came running to help me up and carry me into the barn. He pulled my shirt off to look at my stomach to is if it was alright, before getting a towel to dry me off with started to gently rub all the water off of me and well the rest is history that you will never know." I shrugged at him.

"And when was this?" One guy asked.

"Like a year, year and a half ago. Does it matter?" He shrugged.

"Just wondering." Wyatt looked at me. I locked eyes with him before he jerked in his towards the Coach's office. I knew he was asking me if we can talk so I nodded my head looking up at Jayden fro where I still sat in between his legs. He looked down at me.

"What?" He smiled.

"Wyatt wants to talk alright?" He sighed.

"But then the warmth will leave and I will be cold."

"I'll be quick I promise. Than you can steal my body heat again." He stuck his bottom lip out giving me a cute sad puppy dog face.

"I guess if you have to go it will be alright." He said with the same face on.

"Thanks." I giggled getting up and walking to the Coach's office listening to him laugh as I walk through the doors to talk to my brotherâs brother.

Chapter 34: That Day

Wyatt looked at me. "Are you a virgin?" He said quietly as he closed the office door. I shrugged.

"Does it matter if I am?" He narrowed his eyes at me.

"Yes it does matter Bailey." I looked down at the floor, not able to look him in the eyes.

"Why does it matter?" He crossed his arms.

"It does when I know your lying."

"How do you know I'm lying?" I said in a defeated voice. Wyatt sighed.

"Well because Cameron is a 19 year old pervert that you hate with a burning passion." I shrugged.

"I don't know what you are talking about." I said trailing off. "You never know." Wyatt gave a short laugh.

"With you? I always know. You're my twin sister. My baby sister. I know you. And it wasn't Cameron who took it was it?" I looked up at him as the tears started to form in my eyes. "It's okay you can tell me."

"No you'll hate me." I said as a warm tear fell down my cheek, freezing as it hit the cold air around us. Wyatt pulled me to him. I held a handful of his coat as I started to full on cry now. Like I could fool my twin brother that I it was all a lie.

"You can tell me I promise. I can't be mad at you sis." I looked up at him as that day played back in my head.

I felt Murphy moving under me as he galloped on the enclosed ring Grandpa had built. I had been riding for a couple of hours so both Murphy and I were getting pretty tired at this point. I slowed down letting my horses shoulders move my hips back and forth, making them sore from all the movement they usually don't get. Dad had dropped me off while they took the boys out fishing for Dillon's first trip. I wanted to go and fish with them but I knew this trip was just for the 'boys' since Wyatt and I both knew Dad was getting his orders soon.

I always thought it was so weird when we would just get that gut feeling that made us want to spend as much time with Dad as we could. I had one right now to be true to myself. But I knew Dad just wanted to take Dill and Wyatt to have some Father Son time, but I missed him. Mom was up at the house nursing Bentley every two hours so it wasn't much fun up there but Grandpa was going to take me on the trail later where we were going to stay for the night by a pond me and Wyatt found last time we were here while Mom and Dad went on their 2nd honeymoon before Mom got pregnant.

I patted Murphy's midnight black neck. "Good Boy." I needed a break from all the fuss up at the house. Mom thought it would be fun if we took Jayden with us for the week, since it was the summer before we went into junior year. Mom was asking him all about his new 'girlfriend' he got. I hated her. She was a bitch. But he 'loves' her. Love my ass. So I took Murphy out for a walk before we had to ride up the 2 mile trail. I wiped the sweat off my brow before looking around the ring. It had rained last night causing some muddy puddles to form around the dirt. I walked Murphy over to one of the puddles and looked at myself in the reflection in the dirty water. I looked so different since I had grown my hair out since my last batch of chemotherapy. My hair had a lighter blonde look, you know like the blondes in Hollywood in movies? Kind of like that. My eyes were even lighter now. I was like a blonde bimbo.

"Bailey!" A voice yelled at me. I jumped making me accidentally kick Murphy making him start to run. I lost my balance quickly sending me right into the muddy puddle, landing painfully on my stomach. "Oh crap." I heard again till I looked up to see Jayden climbing over the fence that enclosed the ring and running over to me. His hair was shaved completely off for the hot summer, but it made his green eyes pop. I held my stomach as he got to me leaning down next to me. He wasn't built like a marine yet, but I knew he was trying. He had a nice set of muscles on him that made him look like that 'true' jock he was, but not to look like he was taking steroids to look all manly. "Crap Al I didn't mean to make you fall off. I have been calling out to you for like 5 minutes and you were just staring at the ground." He said helping me up. Al. That's my nickname. Why? Well this is how it went. Bail is short for Bailey. Bail is also spelt like bale. A bale is a bale of hay. Hay is also Alfalfa. Alfalfa sounds cool and horses eat it. I love horses. And so my nickname was born. Bailey Alfalfa Williams. Al for short. Yeah I know corny, but I love it.

Don't Forget To Remember Me

"It's alright." I sighed sitting up realizing I was sitting in the puddle I had been looking at. "Fuck now I'm all wet." I said still holding my aching stomach. I felt a drop of water roll down my cheek. We both looked up confused till another drop come down from the sky and another, and another, till it was pouring.

"Come on." He said helping me up before running over to grab Murphy's reins leading him back into the barn and pulling his saddle off putting him back into his stall before looking at me. He was drenched in water, as was I. We both started laughing at each other. I took his hand and pulled him into the tackle room where Grandpa kept some towels. I reached up for some causing my stomach to hurt. I pulled my shirt up to show a red mark. Jayden laid his hand on my stomach looking up at me. His green eyes seemed so much brighter than they usually do. Our eyes locked as the towel slipped from my fingers onto our feet as he leaned in. I felt his lips, warm on mine, as they stole my first kiss. I put my arms around his neck as he deepened the kiss. He stole my breath as he pulled me closer to him. I pulled my head back so I could breathe and looked at him.

"That was amazing." I nodded.

"It was." I whispered pulling him back to me. My hand started to go down pulled his shirt over his head making our lips part, before I pressed my lips back on his. I moved my hands down till I felt the cool metal of his zipper on his old blue jeans.

"Bailey wait." I heard him mutter pulling back. My finger froze as I looked up at him innocently.

"Why?" I asked pressing a kiss to his jaw line making him moan.

"I just want to make sure you want to do this." He moaned again as I kissed the hollow under his ear gently, like a butterfly kiss. "I know you're a virgin." He said quietly trailing off.

"I want to do this Jayden." I whispered trailing a line of kisses back to his lips. I heard the sound of his zipper going down before Jayden pressed his lips firmly onto my neck pulling my shorts down gently. That day played in my mind as I thought of if I should tell Wyatt what happened. That was the day Jayden took my virginity. But it was also the day he stole my heart. Did I want my brother to know that?

Chapter 35: -30

"Well Bailey?" Wyatt asked taking my face into his hands. I looked into his warm brown eyes not knowing what to say. Should I tell him? Should I not? Should I lie? So many questions so little time. "Bailey?"

"Iâ!â!..I" I couldn't get anything else out. I have not been so scared to tell Wyatt anything before. Not even when I was telling him I had cancer. I'm scared. So scared.

"Bailey you can tell me. I'm your brother." I felt a tear roll down my cheek as I stared at him, still not a word coming out of my mouth. "Bailey, come on. It's alright." He said pulling me back to him holding me tight. I felt like my voice was gone. Like I had nothing left in my throat but air. No more muscles, just nothing but air. I felt my phone vibrating in my pocket. I looked down pulling it out with sleeve covered hands. The temperature was dropping fast making it colder and colder. I flipped my phone open.

Me* Hello?

Uncle Jesse* Sweetheart are you alright?

Me* Uncle Jesse I'm cold.

Uncle Jesse* Why? The high has heat right?

Me* We are powerless.

Uncle Jesse* Are you telling me that there are teenagers stuck in a high school with no heat while it is -30 degrees outside.

Me* Yeah that's what I'm telling you.

Uncle Jesse* How many kids Bailey?

Me* There are about 20 of us all together.

Uncle Jesse* What do you have? Anything?

Me* All we have is Coach's emergency bag. And what was already in the locker room.

Uncle Jesse* Crap. Are you guys alright?

Me* Right now we are okay but it's really getting cold Uncle Jesse.

Uncle Jesse* I know Baby. I am going to get a rescue group to you as fast as I can alright.

Me* Alright.

Uncle Jesse* Stay safe Bailey. Make sure everyone stays inside.

Me* I will make sure we stay together.

Uncle Jesse* Alright I'll call you back.

Me* Okay I love you.

Uncle Jesse* Love you too Sweetheart.

I closed my phone and looked at Wyatt. "What did Uncle Jesse have to say?" He whispered.

"He is doing the best he can to get us out of here since we have no way of getting heat since its -30 degrees out and we are stranded here." I sighed pressing my body closer to Wyatt's. He wrapped his arms around me.

"I'm sorry." I whispered quietly. Wyatt looked down at me.

"Why?"

"Because I can't tell." Wyatt sighed.

"It's alright. You don't have to." I nodded. "But if you ever want to talk to me. I'm always here for you." I leaned up to kiss his cheek.

"I know." I walked out of the office to see Jayden looking towards the door. I sat back down between his legs making me shiver as cold air got into my hoodie. Jayden wrapped his arms around me holding me tightly to him.

"Did you tell him?" He whispered in my ear. I shook my head. "Why not?" I looked at him.

"I'm not ready yet." Jayden gave a short laugh.

"Yeah well, it's been 2 years. Get ready." He said rudely to me. I felt my jaw drop as I stared at him.

"Jayden shut up." I snapped at him quietly. He looked down at me.

"Why wouldn't you just tell people we had sex?" He hissed I grabbed his jaw with my cold hands.

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"Because I don't to." I growled at him. He looked down at me not saying a word. "Okay, you promised you wouldn't tell anyone till I was ready to tell everyone. Well I'm not ready to tell anyone so stop it alright." He gave me another look. "I'm serious Jayden. I will tell them when I am ready." He sighed.

"Alright. I'm sorry. Your right." He said nuzzling his face into the side of my neck.

"Thank you." I whispered leaning back into him.

"Bail are you cold?" He asked after awhile. I opened one eye to look at him quietly.

"Why do you ask?" I whispered to him. I felt his finger tracing my lips.

"Your lips are blue." He said concerned. I closed my eyes.

"Yeah I am a little." I said as I shivered against him. He moved my hair out of my face looking at me. We were covered in a thick sleeping bag, but I was still cold.

"Colt! Get me another blanket." Colt looked over at us. He got up as he saw a shiver rack through my body. He ran to the closet before turning around to look at us.

"We are all out. We don't have any more."

"Jayden I'm really cold." I whimpered as he took my hands in his rubbing them together trying to warm them up.

"I know Baby, I know." He whispered looking back at Colt as he started to pull everything out of the closet looking for something to keep me warm.

"It's getting pretty cold in here." Derrick stated as he rubbed his arms with his hands. Kyle looked over at him.

"It's not getting cold, your just a pansy." Derrick rolled his eyes at him as Wyatt slapped Kyle making him fall forward onto his face causing everyone to start laughing.

"Kyle be careful or we might just through you out of here and into the snow." He snapped before looking at me.

"Whatever." He mumbled at Wyatt at everyone still laughed at him.

"We had to be nice to each other if we want to stay alive here. We are stuck in here, together till the Commander sends in some Marines to safe us. So we better make the best of it or some of us won't be leaving here other than in a body bag." Wyatt said looking around at all the guys as a silence took over the usually noise level.

"Kyle." One of the guys said it like he was coughing making the rest of us start to laugh, me being one of them. Kyle opened his mouth to say something but a crash made everyone freeze, no pun intended.

"What was that?" I whispered looking up at Jayden. He shook his head putting his finger over my mouth telling me silently to be quiet. No one made a sound as we all listened till another giant crash made us all jump as it was in the next room. Jayden was standing in no time zipping the sleeping bag back up. "Where are you going? Stay with me please." I whispered grabbing his hand. Jayden shook his head.

"I'll be back." He whispered pressing his lips to my forehead before grabbing a flashlight and running out of the locker room.

Chapter 36: Semper Fi

I hugged the blanket close to my body as I shivered. Jayden's body heat was got causing me to be even colder than I already was. Great. Derrick ran out after Jayden, followed by Colt and Wyatt. I closed my eyes praying that it wasn't something bad, since it had my guys going to investigate it. I looked at Kyle as he was huddled under one of the benches pushed up against the lockers. "You call yourself a man. Man my ass." I snorted my teeth clattering as I spoke.

"So just because I don't run at the first sign of danger doesn't mean I am not a man."

"Pansy." A couple of the guys laughed. Kyle rolled his eyes at me as he rubbed his arms.

"Well at least I'm not shivering like a mad man like someone over there." He snapped. I shrugged as my body shook violently with shivers as I tried to stay warm in the freezing air around me.

"She weighs like 120 pounds what do you expect? Her dancing around in her underwear for you?" one guy asked pulling a face.

"Well yeah it would be nice. You know like all those porno films where it's just a bunch of guys in the locker room and one girl and she-" Everyone threw something at him.

"Dude that is just nasty." One of the guys said shuddering at Kyle.

"No it's natural, so Bailey come on over, I'll warm you up." Kyle said wiggling his eye brow at me.

"Ew no I rather freeze to death before I touch you." I said hugging the blanket even closer to myself, not because I'm cold, because I felt like Kyle was staring at my body. I didn't like it. Not at all. I am getting a real bad feeling about him. Kyle made a move to get up when the locker room door burst open. Jayden walked in covered in snow. "Jayden what happened?" I asked standing up on shaky legs to wipe the snow off of his so he didn't get too cold.

"The wind kicked up. It's about to get even colder in here. Half of the school's windows are busted up." I gasped as the others walked in. I wiped the snow off them with frozen hands.

"How is it going to get colder Jay? It's already freezing in here." One of the guys said.

"Yeah well there is nothing keeping the snow out or the cold out now. We are stuck in here and I promise you the temperature is going to drop fast." I shuddered as a cold breeze came into the room.

"How are we going to survive Jay?" another asked. Jayden looked at all the guys around him.

"I'm not sure. But we are going to. We are military kids here. The toughest around. We can survive deployment we can survive this."

"Are you kidding me? Deployment is just watching our parents leave us. We are freezing here! How can you compare the two?" Kyle snapped at Jayden standing up.

"Easy. We have strength. Something so many people lack. If we can watch our parents leave us time after time, than we can survive this. We are strong." I let out a deep breath making me whimper. I am small, I know it. I don't have much fat on me since I have such a hard time gaining it, another story for another time, so I got cold very easily. But this right now was horrible. I could see my breath. We all could. We had no hot air. It was cold and now we all knew it. "Now I don't know about the rest of you but I know what I am. A Marine's son. Born and raised. I may not be as tough as my Dad, but he raised me to believe in myself and others. Right now is when we need each other the most. We are cold, alone, and all we have is each other. What would a marine do? Or even a sailor?" He said looking around at all the guys in the locker room. Every one of them wore the same mask on their face, the one I wore myself. Fear.

"Not give up." Derrick said standing up from where he was sitting. "Never give up without a fight."

"And what are we going to do with we just give up?" I looked at him.

"Let down the Marine Corps." He looked over at me his eyes softening at the low tone of my voice.

"Do we just get down the Marine Corp like that?" I shook my head.

"No, Semper Fi. Always faithful." He nodded.

"Now are we going to let down the Marine Corps? Or the Navy? Or even our Parents?" He asked loudly looking around the room again.

"No." We all said at once.

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"Are we going to give up just like that?" He called out.

"No!"

"What are we?" He yelled.

"Devil Dogs!"

"What do we do?" Jayden called again.

"Fight as a team, win as a team!" Jayden smiled.

"That's right. Now are we going to forget our motto?"

"Hell no!" The guys laughed.

"Semper Fi!"

"Ooh-Rah!" We all called back at him. I rubbed my arms shivering as the noise level in the room got a little quieter after Jayden's speech. Jayden walked over to me taking my hands in his.

"Bailey your hands are blue." He whispered rubbing my hands with his.

"I'm sorry." I whispered trying to stop the violent shivers running through my body. I was not doing a good job because it only had my teeth hurt more with the added pressure of them clattering together.

"Don't apologize for being cold. It's not your fault." He whispered putting a piece of hair behind my ear and out of my face.

"I know." I said over the sound of my teeth.

"Come on. Let's get back under the blanket so you can get warmer." He said pulling back over to our mess of blankets and unzipping the bag. Jayden sat down pulling the blanket up so it wrapped around himself. He looked up at me patted his lap. He laid a blanket of it for me to sit on. I sat down on the blanket as he wrapped me firmly in the blanket like a new born, to keep the heat in. He cradled me to his chest, as if I was a baby rocking me gently before zipping the sleeping bag up to keep some cold out. "We are going to life through this I know it." Jayden whispered to himself. "I know it." He pulled me closer to his body as my breathing slowed, as the air around us got colder.

Chapter 37: Daddy's Here

"Bailey you alright?" Jayden whispered to me as he cradled me in his arms. I felt like I couldn't breathe. My heart felt like it was racing, when it was barely beating. I couldn't say I was cold because I couldn't talk. I could barely move. I was freezing but now I am frozen. Like I was frozen in time. I couldn't feel my legs or my hands or really even my stomach. I was so cold, so cold. I was scared but when I cried, the tears just froze to my cheeks. "Bailey?" He asked again running his hand down my cheek. All I could do was stare at him wordlessly.

"Jay is she alright?" Wyatt asked from where he was curled up in a blanket. Jayden shook his head at him. "Wyatt if it doesn't get warm in here quickly I don't know if she will make it." He whispered back. Wyatt closed his eyes fighting the tears trying to escape there prison.

"She has too." Was all he said.

"Well we have to hope someone comes soon because I don't think we can stay here any longer." Colt said shaking his head pulling his blanket closer to himself.

"Can't we take her somewhere else? Maybe some of the houses close to school?" One of the guys said looking at my pale face.

"If we take her into the wind it would kill her fast. No, it would kill all of us faster." Colt said shaking his head.

"The best chance we have is if the Marines get here fast." Derrick said from where he was sitting. Wyatt looked at him.

"He's right, it's our only hope." He shook his head. "Man do I wish it wasn't." Jayden nodded pulling me up to press his lips to my forehead. I shook in his arms as my body fought to stay warm. Jayden held me tightly to him as I started to cry in pain.

"It's alright Bailey. Shh it's alright." He whispered stroking my hair. I shook my head opening my eyes with the last bit of energy I had.

"No it's not. I'm cold." I cried at him as my heart gave me a painful thump. I could barely breathe. Jayden rubbed my back trying to make some friction to try to warm me up. I closed my eyes trying to get away from the cold that wanted to engulf me. Sleep took me into its warmth making it worth it.

I woke to the sound of footsteps in the hallway outside the locker room. I couldn't move anything but my eyes. The wind was howling outside the school making me want to go back to sleep. Everyone around us was sleeping; it looked like I was the only one up. I watched as the locker room door opened and a black nose come into the room. The nose pushed through making his head appear into the room, his breath showing in the cold air. His head turned towards me locking eyes with me. I knew him. It was Harley. My dog was here in the high school that was killing me. "Harley?" my voice was barely a whisper. But he heard me. He ran over to me, his tail wagging as he nudged my face with his warm head. It took me all I had left to lift my hand and pet his warm head. He licked my face before walking back to the door and barking loudly causing everyone to wake up in the room. "What the hell is going?" Colt asked rubbing his eyes. He looked at Harley who was licking my face even though I didn't answer. Jayden looked down at me.

"Bailey come on wake up." He said rubbing my arm. I didn't move. "Bailey?" He asked shaking me. Harley licked my face again trying to wake me up like he always does but it didn't work. Not this time. The burst open causing everyone to jump. Flashlights were shined around the room on everyone's face.

"You guys alright?" The marines asked looking at all the guys faces. One of the marines rushed to Jayden's side putting his hand on my face.

"She's so cold." He said.

"I'm sorry Mr. Williams I tried to keep her warm but it's just so cold." He whispered looking at Dad.

"Let's get her out of here." He whispered taking me into his arms wrapping me in a blanket. He held me gently to himself grabbing another blanket to wrap me up in as he got to the front door where the trucks were. Harley followed him whimpering as they ran, staying out of the harsh wind. Dad rubbed my back like he did when I was a baby trying to wake me up as we got into the heat of the humvee. "Come on Baby wake up." He

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whispered as Harley licked at my exposed hand. I whimpered at the sudden change of air temperature. "Hey Baby." He smiled at me rubbing my frozen cheeks.

"Daddy?" He nodded looking at the driver.

"Take us to the base hospital ASAP." The driver nodded pulled out of the thick snow making his way to the main roads. He looked back at me leaning down to press his lips to my forehead. "I'm here Baby."

"I'm cold Daddy." I whispered to him closing my eyes again the tiredness taking over me again.

"I know Baby, but I'm here for you not. It's going to be alright now. Daddy's here. Daddy's here." He whispered laying my head on his shoulder.

"Daddy's here." I whispered knowing I was safe now. I always remember when I was little those two words always making me feel better. When I was sick and could barely move any more I remember Dad taking me into his strong arms and just whispering 'Daddy's here' and I felt that little bit better. I closed my eyes as the feeling of being safe again, out of harms way safe in the arms of my Daddy. |

Chapter 38: 'Fine'

Dad walked into the ER with heavy steps trying to get the snow off of his boots. The Nurse looked up jumping as Dad ran up to the desk. "Sir, how did you get here?" She asked looking at me raising her eyebrows.

"By Humvee Ma'am. Please my Daughter is freezing please help her." He nurse nodded.

"Come with me." She said running into the back with him trailing behind her. Some of the nurses were talking and laughing sitting around the nurse station. "Get the doctor." She said as she pointed to a room for Dad to take me in. Dad brought me to the bed and laid me down gently on the warm sheets. He took off his jacket and laying it on top of me. Dad walked out of the room as a Doctor came rushing over to him.

"Williams what is going on?" He asked looking behind him.

"It looks like 18 kids got trapped in the high school, my daughter being one of them. She is the worse out of all of them. But they should be arriving soon. A group of Marines were there helping them while I rushed her here." The doctor nodded.

"There isn't a storm without a couple of cases of hypothermia." He said walking past Dad and into the room. I lay there cold, crying clutching Dad's jacket close to my body. "Hi sweetheart." He smiled at me. "I know this sounds crazy but I need you to take off your layers so I can listen to your heart alright?" I nodded as Dad helps me unzip my jacket and pulling up my shirt.

"It's cold." I whisper at him.

"I know sweetheart but I need to make sure you're alright." I cried out as the semi-warmth of the feel as the doctor listened to my heart rate. "Yeah we need to warm her up and fast. Her heart is way too slow." He nodded at Dad.

"Is she going to be okay?"

"Right now I'm not sure. Let's just get her heart rate up before we try anything else." He sighed. Dad nodded taking my hand in his.

"It's going to be alright Baby." I looked at him as he stared at me his eyes watering. "I promise."

"Don't make promises you can't keep Dad." He looked at me.

"Bailey." I shook my head as the pain started to come.

"Ow." The doctor looked at me.

"Bailey where does it hurt?" He said holding an IV bag.

"Everywhere. It burns." I said closing my eyes not able to move. He nodded.

"I know Sweetheart. Let me get you something for that." He took the IV that was in his hand and put it down. He took a needle and put it into the skin right below my elbow. I didn't even flinch as the sharp needle went into my skin right into a vein. "Alright all in. Let me get you some pain medication so you don't feel so much pain while your skin heats up." I nodded taking a deep breath. Dad sat on the side of the bed as I shivered.

"You alright Baby?" He whispered stroking my hair.

"I will be Daddy. No worries." I whispered. He just stared at me, stroking my hair as the doctor walked back into the room with a little vial of clear medication.

"Alright Bailey let's get that pain to stop." I nodded wanting the growing pain to stop. I watch him as he put the needle into the tube that was now running out of my arm. "Alright you're going to feel very tired soon so don't get concerned." I nodded already feeling the effects started. My eye lids started to drift shut in exhaustion. I felt Dad start to stroke my hair again humming to me causing sleep to pull me into its warm, dark depths. I..

I opened my eyes to a burning feeling on my skin not as bad as it was. I looked around scared of what was happening.

"Daddy?" I whispered looking around fiercely.

"Hey, hey, hey I'm right here." He whispered walking over to me stroking my hair. "How you feeling baby?"

"My skin hurts. It burns. A lot." I gasped in pain. Dad pushed the hair out of my face.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"I know baby. The doctor said you would be feeling the pain as your skin started to warm up farther. Let me go tell the doctor you woke up alright. I think someone is here to see you." He smiled kissing my head. I looked at the door. Jayden stood there wrapped in a blanket looking at me.

"Hey." He said walking in.

"Hey, how are you?" He shrugged.

"Better off then you. Do you know how long you were sleeping for?" I shook my head.

"I don't know." He sat down next to me looking at me. "Was it long?" He shook his head.

"Only a couple of hours." He sighed. I sat up gently, my joints scream at me to lie back down.

"What's wrong Jay- Jay?" He looked over at me tears in his eyes.

"I thought I was going to lose you. Bailey I didn't know if you were going to live." He put his face in his hands. "I was so scared you were going to die in my arms." I wrapped my arms around him, even though I wanted to scream in pain from just the small action. Jayden held me.

"But it's alright now see I'm okay." I smiled at him. He shook his head.

"You're in pain I can see it in your eyes." I shook my head.

"You're worrying. Stop doing that. I'm fine."

"No you're not fine and we both know it Bailey."

"I'm fine."

"Come on didn't you ever hear when a girl says she is 'fine' she is really just lying to everyone." He said crossing his arms looking at me.

"Yeah when I'm not like most girls." I pointed out.

"Doesn't matter. You have boobs and a vagina. You're a girl. You're lying." He said a small smile on his lips.

"Dude really. How do you know what I have? Did you want see it?" I asked joking.

"Maybe I do want to see it." He said making my head turn towards him in shock. I might have been joking but I'm not sure if he wasâ

Chapter 39: Regret

I stared at Jayden as he watched me. I was wordless. I didn't know what to say. He said "But". Jayden moved up to bed so he was closer to me. "Jayden." I whispered looking at him. He took my hand in his leaning towards me.

"I'm not joking Bailey." He whispered.

"What - what do you mean Jayden?" I whispered to him as his blue eyes twinkling as he stared at me.

"Can I do something?" He whispered leaning in. I nodded my head shuddering as I felt Jayden's warm breath on my face.

"Anything." I swallowed as I felt like I had just eaten a spoon full of cinnamon like I did when I went to camp when I was younger. Jayden leaned closer till I felt his warm breath on my lips. I closed my eyes as I felt the warmth of his lips on mine. Jayden kissed me. Jayden kissed me. Jayden IS kissing me. It was soft and warm. Just like I remembered it was like. But now it was different. It wasn't a kiss of lust or a kiss saying 'thanks for the sex' it was a kiss. I felt my heart start to race as Jayden deepened the kiss. I felt Jayden lift his hand up and gently stroke my cheek. He leaned his forehead against mine. I opened my eyes to look at him. His eyes were closed as he tried to catch his breath again.

"You alright?" He whispered opening his eyes to look at me. I nodded my head as I tried to stop my gasps for air. "I'm sorry." He said moving away from me laying me down as I caught my breath.

"Don't apologize." I smiled at him as he pulled the blanket around him and sat down.

"I don't want to but I just feel like I have to." I looked over at him.

"Why?" My stomach dropped into knees.

"Because it's my fault you're here."

"You kissed me because you felt sorry for me?" He looked over at me.

"Of course not Bailey why would I do that?" He asked rubbing his head putting his hands.

"How am I supposed to know? I barley know you anymore." He looked up at me.

"What's that supposed to mean?"

"Jay seen we where 16 you changed so much."

"No," He shook his head. "No I haven't." I gave a short laugh.

"Are you kidding me? Look at you. Look what you became. You Jay or my Jay-Jay. Your Jayden Dalton."

"I was always Jayden Dalton." I shook my head pulling my knees up to lay my chin on top of them.

"No forgot to come to Pool Wednesday. Remember?" He shook his head. "Your date, you blew us off. You never were like this." He shook his head again laying his head in his hands again.

"You were my partner. You should have been there to play with us. It was the tournament. But no you rather go on date."

"Bailey she was a mistake." I laughed again.

"And what we did 2 years ago wasn't? Or even just now? You always regret it Jayden."

"No I don't." He snapped looking up at me.

"Oh really? Why did you call it a mistake?" He bit his lip. "Don't flatter yourself Jayden. I'm just a mistake to you."

"You are not a mistake."

"Oh really? Do you regret sleeping with me then? Cause you know I got the worse deal of all. You took my virginity."

"You know I was a virgin too. Not everything is you Bailey."

"I never said everything was me! I said that you regret it!" I yelled at him. He stood up.

"I don't fucking regret it!" He yelled back. I laughed at him. "Alright you're the one who won't tell anyone! You're the one that's keeping it one big fucking secret!" I shook my head.

"You're the one who told me not to!"

"Bull shit!" I shook my head. I can't do this. I was suddenly really tired. My heart felt like it was slowly down fast, just wanting to go to sleep. "Bailey you alright?" He asked quieting down and looking at me.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"Please just leave me alone Jayden." I said as a tear rolled down my face. Jayden stared at me as I closed my eyes trying to fight them off.

"Bailey I'm sorry I didn't mean what I just said." He said giving me sad eyes.

"It's alright, I just, I'm just really tired." He nodded.

"Alright, I'll come back later." He whispered. He turned around to walk out but suddenly turned around. "Can I have one more kiss?" He said quietly as if he didn't want anyone to hear.

"Sure." He came over almost silently and pressed his lips onto mine in a sweet kiss. He pulled back and pulled the blanket up as I started to close my eyes as the tiredness really started to take over.

"Sleep tight," was the last thing I heard before I fell into a deep restless sleep.

I woke to the sound of my cell phone blaring next to my head. I rubbed my eyes picking it up.

Me* Hello?

Taylor* Hey sorry I had to call again. Just to see if you were alright. I called before and you didn't answer so I just started to panic. What if I don't get my hug?

Me* I'm alright sorry. These pain meds there giving me are knocking me right out.

Taylor* Pain meds? Knocking you out? Bailey what the hell is going on?

Me* I just had a rough patch.

Taylor* Please tell me your alright.

Me* I am I promise.

Taylor* What is that noise? Are you in the hospital?

Me* Yeah.

Taylor* Aw man Bailey I wish I was there if you right now.

I closed my eyes flapping back on my pillows. I wish he was too.

Taylor* You still there Bailey?

Me* Your not calling me Blondie.

Taylor* No you're in pain and it's not funny. I wish I was there to hold your hand like the last time.

Me* I wish you were too.

Taylor* God this is horrible. You're like a frickin' danger magnet.

Me* I'm sorry.

Taylor* Why are you apologizing? You didn't do anything wrong.

Me* I don't know why.

Taylor* It's alright your just scared.

Me* I know.

I heard mumbling and voices in the background.

Taylor* Crap Bailey I have to go on patrol. I will call you right after I get back I promise.

Me* Alright. Stay safe.

Taylor* Same as you. I don't know what I would do if I lost you.

I was about to ask him what he meant when I heard the click of the phone being disconnected. I sighed. If he does like me who am I going to choose? Jayden or Taylor?

N/A: Okay So I have to ask. Team Hollywood (Taylor) or Team Jayden?

Chapter 40: I'm a Coward

I closed my eyes and thought about both Jayden and Taylor. Jayden kissed me. I love him. But I'm not sure if he really loves me. Taylor. The sweet, kind, gentleman, marine from California. I know I was falling for him, hard and fast. But I have only really spent a couple of days with him. Was that enough to start a relationship? God why does this have to be so damn hard? I rubbed my eyes with the bottom of my palm and took a deep breath blowing it out through my mouth. I heard a sound by the door of the room making me look over. Something caught my eye making me take my IV in my hand to walk over to the small table that was next to the door. I looked out the door to see what made the same but didn't see the root cause making me sigh confused. I picked up the little bear sitting on the table and ran my thumb over the soft material. I wasn't a really small bear it just wasn't large. It had on a camo uniform so I knew it was a soldier. I picked up the little piece of paper that the bear was sitting on.

Bailey,

I'm a dick I know. I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said what I said about you. I thought you could use a friend right now since I haven't been a good one. Take care of him: he will always be there when you need a hug, just like me. I hope you can forgive my stupidity, my immaturity, my ~~sexiness~~ idiotness. You're my best friend. I just hope I haven't lost you. You're the peanut to my jelly, the salt to my pepper, the Ooh to my Rah. You make my world livable. I need you to know that. You mean everything to me. ~~When I bulked up it was~~ Take care Bails. ~~I love you~~ I'll see you around sometime.

Forgive me,

Jayden L. Dalton

P.S. I don't regret it. I could never. It's my favorite memory.

I ran my fingers over the words written perfectly on the paper. Even if he did cross out some letters it was still perfect. I felt a tear roll down my cheek. He was my Jayden deep down in there; he is just having trouble coming out. I needed to fix it so he shows up soon. I ran my thumb over the crossed out words gently wondering when Jay dropped his off. He must have truly been upset. And it was my fault. But I couldn't face him let. Not right now. Maybe later. But not right now. I picked up the IV bag and the bear and made my way back to the bed wanting to sleep for a very long time, so the pain goes away. I laid down, closing my eyes as my mind raced in my head. I had one rational thought out of all the crap in the crumbled mess up in there.

Sleep was not an option

It's been a couple of days since the storm, and since Jayden kissed me. All the guys were released from the hospital almost hours after they got there but I am still here, sitting in this damn bed really to kill someone. I hated being in here. I have spent way too much time in hospitals my whole life to like it now. Wyatt told me when they cleared up the roads so people could get through that they closed the school they would clean up and fix the windows and get rid of all the broken glass. Dad has stayed with me the whole time I was here talking to me and making sure I was comfortable and okay. He hasn't been home but he has seen Mom a couple of times, but not Dillon or Bentley. I felt bad because he was always here with me and not with them. But I'm getting released today. Doc promised. I looked down at the teddy bear in my hands that Jayden left me, the note tucked away in my pocket out of sight. Dad walked into the room and smiled at me. "Hey Baby." I looked up from the bear in my hands to look at his face. "You ready to go home?" I nodded.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"I can't wait to sleep in my own bed again." I laughed gently looking back down. I felt the bed dip as Dad sat down next to me.

"You alright Bailey?" I looked up at him.

"Yeah I'm fine." I nodded not sure who I was trying to convince. Me or him. He rubbed my back.

"Come on let's get you back home." He took my bag Mom brought me and helped me get out to the car. Not one of us talked the whole ride home; the only sound that was heard was the sound of the radio playing in the background. He pulled up to the house. I got out as he looked at me.

"Aren't you coming Dad?" I asked tipping my head to the side.

"I will be back later Baby I have to do something alright." He rubbed his face. "Here let me help you into the house before I go."

"No Dad I'm alright don't worry. Just go do what you have to do." He nodded. "I love you."

"I love you too." He smiled at me one last time before he drove away. I walked into the house and into my room quietly. I dropped my bag and sat at my desk pulling out a piece of paper.

Jayden,

You're my best friend. You annoy me to no end, you piss me off causing us to fight, but you're always there for me. I hope you know that. You have always been 'My Jayden' no matter what you do or say but sometimes I do want to see what it feels like to put a pillow over your head till you stop moving but I don't. You are like my brother. You have me at times ready to kill you, but you're always there when I need you. What I'm trying to say is that Jayden you're my everything too. I need you in my life no matter what happens. You have always been at my side since we were kids at the park. I wouldn't know what to do if you weren't in my life, and I am not ready to find out either. I just want my best friend back, not some jock asshole that thinks he knows everything and anything when he doesn't, but that's a story for another time. What I'm trying to say is call me Jay, when you get this. You know my number.

You're crazy best friend,

Bailey K. Williams

P.S. I forgave you.

I folded the letter and slipped it into the envelope that had Jayden's address on it. I didn't have the nerve to give it to him face to face. I am a cowardâ!

A/N: Okay so the tally for the teams is ready. SO we have 42 people for Team Hollywood (Taylor) and 13 people for Team Jayden. Lastly we have 4 people undecided on who to choose, and I am one of them :) -Patty

Chapter 41: Memories

I heard a knock on my bedroom door making me look up dropping the letter onto the hardwood floor under me. Mom stood at my door way, leaning on wood frame looking at me. "You alright Bailey?" She asked walking in. I picked up the letter quickly and slipped into my sketch book that was on my desk.

"Yeah Ma, I'm fine." I said giving her a smile. She nodded coming to sit on my bed still looking at me.

"You sweetheart you don't have to lie to me." I shrugged at her looking at her.

"I don't know what you're talking about Mom." She looked over at my nightstand picking up one of the picture frames I had sitting on it.

"I remember when this was taken." She laughed to herself. I walked over to her looking at the picture. It was an old picture of Jayden and me from when we were younger. It was before he changed and started to really 'like-like' girls. We were horseback riding on Grandpa's ranch. I had the reins in my hands while Jayden sat behind me smiling at the camera. We had to be about 11 or 12. It was my favorite picture.

"So do I." I whispered to myself.

"You were just getting over the last batch of chemo and wanted to go riding but we didn't want you to go out alone since you weren't as strong as you should be. Jayden said he would go with you so you could ride again. You loved it." She smiled looking up at me. I gave a short laugh fighting the tears.

"I remember. It felt great to ride again. It was go long since I have." I smiled closing my eyes remembering the feeling of the wind blowing through my hair as I rode Murphy.

"I'm sure you can go riding again soon." Mom smiled at me putting her arm around my shoulder.

"I know Mom. I just wish sometimes that things don't change. That memories are what you live." I laid my head on her shoulder.

"But that's the thing Bailey. Memories are what you live. You make memories. No one else. Memories are what you choose to do. Both your Father and I know you are going to do what you want in life no matter we say. Because your life and no one else can live it. Only you." I looked up at her.

"Mom did you think of what it would be like if Wyatt and I were never born?" She looked down at me.

"Honestly when you were younger I did wonder. I was an 18 year girl with a crap past who just had twin babies that would not shut up. The love of my life wasn't home to watch them grow up. I wondered so much I did the right thing about keeping you two. I was scared that I wasn't doing a good job that you two weren't grow growing like you should be. I was scared someone was going to come and take you both away from me. But every time I looked," She took a deep breath trying not to cry, "every time I looked you both I saw fathers smile. The smile that got me through everything, even the toughest times. Then I think 'Wow I really made them'." She gave a chuckle. I watched her face. "I even look at your brothers and think I really made a family." She smiled down at me.

"What, what do think when I first got cancer?" I asked quietly looking at her. She sighed looking up at the ceiling.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"When you first got diagnosed with cancer all I could think about is why her? Why did my baby have to get cancer? Why did my family have to get attacked? Why?" She sighed looking down at me.

"Did you ever think of giving me up? So you didn't have to deal with it?" She shook her head.

"Never. I would always look at your brother and watch him as he stared at you. I always wondered what we was thinking when he looked at you. You always so strong when we weren't." I watched as the tears rolled down her cheeks. "You held our family together, without even knowing."

"Mom, what would you do if I got cancer again? What didn't make it? What if I am not as strong as you think I am?" She looked at me wiping her tears.

"Bailey you are my Baby. You have your father wrapped tighter around your finger than a skinny jeans on a famous person. Your Father loves you and so do I. If you got cancer again we wouldn't give up on you. Never. Never think that we would give up on you. We love you. Never think we don't. Alright?" I nodded. "And you strong. Stronger than all of the marines I know. Trust me I know a lot of them. Never think about that. Because you know what?" She waited till I answered.

"What Mom?" I asked fighting the tears that wanted to escape.

"What doesn't kill you makes you strong. Bailey you are strong. No matter what anyone ever tells you. Never forget that." I nodded.

"I love you Mom." I said quietly. "Thank you never giving up on me." She smiled through the tears running down her face.

"You never have to thank me for that because I would never give up on you. Ever." She kissed my forehead. She sat up and wiped the tears off her face. I smiled wiping mine as well. "I better go start dinner your father should be home soon." I nodded.

"The boys don't know he is home yet do they?" She nodded.

"They are clueless about it." She giggled quietly looking around to see if he boys are listening. "Just the way your Dad wanted them. He does have a surprise for them." I raised an eyebrow.

"Is that why he didn't come in when he dropped me off before." She walked to the door as if she was ignoring my question, but right before she left she turned around and winked. She laughed walking out leaving me sitting there.

"This should be interesting." I mumbled to myself rubbing my face.

Chapter 42: Surprise?

I looked over at my sketch book longing to take the letter out from its pages but not at all sure if I should. Does he deserve to know that I care about him? Do I deserve to know he knows? I walked over to the desk lifting the book up in my hands and running my fingers over the smooth material of the cover. "Bailey?" a voice called from my door way making me jump, dropping the book. I looked up to see Mom standing in the door way. "You coming?" I nodded walking away from the book.

"Yeah, come on." I nodded walking out of the room with her. Bentley looked up as I walked in.

"Sissy you okay!" He smiled running up to me jumping into my arms. I picked him up hugging him tightly.

"I'm okay Bud." I smiled kissing him.

"Good." He giggled jumping down and running back to his coloring pages. I laughed at him shaking my head. Kids these days. Wyatt smiled at me from the couch.

"Hey would do you feel?" He asked as Mom went and looked out of the window before going back to the kitchen. I shrugged walking over to him and sitting down next to him.

"I could feel better." He nodded putting his arm around me. "How are you?" I asked laying my head on his shoulder.

"I'm good. I'm good." He smiled looking at Mom as she came out of the kitchen again. She looked out of the window again. I sighed cuddling into his side waiting for our 'surprise'. I focused my eyes on the TV set as Dillon came in from his bedroom, coming to cuddle up to my side.

"How you feeling Bubby?" I asked kissing his forehead. I remember when I left for school he was coming down with something. He nodded laying his head on my shoulder.

"I feel a little better Bailey. I still got a head ache but Mommy said it should be better when I take my happy pills." He nodded closing his eyes as I stroked his back. Happy pills are what Mom and Dad used to call all my pills that I had to take when I was sick so it stuck. So now when any of us get sick we have to take some happy pills. I kissed his hot forehead.

"You'll be better soon." He nodded yawning.

"I know." Mom made a high pitch sound making all of us look over at her.

"You alright Ma?" Wyatt asked looking at her like she was crazy.

"Oh like you will ever know." She giggled at him walking away from the window. Oh I wonder who that is! I mentally rolled my eyes smiling thinking about it. "Oh Dillon, Bentley, Wyatt come here." She smiled looking at them. "Oh quickly Bailey you too come on." She smiled excitedly. We all got up and walked towards her, Dillon leaning on me half asleep, and waited. Bentley looked up at Mom from where he was now holding Wyatt's hand not really knowing what was going on. The door knob jingled as someone opened it. Bentley's face lit up as Dad walked through the door way.

"Daddy!" He yelled running off smiling, giggling, jumping into Dad's arms.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"Oh I missed you Bent." He smiled kissing him head. I gently shook Dillon a little to wake him up as he fell asleep in my arms. He looked up, tired.

"Daddy?" He asked rubbing his eyes, the sickness in his voice.

"Hey Bubby come here." Dad smiled gently. Dillon went over to him falling into his arms.

"I missed you." He yawned as he laid his head on Dad's shoulder. Dad smiled the tears visible in his eyes.

"I missed you too Bubby." Dad rubbed his back whispering in his ear as he slowly fell back asleep, clearly sick. Wyatt hugged Dad closing s eyes.

"I love you Dad." Dad smiled at him.

"I love you too Son." I looked away not wanting to interrupt their moment by going into the kitchen and checking on dinner as Mom went to kiss Dad with a 'welcome home smile' as we call them. On that makes you gag because you know what they are thinking about. Dad walked in still rubbing Dillon's back even as he slept. "You alright Baby girl?" He asked cocking his head to the side.

"Yeah, I'm fine." I smiled up at him. He leaned down to kiss my head. Dillon moved in Dad's arms making him cradle him to his chest.

"He is doing alright too right?" He asked looking down. I watched as Wyatt came through the door looking at Dillon.

"Mom thinks he just got a bad case of the flu. But to be sure she said he has a doctor appointment tomorrow and they are taking blood work to make sure he is fine." I nodded knowing what he meant.

"Logical if you ask me." Dad smiled watching me as I changed the heat on the pasta sauce Mom was making.

"I know. He just needs some cold meds and to have a nice long sleep." I threw Harley a roll from the bread bowel.

"I think we all need a nice long sleep. Have you been taking your happy pills that the doctor gave you?" Dad raised his eye brows at me.

"I have to take one. I was going to take it after dinner." I said folding my arms not wanting to really talk about it too much.

"Alright good." Dad nodded. "I do have a surprise for you both." He looked at me and Wyatt.

"Just us or the whole family?" Wyatt asked putting his arm around my shoulders.

"Well it's a little for everyone." He nodded looking down at Dillon's sleeping face. "A little for everyone." He whispered to himself gazing up at us.

"What's going on Dad?" I gave Dad a questioning look. He sighed looking back and forth between the two of us.

"Well Kids, me and your Mom have been talking and well." He closed his eyes trying to figure out how to word what he was trying to say. " I'm quitting the frontline."

Chapter 43: Our Idiot

"You're what?" I asked my mouth wide open staring at him. I looked at Wyatt as he tried to pick his jaw up from the floor.

"I said I am quitting the Corps." He nodded kissing Dillon's head.

"Wha-wha-why?" Dad sighed looking at me. I couldn't read the emotion on his face.

"Daddy?" Dillon whimpered raising his head to look at dad.

"What Dilly?" Dad said quietly turning his head to look at him.

"I want Bubba and I wanna go to bed." He sighed laying his head back down.

"Alright Bud." Dad looked at us. "I'll be right back." He walked towards Dillon's and Bentley's room. I followed him quietly. Dillon was in his day clothes so Dad went over to his dresser and got him some pajamas.

"Those are Bentley's." I said leaning on the door frame watching. He looked up at me from where he laid Dillon on his bed.

"But I thought right was Dillon's side." He asked confused holding up the superman fabric.

"It was but then Mom had Wyatt, Colt, and Jayden switch the beds." Dad scrunched his face up. "When Bentley out grew his crib Mom thought it would be better if Dillon got a new bed and Bentley got Dillon's old." He nodded picking Dillon up.

"Soâ !" He tailed off. I pointed to the other bed.

"That's his." I walked over to the dresser and pulled out a pair of camo pajamas and handed them to him.

"These are his too." Dad nodded undressing Dillon before redressing him in his pajamas. Next Dad laid him on his pillows pulling the blankets up so he was comfortable.

"Bubba." He whined opening his eyes looking at us. "I want Bubba Daddy." Dad looked around for him and on the floor.

"Where is he?" He muttered to himself. I walked over to the closet pulling it open finding Bubba sitting right on the shelf in front of my eyes. I picked up the raggedy dog and walked back over to Dillon handing it to him.

"Bubba." He smiled snuggling up with is closing his eyes falling asleep. Dad looked at me with a questioning look.

"He got scared Maxi was going to take it again and rip his to pieces so he hid him in the closet because Maxi isn't allowed in it." Dad nodded. "Night Dill." I smiled as I walked out.

"Night Bud." Dad said following me out. I walked back into the living room where Wyatt was petting Harley as Maxi lay mindlessly on the couch. Wyatt looked over at us as we walked over.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"Dad why are you quieting?" He asked looking at him. Dad pushed Maxi off the couch before sitting down and looking at his hands.

"It's time kids. I need to do this for your Mom and for me." I looked over at him curling up on the chair as Harley trotted over and laid his head in my lap so I could cuddle him.

"But why Dad? You always deployed." He nods looking over at me.

"I know Bailey but maybe it's time I start putting our family first, before the corps." Wyatt shook his head.

"But it's always been Corps first Dad. That's how we want it." Dad shrugged looking at Maxi.

"Sometimes it's what's best for the family more than what we want."

"Dad what's up? What the hell is going on?" He looked over at me.

"Nothing Bailey I just think it's time I watched my kids grow up for real and not from pictures." He closed his eyes and looked down at his hands again.

"Dad but distance makes the heart fonder. We love you no matter what. We always have been like that." He shook his head. "Dad what brought this on?" He shook his head.

"Bailey that doesn't matter. What matters is I'm going to be home, safe, with you, your mom, Wyatt, Dillon, and Bentley. Don't you know that?" I nodded.

"I do know that you love us. I know that I love you so much Dad but throwing something you love away is just stupid." He gave a short laugh.

"No Baby I'm doing what's best for all of us." I shook my head.

"Dad I hate to break it to you but it's not. Because you aren't going to like being away from the Corps and you know it." He shook his head.

"I should have listened to them." It was my turn to shake my head.

"To who Dad?"

"To them. The people I have tried to protect you from since you were little." I got up from my seat and crawled my way onto his lap.

"They don't matter Dad. We matter. Your flesh and blood. Wyatt, Bentley, Dillon, and I. We are all that need to be in here with Mom." I pointed to his heart. "Not Them. You're my Daddy, My Marine not there's." He looked at me pulling me to him tightly.

"They don't mean shit Dad." Wyatt said quietly from where he was sitting.

"Bailey's right." We looked up at Mom. She was standing in the door way with her arms folded. "Your parents aren't worth shit Tanner. Why didn't you tell me about this?" He looked down rubbing my bad as he held me in his arms.

Don't Forget To Remember Me

"I didn't need you worrying about anything else. You had so much on your plate with Bailey being in the hospital and Dillon being sick, and me with my deployment. I didn't want you to have to deal with anything else." She came and sat down next to him.

"But you're wrong. I'm a marine wife and a mother. Deployment is something I live through, and sickness is what Mom's have TV and chicken noodle soup for. Those are easy. But you being in pain. Thinking about what's best for us when it isn't." He shook his head leaning down to kiss my hair.

"I thought it would be better if I was home." Mom shook her head.

"It won't be. I have known life with the men in my life leaving me time after time. If you stayed home too long I would beat you. You tend to nag." Dad started to laugh.

"And who could I boast to about how my dad is one of the strongest and the finest to?" I giggled in his arms.

"Who would I look up to if gave up?" Wyatt smiled petting Maxi's head. "I would have lost my hero because life got a little too tough." Dad nodded sighing.

"Your right. I'm just an idiot." He sighed. I shrugged.

"But you're our idiot." I giggled at him. He smiled down at me. One of my favorite smiles.

Chapter 44: He Lied

"Alright dinner is ready one." Mom said looking at all of us. "I'll go after Dillon if he wants some." We all nodded but I didn't want to move from where I was cuddled in Dad's firm strong arms. Dad leaned down to look at me.

"What's wrong Baby Girl?" He whispered as if someone was listening to us.

"I just got some stuff on my mind right now." He cocked his head to the side looking at me.

"Like what? Care to share?" I shook my head.

"Just some girly things Dad. Nothing to worry about." He nodded laying his head on top of my head.

"It's something to worry about if you think of it like it's nothing Baby Girl." I shrugged mindlessly as I stared at Harley as Mom walked back into the kitchen with a sleepy Dillon in her arms.

"It really is nothing Dad." He sighed.

"Alright Bails. Let's get our butts to dinner before your mom beats both of us." I smiled at him.

"It's alright, I'm not really hungry." He raised his eye brows at me. "What? I am just not hungry is that a sin?" He closed one eye looking up at the ceiling.

"Yes I think it is." I smacked him laughing. "Hey no hitting the authorities Ma'am." I rolled my eyes at him.

"I can hit the 'authority' any time I want to." I folded my arms pushing my nose up in the air making Dad laugh.

"Yeah right." He snorted standing up with me in his arms. He walked to the kitchen with the dogs on his heels. I laughed as he plopped me in the seat next to Wyatt before going over to feed Maxi and Harley. Mom looked at Dillon as he coughed.

"Tanner after dinner can you get Dillon his prescription from CVS. I forgot to pick it up before." I looked at Mom.

"I'll go pick it up. I have to get mine anyway so it's killing two birds with one stone." I say making Dad narrow his eyes from where he sat at the other side of the table from Mom.

"Sure Bailey." She smiled at me before looking at Dad and pulling a face.

"You know what I'll just go now." I said standing up. Mom looked at me as she put food on her plate.

"Bailey don't be silly you can wait till after dinner to go and get it." I shrugged.

"I'm not really hungry. I'll go pick it up then get myself something to eat." Mom looked at me narrowing her eyes.

"I guess that's fine. Wyatt why don't you go with her." Wyatt and I both looked at her.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"But I'm hungry." He whined. Mom gave a short laugh.

"Bailey can drive thru something and get you both dinner. Now go before I sit you both down again." I pushed my chair in and went to my room to change. I pulled on a clean pair of jean and a new t-shirt before putting on the hoodie Taylor gave me. I went over to my desk looking at my sketch book. I opened it to see the letter sitting on the first page. I picked it up running my fingers over Jayden's name. I shoved it into my pocket and walked out of my room. Wyatt came out of his at the same time and looked at me.

"You ready?" I nodded walking over to the hanger Mom bought when Wyatt and I first started to drive for everyone to hang their keys. Mom stood by the couch looking through her pocketbook.

"Okay you two. This is for Dillon's medication and yours. Now this is for you two to get something to eat after." I nodded taking the money and slipping it into my front pocket of my jeans.

"Alright Mom, we will be back later." I smiled kissing her cheek before walking out with Wyatt.

"Be safe!" I heard her yell from the house before she closed the door.

"We will." Wyatt called back to her as we walked down the stairs to the cars. For winter it was surprisingly warm out as I got into my truck. Wyatt looked at me as I pulled out of the driveway and onto the street.

"So where are we going first?" He asked putting my iPod on the stereo system in my truck. "Where you need to go or to CVS?" I looked over at him as I got to a stop light.

"How do you know I need to go somewhere?" I asked as I started to drive again.

"You're my twin I know how you think." I gave a short laugh. "And I can see the letter sticking out of your pocket." I looked down and sure enough the letter was sticking out of my pocket to show Jayden's name. I sighed.

"I'll be quick don't worry." He nodded.

"I'm not. Do what you got to do." He nodded looking up at the sky. "But you should try to hurry because it looking like it is about to pour." I pulled a face causing Wyatt to laugh. I love the rain but right now it was not my best friend. As the first couple of rain drops fell I pulled up to Jayden's house. In the driveway was His truck next to his Mom's car. I unbuckled my seatbelt before looking at Wyatt.

"I'll be back soon, I promise." He nodded changing to the song as I got out of the car. I ran up to the front door knocking on the dark wood. I heard laughing as Jayden's mom answered the door.

"Why hello there Bailey how are you?" She smiled at me.

"I'm good. I was wondering if Jayden was home." I watched her face drop the littlest.

"Uh let me go see." I stepped away from the door as she closed it. I felt rain drops hit me as I waited for her to see. I knew he was home. His truck was there. He always has his truck. But by the way his Mom's face dropped I wasn't sure. I watched as the door opened again and Jayden's Mom looked at me. She sighed. "I'm sorry sweetheart but he isn't home." She said in a disappointed voice. I gave a small nod pulling the letter out of my pocket.

"Can you just give him thisâ when you see him?" She nodded taking the letter out of my hand.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"I'm sorry Sweetheart." She gave me a sympathetic look as the rain started to get harder.

"It's alright. I should just get going." I turned on my heels making my way back to my truck. I turned around and looked up at Jayden's window to see him watching me as the rain poured onto my skin. Our eyes connected as I stared at him but I shook my head turning around, turning my back to him. He lied. He lied. He was home. But he just didn't want to see meâ!

Chapter 45: Why I Love You

I knocked on the window causing Wyatt to jump. He rolled his window down to look at me. "Bailey what are you doing? Bail-" He stopped as he realized I was crying. "Oh Bailey." He got out of the truck pulling me into his arms. "It's going to be alright." I held him tightly as the rain soaked us both.

"I don't know if your right." I cried to him as he tightened his arms around me pulling both of into the car, out of the rain. I looked over his shoulder at the house. Wyatt pulled my head into the crook of his neck making me close my eyes and listen to him as he hummed to himself as I calmed myself down.

"Better?" He asked stopping his humming. He looked down at me as I nodded.

"Yeah I'm just being stupid." I shrugged sitting up in Wyatt's lap.

"No you're not. Your being a hurt girl who needed a hug." He smiled at me. I nodded laying my head on his chest so it was right under his chin. "It will get better. Remember it's always alright in the end. If it's not alright-"

"It's not the end." I said cutting him off. He nodded.

"Exactly." He nodded. I heard a growling sound making me look at him and raise my eyebrows. "What I am hungry. I had to miss dinner."

"Let's get to CVS before going to the drive thru to go pick something up for you." He sighed.

"Are you going to eat?" I shook my head.

"I'm not hungry. Ask me later."

"You want me to drive?" I nodded looking out at the rain as it poured onto the windshield. He opened the door and getting out with me still in his arms. He plopped me back into the seat as he ran around the car to get into the driver's seat. I closed my door laughing at him as he ran like a little girl before scrambling into the driver's seat and starting the car. "It's not funny." He laughed at me.

"Yes it is and you know it because you're laughing too." I giggled at him as he pulled out into the street away from Jayden's house. I watched as he pulled into CVS and ran in leaving me in the car. I sat looking at the building eyeing it up as I waited for him to get back. I smiled as I watched him smile at the cashier before grabbing the stuff he bought and running back out to the car. "Did you have fun?" I asked looking at him eyeing up the bag in his hands.

"Oh a ton of fun." He smiled handing me the bag. I started to smile as I ripped the bag of candy open and unwrap one and plopping it into my mouth.

"Oh my favorite." I sighed happily closing my eyes. "Peanut butter cups, yum." I opened my eyes taking another one from the bag and eating it.

"I thought you would like them so I got them, some mint chocolate ice cream, cookie dough ice cream, peanut butter ice cream, and some BBQ chips for you." I smiled at him hugging the bag of food.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"You see this is why I love you." He laughed pulling the two pill bags out of his pocket and tossing them to me.

"I know but know I want food." He said pulling out the car from its parking spot and heading towards the restaurant I work at called 'Lelo's Good Eats'. In case you were wondering Lelo was Paul's oldest daughter who is only about 6 years old. He named it after her. I looked at him as he unbuckled his seat belt.

"I thought we were just going to pick something up then going home." I said quietly looking at the busy dinner longing to be back in the action.

"I am. I called in before for them to make me something to pick up." I nodded as he got out of the car running into the dinner. I looked away eating another candy not wanting to look up. I looked up as Wyatt came back into the truck holding a bag full of food containers.

"Why do you have so much food?" I asked him as he put it into the back before pulling out of the dinner and making his way back to base.

"Well you didn't think I was just going to get me something did you?" I looked at him confused. "I got you food too dummy."

"You did?" He smiled looking over at me quickly.

"Of course. I know you would want some eventually."

"Good cause I will." He started to laugh as I smiled innocently at him before looking out of the window.

When we got home I gave Mom Dillon's couch syrup before taking my ice cream and candy into my room and putting it on my bed. I hear a knock on my door making me look over at Wyatt. "Food?" He asked holding up the silver food cases.

"Yeah sure come in." He put the food on my night stand watching as I put a movie into my DVD player I have in my room. "Having a little girly night?" He asked putting the ketchup next to the food looking up at me.

"Yup, with me, myself, and chocolate. Oh and good food is coming along a little later." He chuckled. "Do m a favor and go put these in the freezer for me. I don't think I'm going to eat them right away." He nodded picking up the three ice cream containers.

"Sure. Have fun." He kissed my head walking out. I curled up on my bed in the covers as I opened my food the Wyatt got for me and smiling. My favorite chicken strips with half curly fries and half waffle fries. It had a full big thing of honey mustard dipping sauce, just how I like it when I order it. Thank you boys. I play my movie as I start to eat my food happily the whole Jayden thing forgotten. I heard Harley walk into my room and jump on my bed, curling up next to me looking at me with his cute puppy dog eyes.

"Oh alright." I sighed giving him a half of a chicken strip. He barked at me before making himself comfortable for the movie. I looked over at my phone sitting on my nightstand as it starts to ring. "Who could that be?" I ask looking at Harley. I looked at the phone again. Should I answer it?

Chapter 46: I Don't Know What To Do

I stared at my phone as it rang. It was killing me, just watching it ring. And ring. And ring. So I grabbed it. I flipped it open closing my eyes the movie forgotten.

Me* Hello?

Taylor* Hey there Blondie

It's Taylor. I broke down crying.

Taylor* Hey, Hey what's wrong?

Me* I, I, I

Taylor* Hey Baby what's wrong?

Me* I miss youâ€”

Taylor* What do you mean? You never cried like this before. What happened?

Me* I just had a bad day.

Taylor* You want to talk about it?

Me* No, not really.

Taylor* You sure? I am here to listen.

Me* I know and I am happy you are.

Taylor* I am happy I met you too. Your amazing Bailey.

Me* When are you coming home.

Taylor* only 3 more months left.

Me* I wish it wasn't.

Taylor* I know. I want my hug.

I started to smile making Harley bark at me as I ate another chicken strip.

Me* I can't wait to give you that hug.

Taylor* Oh don't say that then I will want it to happen sooner.

Me* I wish you where home, I mean here.

Taylor* I wish so too Bailey.

Me* I miss you.

Taylor* You know what I got you something.

Me* From the Midwest?

Taylor* What no. I got you something. You just have to pick it up.

Me* From where?

Taylor* Hey don't laugh at me.

Me* I'm not I think it's sweet.

Taylor* Sure you do Blondie. So you going to pick it up or not?

Me* Okay I'm sorry. You where saying?

Taylor* Alright you know the jeweler that is a couple of stores away from the McDonald's on the board walk?

Me* Yeah it's by the tattoo shop right?

Taylor*Yup that's the one. Now you need to go to it and ask to pick up something.

Me* Alright.

Taylor* give my name and they will give it to you.

Me* Just say 'I'm picking up something for my friend Taylor Andrews'?

Taylor* Yeah that will work.

Me* Alright Tay I trust you.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

Taylor* Good. You feeling better now?

Me* Yeah talking to you really helped.

Taylor* Good, but I have to go know.

Me* Alright. Talk to you soon?

Taylor* Oh course Blondie. You always make my day.

Me* Stay safe.

Taylor* Yes Ma'am.

I closed my phone and looked at Harley as he looked up at me. His head was snuggled right in my lap as I petted him. "What am I going to do Harley?" He whimpered at me. "I don't know who to choose."

"Choose what Bailey?" I jumped at the sound of Dad's voice. I looked over at him as he stood in my door way in his pajamas with his arms folded over his broad chest.

"How long have you been standing there?" I asked quietly as he came into my room. He shrugged sitting down next to me patting Harley's head.

"Since about I miss you." He looked up at me with the same eyes as Wyatt.

"So you know about him then?" I asked him as I moved over in bed so he could sit down with me.

"I have known since I saw all the military letters sitting on your desk when I came in the last couple of days. But I have known since I saw the letters in the mail box from a Sergeant Taylor Andrews. That and your Aunt told me about him." He smiled wrapping his arm around my shoulders.

"Are you going to make me stop talking to him?" He looked down at me.

"Of course not Baby. If he makes you happy and treats you like a real man should then you should talk to him." I laid my head on his chest.

"Daddy I don't know what to do." I said as I started to cry. He pulled me tightly to him kissing my head.

"What don't you know what to do Baby?" He whispered. I looked up at him as Harley whimpered moving over to lick my hand.

"I don't know who to love Daddy. I don't know if I should choose Jayden or Taylor." He kissed my head.

"You have to choose who your heart wants." I looked at him.

"It loves Jayden but Taylor is everything. He makes me fall more and more in love with him every time we talk." Dad sighs.

"I don't know what to tell you Baby. Maybe you need to see you who your heart wants and go from there. Do what your Mom tells you to do when you can't choose between something. Make a pro's and con's chart." I looked at him.

"You're not upset about me dating?" He laughed.

"Of course I hate the idea of you being with a guy. Of course I do you're my baby girl. But I want you to be happy even if I have to watch you grow up faster than I would like." I looked up at him.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"I love you Dad nothing will ever change that no matter what." He smiled kissing my head.

"I know Baby and I love you too." He moved me so I was laying down by myself as he cleaned up my food and tucked me in. "Good Night Baby."

"Dad will you come with me to get my tattoo tomorrow?" He pulled the blanket up and turned the TV off.

"Of course I will Baby Girl. Sleep tight." He kissed my head. I closed my eyes as Harley curled up next to my body as I fell asleep.

I walked into the jewelry store walking over to the counter. "Excuse me um I'm pick up something for my friend Taylor Andrews." The sales person smiled at me.

"One minute Ma'am." I smiled back at him as he walked into the back of the store. I looked at Dad as he smiled at me looking at some necklaces from across the store. "Ma'am." I looked back at the sales person as he stood next to a guy that held a box. "You must be Bailey." The guy smiled hand me the box.

"How did you know that?" I asked looking at him. He laughed.

"The boy who had this made, he said you would be the girl picking it up. I was honored to make it for him for you." I looked at him confused. "Open it." I lifted the top of the bow and gasped.

"Wow." The guy smiled.

"You like it?"

"I love it." I lifted the bracelet gently as I stared at it in awe.

"Would you like me to put it on for you?" He asked. I nodded and watched as he clipped the bracelet onto my wrist.

"It's beautiful." I whispered as I stared at the twisted leather that now wrapped perfectly around my wrist. There was four pieces of braided leather twisted into two stainless steel chips. Hanging in the middle of the bracelet was a perfect Marine Corps emblem. "Amazing." I whispered. The guy smiled at me.

"Thank you. I'm glad you like it." He smiled at me. Dad walked over to me.

"Bailey we have to go or you will be late for your appointment." He said looking at me.

"Alright Dad." I looked up at the two guys. "Thank you." I smiled at them. The guy smiled.

"As I said, it was an honor." I signed the paper the sales person showed me before thanking them one last before walking out with Dad ready to go get my next tattoo.

Chapter 47: Pretty Girls and Tattoos

When I walked into the tattoo shop I walked over to look at some of the pictures of tattoos that the tattoo guy, Biggy, has down. Biggy isn't his real name it's Harrison but he likes everyone to call him Biggy because well he is giant so no one really cares. I was early for my appointment so I didn't want to bother him while he was tattooing another guy. Dad smiled at him before going over to the counter. "Sweetheart you lost?" The guy's friend laughed at me from where he was sitting next to the tattoo bed.

"No I'm fine." I said shortly not wanting to get into it with him.

"Well I think you are 'cause you know this isn't a piercing place Toots." I watched Dad's jaw clamp shut.

"Well Crap wud I think I got that from the nice big sign right there." I pointed at the sign that said 'no piercings done here' that hung right by the door. He looked at me then at the sign.

"Well shouldn't you be leaving then because pretty girls like you don't get tattoos?" Biggy looked up from where he was sitting, just finishing off the tattoo from the douche guy's friend.

"I wouldn't talk to her like that if you want to live." He laughed looking over at me as the guy on the tattoo table looked over and smiled.

"Hey Bailey, back again?" I smiled at him and shrugged. He laughed before wincing as Biggy wrapped up the freshly tattooed skin.

"It's the smell in here it makes you come back for more." The guy nodded. His friend looked over at him.

"David you know her?" He said nodding looking me up and down.

"Oh yeah she was here last time I got a tattoo." The friend looked over at me narrowing his eyes.

"Girls don't get tattoos hey hurt too much." Dad started to laugh making the guy look over. "What's so funny?"

"Girls don't get tattoos? Are you kidding me? Like half the female population around here have tattoos." Biggy laughed as some other works started to walk around the shop.

"I don't understand why a girl like you needs anything to hurt that pretty little skin of yours but if you need to I do have something that might work." He wiggled his eye brow at me. I almost gagged at him.

"Aw man that was the worst pick up line ever." David moaned closing his eyes before looking at me. "Ignore him Bailey." Dad walked up to me and put a hand on my back glaring at the guy.

"David this is my Dad Tanner. Dad this is David we talked the last time I was here." Dad smiled at him shaking his hand.

"Nice to meet the Dad of such a talented girl." All the guys looked at him before looking back at me.

"Really he was talking about my drawing. Perverts." Dad nodded smiling.

"Sorry to disappoint you but she didn't get it from me. It's all her mother's working." David nodded.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"So how did it turn out?" He smiled pulling up his shirt to show me the tiger that wrapped around his hip in black and white. "Wow that looks better than I expected it would." Biggy laughed.

"I told you you did amazing." The guy looked over at me.

"You drew that tiger?" I nodded.

"I was hanging out in here and he came in hoping to get a tattoo and Biggy didn't know how to draw one so I drew it for him. I got 40 dollars out of it." I nodded impressed with myself. Dad smiled hugging me kissing my head before I sat down on the table as Biggy walked over.

"Best tattoo I ever got." He nodded pulling his shirt down.

"Alright Bailey shirt off." I unzipped my hoodie and took off my cotton t-shirt and looked at him. "You know that tattoo on your back looks very nice." He smirked at me as I laid down and pulled my jeans down a little bit so he could get to my hip. Dad sat down next to me as Biggy got ready.

"Oh course it is you did it." He laughed as I winced as he started to tattoo my pale hip.

"So what made did you choose Bailey this time?" David asked getting his coat on.

"I'm going to get the butterfly and the other one next time." He nodded in understanding.

"Good choice my friend. Good to see you again Bailey. Nice to meet you Tanner." Dad waved as David pushed his friend out the door. "Bailey maybe you can draw my next tattoo?"

"I don't know leave your number and I'll call you to see when you want it." He nodded giving Dad his business card before leaving.

"You know you might just get me a lot of business." Biggy laughed wiping away the left over ink.

"I guess I might be." I smiled at him closing my eyes as I felt the vibrations on the gun over my bone.

"Maybe you could work with me, get some money and do what your good at." I looked over at him.

"Are you trying to hint at something?" I asked wrinkling my nose.

"Alright do you want to work with me and draw up some tattoos for me? I can pay you some good money." I watched his face.

"What do you mean?" Dad laughed at me.

"Bailey Big is giving you a job." I looked over at him. I looked back over at Biggy.

"Really?" He nodded.

"Absolutely Bailey. You are one of the best artists I have ever seen and I have known you since you were little sitting in here with your Mother or Father as they got ready to get a tattoo. It would be an honor to start you off in your career."

"But Biggy I wasn't going to start a career with my drawings they aren't good enough."

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"Maybe you should try." He said wiping the last of the extra ink off my hip. "Alright all done." He smiled at me leaning back pointing to the mirror. "Go look." I got down from the table and walked over to the mirror.

"Wow Biggy it's perfect." I said looking at the perfect butterfly flying on my pale, now red skin.

"I love the words Bail." He smiled looking over the words written in perfect script as if it was flowing in the breeze.

'Some times you have to spread your wings and just fly away.'

Chapter 48: I'm Sorry

"So when do you want to start working with me Sweetheart?" Biggy asked as I put down the money for my tattoo.

"Well when do you need me by? Because I think that I need to quit one of my jobs." Dad looked at me.

"No sweetheart I think you should quit both, you know be a teenager. You don't need two jobs that take up most of your time." I looked up at him and pulled a face.

"What about money?" Biggy chuckled.

"Bailey you will be fine on money if you work with me. It isn't going to be a lot for a tattoo but when you draw a couple a week it will add up. "

"But 40 dollars isn't that much." Biggy smiled.

"Oh Bailey it will be more than 40 dollars. Much more. I did kind of cut you short there." He laughed a little leaning on the counter.

"No you did give me my tattoo for free." I nodded thinking about my tattooed back. It was a Marine Corps emblem in black with dog tags hanging from the anchor. The dog tag had Dad's full name on one and the other I am waiting to put Wyatt's dog tags when he graduates from Parris Island next year.

"True, it was one of my favorites to tattoo. You know I have a picture of it right here." He turned and pointed to the framed picture of my tattoo.

"Okay I trust you." I shrugged pulling my hoodie on wincing as I moved my hip.

"So should I expect you next week?" He asked raising his eye brows.

"I can start tomorrow." Dad shook his head.

"No, not tomorrow. Next week. You shouldn't even be out right now. You should be sleeping. Next week." I looked at him.

"But Dad."

"No Bailey." He said crossing his arms across his chest.

"No Bailey your Dad's right. Next week is when you can start." I sighed.

"Alright. I come by after school?" He nodded smiling.

"That will be great." Dad put his hand on my shoulder as we started to leave.

"See you next week Bailey. Good to see you again Tanner." After saying good bye Dad took me back to the car and brought me home. I closed the door laughing at something Dad said as I was getting out. I stopped in my steps as I walked to the door. Jayden was sitting on the step watching me. I looked over at Dad as he nodded.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"What do you want Jayden?" He looked up at me.

"I need to talk to you Bailey." I shrugged.

"Why should I even listen to you?"

"I got your letter."

"Jayden I knew you where home."

"Bailey I was just having a bad day."

"You know what when aren't you having a bad day." He shook his head standing looking up at me.

"Can I talk to you alone?" I looked at Dad. He smiled.

"I'll be inside. Scream if you need me." He walked up the stairs walking into the house shutting the door behind him.

"Again What do you want Jayden?"

"Bailey you don't know what I'm dealing with right now. My head is so fucked up."

"Jay you think you're the only one with a fucked up head? Think again because my head isn't clear either." He looked at me.

"I'm sorry I am. I just don't know what to do" I looked at him.

"Don't know what to do with what?" He closed his eyes.

"Sophia called me last night. She wants to get back together with me." I looked at him.

"That's why you ignored me?" He shrugged.

"Bailey like I said my head just is so messed up." He put his head in his hands.

"How? The girl who wants to get into your pants wants you back. I don't see how this can mess up your head." He looked at me.

"Bailey I am falling for you. You are the one messing up my head."

"Well you have a crap way of showing it."

"Bailey I know. I'm sorry. Please forgive me." I looked over at him.

"I'm sorry but I can't." His head shot up.

"But Bailey"

"I can't do this anymore. I'm sorry Jayden but I can't get hurt anymore."

Don't Forget To Remember Me

"Bailey, Al, please forgive me, please."

"Jayden I can't do this anymore."

"Bailey."

"No. You were my best friend. You are my best friend. But you changed. And it wasn't for the better. You aren't the Jayden I fell in love with. You aren't the guy I want to spend my life with."

"Bail I can change." I shook my head.

"A leopard can't change its spots over night."

"I can try." I put my hand on his cheek.

"I know you can. But you aren't for me Jay. You know I love you. I thought I was in love with you but I just can't."

"Why?" I felt the tears wanting to roll down my face.

"Because you aren't the man I thought you were. I fell in love with the man who took my virginity, who stole my heart. But he's gone. He isn't here anymore."

"Can't you just try?" He asked as his eyes filled with tears. I shook my head.

"I'm sorry. I wish it was different. I really do but it's not. You're not the same guy. I want you to be happy and I don't think we would be happy with each other if we were together. I wish it was different. God I do, but it just isn't." I pulled my hands into my sleeves and wiped my eyes trying to make the tears go away. "I love you Jayden I do. I love you so much but this just isn't what we need. Either of us." He looked over at me as a tear rolled down his cheek.

"Baileyâ" His voice broke.

"I'm sorry Jayden. I hope, I hope he can still be friends. I would hate to lose you as a person." He looked over at me.

"I don't want to lose you Bailey." He closed his eyes.

"I'm so sorry Jayden." I stood up and ran into the house leaving him sitting on the foot of the stairs. I slammed the door shut and slid down the door sobbing my heart outâ lâ lâ ;

Chapter 49: You'll Know

I held my head in my hands as I sat on the floor sobbing. I can't believe I just did that. I just did. "Hey. Hey, hey it's alright baby. Shhh." I felt warm hands picking me up and pulling me onto a warm body. Dad held me tightly to his chest as I sobbed deeply. I looked up at him as the tears flowed freely from my eyes. He looked down at me moving a piece of hair from my face.

"What am I going to do Daddy?" He kissed my forehead.

"I don't know sweetheart."

"I can't let him hurt me anymore." He nodded gently rocking me.

"I know sweetheart. You did what you needed to do. I know you did because if you didn't then you wouldn't be crying this hard." I laid my head back onto his chest and snuggled into the warm fabric.

"I wish it was different Daddy. I wish it would work out between us. I love him." Dad held me tighter.

"I know Baby shhh I know you do." I shook my head.

"I wish it was different." He pulled my face to look at his.

"I know. God I know. But this right here is what's supposed to be like. I know you love him. I know you do. But he hurt you. More than once. That's not okay. You need someone who won't hurt you. Someone who loves you and only wants what best for you. Baby that what you need." I looked up at him wiping my tears.

"How am I ever going to find a guy like that?" I asked pouting. Dad smiled.

"Don't look for him. He will find you when you least expect it." I sighed putting my head back into Dad's shoulder. I heard the door knock making me look up.

"I can't face him Dad. I can't." He nodded.

"Go to your room. I'll talk to him." Dad pulled us up together and let me go. "Go I come to your room when he's gone." I nodded running off to my room without looking back. Dad turned around as the door knocked again. He opened the door to see Jayden standing there, tears running down his face.

"Is," He cleared his throat before wiping the tears off his cheek. "Can I talk to Bailey? Please."

"Son why don't we talk." He said gently walking out of the house closing the door behind him.

"Yes Sir, But I just really need to talk to her it's really important." Dad sat down and patted the spot next to him. Jayden sighed sitting down next to him looking out into the distance.

"I know what you and Bailey were talking about." He looked over at him. "I know the kiss in the hospital. I know about the whole conversation in the hospital."

"Sir I, I, I, I'm sorry." He shook his head.

"As much as I want to kill you right now I'm thinking of my family. For my only daughter." Jay nodded.

Don't Forget To Remember Me

"I love her Sir, so much." Dad sighed messing with a bracelet on his wrist.

"I know you do. But what Bailey said was right. It's time you both think about other people."

"I screwed up I know I did. Please I just need her to know that I need a second chance."

"Jayden you have to understand you are killing her inside. The light that used to be in my daughter's eyes isn't there anymore. You are killing her. She loves you and all you do is hurt her." Jayden put his head in his hands.

"I don't mean to. Not at all." Dad sighed putting his hand on Jayden's back rubbing it.

"I know you don't mean it. I have watched the two of you grow up together. You would never hurt her on purpose but you do hurt her, so much." Jayden's shoulders shook as he cried. "I know you love her. But maybe it's time you both just think of other people. You go off to the Island in a couple of months and Bails is going to go to college. You need to be ready for that."

"But I can't not have her in my life."

"Then you both have to bite the bullet and just be friends."

"But she is, she, I love her." He shuddered on his words.

"You might love her Son, but it's best for both of you. You both are just miserable right now."

"I wish it was different. I wish this whole thing never happened."

"When you two get older, you might see that this was just a bump in the friendship you have. But right now you just need to split from each other. That girl, what was her name, Bitchaurusâ Sophia. That's it. You and her should try something. You never know."

"But I don't like her. I just used her."

"Not what you want to tell the father of the girl you are 'deeply in love' with." Dad moaned laughing a little.

"Sorry Sir."

"What I'm trying to say is you need to move on. You need to take what you learned from this problem and take that and fix it." Jayden looked at him. "Take the mistakes you did with Bailey and fix them, make yourself a better person. You are the only person that can change yourself." Dad looked at the sky, watching the clouds roll by. "When you find the girl you should be with, you'll know it. She will jump at you. She will make you only see her face. And I know that Bailey just isn't what you need right now. She needs someone who loves her and won't hurt her. Jayden you hurt my little girl."

"I'm sorry Sir. I really am."

"You know you say sorry a lot. It makes me have a hard time believing you." Jayden looked up at Dad his green eyes bright as you saw the tears clearly in them.

"Sirâ" He trailed off.

Don't Forget To Remember Me

"Jayden I have to protect my little girl and her heart is one of my biggest concerns. I need to make sure the guy she picks to spend the rest of her life with is the right guy for her." He looked down at him. "You are a great guy Jay, trust me I know you are a great guy. I have known you for 13 years. But Jayden you aren't the right guy for her. You need to find the right guy for yourself."

"How the hell am I supposed to do that?" He asked watching dad as he stood up from where they were sitting on the steps of the house.

"That's for you to figure out there Son. Not me. I already found my girl and have 4 kids with her. You need to find the girl that pains your heart to be away from. She needs to be the girl that holds your heart. You need to find her."

"How will I know when I found her Mr. Williams?" Dad smiled at him walking to the door opening it. He turned to look at Jayden one last time.

"Trust me Son, you'll know when you find her." He shut the door, leaving Jayden sitting on the step thinking over everything he was just told.

Chapter 50: Tomorrow

The next two months were back to normal. Deployment normal. I miss Taylor so much. Jayden and I haven't really talked to each other since that day and I miss him but as Dad said, it's better for the two of us if we have a little space. The only thing I'm happy about is Colt and Jenna as well as the football team is still talking to me even though Jayden and I aren't 'together' anymore. I started working at the tattoo shop and I loved it. I was making some damn good money and having so much fun. The people that go in there are pretty funny. I can't wait for Taylor to come home tomorrow. It is crazy how much I miss him. I was sitting in the tattoo shop sketching out a tattoo when Biggy walked over. "Hey it's getting late you ready to leave? I got to lock up." I looked up from my sketch book at him.

"Nah go on without me. I'm almost done with this sketch for Wilson." He looked at me.

"You want me to wait for you kid?" I shook my head.

"I'll be fine. You do home. Say hi to the Wifey for me." He nodded putting the key down on the counter.

"I will Bails." He walked out of the shop closing the door behind him. I looked back at my sketch dragging my pencil over the lines trying to take my mind off Taylor coming back only in hours. No longer months, or weeks, or even days. Hour. Only hours. In hours it will be minutes. Seconds. Then I will finally get to see his face again. Oh how I was so nervous. What if he doesn't want to see me? What if- my thought got cut off by my phone ringing on the marble counter. I put my pencil down and picked it up.

Me* Hello?

Taylor* Hey Blondie.

Me* I was just thinking about you.

Taylor* Oh really? I hope it was all good.

Me* Most of it.

Taylor* Oh only most?

Me* Yup.

There was a silent that fell over both of us. Always like we were waiting for the other to say something.

Me* I can't wait till I get to see you tomorrow.

Taylor* I can't wait either Blondie. I will finally get that hug I was promised.

Me* Oh what if I take back that hug?

Taylor* You wouldn't. I have been waiting for like ever for that hug.

Me* Oh well I guess I'll have to give it to you.

Taylor* Oh just admit it you can't wait to give me a hug.

Me* Your right I missed you. So much.

I took the sketch book off my lap as I started to cry.

Taylor* Hey it's right I'm almost home.

Me* I wish it was tomorrow.

Taylor* I know. Trust me, me too.

Me* Hollywood I can't wait to see you again.

Taylor* I can't wait to see you again Blondie.

Me* You back in cell range?

Don't Forget To Remember Me

Taylor* Yup. I think I'm in Germany.

Me* Taylor.

I felt the tears again. Why am I such a baby?

Taylor* Hey it's alright Baby. I'm almost home.

Me* I know.

Taylor* Where are you?

Me* At the tattoo shop finishing up on a tattoo.

Taylor* Why don't you go home and go try to get some sleep. Tomorrow is a big day.

Me* I don't know if I can sleep tonight.

Taylor* Try, for me?

Me* Alright. I'll try.

Taylor* Thanks Blondie.

There was another pause but this time I knew it was the last.

Taylor* I got to go Bails. A couple of the other guys want to call before we take off.

Me* Alright. I'll.

Taylor* I'll see your beautiful face tomorrow. Not just from the pictures but in the flesh.

Me* Tomorrow.

Taylor* Tomorrow.

Me* See you soon?

Taylor* Tomorrow

I closed my phone looking out into the distance. Tomorrow. Tomorrow. Tomorrow.

I closed my sketch book after trying to figure out how to finish the picture that I knew was already done. I slide my phone into pocket grabbing all my stuff and throwing it into my bag. I shut off the lights in the stop and locked the door before slipping my bag onto my shoulder. It wasn't too late but the board walk was pretty empty. It was the off season, it being only April it wasn't too crowded but in the next couple of weeks it's going to be packed beyond belief. I took my keys out of my pocket and started to make my way to the parking lot to get to my car when I felt a hand on my shoulder. I turned around and looked at the man standing in front of me. "Can I help you Sir?" I asked looking him up and down. He looked to be about Mom and Uncle TJ's age. He had a full head of dark hair with a toned body for an 'older' man. He had these deep brown eyes that made me stiffen under his gaze. His eyes weren't warm like Wyatt's or Dad's but just darker. It was weird like he was mad I was myself.

"What is your name?" He asked me looking me up and down as I pulled out of his grasp.

"Bailey Williams." He caught his breath a little bit and looked me over making me shudder. I knew that wasn't a good thing. "Look it's getting late. I, uh, I have to be getting home. My mom is making dinner for me." He put his hands in his pockets looking at me from where I was standing under a street light.

"How is your Mom?" I looked at him confused.

"She's fine. Why do you ask? Do you know her?" He looked at me.

"How old are you?" I took a step back from him looking around to see if anyone was watching but no one was. It was like we were invisible to everyone.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"18." I looked at the parking lot spotting my truck. "Look I really have to get going. I'm sorry." I turned on my heels and almost ran to my truck as he stood on the board walk looking at me. Who the hell was that guy?

Chapter 51: Nervous

I pulled into the driveway of the house and shut off my truck. Who the hell was that guy? What the hell did he want when he was asking about me and Mom? I shook my head grabbing my bag and running up the stairs and into the house, closing the front door behind me. "Bailey is that you sweetheart?" I heard Mom call to me.

"Yeah Mom. I'm home." I walked into the kitchen to see her just finishing off dinner.

"Well can you go get Dillon and tell him dinners ready?"

"Sure." I walked to Dillon's room quietly and knocked on the door. He looked up room where he was doing some homework for school. "Hey Dill, dinners ready." He nodded closing his reading book and walking out with me. When we got back to the kitchen Mom, Dad, Wyatt, and Bentley were all sitting around the dinner table. Dillon went to his sit while I stood there.

"Bailey are you going to eat?" Dad asked. I shook my head.

"I'm ate when I was at work. I think I'm just going to try to get some sleep." He nodded watching me as I retreated to my room praying to get a little sleep.

I paced my room for about the fourth time this night. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat. I was so nervous. So nervous. Taylor is going to be home in hours! Hours! It was about 4:30 in the morning and his flight gets in at 8:00. That's only 4 hours. That's 240 minutes. 14,400 seconds till he is home. It's crazy. Oh I'm nervous. I heard floorboards creek outside my room making my head snap towards my door. It wasn't Harley because he was fast asleep on my bed. He is so luck he can sleep right now. I am so tired but I'm just too nervous to sleep. Trust me I have tried. Mom smiled at me from where she was now leaning on the door frame of my room. "Can't sleep?" I nodded my head at her going back to my pacing. I looked at her as she laughed.

"I'm nervous." I sighed sitting down at my desk chair where my open sketch book was.

"I can see that sweetheart. I can hear your pacing from my room. You're lucky your brothers take after your father in that heavy sleeping because if they took after me they would all be screaming at you right now to sit down and shut up." I laughed quietly.

"I know. Dillon and Wyatt sleep like the dead. It's funny to watch." Mom sat down on my bed patting Harley's head as he looked up at her.

"I remember how I was like when your father was coming home from deployment." I looked at her.

"Where you this bad when you were younger?" She laughed.

"You make that sound like I am old."

"Well..." She threw a pillow at me making me smile. I hugged my favorite pillow close to me as I looked at her.

"As for your question. No I was worse. I was so, so, o very nervous when your father would come home. I would make sure the house was spotless. That there was food in the 'frig. That all the pillows matched and were in the right order, just how he liked them to be." I laughed.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"I remember when you would freak if one of us ate something you made for him or made a little mess." She nodded.

"Yeah I remember too. I might have yelled at you guys but I'll let you in on a little secret. I was happy you little ones made a mess because it gave me something to do. I felt helpless. Like you feel."

"That obvious?" She shrugged.

"You restacked the books on your shelve. You cleaned your closet. You dusted everything in here. And are you doing laundry?" I gave her a weak smile. "You take after me. Your Marine is coming home and you are just so nervous that you just need to keep busy by doing something."

"Well its better than folding and refolding my whole dresser." I sighed and working on my mindless doodle I have been doing all night. This is crazy. "Mom?" She looked over at me.

"Yes Hon?"

"I'm nervous." She smiled at me.

"I know sweetheart but only how long till he gets back?"

"Well about 3 and a half hours. So that's 210 minutes and only 12,600 seconds left." Mom gave me a knowing smile.

"Oh you got it bad." She laughed. I dropped my pencil and put my head in my hands.

"I know. I just am so damn nervous about seeing him. What if he doesn't like me anymore? What if he wants another girl?" My eyes widened. "What if he wants a ginger?" Mom fell about laughing as me causing Harley to lift his head again and look at her. "Mom you're not helping!" She puts her hand over her heart trying to stop herself.

"I'm sorry sweetheart but you have to listen to yourself." I shook my head groaning. "Taylor isn't going to want someone else."

"How do you know?" She smiled walking over to me.

"Because if he did he would not have written to you every chance he got. He might want another girl but I think he will want you because you are a beautiful blonde that needs a marine to take care of her."

"Mom."

"I'm just saying what I know is true sweetheart. Now stop being so paranoid. Taylor is going to be so happy when he sees you at the parade ground waiting for you." I looked up at her.

"You're my Mom you have to say that." She wrapped her arms around me.

"Okay I am a little bias I'll give you that. But sweetheart you always win everyone's heart because you are one of the greatest hearts here. You care about everyone more than you care about yourself. I know you do. You have a heart of gold. I know you do because you get it from your father."

"I guess you're right." She kissed my head.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"I usually am." She smiled. "Why don't you lie down and try to get some sleep. You're going to need it." She chuckled walking out of the room. I closed my sketch book and walked over to my bed curling up in a ball, closing my eyes praying, once again, for even just a little bit of sleepâ !..

Chapter 52: Home, Safe.

"Sweetheart calm down." Mom smiled at me putting her hand on my shoulder. I looked over at her before looking back at the empty space where the white buses should be in minutes.

"I just can't. Oh Mom I'm so nervous Mom. Oh what am I going to say to him?" I rubbed my face as she rubbed my shoulder.

"Let your heart do that talking Bailey. It knows what it wants so let it have its way." She took my hands in hers. "Oh Bailey your hands are shaking." I nodded looking over at the big space.

"I'm nervous."

"I can see that Bailey. Did you get any sleep last night?" I nodded.

"Yeah I got like 20 minutes." She smiled as I straightened my shirt out sliding my fingers over the wrinkles.

"Oh I know the feeling. I am the same way when your father comes home." I gave her a small smile remembering what she was like all those times we picked up Dad. "Oh the months they are gone are horrible but when they come home. It makes waiting for them to come home worth it when you are finally in their arms again." Mom smiled her eyes glazing over as she got lost in her thoughts. "I remember when your father came home when you were little. It felt amazing to finally have been close. To finally see you and Wyatt in the arms of your Father. It is will be the best feeling I will ever have in life. The feeling of knowing that Your Soldier is home. Safe. Not in a war zone getting shot at. I know I used to love to just hold your Father in my arms and cry all the fear out. Cry all the worries away." I looked over at her.

"Mom?" She shook her head looking over at me.

"Yeah Sweetheart?"

"Do you think Iâ" I trailed off closing my eyes. "Have what it takes to be a Marine's girl?" She cocked her head to the side.

"Of course I do Bailey." I looked over at her.

"Why? How do you know I have what it takes?"

"Bailey I know you do because it's how I raised you. I raised you to know that if you love a guy you respect him. You wait for him. You love him. You don't take the easy way out and sleep away your sorrow. I want you to be happy. I don't want you to have to struggle through life. I want you to feel like life is going by too fast and you want it to slow down. Not like it's going so slow you need to change everything. I love you Bailey and I want what's best for you. If I thought that dating a Marine was going to hurt you, I wouldn't let you do it. But when you were with Taylor, even for that little time you two knew each other and even with a concussion you were so happy. You were laughing and smiling, giggling and smirking. Taylor was looking at you like you were the only girl in the world." I looked down quickly remembering what it felt like to be around Taylor. It only made me miss him more. "For some reason I trust that Boy with my daughter." She smirked at me.

"I guess, I guess I really need to think about all this now."

Don't Forget To Remember Me

"No sweetheart you need to do what I told you to do. Let your heart do the talking. Let this," She pointed to the left side of my chest right where my heart was, "lead the way. Don't let this," she tapped my head, "screw it up. Just don't do anything stupid."

"I know Mom. I love you." She hugged me.

"I love you too." She kissed my head. I looked around as I heard yelling and my breath caught in my throat.

"Buses! Buses! Buses!" A little boy screamed at the top of his lungs. I felt the nerves rack over my body as those white buses pulled up to that spot I had longed for them to be in. The buses that took my Marines away and now it's finally bringing them back.

"Just breathe sweetheart. Just breathe." I nodded and watched as the Marines made their way off the buses as they pulled to a stop. The commotion was amazing, like when Dad came home. All the little kids screaming 'Daddy!' or 'Mommy!' when they saw the parents who are finally home. The cries of the wife's as they saw their husbands for the first time in months. The tears of joy as parents got to see their kids again. Homecomings are always my favorite because they show how much love there is in the world as these Soldiers came home, safe and alive. I spotted Skylar as he got off with a tired face. But what made me truly cry was when I saw Taylor limp out behind him. He wasn't putting a lot of pressure on his left leg. He hurt it. He's hurt. Oh no. I watched his face as he winced every time he put even the slightest pressure on it. I barely heard the words of the Commander as he told us to go find our Marines. I ran. I ran as fast as I could without knocking over any one or hitting anyone. I looked over and found Taylor looking around, not putting pressure on his left leg.

"Hollywood!" I yelled making him, and about 5 other Marines turn their heads to look at me as I ran over to him. "Hollywood." I said as I stopped right in front of his.

"Blondie." He smiled. I wrapped my arms around him holding him tightly. "God I missed you Blondie." I closed my eyes breathing in the metal smell coming off him from the plane ride here.

"I missed you too. So much Taylor." I felt his hands tighten as he held me to him as he stood the best he could on only one legâ!

Chapter 53: It's An Order

I let go of him as he took my face into his hands. "You look beautiful." He whispered running his fingers down my cheek. I closed my eyes as a tear rolled down my cheek stopping on his finger. "Don't cry Bailey you'll start me off." He whispered pulling me a little closer to him as he leaned his forehead against mine.

"I'm sorry. I missed you." He put his arm around me closing his eyes.

"I missed you too Beautiful." He winced as he put pressure on his left leg again.

"What happened? What's wrong?" I asked putting my hand on his hip gently.

"No nothing wrong it fell asleep on the plane." He smiled weakly.

"I don't believe you." I whispered into his ear. I ran my fingers down his thigh gently and watched his face as his breath caught in his throat in pain. "See you make it hard to believe you." I sighed pulling my hand away from his leg and on to his hip.

"It's just a bruise Blondie." He said clearing his throat leaning his forehead back on mine.

"If you say so then put weight on it." I said stepping back taking the support of my body away from his. He looked at me wide eyed as he stood on his good leg. I gave him a nod to go ahead and start. He took a deep breath and gently put the slightest pressure on his foot. He whimpered as he tried to put more on it. I looked over and saw Skylar looking over at us talking to a couple of the guys from his platoon. "Hollywood just admit it. You hurt your leg." I said with my arms crossed.

"No it's fine." He winced again.

"Then walk here." I said talking a step away from him. "If you want to show me you're not lying walk towards me." He put his leg out and took a step, only to have his knee buckle under his own weight. Skylar caught him right before he hurt himself more than he already is.

"You should have listened to her Bro." He sighed putting his arm around his waist and putting Taylor's arm over his shoulder.

"Don't side with the Blonde." He said the pain clear in his voice.

"No you side with the blonde when she is right there Mr. I'm-when- I-really-am-not." A couple of the guys around us started to laugh.

"You must be Bailey." One said looking me up and down.

"Last time I checked I was." Skylar shook his head.

"Cocky much today Blondie?" He chuckled.

"Yup, I can have my days." He laughed shaking his head at me. Mom started to make her way over to us.

"May I ask what going on here?" She asked looking at all of us. "Also which one of you is Taylor because with you two standing next to each other it's really hard to tell."

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"The gimpy one is Tay Mom." The guys looked around at me.

"How do you know which is which?" I rolled my eyes.

"Even if they were sitting down next to each other I could tell which one was which it's really not that hard." I shrugged. Everyone looked at me like I was crazy.

"I have known them for what? Like 3 years and it took me a year of being deployed to tell the difference. But it took you 5 days? Are you kidding me?" I shook my head at the guy.

"I got the eye to tell them apart. I have been around a lot of twins in my life so it's pretty easy."

"Like how?" I looked at the same guy.

"Easy. Taylor has a scar just below his hair line and also the tattoos." I pointed to the tattoo Skylar had on his arm.

"Wow you really have a good eye sight." I shrugged as I heard footsteps. I groaned and looked at Mom. She whistled looking away from me.

"What's going on here?" The commander said folding his arms looking around at all of us. All the guys straightened and saluted him. I glared at him as the corners of his mouth turned up. "Do I need to call some M.P.'s here?"

"Oh would you shut up." I rolled my eyes at him. All the guys went wide eyed looking at me in shock. No one would ever talk to the Base Commander. But when you know that he was talking about something when you were 8 and if you knew the back story you would say the same thing. Mom started to laugh at me.

"Baileyâ " Taylor said shaking his head. But he just laughed.

"It was not funny Uncle Jesse." I huffed pouting. He looked at me.

"Sweetheart if it happened to anyone else you would be laughing your ass off." I glared at him as he just shook his head laughing.

"I'm telling Grandma and she will kick your ass for laughing at me." He stopped laughing at me as I smirked at him.

"Ryan she is too much like you."

"No she gets that from her father their Uncle Jesse." She laughed as I smiled at him. She looked over at me. "So much like her father."

"You say like that isn't a bad thing." He smirked causing all the jaws around us to drop. I leaned over and smacked Uncle Jesse on the arm.

"No being mean Commander." I said smacking him again. He rubbed his arm.

"Yeah yeah." The guys looked at each other before looking at me again. I looked down at Taylor's leg before an idea popped into my head.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"Hey Uncle Jesse Taylor hurt his leg." Uncle Jesse looking over at Taylor.

"What did you do Marine?" He asked looking over at me before looking back over at Taylor.

"I got in a nasty pin with an enemy sniper. I think I twisted it wrong or something. I'm not really sure Sir." I turned my head away as the tear formed in my eyes. No wonder he lied to me.

"You should get that looked at at the Base Hospital." He said nodding in his direction.

"Sir, I'm sure it's fine. It's just a little sore." Uncle Jesse sighed. The one thing he hated was when someone said they were fine when they weren't.

"It wasn't a suggestion Marine. It was an order." Taylor looked over at him swallowing. "A injury can be more then you think. I don't want a strong, smart marine going down for one mistake. You're going to the hospital weather you like it or not."

"I'll drive him over Uncle Jesse." I said quietly. He nodded looking back at Taylor.

"Sergeant Andrews I want you to go with my great niece to the base hospital. And trust me Marine if you don't go, I will know and trust I will not be happy." Taylor looked at me.

"Come on let's get you to the hospital Taylor." Mom looked over at me.

"I'll get a ride home from your Uncle. Don't worry." I nodded and started to fallow Skylar and Taylor as they made their way towards the parking lot.

"I'm sorry I had to do that." I whispered to them. Skylar looked over at me.

"It's not your fault. Tay needed it. He should get the crap beat out of him some times. He is damn stubborn." He smiled at me as he opened my truck door and slid Taylor in. "Do you need me to come with you?" I shook my head.

"We'll be fine. Thanks." He nodded turned around. "Wait Skylar." He looked at me. I wrapped my arms around him. "Welcome home." I smiled hugging him. He laughed hugging me back.

"Thanks Bailey. Take care of my brother for me." I nodded walking around and getting into the driver's seat of my truck. I looked over at Taylor. Harley was barking lapping at his hands as he pet him.

"How's your leg?" He shrugged.

"It hurts." I looked at him pouting my bottom lip. "I'm not mad at you. He was right. I don't want to make a mistake I will regret my whole life." He shrugged.

"Good. I don't want you to hate me." I started the car and pulled out.

"Don't worry Blondie; I don't think I can ever hate you." He said looking out of the windowâ !.

Chapter 54: Mr. Fish-Line-And-Sinker

"Thanks Uncle Rodger, we will be there soon." I said into my phone as I drove to the hospital with Taylor next to me.

"Alright sweetheart. I'll see you soon." He answered back at me hanging up the phone. I close my phone before I look over at Taylor to see him still staring out of the window.

"You alright Taylor?" He looked over at me and smiled.

"Yeah I just got a lot on my mind right now. Sorry." He put his hand on the armrest on the seat and looked at me.

"Don't say sorry. You didn't do anything." He chuckled.

"If only you knew!" He whispered to himself. I looked over at him from the corner of my eye.

"You want to talk about it?" He shook his head.

"I think I need to get it right in my head before I get it in someone else's." I looked at him again before I gently took his hand in mine.

"I'm always here if you need to talk." He smiled intertwining our fingers.

"I know." He lifted our hands and kissed mine. "And that just makes me like you so much more." I smiled pulling into the parking lot of the hospital. Thankfully it was close to the doors. I turned the truck off and looked over at Taylor.

"You ready for this?"

I helped Taylor out of the truck and looked at him. "You sure your ready for this Hollywood? We can turn back now." He wrapped his arm around my waist and took a deep breath looking at the base hospital again.

"You know I'm not really sure if I am being a whole Hollywood Marine here." He looked down at me and smiled. He had his arm over my shoulder and his hand firmly on my hips, not letting go. "But I got to do this." He took a steady step on his right foot before I took a step with him on his left side as if I was his crutch. We got to the doors and into the hospital without much trouble, before Miss Bitch herself looked over at us. I have to say I don't even remember what her real name is!

"So look what we have here. I poor marine dragging around a blonde bimbo who doesn't know what's better for her so all she does is get hurt and hurt." She gave a fake pout as if she really cared about me and Taylor. I rolled my eyes and looked past her where Uncle Rodger said he would be waiting for us.

"Look where is my Uncle? Have you seen him?" A smirk grew on her face as if I said something that made her really, truly, happy.

"Oh you mean Mr. Fish-line-and-sinker?" I glared at her knowing she knew it was going to get on my nerves.

"Look where is he? I am not in the mood to deal with this right now." I sighed trying now to snap at her like I really wanted to.

Don't Forget To Remeber Me

"May be he just doesn't care about you and trying to tell you something." She said shrugging with that same smirk still on her face. I narrowed my eyes at her and gritted my teeth as I stared at her. I felt Taylor's hand hold my hip tighter keeping me where I was standing. I almost forgot he was there. I looked up at him as he shook his head at me. He looked up and nodded at a person who was running down the hall way. There was Uncle Rodger trying to catch his breath as he stopped by the desk. "Oh well good morning Doctor Rodgers. How are you today this fine morning?"

"Did she tell you I was going to be late?" I shook my head at him as I fought the anger that was building up in the pit of my stomach. I really did not like this girl.

"She was putting little crap in our heads saying that you didn't love me and that you didn't care." I said pouting pulling my 'little girl charm' as Mom called it. It always worked on Uncle Rodger, Dad, Grandpa, Uncle TJ, Uncle Hunter, and almost all of the marines I ever met really. He looked over at her.

"Did you say that to my Niece?" He asked folding his arms over his chest. She shrugged biting her lip.

"I don't know what she is talking about." She said leaning down to show more of her boobs. I rolled my eye but smirked as Uncle Rodger looked away shaking his head. He loved Aunt Kelsey and I know that for sure.

"I will deal with you later." He snapped looking back over at us. "Come on you two. Let's get that leg looked at." I help Taylor into a room and sat him down on the bed. As He let go of me he took my hand in his pulling me down to sit next to him. "Alright so what do you think you did Marine?" I looked over at Taylor and sighed.

"I got pinned by the enemy and I took a nasty hit to the knee and slammed my leg getting him off me." Uncle Rodger wrote it down it down on a page of paper in his file.

"Anything else?" Taylor shook his head.

"No that's it."

"Alright then. I'm going to need you to take off your pants. I'm sure Bailey can help you if you don't want one of us to help you." He sighed. "If not I can get a couple of nurses to help you, or I could." Taylor looked at me.

"I rather have Bailey help me if that's alright." He nodded.

"Your Home son, you get to feel comfortable." Uncle Rodger smiled at him. "I'll be back soon alright so no funny business." I laughed as he left closing the door behind him. I looked at Taylor as he stared at me.

"I'm going to be gentle." I said quietly. He nodded as I started to unbuckle his belt before pulling his fly open. I looked up to see him watching me. "I need you to lift up a little bit so I can pull them down." He put his hands on the bed and lifted his body up so I could pull gently getting his pants off making me gasp. His whole thigh was black and his knee was swollen beyond belief.

"It's not as bad as it looks..." He whispered as I looked away from his knee to his face.

"You're here and that's what matters." He pulled me to him pulling me into a hug as I tried to fight the tears. He mumbled words into my hair as I took in his scent.

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"Alright you two I need to take him for x-rays to see what's going on in that knee of his." I heard Uncle Rodger say as I pulled back to look at him. "Come on it won't take too long." I nodded and leaned up to kiss Taylor's cheek.

"I'll stay here and wait for you to come back. I need to call Skylar to ask him something." I smiled at him. He nodded letting me go as Uncle Rodger took him out of the room and nodded at me. I pulled out my cell phone to make a couple of calls while he was getting his x-rays done.....

....A little while later I was half asleep lying with Taylor as he had the IV in his arm with pain killers in it making him more tired than he already was. I woke up to the sound of Uncle Rodger's voice calling my name. I opened my eyes to look at him as he looked at me. "Hey Sweetheart, sorry to wake you up. I just got the x-ray back. He broke his femur, so it must have been a hard hit. But he twisted his knee, which is also why he was in pain. I need to put a cast on his leg, and have him see a orthopedic for his knee." I nod rubbing my eyes to look at him. "Let me go get the stuff for the cast while you wake him up." I nodded gently shaking him rubbing his t-shirt covered chest. He opened his eyes to look at me.

"Hey Uncle Rodger is going to get the stuff for your cast so you have to wake up Hollywood." He rubbed his eyes as Uncle Rodgers came into the room with a nurse. He wrapped the cast around Taylor's leg and soon he had a blue cast that covered him almost all the way to his hip. I picked up the bag of closes Skylar dropped off and looked at Taylor as Uncle Rodger took the IV out.

"I'm sure you want to take a shower so I will leave you to that. I'm sure Bailey will help you. Now when you are done I'll put this back in." Taylor looked at me with a slight blush on his cheeks.

"You're going to help me in the shower." I nodded helping him up and helping him into the bathroom.

"Here we go." I mumbled to myself as I turned the water on. Taylor leaned against the sink counter and pulled off his t-shirt, leaving him only in a pair of jockeys that let's just say don't really hide anything.....

Chapter 55: Another Time

I cleared my throat and looked up away from Taylor's underwear. "How do you want your shower?" He smiled nervously.

"Coldâ I need it." I blushed as I leaned over to turn the shower on for him.

"Is that good enough for you?" I asked looking down at my sneakers not able to look him in the face without blushing like a tomato.

"Well if you're coming in with me yeah." I looked up quickly to see him blush.

"How about I warm it up for you and help you in and stand here. If you need help you just call me." He nodded.

"Yeah that sounds alright."

"Anyway you don't want to shower with someone when they have a cast on before it hurts when they hit you with it." I picked up the plastic that I needed to put over Taylor's cast so it didn't get wet.

"Oh really and how could you know that?" He asked a smirk playing on his lips. I looked at him and winked.

"I have my ways. Now do you want this on before I take them off or after?" I nodded to his underwear.

"Uh, whatever you think is easier is good for me. Either way you are going to see it." He blushed rubbing the back of his head with his hand.

"I can go get a nurse to help you out if you want." He shook his head.

"I rather have you see it then them." He blushed a dark red. "If you understand what I'm trying to sayâ I laughed at him.

"How about I put this on then we deal with that." I put leaning down to gently pick up his cast before slipping it into the plastic. I pulled it up to the end of the cast, right under the soft fabric of his jockeys. I looked up at him slowly as I marbled in his nearly naked body in front of my eyes. He truly is handsome. I looked at him as if I was asking for permission to take his underwear off. I left the cotton under my fingers as I pulled the fabric down his hips leaving a trail of Goosebumps as I pulled then down his thighs. He now stood naked in front of my eye as I still was on my knees, my head at his hips.

"You know if we weren't in a hospital bathroom and I didn't smell horrible and have a broken leg then they could be very enjoyable." I looked up at him swallowing nervously as I tried not to look at what was right in front of my eyes, almost staring at me.

"Yeah, well maybe another time Taylor." I said nervously. He smiled at me giving me a hand to help pull me up. I put my hand in his and he pulled me up pressing me close to him.

"I'm taking that to heart Blondie. I can't wait for that other time." He whispered into my ear. I closed my eyes trying to keep the moan in my throat as I felt his other hand run down my back and over my hips gently pulling me closer to him. I looked up at his eyes as I felt him pull my shirt up over my belly button and gently running over the smooth skin of my back as he ran gently pressed his lips to my jaw in a butterfly kiss. I

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moaned quietly as he pulled back to look at me over the slightest. I looked into his gorgeous blue eyes and pushed my face up to his as he leaned down to press his lips to mine. I moved my hand so it was behind his head and pulled his head closed to mine as my lips molded with his. I truly felt like I was flying. Like nothing was going to hurt me. All I could feel was the heat from Taylor's naked body radiating off him and soaking into mine. Taylor pulled back and closed his eyes. "Bailey we have to stop." He said leaning his forehead on mine as we both tried to catch our breath.

"Why? I was liking that." I mumbled trying to calm my racing heart. I felt something hard hit my hip when before I registered what Taylor was saying.

"Now just isn't the time." He cleared his throat loudly making me blush as I realized what he was trying to say. He was getting flustered. "Another time, like you promised. But if we continue any longer I won't be able to stop." I nod my head leaning up to give him on last kiss on the jaw before taking a step back.

"I'm sorry." I said looking down at his hips before looking back up at him then at the running shower.

"Don't say sorry. Trust me I was enjoying it to. But I don't want to have to have our first time to be in a hospital bathroom while you help the gimp shower." He gave me a lop sided smile.

"Come on into the shower Hollywood." He put his arm over my shoulder as I helped him into the low shower.

"Does this mean you get to be my nurse?" He looked at me as the first spray of the water got him. He bit his lip giving me a sly smile. "I could like this." He chuckled as he rubbed himself down.

"Here is your soap. Skylar brought some stuff for you so you could shower and get out of your uniform." He took the bottle from me and started to wash himself. I looked away as I tried not to look as it made me feel stalker-ish. I pulled out a bottle of shampoo from the bag and handed it to him taking back the soap. I smelled the air closing my eyes as a smile spread across my face.

"What got you all smiley?" Taylor asked as he got the soap out of the little hair he had.

"I love the smell of the soap you use. It's my favorite." I opened my eyes to look at him. He shook his head laughing handing me the bottle of shampoo.

"It's my favorite too." I pulled the clothes out of the bag and pushed all of the dirty clothes in and zipped it shut. "Alright I need help out." I helped Taylor out and handed him a towel.

"Or do you want me to towel you down?" He smiled at me causing a twinkle to form in his eyes.

"As much as I would like that being a horny marine and everything I have to put that on my 'Another Time' list." I nodded as he got dry before I pulled off the plastic over his cast. I helped him get into his under wear and jeans. He easily pulled on his t-shirt without my help. I helped him back into the hospital room and into on to the bed. I pulled his pants into the bag and zipped it shut again.

"Your brother brought you sneakers but if you want to wear your combat boots you can I don't mind." I said as I looked up at him. He was watching me quietly.

"I'll but on the sneakers. I don't need any more sand between my toes. I handed him his sneakers, well sneaker since he didn't need the left one. I sat back down next to him as we waited for Uncle Rodger to come back. I turned on the TV smiling as I saw one of my favorite Disney movies on. I started to watch it as I felt Taylor's hand go around my waist and rub the skin on my hip gently.

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"You are one with your inner child aren't you?" He chuckled at me.

"Well I used to watch them with Dillon was little because he loved them and we both watch them together. Then when Bentley was born he just joined the crowd and watched them too." He smiled.

"Sounds like fun." I nodded my head.

"Of course it is. Haven't you ever watched one?" He shrugged.

"Not since I watched Toy Story 2 with you while you had that concussion. But before that no, not since I was a kid." I looked at him raising my eye brow.

"You are weird. You need to watch them more." He looked at me then at the screen.

"I just might beâ" He mumbled to himself. I looked up at him as he stared at the screen about to ask him what he means when Uncle Rodger came in with a pair of crutches and a nurse holding a file and a scale. I looked over at him like he was crazy.

"Alright you two. You're ready to go. I sent a prescription for some pain meds for you Taylor. I'm sure Bailey or your brother can go pick it up for you." He nodded at him.

"Yes Sir." Uncle Rodger looked at me putting the crutches on the bed.

"Bailey stand up for me will you?" I stood up looking at him confused. He turned to the nurse and pulled the scale out and put it on the floor. My face dropped as I glared at him knowing what he was getting at.

"No Uncle Rodger I'm fine." Taylor looked at the two of us.

"Then step on the scale because you know it looks like you have lost weight to me." I crossed my arms.

"You don't have my file so I'm fine." He started to smirk as the nurse handed him the file. "Damn it." I cursed under my breath.

"Step up Baby Girl." I sighed pulling my shoes up and stepping onto the white scale that has always been my enemy. Oh how unoriginal that sounds. I'm sure every girl says thatâ. The numbers flashed as the number 96 flashed in red. Crap am I really that thin? Uncle Rodger opened my file and wrote something in it. I looked down thinking. I can't beâ. I haven't not been eating. Iâ. don't know how this happened.

"Baileyâ" Taylor said looking at me.

"Alright Bails you lost 10 pounds since 2 weeks ago. This puts you at aboutâ" He looked up pulling a face. "25-30 under weight." I closed my eyes.

"I mean to Uncle Rodger." I opened my eyes to look at him. "I swear." He nodded.

"I know. Your Mom has been talking to me saying you have been running with Harley and your father more. I know it's not your fault. Don't worry no one is saying it is. What I'm saying is I want you on a high carb, high calorie diet. You need to gain the weight back. Now if you go for a run please just eat or drink a protein shake or bar to get you better. I will check to see if you have gained weigh in about a week. If you haven't you know what I'm going to have to do. And if anything doesn't feel right, like you feel overly tired, nauseas, if you are vomiting,-" I cut him off.

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"I know, call you." He nodded.

"Alright you two can go now." He said picking up the scale and looking at us. I handed Taylor the crutches before grabbing his bag.

"Come on." He fallowed me back to the truck before looking at me as he got in not saying a word. "Where do you want to go?" I asked as I pulled out of the hospital parking lot and onto the road.

"Uh, my apartment is fine." I looked over at him as he watched meâ!

I helped into the nice three room apartment that Taylor shared with Skylar. He told me about it when we spent the time before he deployed. I closed the door as he plopped down on the couch.

"Bailey I have to tell you something." I looked over at him. The car ride had been quiet with the only sound was the sound of the radio playing.

"Okay go ahead." I nodded. He took a deep breath pulling his kit closer to him pulling out the sandwich bag pull of pictures and pulled one out. He handed me a folded picture and sighed.

"Bailey, open the picture." I swallowed nervously not really knowing what to expect. I opened the picture and looked at Taylor confused. "Bailey I have son."

Chapter 56: The 3rd Day

"I'm sorry say again." I said in shock. He closed his eyes taking a deep breath.

"Bailey I have a 5 month old son." He opened his eyes to look at me as I stared down at the picture in my hands. I looked up at him unsure what to say. What do you say to that? 'Hey I think I'm falling in love with you, but you have a baby so I'm not sure any more'?

"Why didn't you tell me before?" I felt the tears forming in my eyes. They weren't anger, or disgust. They were of betrayal. He didn't tell me. We spent 5 days together. He barely left my side, yet he didn't tell me he had a baby. A 5 month, 1 month old at the time.

"I didn't know how to tell you." He said closing his eyes, trying to hide the tears.

"How about 'Bailey I have a son.'" I said crossing my arms trying to show my anger, but the tears rolled down my face betraying me. He reached out for me but dropped his hand half way looking down.

"I was scared. I had this weird feeling in the pit of my stomach every time I even looked your way, even thought of you. You invaded my every thought Bailey. You stole my heart Bailey. Damn it I'm in love with you." I looked up at him before I broke down and let my tears roll down my face.

"You should have told me." I said wiping my tears away roughly from my cheeks.

"I know but I was scared, terrified even." I watched the tear roll down his face mindlessly. He ignored it like it wasn't even there.

"Scared of what Taylor?" I put my hand on his shoulder. He opened his eyes to look at me. The whites of his eyes were red, either from crying or because we was tired. Or both.

"I was scared of what you would think." I looked back at the picture in my hand. It was a perfect picture of Taylor in the hospital holding a beautiful little baby in his strong arms. It was like the baby belonged there. In his father's arms sleeping. Not a care in the world.

"Why?" He looked up at me confused.

"Why what?"

"Why didn't you stay with them the last week? Why were you with me?" He gave a short laugh.

"She kicked me out. She said I wasn't the father that Fin should have. She wanted someone who was there when he needed him. Not offâ!" He trailed off. I rubbed his arm as more tears fell.

"You can tell me it's alright." I whispered moving closer to him. He took my hand in his.

"She said he needed someone who wasn't off playing soldier." I looked at him as a tear rolled down my face.

"Taylorâ!" I pulled him into my arms as he started to full on cry. Whoever she was, she was a cold heart bitch. I barely know her but I know she is.

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"She wanted me to quiet. Just drop everything and do what she wanted me to do. She said I had to grow up and be a man." He held me close as he cried all his pain out. I could tell he had been bottling this up. "She wanted me to stop being a marine and marry her." I looked at him.

"Did you?" He shook his head.

"I told no. I told her I need to think about everything, see if I want to truly be with her before I proposed to her." I moved so I was close enough so our knees were touching. I leaned my head on his shoulder.

"I bet she didn't take that very well." He shook his head.

"She hated it. She said I made the mistake of getting her pregnant. I had to man up and take care of them." He laid his head on top of mine.

"I don't see you as the person to just abandon a girl you got pregnant."

"I didn't I stood by her the whole time. I let her bitch at me about not being good enough. I let her bitch about how she was getting fat. I let her bitch about how Skylar was 'being mean' to her. I stood by her for 9 months. A whole 9 months of agony."

"So you didn't propose?" He shook his head.

"I couldn't. She just wasn't the girl I wanted to spend my life with. I couldn't stomach being with her for so long. But when Finley was born. I justâ¦ I was so confused." I looked up at him.

"Why were you confused?"

"Because here I held the perfect baby in my hands. He was perfect. He looked so much like me. He made those 9 months so worth it. So worth dealing with her. He had those little baby hands and feet. He loved to just lay with me. Oh how I miss him." He closed his eyes and started to cry.

"What happened?" I asked rubbing his good leg that was near me.

"I had been home for 9 months almost 10. I was lucky I was home that long. I knew a deployment was coming. It had to be. So when I got my orders I knew I was lucky. Only 4 months, is what we dream of. But She, she didn't like it." He took a deep breath pulling me closer to him. "She told me I better get out of it if I were wanted to see my son again. She was using him as bait. She wanted me out of the corps; she was and true was trying to ruin my life." He closed his eyes pressing his head to mine. "I didn't understand why, why she was so adamant to get me out.

"All I wanted was my son. But when she found out I was going, that I wasn't going to stay behind with her. She flipped. She kicked me out, said she never wanted to see me again. She never was going to let me hold my son, see him, or even touch him. She wanted me to give her money or she was going to call the cops and get me arrested and put in prison for the rest of my life."

"She," I looked up at him. "She is a bitch. How did you even meet her?" He gave me a short laugh. There was no humor in it though. It sounded so odd coming out of his lips. It didn't belong there.

"That's the funny thing. I met her at a bar when I first got home from my last deployment. I was drunk and I slept with her. I guess it goes from there." He looked at me.

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"Continue with your story. I'm listening." He sighed looking ahead of himself blankly.

"So she kicked me out. It wasn't even like I was living there. I was still here with Skylar. But we had bought a bigger apartment, so Finley had a place to stay when he came over. I didn't see a point in life anymore. The only one I loved was my son and I wasn't allowed to see him. I was thinking. I was planning. I was going to go away, but I wasn't going to come back, other than in a body bag." Just the thought. The cold blackness of a body bag. The thought of Taylor in one. The images of it started to haunt my mind. I closed my eyes as I broke down. Taylor held me tighter. "Shh I'm sorry."

"Why would you want to kill yourself?" I cried hugging him, the fear of losing him so close.

"It was before I met you. I didn't want to endanger my son. She said she would have hurt him. But then I went to this dinner. There was this Blondie who was my waitress who was perfect in every way shape and form. She changed my mind because I just kept running into her. Then I spent the best 5 days of my life with her. Those 5 days I had more fun than I had in months. She made everything better. She stole something from me though." I looked up at him my eye lashes still wet from my little break down.

"What did she steal?" He nuzzled into my neck.

"My heart." I closed my eyes enjoying the feel of his skin on mine.

"I love you Taylor. I love you." I whispered making him look up.

"Good because I fell for you the 3rd day we spent together." He leaned forward to kiss me.

"Taylor?" I asked after a little while.

"Yeah Blondie?"

"You said she was going to hurtâ him. What did you mean?" He opened his eyes to look at me.

"She said she would beat him, till he was black and blue. Or till he stopped breathing. She said she didn't care. That he was nothing to her. She was just doing what her mother told her to do. Kill him." He whispered. I looked at him in disbelief. I stood up suddenly walking to the door grabbing my shoes. "Bailey what are you doing?" I looked over at him throwing him his shoes.

"We are going to get your Son."

Chapter 57: Not What I Expected

"Wait what?" Taylor said looking at me holding his shoe in his hand loosely.

"You said she was hurting him. I'm not letting that happen." I pulled my keys out of my pocket. I watched the tears forming in his eyes.

"Taylor what's wrong?" I sat back down next to him.

"Thank you." He said hugging me. He pulled back to kiss me. I ran my fingers over his cheek as I pulled back. "Thank you."

"Why are you thanking me?" I asked him cocking my head to the side. I wiped the tear that rolled down his face. "Don't cry." I whispered looking at him.

"You're doing so much for me Beautiful. I don't know how I will ever repay you." I laughed.

"How about be put this on our 'Another Time' list and go get you your little boy." He nodded as I took the shoe from him, slipping it onto his foot. "Now do you have any proof that she ever said she was going to hurt him." He looked down at me.

"You don't believe me?"

"Of course I believe you Taylor but the M.P.'s are going to need proof of it for the long run." I said looking at him as he thought. "Anything, a letter, a note, anything." I ran my hands down his cheeks till they hit his chest. He looked at me, as if we was raking every thought he had.

"A letter. She sent me a letter telling me that I better not show up or she would. She said that she would hit him."

"Where is it?" He looked over at his kit.

"Grab my bag and I'll get it." I walked over and grabbed the bag and handed it to him. He unzipped the bag pulling out a big zip bag full of letters. He pulled out a folded letter and handed it to me. I opened the letter and sure enough it was a letter that had Fin's name in it along with hit and if you come back.

"Perfect come on. The longer we are the bigger chance of him getting hurt." I stood up, grabbing his hand pulling him with me.

"Alright let's go." I handed him his crutches as I folded the letter slipping it into my pocket. Once he got to the car I tossed my cell phone at him. "Call the M.P.'s." He nodded dialing the phone. I pulled onto the highway like Taylor told me while he spoke to the M.P.s. I looked at him from the corner of my eye. "What did they say?" I asked him quietly. He turned his head to look at me.

"They will meet us there. They called in the civilian cops to since Caroline is a civilian." He looked out the window. I took his hand in mine.

"Taylor we will get him. I promise." He looked over at me again.

"Oh I hope so. I just hope she hasn't already done something to him. That my little boy."

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"I know Taylor, I know." I turned the radio on taking a deep breath as Nickelback flowed through the speakers.

I pulled up to the house Taylor pointed at and pulled over. "This is where she lives?" He nodded.

"She said she didn't want to move, but I offered her the apartment before I left. She said she didn't want it." I pulled a face unbuckling my seatbelt.

"You want me to stay here?" He shook his head. "You want me to come with you?" He nodded his head unbuckling.

"Just stand behind me. If she goes crazy I can fend her off with the crutches." He smiled weakly.

"Come on the faster we do this the faster we can get out of here." He nodded as we got out of the car walking up to the small house that Caroline lives in. It's not the house I don't like. Don't get me wrong it was a nice little house. It is a nice house with an off white color on the walls with a black roof and blue shutters. It's the lawn on the house. It was full of old beer bottles and cans, soda cans, and I think a couple of used condoms that let's just say to stay the hell away from those. I looked at Taylor unsure what to do but he just kept walking up to the front door. I followed behind him not being too close but staying as close as I could. He knocked on the door leaning on his crutches. The door opened to show a girl looking pissed and unhappy.

"What?" She snapped itching her head moving her dark brown hair as she went.

"Uh, is Caroline here?" The girl looked at him narrowing her eyes before sighing.

"Caroline some guy is at the door for you." She yelled into the house. I hid behind Taylor as I heard footsteps. I'm really not sure why but I just did. This place was scaring me. I was barley ever off base and not used to being around here. What was I supposed to do?

"Taylor is that you?" A girlie voice said. "Oh it is you! I knew you would come back for me." She said jumping onto Taylor clutching him tightly knocking his crutches down.

"I didn't come back for you Caroline. I came back for Finley, my son." She stepped back and looked at him. Her eyes were red. She didn't look right. Grandma explained to me what someone looks like when there high, and I could tell you right now Caroline is high out of her mind. She was pretty though. She had little brown hair that hung just past her shoulders with big brown eyes that looked browner with the whites of her eyes blood shot and red. All she wore was a tight t-shirt and a pair of short shorts. Taylor's body was as stiff as a board as he stared at her.

"But I thought you came back to be with me. I know you couldn't wait to come back." She bit her lip looking at him up and down.

"Caroline where is my son." He demanded, ignoring her flirting. She looked at him crossing her arms.

"You don't need to know that. He is mine. I told you when you left you weren't going to ever see him again. So you don't need to know where he is." She said lifting her nose up into the air. Taylor took a step forward before he sniffed the air.

"Caroline are you—are you drunk?" She giggled at him.

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"No, okay maybe a little." She backed up going into the house. Taylor crutched into the house looking back to look at me.

"It's alright I'll protect you." He whispered as I walked over to him. "It will be alright. The cops should be here soon." Caroline looked back at Taylor and I as she took a swing of vodka.

"Who the hell is that Tay-Tay?" She asked innocently but the slur in her words made it sound wrong.

"That is my girlfriend. Now stop changing the subject were is Finley." She started to glare at me before Taylor stepped into her line of sight, blocking her glare on me. "Where is he?" He snapped at her. Her eyes shot to a room that the door was open just a crack but we could hear the sound a baby crying. Taylor's eyes shot back to her as the crying got louder and louder.

"Shut up you mistake." She screamed drunkly throwing the empty bottle of vodka at the door causing a loud sudden crash as it shattered into a million pieces. I jumped clinging to Taylor's t-shirt in fear as the crying from the room stopped. My fear changed at that moment. I was not scared for myself now, I was scared for Fin. The house smelled of booze. Every corner of it smelled like booze. That poor baby.

"Do not scare him like that." He snapped at her. She turned and glared at him.

"Don't tell me what to do with my son!" She yelled at him. I heard the police cars pull up to the house and turned around to see a humvee pulling up behind them. Perfect. I tugged on Taylor's t-shirt causing him to turn to look at me.

"They're here Taylor." I whispered to him as he turned to look at Caroline again.

"Just give me my son Caroline and no one will get hurt." She laughed.

"Get out Taylor. You're not welcome here." The girl who opened the door was sitting on the couch just watching some TV like nothing was happening. Taylor's hand hit mine making me look down at it. He jerked his hand to the door where the crying came from. I took silent steps towards the room while Taylor argued with Caroline. I stepped over the broken glass making myself as quiet as possible. The room was dark, even though it's about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. What I expected was, well a baby's room but I was in for the shock of my life.

Chapter 58: Broken Glass

The carpets were stained with vomit, something I really don't think is chocolate, and a whole ton of other stuff. The walls were once a light blue but now had stains that I truly don't want to know what it is. But what caught my eye was how empty the room was. When I thought of a baby's room I thought of cute pictures of animals or race car really anything cute. But in this room, it made me sick to my stomach that anyone would let their baby sleep in that. In that I mean that all that was in the room was a crib, and a dozen bottles of beer, vodka, and more beer bottles. It smelled like the rest of the house. Like booze. I made my way over to the crib almost crying at what I saw. He laid there on the wooden bars. Not on a mattress. But a sheet covering the wooden bars. He only had on a diaper as he looked up at me. He had a pout on his face, but the fear, it was the fear in his eyes that made me want to protect him. I gently ran my fingers down the side of his face causing him to whimper slightly reaching up to me not moving his back at all, like he was in pain. "Shhhh little guy it's going to be alright." I whispered to him. I as gentle as I could to lift him from the hard wood of the crib. He grasped my t-shirt in his little fists as if he knew I was here to help him, and not hurt him. I gently stroked his back trying to ignore the deep purple bruises on his back. I pressed my lips to his head. "I promise she won't hurt you anymore." I heard movement outside the door making me pull the thin sheet from the crib, which was thankfully clean, and put it over Finley as I clutched him to my body.

"You're not going anywhere near my Son!" I heard Caroline scream from the other room.

"Ma'am I'm sorry but you don't have a choice. If what this Marine is saying is right then we have full right to take your child out of a bad situation. But by the looks and smells of this house we will be taking him even if what he was saying wasn't true." A voice said as I heard footsteps getting closer to the door.

"No you can't get near him! No I'm his mother! What I say goes!" She screamed back at the man. My guess was he was either a M.P. or a civilian police officer. I held Finley tight to me as he stayed silent, but when I looked down he was looking up at me. He was a 5 month old baby but the fear in his eyes was the fear a child, not a baby. He pulled himself even close to me not letting out a sound as if he knew to be quiet.

"I'm sorry Ma'am. Jacobson would you please." He said as he started to make his way towards the door again.

"No! No! No! Don't you even dare!" She screamed at the men. I was frozen in my spot as I heard a struggle outside the door way before the sound of shoes on the broken glass from where the bottle shattered. I watched as the door slowly opened and a pair of combat boots entered into the room slowly. It was defiantly a M.P. I just know it. I looked over at the door as a man dressed in camo uniform stepped into the foul smelling room.

"Miss Williams I didn't expect to see you here." He said walking in fully coming to my side. I looked up at him quickly before looking back at Fin.

"Yeah I didn't expect to see you here either Sergeant." I said quietly to him as he put his hand on my arm.

"You alright Miss? You look scared." He looked over at me then at the door as we heard more people coming in from outside, my guess would be civilian cops. "Miss?"

"Don't let her." I said looking up into his warm green eyes as tears filled my eyes. "Please." He looked back at the door then me. I looked away from him back at the boney crib, were Fin was just lying.

"Don't what?" He took a step forward so he was in my line of sight for the door way. "Don't what, Miss Williams?" I could feel the tear threatening to fall now as I looked back at his face.

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"Don't let her hurt him. I beg you." I whispered quietly not wanting anyone to hear us talking as no one but Taylor, and now the Sergeant, knew I was in here. He scanned his eyes over my face before turning around.

"I promise Miss. With my life, she won't hurt him now." He gently put his hand on my shoulder in a comforting way. "Now let's get him out of here." He pulled me behind me as he started to make his way out of the room. "Watch the glass." He said as we got into the door way. He looked down at my flip flops that I slipped on when we left Taylor's apartment and pulled a face. "You know what come here. I promise I won't hurt you. Miss Williams I'm going to lift you up alright."

"Good because my feet hurt." I nodded as I held the sheet closer to Fin, pushing him closer to my chest. Sergeant Abel picked me up easily lifting me over the shattered jagged glass that covered the floor. I looked up as the sound of his combat boots walking over the glass with no problem compared to my simple flip flops that made about 10 pieces of glass in already. I must say it was nice not to have to walk over the glass again. Taylor looked up from where he was talking to a cop and a M.P. His face changed as he saw Sergeant Abel carrying me. His eyes fell to my chest where the white sheet covered the precious baby in my arms. Sergeant Abel walked me over to them as I saw Caroline sitting on the couch in hand cuffs, next to the girl who let us in. They were talking to a couple of cops.

"Sergeant what do we have here?" The M.P. Taylor was talking to as Sergeant Abel walked over to him, still carrying me.

"This would be Miss Williams Sir, First Sergeant Williams's daughter." The M.P. nodded at me knowing of my father.

"Alright, did you find the baby?" He nodded.

"Yes Sir, he is right here." He pointed to the white sheet. Taylor looked at me with a confused look on his face as he saw Sergeant Abel not putting me down.

"Well Sergeant you can put Miss Williams down now." He said crossing his arms looking at me.

"I can't do that Sir." The M.P. raised his eyebrow.

"And why not?"

"She has glass in her feet, Sir." The M.P.'s face softens as he looked at me.

"Alright here give me the baby while you take her out to the EMT's on the lawn to get that cleaned up." He said softly to me. I shook my head.

"They are just in my flip flops. If you can get them off I can take them out." I said quietly. He nodded as Sergeant Abel lifted me up and the M.P. slipped my blue flip flops off pulling the little pieces of glass out of them. He slipped one back onto my foot before pulling the glass out of the other one before he slipped the other one back on my foot.

"All better?" I nodded as Sergeant Abel put me back on the ground. I stepped next to Taylor still holding Fin to my chest. "Now can I see the baby?" I nod pulling the sheet back to show the M.P. the now sleeping Baby who woke right up when I pulled the sheet away from him. "Oh damn." He said pulling in a breath.

"Oh the poor thingâ !" Sergeant Abel said quietly as Taylor turned his face away so he wasn't looking at Fin.

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"How was his room Sergeant?" He asked sternly at Abel.

"Not good Sir. Just a crib and a room smelling of booze, no mattress on the crib. It was bad Sir. Bad." He shook his head looking at Fin as I rewrapped him in the white sheet. The M.P. shook his head.

"There is no way he is staying here even if she gets out tonight." He looked at us. "I assume you two want to take him instead of social services?" I nodded.

"Yes Sir. Taylor is his father." He nodded.

"Let me get some pictures of him before you take him. You do have everything for him back where you live, right Gunny?" I looked at Taylor.

"Yes Sir, everything is all set. But I don't have a car seat for him. Caroline took it when she kicked me out." He nodded rubbing his chin looking at us.

"I can get you a civilian police officer to escort you to the nearest Babies 'R Us to buy one." Taylor nodded looking over at me. I nodded shifting Fin in my arms so I was cradling him to my chest. "If I can take him so social services can take the pictures so he can go home with you." I looked down at Fin before sighing and handing him over to Sergeant Abel.

"Take care of him. Please." I whispered quietly to him, already knowing his promise. I looked over at the M.P. as he and Sergeant Abel took him over to a lady in a suit.

"It'll be alright Blondie." Taylor's voice was right next to my ear. I turned to look at him as he pulled me closer to him hugging me tightly. I wrapped my arms around him as I heard Finley crying over with the M.P.s. I looked over as the lady was taking pictures of Fin. "Shhh don't look." He whispered pulling me back into his chest. I took a deep breath and smelled in his body wash.

"Miss Williams you can leave now." I looked up at the M.P. and the lady who was talking the picture. He handed me Finley who was now snuggly wrapped in the blanket. I took him back into my arms. I held him tightly to me. "But we will be keeping in touch about the case with the custody of the baby." I nodded taking the card she handed me. "Office Stevens will be taking you to get the car seat." I nodded looking at the office she pointed at. I fixed the blanket and looked at Taylor.

"You ready to go?" I asked quietly looking as the office left the room. He nodded as he started to crutch to the truck. I followed him out handing him out to the truck. He got into the truck moving his crutches before I handed him Finley.

"Bailey?" He asked as I turned around.

"Yeah?"

"Can I have a kiss?" I smiled leaning over to him to kiss him gently.

"I love you Blondie." He smiled.

"I love you too Hollywood." I smiled walking around to the front of my truck getting in.

Chapter 59: Hard Choices

"I don't understand why we can't just get this one Bailey." Taylor said looking over at me. I shot him a sideways glance before I looked back at the car seat in front of me. Fin cooed looking over at his father before lying his head back on my shoulder as I held him in my arms.

"Because it is for 1-2 year olds Taylor. He is 5 months old. He needs a baby car seat." He sighed pulling a face.

"Why does this have to be so hard to pick out a car seat?" I started to laugh.

"Because if it wasn't hard people would be popping out kids like pez from a pez dispenser." He gave me a thoughtful look as I moved down the aisle looking at the smaller baby car seats. "Hmmm what color to choose what color to choose." I mumbled to myself.

"Well why does a color matter?" He said pulling a face a face again.

"Because you would not get a pink car seat for a little boy. You have to choose the color that matches his gender, his personality, and his size." He looked over at me confused. I sighed. "Just stand there and look pretty while I choose alright?"

"Whatever you say dear." He answered causing me to laugh and look back at the car seats. We have been here for about 20 minutes now only just finding the car seats in the huge store. The cops who brought us here left after they got here saying they had another call. I smiled, thanked them, and we started to make our way in here. I looked back over at the car seats not wanting to lose my train of thought again while I stared off looking over at the cute onesies for the babies.

"Do you think the blue one or the tan one? The tan one has more head support for his head, but so does the blue one." I looked over at Taylor. "What do you think?"

"Whichever one you want Blondie." He sighed looking at me.

"Well the blue one also has a stroller with it. Do you have a stroller at your apartment?" I said thoughtfully looking at him. He shook his head.

"I had one but I gave it to Caroline when I left. I have no idea what she did with it." He trailed off looking down at his cast.

"Okay so the blue one it is. Do you like this one baby?" I asked looking down at Fin as he held my shirt in his hands. He looked up at me before closing his eyes again. "I will take that as a yes." I smiled walking over to the cart and bring it over to where the stroller is. I put Fin in gently before I buckled him in safely. He had the blanket still wrapped around him since he didn't have anything on but a diaper still. I picked up the big box and put it into the cart before looking over at Taylor. "Okay what else do we need while we are here?" He closed one of his eyes looking up at the ceiling as he thought my question over.

"Well I think we will need diapers, bottles, formula, and wipes." I nodded.

"Do you have pacifiers?" He shook his head. "Okay so we also need pacifiers. Do you have some baby toys?"

"We have a couple but they are for babies."

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"Alright and some toys." He looked at me. "What?" I asked as I started to roll the cart to the clothing so I could get Fin something to wear for now still we got home. Home. What a wonderful word. While I take my boyfriend's beautiful baby home.

"Nothing I just love you." I looked at him quickly before I looked away blushing. I looked at the clothes for 5 month olds with a sigh. They are just too cute. I picked out a little onesie to put under and a t-shirt and little baby jeans. "You're crazy." He laughed looking at my picked out outfit.

"I know but he will look so cute in it." I smiled looking down at Fin as he looked around the store. "Come on now we have to get diapers, new bottles, and some pacifiers." Taylor crutched behind me as I rolled down the aisle picking out the diapers Mom always got Dillon and Bentley. Well Dillon when he was a baby and Bentley now since Mom and Dad were still working on potty training him. I picked a couple of cute bottles I would love him to have with cute little pictures on them. Next were the perfect little pacifiers that were in many different colors. Fin reached for them before looking back at me. "Good you are going to like them." He looked up at me as I picked a toy out to put in the basket. He took it from my hand and started to play with it as I started to pick out little toy cars for babies and a bunch of other toys I think he would like. Taylor looked at me as I pulled up to the formula section.

"Which one are you getting him?" He asked looking at all the formula cans.

"Well I'm not going to get a lot because I'm going to take him to the doctor soon and I don't know what they will say. So to play it safe I will get two days worth of formula and ask what they think." I said moving to get some and put it into the cart. I looked up at him. "You alright?" He looked at me.

"Yeah I'm fine." He nodded. I pushed the cart over to him as we got closer Fin looked up from the toy and at his father.

"Taylor what's wrong? Tell me." He sighed.

"My leg is killing me. My foot hurts. I want to be home curled up with my girlfriend while I watch my son sleep or even play with a toy on the floor. I just want to know all of you are safe." I leaned up on my tippy toes to kiss him gently on the lips.

"I'm almost done I just need to get one more thing before we go." He nodded. "Why don't you go to the front of the store while I go get it and I will meet you there?" He nodded leaning down to kiss me. "Okay?"

"I love you Blondie."

"I love you too Hollywood now go." I moved the cart so he could start to make his way to the front while I went to back to the clothing section grabbing a cute pajama all in one for Fin since it was getting late and I didn't want him to be uncomfortable in the other clothes while he slept. It had helicopters, trucks, and cars on it. I put it in the cart and started to make my way to the front. Taylor was talking to one of the cash register people. I pulled the cart up to his and started to put everything onto the thing to get rang up. I put everything to be rang up and counted quietly to myself so I knew I got everything. "Bailey?" I looked up at Taylor.

"Yeah?" He held up the pajamas. "Oh come on they are just too cute. And there soft and I think he will love them." He just laughed putting them back down. "You know you love them too." I giggled making Fin look at me with tired eyes.

"Alright but if they made those for adults I would so get them." He smiled at me pulling out his wallet and taking his debit card to slide to give the money for the stuff. I started to put everything into bags as I put it

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back into the chart to take it back out to the truck. "You ready?" I nodded at him as we started to make our way to the truck. I opened the door to the back seat of the truck and looked over at Taylor.

"Can you find me the pajamas and the diapers?" I asked as I picked Fin up and laid him down on the seat. Taylor limped over to us holding the bag of diapers and the pajamas. I pulled it open and took one out before walking over to the bags and grabbing the wipes and a plastic bag. I changed his diaper, wiped him clean, then slipped him into the footie pajamas and handed him to Taylor as I put the dirty diaper into the plastic bag.

"Where are you going?" He asked as Fin looked down at the clothes that now covered him. He looked so cute in them.

"Just to throw this out before I start to put the car seat in." He nodded holding Fin close to him before giving him a toy out of the bags. I threw the bag out before taking the keys and opening the box and getting to the car seat. Thankfully it was almost all put together so all I had to do was put the stand onto the seat and seatbelt it in. Next I took the seat and put all the fabrics that were in it onto it so Fin was comfortable. I locked it into place and reached over for Fin. I clicked him in and laid the sheet over him. He kept on playing with his toy before he started to chew on it making me laugh. I put the rest of the stuff into the back of the truck and making sure it was in place before putting the chart away and getting into the truck. Taylor looked at me as I got into the seat, buckling my seat belt. "What?" I smiled at him before I pulled out of the parking lot and made my way to the highway to get back to Taylor's apartment.

"I'm just thinking." He smiled taking my hand as I drove. I smiled as I felt him rub his thumb over my knuckles.

"Thinking about what?" I asked as I looked into the mirror at the car seat now cooing at his toy and giggling at it.

"Just about life." He nodded looking out the window. Life? What the hell could he be thinking about? I wanted to ask him but I didn't. I would ask him later. The rest of the ride was silent other than the hum of the radio. When we pulled in the apartment building before pulling into a spot. A nice man helped us bring all the bags up to the apartment.

"Thank you so much." I smiled at him moving my hands on the handle of the car seat.

"No problem Ma'am it was my pleasure." He smiled nodding at me before walking down the hall. I opened the door and helped Taylor over to the couch best I could with Fin's car seat still in my hands.

"Why don't you go put him in his crib while I unpack everything?" I nodded walking over to the door he pointed at and opened the door. In the quiet dark lit room was the cutest pattern of animals all over everything in blue and brown. I walked over to the dark wood crib and set his car seat down. He fell asleep about 10 minutes ago. I unclipped him and picked him up easily. He was fast asleep as I laid him down pulling the blanket over him. I stood over the crib and stared at Fin as he slept. He looked so peaceful. I felt arms wrap around my waist and Taylor's head laid his head on my shoulder as we stared at his son, finally home, safe.

A/N: Okay I know I know it has been FOREVER since I updated but now it's up. I really am so so so so very sorry. I just have been having a tough time writing but I hopefully will be back on track soon....Just after my school exams are done.....Okay I'm rambling so I'm going to go. I love all of you