

Angel

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شارك سطورك مع العالم

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The Writer Operation

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Chapter One

Sunday morning in a cold winter, Robert was sitting on a wheelchair with his hands over his head he looked like a failure. Ready to tell his colleagues about everything he had witnessed during what he called the worst case of his life, he leaned towards the window as if he couldn't bare looking into their eyes and started to narrate what happened.

Even though he is only in his mid-twenties, Robert tends to solve every case no matter how hard. Being the brainy detective that he is, his muscular body has certainly assisted him. In addition to his challenging blue eyes that kept him determined to achieve all his goals. As Robert grew up looking up to his father, his main goal has always been becoming an FBI agent like him. The serious look he wears everywhere makes people mistake him for a heartless beast that lacks sense of humor; only his best friend since college, Stuart, who shared with him every event knows his hidden personality.

"Take your time and when you feel like talking. We will be outside, just press that button" -said Stuart pointing to a certain button in Robert's chair.

"I'm ready to talk about every single detail" -
Replied Robert with a shake in his voice
remembering every hour of the last three
month that turned his life head over heels

"There was once an angel" Said Robert while
looking outside from his room's window.

"Angel, what are you doing?" said Monica

"I'm trying to catch that injured bird, mom."
She replied

"Oh Anj, let me help you." Said Monica while
reaching out to an empty box near the stove
and handing it to Angel.

"Someone stepped on one of his wings" Said
Angel furiously.

"Oh, poor bird!" She said "What did you do
about it?" Asked Monica with excitement
waiting to hear how Angel rescued another
poor animal with her smart solutions.

"I cut the toe out of a sock and placed the
bird inside with its head through the hole."

"Good thinking, Brainy" Said Monica hugging
Angel.

Monica has always been impressed with how
smart Angel is. She always brags about her
in-front of her neighbors and friends. Of

course being a 35 year old mother of a sensitive 15 year old teen is extremely hard work especially with such good potentials that costs a fortune. But Monica always supports her daughter's kind heart.

Angel was a smart teenager with wavy tall black hair and gorgeous green eyes, and as she grew up, Anj developed a habit of helping injured animals. She always felt that animals are too weak to defend themselves or express how they really feel. That's why her father built her a small shelter in the backyard of their own house before leaving them for good. As time passed Angel grew up to be a fantastic "Brainy" woman, who is extremely beautiful inside out. She was loved by all people and with a successful career as a teacher assistant in a university. Along with a loving boyfriend and a loyal best friend who was ready to die for her.

"Today is Evan's birthday. I can't believe it came so quick. Do you think he's gonna love the surprise party?" –Said Angel enthusiastically

"You're kidding right! He will love it. Besides, you're the best thing that he could ever have." –Said Samuel with eyes full of love

"Aww thanks Sam. I just feel like we're kinda drifting away you know. I mean... we've been dating since 12th grade. That's a really long time in DUDES' lives right?"

"Anj, relax! Evan loves you. Plus you have been together for like 6 years now. That's something. I don't think he is that stupid, nobody is that stupid to leave you."

"You're the best Sam."

Being literally identical with the same black hair and magical green eyes wasn't the reason behind Sam and Anj's unbreakable unique bond, but maybe it was them sharing the same birthday day with different months or the same sense of humor and taste. Maybe it was the ancient bond between their mothers since they were childhood besties. Maybe it was the kind enthusiasm behind helping the animals, or maybe, just maybe it was a mixture of all these things that made them pretty close.

"Let me call him." –Angel said while dialing Evan's number

"Hey Brainy, how's everything?" after six years together still hearing Evan's voice makes her heart leaps.

"Hey babe, everything is fine. You're coming over tonight, right?" –Said Angel expecting no other answer but "YES"

"Oh, I forgot. I'm so sorry Anj I have to work."
–Replied Evan

"It's your day off; could you switch places with someone or whatever?" –She suggested

"No. I... had to switch shifts with Ben because he is sick" –Clarified Evan

"Come on, Evan it's your birthday."

"Sorry babe. Listen I..uh.. gotta go"

"Okay, love you" She didn't hear it back since Evan already hung up the phone without saying goodbye.

"What's wrong?" –Asked Samuel

"Evan got some work shit to do and he will be missing *his own* party." –She answered sarcastically.

"His loss. Let's hangout tonight... We're gonna have lots of fun"

"Nah, I'll pass."

"As you wish, Brainy. Cheer up okay!"

"I'll be fine"

Samuel left the house hating himself even more for not telling her what he has always wanted to say. Samuel worked hard on a list of his own that suits Angel's logic. He thought that by stating the points logically he would be able to convince her to leave Evan by stating all his pros and cons. Eventually, he decided to speak his mind, so he got his phone and called her, but he was hit by her voice mail so he left her one.

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Angel was sitting in her room after Samuel left thinking about Evan and how to make his day special, so she decided to surprise him anyways by going to his work. She wore his favorite red sweater which she took from him when he was in the hospital 2 years ago and pair of dark blue jeans. She was as beautiful as she could ever be just for him...

2 years ago

"You'll be fine Babe. -She said while holding his hands trying to assure him." –Said Angel holding Evan's hand.

“I’ll be fine because you got me Brainy.” –
Replied Evan trying too hard to hide the fact
that he is frightened.

“Anj, Promise me that if I died today you’ll
never love someone else.” added Evan. The
idea of her loving someone else has always
haunted him and made him wish death, for
he loves her so much and cannot stand the
idea of losing her.

“Evan, relax it’s just a kidney stone, what’s
wrong with you. Stop being so dramatic”
Angel has always mastered hiding her own
feelings; at this exact moment she was
worried to death about him, but somehow she
managed to break the ice sarcastically, as
usual.

“Take my red sweater Anj, I have always
loved it when you wear it.”

“Okay I will take it, so when you DIE I will be
able to remember you.” she said
sarcastically. “Now you listen to me. You’ll
grow the hell up or I’ll punch that kidney
stone out of you myself.”

“OMG help!” shouted Evan.

Then they both started to laugh hysterically.

The present

She stopped by his favorite coffee house on her way to get him his favorite latte and brownies. Angel played a playlist that Evan made her on valentines. She kept listening and singing along with their favorite band, remembering all the happy moments they had together as well as the hard ones. She couldn't keep track of what made them drift apart in the first place. Wondering where their relationship went wrong.

Angel stopped in front of the media production company where Evan works as a graphic designer. She passed the security as he knows her and then reached Evan's office to find something that shocked her.

"Ben! I thought you were sick" -She said surprisingly

"Hey, Anj. Sick! No I'm not" Replied Ben having no clue about what is going on.

"Where's Evan?"

"He's home. He doesn't stay that late"

"Yeah I know...um... I forgot. Thanks Ben". – She said while leaving the office

"You're welcome."

Angel left the company wondering why Evan would lie to her. They agreed not to lie on

each other since day one; besides, lying isn't one of Evan's qualities, anyways. She went to Evan's house to find an ambulance and police officers everywhere. She ran into his house and found the most traumatic scene. Her boyfriend and some girl she doesn't even know killed in the most brutal way. She felt lost, confused, and hurt; she couldn't help, but cry.

"Excuse me! Detective" She shouted

"Robert" he replied shaking her hand.

"What happened?"

"Excuse me, who are you?"

"I'm Evan's girlfriend"

"Oh, I see." He said leaving her and moving towards Evan's body.

"Please tell me what happened". She said between her tears that failed her and fell upon her cheeks.

Robert looked at her in pity then started to explain the heinous crime without giving her attention.

"Apparently they were having a very romantic dinner, then someone knew and wasn't very happy about it, so he just slaughtered them."

He said while giving her a look which means that she is already a suspect.

Angel started to cry nonstop

"WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? Evan was cheating on me!"

"Seriously! Someone just literally slaughtered your boyfriend and all you can think about is that he was cheating on you!" He replied, shocked from her reaction.

"What's your name?" He added

"Angel"

"Were where you Angel?" He asked throwing all his doubts right to her face.

"Today is Evan's birthday. I stopped by the coffeehouse to get him his favorite dessert then I stopped by his work because I thought he was there, but I was just a fool who wanted to surprise someone who doesn't even care." -She said while crying and didn't even catch what he implicated.

"I'm sorry Angel. Evan wasn't that good boyfriend." –He said trying to make her feel better but instead he made her feel worse, and then he left her to interrogate others.

Angel drove back home plagued with pain and confusion. She kept calling Evan as if

she didn't just see his dead body with her own eyes. Although the scene was despicable, yet, all she could think of is Evan stabbing her in the back violating all the rules they've made together, and betraying all their future plans. She couldn't hate him nor accept the fact that he is gone; she kept convincing herself that it's only a stupid fight or a vivid nightmare. Angel couldn't sleep that night and eventually she wasn't crying nor grieving instead. She stayed up imagining every touch, laugh and kiss between Evan and that other girl. She tried to cry herself to sleep as usual but even that couldn't help for she has loved him insanely, but she was also hurt to the point that love wasn't an intercessor anymore.

Angel woke up the next morning in denial, convincing herself that it was only a bad dream. However, reality has punched her in the face she looked at her phone to find fifty missed calls from an unknown number. Tired and overwhelmed she decided to ignore everything around her and sleep, but there is something inside her kept waking her up, so she took her phone and called that number back.

“Hello, Angel” –A deep gentle voice answered her with tenderness.

“Hello, who is it? And what is that important for all these calls?” She asked in a serious tone.

“It’s Robert. My colleagues wanted to interrogate you in the police station, but I told them the process should take place in your house. I think it’s more comfortable”

“Yeah whatever” She replied carelessly

“I’ll meet you at 4:30” – and he hung up on her.

Angel tried to make her-self busy as much as she could. She started her day by crying in her bed for 30 minutes straight; then she drew herself a nice bath that she hoped could take the pain away. Three hours later she woke up on a loud knocking at her door. She shouted “One second” as she ran to her room to get dressed, 15 minutes later and she opened the door with wet hair, dripping on her shirt. “I’m so sorry I overslept” She said while fixing him a table and chair to begin the interrogation.

“I thought since it’s an investigation maybe I could set the mood a little bit” She said laughing and turning off all the light except one lamp.

“You watch a lot of movies, huh?” He said sarcastically to break the ice.

They both sat in-front of each-other then he turned on the recorder on his phone

“Thursday 4:30 pm, I’m at the victim’s girlfriend house” He said then looked at her.

“Okay Angel let’s get this done, so your alibi checked out and all but I need you to tell me again what happened this night and spare no detail please.”

She looked at him for a while as if she is collecting her strength. “It was Evan’s birthday, Samuel and I threw him a surprise party as usual but early enough I called him to check on him, he said he can’t come cause he has to work late” Tears started to escape her eyes and she continued.

“I stopped at the coffee house on my way to his work to get him latte and brownies, then I went to the company but I found Ben” Her voice immediately broke this time and she started crying.

“Were you aware of that girl we found him with?”

Angel looked at him in shock “Do you really think that I was aware of my boyfriend’s mistress!”

“I didn’t say that I’m just asking” he replied

“No you’re not just asking... I know what you are implying here.” She replied standing up and kicking the chair with her leg “The love of my life was murdered on his birthday. ON HIS BIRTHDAY AND YOU HAVE THE AUDACITY TO ACUSE ME OF HIS MURDER!” she completely lost it and she kept yelling asking him to just get out. Robert kept watching her silently with no reaction on his face. He stood up reaching his back pocket and showed her a blue bracelet that has her name on it written in silver and said calmly “Do you recognize this bracelet?” and handed it to Angel.

She took the bracelet and exclaimed “NO WAY, where did you find this bracelet?”

Robert looked at her as if he won the lottery he was so sure that Angel has something to do with the case, but Angel was so lost she leaned on the chair trying to process the bomb Robert just dropped, not aware of the bomb that he is yet to drop.

“Oh never mind, Josephine was wearing it the night of her death” he dropped the name casually to see whether it’s going to ring a bell or not. Instead it triggered Angel even more “Who the hell is Josephine?” she asked

without hesitation. It appeared clearly that Angel didn't know that Josephine, but Robert kept dropping his bombs.

"She is the girl that died with Evan, so tell me how come you recognized the bracelet, but somehow can't recall the name?" he asked her rudely.

"Why don't you just go and try doing your own job" she said opening the door giving him a clear sign that she doesn't want him in her apartment anymore, so he left.

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Chapter Two

"She is the kind of girls that makes you stop and stare, no matter how hard you try not to look, her beauty keeps striking you in the face" Said Robert smiling.

"You know me, Stuart. I'm not that type of men who would fall for a suspect, or could fall at all; but I couldn't help it. I knew from the first sight that she is the one for me. Angel unlocked a certain pattern in my soul that I didn't even know I had, and she owned my heart ever since. He added surprised of himself as much as everyone else in the room.

"Well, guess I wasn't ready for this"

A noticeably tall mid twenty's brunette with an extraordinary long hair and phenomenal brown eyes barged into Robert's room making everyone stunned. They all kept staring at her. Her basic black sweater and light blue jeans made her look so simple and beautiful.

"Natasha!" Said Robert with a surprise all over his face

"I didn't expect you would come! How did you even know what happened?" He said giving Stuart a blaming look.

"As usual Stuart couldn't get his mouth shut" She said sarcastically

"Well let's leave these two alone, shall we." Said Stuart

They all left the room for Natasha and Robert and went to get some coffee. As they all didn't sleep for 12 hours trying to get over the long surgery that cost their colleague's ability of walking.

"So, were you going to tell me?" asked Natasha

"Of course not, since we were kids you have always freaked out whenever I got sick."

“But, you’re not sick, Robert, you lost your Goddamn nerves down there.”

“Do you think I need your pity?”

“Robert please, you don’t have to keep pushing me away, I’m still your sister”

“No you’re not, I’m a lonely child and you better keep that in mind, and now leave before I kick you out myself.”

“Please stop blaming me for something that I didn’t do” she begged

“Natasha. Leave.” He said with a serious look.

Natasha left the room with all the sadness in this world trying to fight her tears back. She had just flown all the way from Russia to check on her bigger brother who forgot about her long ago. Even though, she is his half-sister, Natasha, has always treated him better than he treated her. Since they were kids she has always taken the leap in front of their cruel mother for every stupid action he has ever done. For their mom was so strict and she never actually cared about either Natasha or Robert, they have always taken care of each other until Natasha’s eighteenth birthday and she wanted to move out and live with her boyfriend Marcus.

Natasha's eighteenth birthday

Robert arranged a surprise party for his little sister that meant the world to him, and he invited all of their friends including her boyfriend Marcus. Although Robert didn't really like Marcus, but his sister was the closest person to him so he decided he would invite Marcus just to make her happy.

Natasha came back from work and she was extremely happy for what her brother did, they kept dancing and drinking till three in the morning, then Marcus whispered something in Natasha's ears.

"Babe, don't you think it's time to tell Robert?"
Marcus whispered to Natasha.

"But, I think he is not ready. I mean Russia is way too far."

"I know, Natasha, but it's your home and your dad is already there. To be honest I don't get that weird bond that you and Robert have"
Marcus argued and they kept talking for half an hour, but they didn't know that Robert was overhearing all this conversation.

"Natasha you can't just leave me here and travel" Said Robert then left the house.

"OMG, Robert" She said running after him trying to catch him.

“Robert, please wait”

“Wait for what, for you to tell me that you’re leaving me?” Robert asked aggressively

“Leaving you? You’re here with your dad I’m the one who doesn’t have a father”

“Don’t you dare play that card, you know my dad loves you more than he loves me and treats you good” He said trying to just keep her but he was losing it bit by bit

“Besides, it’s a huge step and I don’t think that you are ready for that” he added

“I’m not 12 anymore I know what I’m doing and you have to be supportive, because that’s what brothers do.” Natasha yelled at him waiting for him to just hug her or try and talk this through but instead Robert got into his car and left the house for a whole month and she couldn’t find him anywhere, and as simple as that they didn’t talk nor see each other. After that huge fight with Robert Natasha tried many times to fix their relationship through Stuart, but Robert kept a cold heart for he felt like she abandoned him for another man that he didn’t even like, but still he kept himself updated with everything new in her life, yet he never actually talked to her.

Growing up Natasha's childhood was extremely difficult, for all the attention was given to Robert since they were living with his biological father who always treated her differently because he always felt that he could never love Natasha as much as the one who carries his genes. Also their biological mother, didn't make Natasha's life any easier, on the contrary, she made a gap between her two children by preferring one over the other. And being an alcoholic not only helped in widening the gap between her and her children but also made it impossible to maintain a stable relationship with their fathers neither anyone around her. However, Natasha never felt jealous; she took care of all Robert's details, supported and embraced him all the way. They both grew up so affectionate and close to the extent people have always mistaken them for lovers.

She represented a great deal of Robert's life, since they both shared the worst addict as a mother who didn't even know how to take care of herself to the extent that Natasha became Robert's mom, she gave him all the love and nourishment that she lacked because she used to give it all and no one paid her back. So when she found that one guy who appreciated her efforts, understood her and loved all her flaws before falling into

every inch of her; she couldn't waste that special bond. At the end of the day Robert had his father by his side so it felt right for her to have that chance with her own dad. That's why when Natasha left, Robert felt as if a great part of his heart and childhood were stolen away from him, he knew deep within his heart that it's totally unfair to stop her from the only thing she truly deserves which is having her father by her side, but still a part of him never recovered. He missed her every Christmas, every dinner and every Halloween. He stopped celebrating his own birthday because what is the point of cheering another year without her blowing the candles by his side. He missed their fights and their 3am laughter in the backyard. He missed her so he blamed her for it and took a step back, a major step that he ended up regretting but his ego didn't leave him live peacefully.

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Angel was lost after her meeting with Robert having hundreds of questions that her brain couldn't simply find the answers to. She called Samuel trying to get her answers but he didn't reply, she kept calling him and still didn't get any answers, so she texted him "Call me when you get this. It's urgent". Angel

has always loved Samuel unconditionally to the extent that she would literally take a bullet for him, for they have always got each other's back since kindergarten or even before that, they would never know, they can't even recall their first meeting.

Samuel picked up his phone from the locker, after work, he is specialized in testing escape rooms and come up with their riddles. Another thing that founded Sam and Anj's unbreakable bond is their powerful minds; they are both clever and aware of each other's minds which make them able to crack one another's code easily. For a matter of fact being the Virgo man that he is, always helped him in handling Angel's mood swings. At the end of the day, earth signs are known for their stability, but being the Libra that she is with all the mood swings and hesitation that comes with every decision she has to make, Angel would never survive without Samuel's practicality. Samuel picked up his cell phone and read Angel's text he immediately knew what the text is about, he thought about texting her back; but it felt wrong. He knew in his bone that Angel doesn't deserve that and he must go and meet her personally because that's what she deserves, the truth. He picked his phone and called Angel thinking of all the very first day

they got their matching bracelets and how these two bracelets has always symbolized their friendship somehow.

6 years ago

“Sam look” shouted Angel pointing towards a booth in the middle of the mall, it was Samuel’s birthday and they used to hang out at the arcade on his birthday. On their way to the arcade they stopped by the mall to get new pair of jeans that Angel liked so much.

“What is it?” asked Samuel.

“They make matching bracelets with colors of our choice” she said with an excitement in her tone.

“We definitely should” He said jumping from happiness

So they both went to the booth asking for matching bracelets as if they are eight years old, but they were both so excited to get their names on one another’s bracelet, and they did. Angel wanted a black bracelet that has Samuels name written in violet, and he got himself a white bracelet with her name stamped in gold. He chose gold because he has always thought that gold is Angel’s color. He was convinced that it suits her Angelic face just as her name, he also asked for

another sentence that says “im yev miak” which means my one and only in Armenian to be stamped in hers to be always aware that she is his only and only. He has always been a fan of the Armenian language; he used to study it with his father all the time since he was only three, it reminded him of his ancestors.

The Present

Angel was still in shock, lost doesn't know what to believe or whether she really want to know the truth or only to be comforted by a sweet lie that makes the pain goes away. She heard her phone ringing she kept looking at her phone fully aware that the moment she picks up is the moment her life will change forever.

“Hey” she said with a weak voice

“Hey Anj, are you home?” Samuel asked

“Yeah”

“Okay I'm coming”

She hung up without even saying goodbye, preparing herself for whatever Samuel is coming to say.

Samuel arrived to her front door trying to look as stable as he always looked. He knocked

on her door and she opened, as tired as ever but also as beautiful as ever. Being in love with Angel made her always pretty no matter how tired or exhausted; for him she will always be the way sun shines in the morning. Her eyes were too tired from crying, and her hair was such a mess, she hugged him and closed the door inviting him to follow her to the living room where they had all their deep conversations. He followed her silently; they sat on the same couch. Then Angel leaned towards him and rested her head on his leg and started crying. He started to gently rub her hair silently.

“Evan is dead” she said between her tears.

“I heard on the news earlier, I’m sorry Anj I know how devastating losing someone you love can be” replied Sam with sorrow hidden behind his words, for he himself was also grieving.

“Promise me you’ll never lie to me” said Angel

“Never” said Samuel crossing his heart

“Who is Josephine?” Asked Angel

“I have no clue” Said Samuel with the most stable voice he could ever fake.

“Then how come she has your bracelet?” she said while getting up and reaching her back pocket, giving him the bracelet.

Samuel looked shocked and started to stutter between the words saying “I... how am I supposed to know, Angel? I gave this bracelet to Evan couple of weeks ago cause he wanted to make one for himself, I don’t know who that Josephine”

She looked at him silently, completely aware that he is lying, but for some reason inside her she felt like it’s time to let Samuel go with all his lies.

“Get out of my house” she suddenly yelled at him

“Please Anj don’t do this.” he begged her.

“LEAVE.” she kept repeating.

“Just leave Sam.” her voice started shaking and she fainted.

Samuel tried to wake her but he failed, he was too worried to call 911 for he felt deep down that he is the main reason behind Angel’s breakdown. He knew Angel deserves the truth but he couldn’t tell her. How could he tell her that the only person she ever cared about or loved is dead because of his half-sister, Josephine.

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Chapter Three

By the time the ambulance arrived Samuel was already losing himself. He rode in the back with Angel, he held her hand crying and repeating "I'm sorry". The doctors took her to the emergency room trying to wake her up, but her brain wasn't responding. For a whole hour Angel's body wasn't responding to any of the doctors' attempts to wake her up, but eventually she did.

"Is she okay?" Asked Samuel

"I'm sorry I can't update you with the patient's state unless you're a family member" Replied the nurse politely.

"We have been best friends since forever, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?" yelled Samuel

"I'm sorry, sir I can't help you."

Samuel was on the edge then suddenly a very cold-blooded voice said "Detective Robert, I would like to see the patient please" Said Robert to the nurse showing her his badge

"Yes definitely, room 705 second floor on the left" replied the nurse.

"Come with me" Said Robert to Samuel

“Now tell me what happened” Added Robert with a firm tone.

“Nothing, Angel texted me so I thought I would go check on her.”

“Where were you when Evan got killed”
Asked Robert on their way to Angel’s room.

“I was working” Answered Samuel

“Don’t you find it weird that you weren’t there for you so called “Bestie” handling that traumatic event with her?” Robert dropped his bomb waiting for answers trying to eat Samuel up.

“Are you interrogating me?” Asked Samuel

“Yes I am.” Answered Robert without hesitation

“That’s illegal.”

“Okay after this little visit, you’re coming with me to the station so I could legitimately interrogate you.” Said Robert “I mean let’s make it legal, shall we?” He added sarcastically.

Samuel looked so nervous, he didn’t know what to say or what is about to happen. He was scared of Robert and his question. Robert’s bold looks and chilling attitude was considered two of his best traits, at the end of

the day he is a detective -a very good one- so remaining calm in the middle of the crises added a good quality and helped him in doing his job perfectly. The moment they entered Angel's room Samuel ran to her crying repeating "I'm sorry" while Robert stood by the door watching, hiding all his emotions for Angel, for he wanted to run like Samuel and hold her hand but he couldn't. He has never been in love before; he doesn't know how it really works. For he has been caught up in work for as long as he can remember, paying absolutely no attention to his love life or his heart.

"Samuel, get out, I don't wanna see you" -
Said Angel weakly

"Angel please don't do this" Begged Samuel.

"You lied to me. I know you did; I have always known when you lie, it's too obvious. Please Sam, just get out."

"Get well soon" Said Robert

"Thank You" Replied Angel

"Now let's leave her rest and have a little walk together, shall we?" Said Robert addressing Samuel

"Yeah okay, I'll leave you take some rest, but it's not over Anj. I love you" Said Samuel.

“What were you apologizing for?” Asked Robert

“Should I call my lawyer? cause I can’t really get why you are being so curious about my relationship with Angel” Said Samuel firmly

“Not necessarily” Replied Robert with his calm tone, focusing his eyes on Samuel’s making him extremely uncomfortable.

They went to the station; then entered the interrogation room. Robert left Samuel for a whole hour by himself, he wanted to stress him out to the extent he wouldn’t be able to lie or even think. For he was so tired, to even think or hide anything. By the time Robert entered the room Samuel was so angry and tired he started to yell “WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT HOLDING ME HERE LIKE THAT.”

Robert ignored all Samuel was saying and sat down calmly lighting up a cigarette. “Do you want one?” Said Robert; offering Samuel one of his cigarettes.

Samuel sat down knowing that no matter how hard or loud he yells. Robert will remain that cold-blooded person that he is.

“Now tell me, where were you the night of Evan’s death?”

“I was working late, it was his birthday, Angel and I decided we were gonna throw him a party as usual, but he called and we cancelled it last minute; so, I went home to finish some work”

“Interesting, why did you guys cancel the party?”

“Cause Evan called Angel and told her he is working late, I tried to cheer Angel up so I offered to hang out, but she refused, so I went home.”

“Why didn’t you call her to check on her that day?”

“I’m used to turning my phone off whenever I work and I didn’t know about Evan’s death till the next morning from the news”

“Why didn’t you call Angel when you heard the news?”

“I did. I called her but her phone was dead”

“Isn’t it weird that you guys are BFFS and you didn’t even bother to visit your “Bestie” the day after?”

“Actually, I don’t find it weird at all” Said Samuel focusing his eyes on Robert’s trying to prove a point

“Now tell me, who is Josephine?”

Samuel's face turned red immediately, he wasn't sure how to answer this; should he tell Robert everything about Josephine? Should he lie? He was so confused with lots of questions inside his head. He was thinking, what if Robert already knows and that's all is a set up? He got all caught up inside his head while Robert remained silent watching his reactions. After several minutes, Samuel decided to go with the truth; he thought it was the only thing that will make him get this interrogation over with faster.

"She is my half-sister" Said Samuel

"Half what now?" Replied Robert in a shock, he made his research about Samuel before interrogating him and he didn't know he had a sister, not a half-sister at least.

"My half-sister, from my dad's side, she lived all her life in Armenia; I didn't know anything about her till two years ago. She just appeared out of thin air into our lives."

two years ago

In an ordinary morning, Samuel was having a nice cold shower before getting off to work, leaving his coffee machine to do its magic with the little beans that he has always thought bring the taste of heaven, he had that belief that the taste of coffee must be what

happiness tastes like. Playing his favorite Hans Zimmer track living his best life, he heard someone knocking aggressively on his door. Now the only person he knew knocks like that is his father, but his father is far away from him and doesn't pay him sudden visits. He jumped in his robe and opened the door to find a beautiful curvy girl in front of him with long brown wavy hair wearing off shoulder blouse that reveals the most amazing tan lines he has ever seen. And light brown wide eyes that you could get lost in for hours and never find a way out.

"HEYYYYY, Samuel right" Said Josephine with broken English, barging into his living room.

"Excuse me who are you?"

"I'm your sister"

"What sister, I don't have a sister" the more Josephine answers him the more Samuel gets confused, he felt like it's some sort of silly joke that he didn't need.

"No, you do, OH MY GOD, do I smell coffee" She said heading towards the kitchen and pouring herself coffee.

"Hold on, who are you? I'm confused" Said Samuel with a serious tone.

“I’m your sister, from your dad’s side, and by the way, dad died a couple of days ago and I had to cancel my vacation to come and find you cause of the will and stuff.”

“What, dad is dead? How and why didn’t the lawyer call me? And who the hell are you?” Samuel was shocked, his father was diagnosed with lungs cancer three years ago, but every time he visited, his father looked so strong and well that Samuel didn’t think he would ever die.

“Are you deaf, I’m your sister” she gestured the word as if speaking in sign language.

“Jesus” she added opening the fridge and making herself jam and butter toast. She seemed casual, as if nothing mattered to her, as if she is numb or heartless, being the Sagittarius that she is made her so spontaneous, unlike her brother. Samuel’s legs couldn’t even bare him anymore so he sat on the floor trying to process everything. Totally aware that his life will change forever, he felt like a roller coaster of feelings inside of him. Living together for the first year, Samuel and Josephine’s relationship grew tighter and he was so happy for that, he has always wanted a little sister to share with her everything he couldn’t share with his parents, as well as, sharing everything he feels for

Angel but cannot say. Josephine knew Angel from Samuel's stories about her, but she felt so jealous of how perfect she is. She begged him so many times to make friends with Angel, but Samuel was over protective especially when it comes to Angel and Josephine addiction problem made him unworthy of seeing his perfect Angel.

The present

"She lived with me ever since that day" -Said Samuel to Robert

"And how exactly did your bracelet reach Josephine's hand?" asked Robert.

"On Evan's birthday, Josephine was dying to come, and for sure I couldn't let her, cause we didn't even tell Angel about the whole thing, and she was high, so she took my bracelet to piss me off."

"WOW, and how could you guys hide this from Angel for two years?" Asked Robert; with all the doubt in the world.

"Look, I had to, Josephine was a heroin addict, she went to rehab three times in the last couple of years and it was hectic." Said Samuel then added "You have no idea how much I love Angel, to be honest I was so

pissed on Evan's birthday. I mean, why couldn't she just choose me instead?" Samuel kept talking and Robert kept listening without saying a single word, it's as if Samuel totally forgot that anything he says or does will be used against him in the court of law. "She should be with me, I loved her since we were kids and I will always love her with all of my heart, and she chose a cheater." Samuel's voice started to break as his tears started dropping off his eyes, then he started to cry hysterically.

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Chapter Four

Angel went home to find a package in front of her door steps, a small box labeled "Open me when you're alone" she took the box carefully and put it on her counter having every bad scenario in the world. She eventually collected her strength and opened the package to find a burner phone, pictures of Samuel, Josephine and Evan together, and finally she found a letter.

Dear Angel,

LOL your name is so divine and yet silly, whatever.

If you received that package it means I'm dead...

Hey, I'm Josephine, Samuel's half-sister, I hate that we didn't meet and you had to find out about me that way. JEZZ, I begged Samuel and Evan to let me meet you hundreds of times. Evan loves you so much; also, he is really nice. To be honest I always flirt with him... HE IS HANDSOME ASF! Anyways, when I die, you will receive this package. It contains some pictures of me with your boyfriend and your best friend; also it has a cell phone that I used to call my dealer from. Anyways, I'm currently living my best life trying to steal your man, but you wouldn't know. LOL.

Hope you enjoyed this letter cause now I'm rotting in hell most probably partying with SATAN. Have a good one. BYEEEEEE.

"STUPID" -cursed Angel throwing the letter away.

Growing up Angel has developed an extraordinary control over her temper, and emotions. Yet, when it comes to Evan or their relationship in general, everything triggers her. For Evan wasn't an ordinary lover, being a Pisces gave him an extra charm, along with his handsome features, his unique way of treating Angel, understanding and comforting her helped him keep her on so many levels.

Angel felt furious and helpless after reading the letter for she didn't know who sent it and worst, she didn't even know who is that Josephine; the one who Evan chose to risk everything real between him and Angel for her. She kept on thinking what was that special about her that made Evan so hooked up. She started to imagine her, everything that Angel's not, she imagined a brown skin with light brown eyes and black braids, for it was Evan's favorite type of girls, and as Angel imagined she felt jealous, jealous to the extent that if Josephine were alive, she would have killed her all over again. So, she decided not to leave herself to that misery and picked up her phone to call Robert.

"Hey" the moment Angel heard Robert's voice she knew that there's no turning back.

"Hey, I wanna meet you as soon as possible" said Angel firmly.

"Yeah, I was about to tell you the same thing."

"My place at 5"

"I'll be there, bye."

Angel hung up the phone thinking about every possible explanation, feeling like it's a sick joke, denying the fact that Evan cheated,

her brain refused to believe that the love of her life cheated with such an immature girl.

At 5pm she heard knocking at her door, she opened the door and there it was Evan, safe and sound, without any scratch. Only some bruises on his face, around his neck and hands, and smells terrible. His white shirt turned into grey with some blood stains on it. She was shocked, horrified, and speechless. He entered the house shaking; his legs hurt him he could barely walk. While he was trying to approach her having no power or energy left in him, he said with a very weak voice "Angel, you need to help me". Suddenly her door bell started to ring, then it hit her, its Robert, she took Evan and put him in her room, locking him inside and then welcomed Robert to her living room.

"Angel, the DNA on Evan's corpse didn't match him" Said Robert without even greeting her

"What... what do you mean?" Said Angel trying to seem normal

"Both corpses were faceless, whoever slaughtered them, ruined their faces. However, Josephine's body matched her DNA, but Evan's didn't. Which means the one who died isn't Evan"

“But we can’t identify the corpse yet, the system doesn’t seem to have that person’s DNA” Robert elaborated.

“WOW, that’s too much information to process” Said Angel, still stunned, doesn’t know what to do or what to say, but she got herself together and asked “Who’s that Josephine anyways?”

“Samuel’s half-sister” Said Robert, and it was the most destructive bomb he has ever throw at Angel’s face.

“What?” Asked Angel gently “What do you mean?” she kept a low tone as she didn’t know what to do anymore and was concerned with the sudden appearance of Evan.

“Yeah it’s kinda long story” Robert started to narrate the whole story to Angel as she looked so surprised, but Robert didn’t even give her the chance to ask more questions about the whole issue, for he added “Anyways, what did you want me for?” Robert asked gently. Angel was shocked with every bone in her body, but she acted normal, thinking that there’s nothing weirder than coming back from the dead anyways.

“I got a package today, and I was thinking it might help you in your investigation, at the

end of the day, I don't wanna be involved in anything" Said Angel, handing him the package and the letter, hoping she could find a way to keep everything on track by her own, thinking of nothing but her beloved Evan who came back from the dead all of a sudden.

"Unfortunately, Angel you're already involved, this case has so many weird details and something seems off, and you're the only one who could help me solve it properly, so you're basically the core of that case."

"I don't actually know how to help you, I mean, I literally know nothing" said Angel

"Yeah I know, but we will solve this puzzle together."

Robert left Angel suspecting everything, feeling like he is hitting a dead end, for every time he tries to untie a knot, there appears a more complicated one.

Angel opened her room carefully, not expecting nor feeling anything in particular, she held Evan's hand as he was lying on her bed and helped him get a proper shower, changed his clothes and let him sleep. She laid next to him thinking of what could possibly happen if Robert knew that Evan is still alive, dying to know what really happened

to him, but she felt like he should get some rest, so she laid next to him and fell asleep.

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Stuart entered the room to find Robert crying, something that he has seen once before. He felt like standing quietly is the best way to help Robert in that situation, Stuart has known Natasha almost his whole life, and he knew how special Robert and Natasha's bond was. He also witnessed all the dramatic changes that happened to Robert after she left, he has always felt that it's so unfair to leave Robert, but what bothered him the most was the way Natasha left. She left without leaving Stuart any message or even saying good bye, they were best friends, but he has always loved her to the extent he have didn't even tell her, he kept on hearing every single detail about Marcos and how charming, funny, talented and perfect he is without even saying a word. Stuart kept his feelings towards Natasha as his little secret that no one knew about, a secret that has been killing him every day since she left. A secret that is mixed with regret for not telling her at all, the fear of losing her was controlling him so he lost himself trying to keep her, and ended up alone, unable to love anyone but her.

“Robert, I know that you’re pissed, but I had to, she is your sister and you know how much she loves you” Said Stuart grabbing a chair and sitting next to him.

“I’m not mad at you, I just miss her you know, she is my little sister and I wish I could forgive her for leaving me like that” -Said Robert between his tears for he can never embrace his weakness in front of anyone but Stuart, they have always had that special bond that they call “comfort zone” where they can share whatever they like knowing that there are no judgments.

“I know and I feel you, but let’s face it, you knew the day would come. I know it came too soon and took you off guard, but again she can’t expect her to be forever with you” Said Stuart.

“I KNOW” Screamed Robert “I just miss my little sister, did you see how she grown, she became the most beautiful woman I have ever seen” added Robert with tenderness in his voice.

“Yeah, she is beautiful, so beautiful, but you should really speak to her and blame her, you can’t hold a grudge for the rest of your life, Robert. Cause this life is gonna end faster than you think, Rob, and you’re gonna regret

the fact that you didn't tell her how you really feel."

"Is that what you feel every day, Stu? Regret? Cause you didn't tell her that you love her."

"I regret every second I took for granted thinking that it would last forever, and yes I regret the fact that I didn't tell her that I love her, but I know she wouldn't have chosen me anyways."

"Maybe, and maybe not, I guess we'll never know" replied Robert

Since their childhood, their dreams were the same and even their minds but with minor differences that one's could barely notice. Being a Taurus gave Stuart a down to earth scope that helps him take his decisions using his head that was a very important aspect when it comes to Natasha cause even though he loved her with all of his heart. He wouldn't tell her, as it's his brain that rules and in that specific point his brain chose to shut him down, bottle up his feelings and lose the chance.

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The next morning Angel woke up to the smell of her favorite pancakes and beautiful jazz

music that takes you into a different world, she walked out of her room to find Evan cooking, feeling so much better with clean bruises and a pretty smile on his face.

“Good morning, brainy” said Evan in a calm tone

“WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON” shouted Angel

“Let me explain everything to you, please”

“You died, then you are alive and now I’m lost, Josephine, who? YOU NEED TO EXPLAIN” Angel kept on saying fragmented sentences, for many days she tried to keep herself sane in the middle of the chaotic events that are happening, but she couldn’t handle it anymore. Watching Evan acting like absolutely nothing happened made her completely lose herself.

“Anj, babe, you need to hear me, and calm down”

“Calm down! Do you have any idea what I’ve been through? You cheated on me and DIED FOR GOD’S SAKE. And yes maybe I wasn’t crying myself to sleep every day because you died and yes I wasn’t rooting for you because you’re the most loyal man on earth, but it hurt me, and I guess you know exactly why I don’t

tolerate cheating. So, no Evan, you don't get to tell me clam down" Said Angel crying with unbearable pain in her heart.

Growing up, Angel always despised cheating, she grew up in a beautiful affectionate home till she turned 10, and all she saw from her father is love and respect for her mother. Angel was always looking up at them for she has always wanted to have that unique story of her own. That's why when she found her father with another woman; she couldn't do anything but hate him to the extent she didn't even cry. She just told him he should leave and never come near her or her mother ever again. Over the years Thomas tried to repair what he broke inside his little girl, but nothing filled the gap inside Angel's heart.

"Cheated on you! DIED! What are you talking about Anj, I have no idea what you're talking about" Exclaimed Evan.

"So what is it exactly you were going to explain?" Asked Angel, she was extremely surprised as Evan's expressions screamed "ignorant" for him so Angel stood still waiting for him to explain as she thought it's somehow going to untie one of the knots.

"On my birthday, Josephine called me which is Samuel's little half-sister by the way. I

know you have no clue who she is, but Samuel was so confused cause she suddenly appeared in his life after his dad died so he didn't feel ready to tell you. That's why we kept it as a secret. Anyways, she was involved with a drug dealer cause she couldn't pay him and she got scared that's why she called me instead of Samuel, I went there to meet that drug dealer and pay him, but he knocked me unconscious. I woke up tied in a weird ware house, screamed my lungs out, but no one was there. Till one day I woke up and I was untied and the door was open. I came to you cause I was so scared to go home by myself." He said approaching her, then he took her between his arms to reassure her, looked deeply in her eyes and added "I could never cheat on you, Anj. You're my best friend you have always been; I was so worried about you, Babe. Angel, you're the apple of my eye, my moon and my stars. I could never cheat on you, and yes I know that lately our relationship isn't that perfect and it has never been easy, but you know what it's totally fine. Because that's what makes it special. It is ours and only ours, and for that I'm so grateful".

Angel started sobbing; she didn't know what to believe anymore, it all felt like the worst nightmare, but it somehow felt good and

warm to feel him again, and to have his arms around her for one more time. She felt as if the entire world has been fading around her, and for that moment it was only them and their love.

Couple of minutes later, someone knocked on the door, they were both terrified, but Evan decided he is going to open the door; he opened the door to find Samuel.

“OMG, EVAN YOU ARE ALIVE” Said Samuel so excitedly and hugged him.

“Man, what the heck you scared me, come on in”

“What the hell is happening? Did you know that Evan is alive” Angel asked.

“No, of course not” Samuel replied

“Would you please explain to Angel everything about Josephine while I go change my clothes? cause we need to go to my house” said Evan on his way to the room

“Evan, your house is a crime scene in an active investigation; we basically need to get you to the detective” Said Samuel

“What? A crime scene, who died?”

“We don’t know, man, we thought you died, but it turned out someone slaughtered

Josephine and some other random dude”
Said Angel coldly

“OMG, I’m so sorry for your loss, Sam”

“It’s okay, I knew it’s gonna happen sooner or later, Jose didn’t take any of our words seriously, I’m just hurt that my dear sister didn’t die peacefully, but what was I expecting, I mean, she didn’t even live peacefully either” Said Samuel with running eyes.

“You dear what, ARE YOU CRAZY, you kept that shit from me TWO YEARS, and now you’re being all soft and shit.” Said Angel.

“I’ll explain everything to you on our way to Robert, okay” Said Samuel.

Evan changed his clothes and the three of them took the car to Robert’s house. They decided they will do anything that might help Robert get the killer. Samuel explained everything to Angel and he started crying hysterically for he was denying the death of his sister all that time.

“I’m really sorry for your loss, Sam. You should have told me. I should have been there for you. I mean since we were kids, we have always been together through it all, and you just decided to exclude me from

something that important. WHY?" Angel asked.

"Because Josephine was so dangerous, Anj. All of her connections were either gangs or drug dealers, look what they've done to Evan." Replied Samuel "I can't risk losing you, Angel" said Samuel looking straight into her eyes

The love in Samuel's eyes has always been evident, he didn't try to hide it, not even around her-own boyfriend, and Evan wasn't stupid. No one was stupid enough for not noticing Samuel's love for Angel, Samuel was always aware of the fact that there's no one on earth could understand Angel more that does. They grew up together and being always around each other enhanced that part of their friendship naturally.

Robert's office was more like a crime scene itself, with all the messiness, papers everywhere and million cups of coffee that screams *sleeplessness*. Angel, Samuel and Evan barged in babbling, saying fragmented words that Robert didn't catch any of them. "What the heck is going on?" asked Robert in a high-pitched voice "and who the hell brought you back from the dead?" he added addressing Evan.

“Could you stay calm and we will explain everything to you? Cause guess what we are all already confused” Said Angel trying to calm Robert down, but her words wasn’t that effective, for he started to feel like he is trapped in a dead end with no clues and bunch of people that doesn’t have anything to connect them together so far.

Evan started to explain everything to Robert, highlighting the fact that he had no clue who would want Josephine dead “I mean yeah she was something, but she wasn’t that bad, she was only involved with some drug dealers, but we gave them all the money, last time Jose went to Rehab”

“Do you have any idea who is the person we found dead in your apartment?” -asked Robert, ignoring everything Evan just said.

“No, I have no clue who’s that person you guys found, I just told you I have been locked up in some ware house in the middle of nowhere.”

“The guy’s name is Theodor; does it ring any bells?”

“WHAT, TED IS DEAD!” Exclaimed Evan and he began to cry, while Angel hugged him and didn’t look surprised or sad.

“Okay now tell me who is that TED” said Robert heartlessly as if he found what he was looking for. “He was his best friend” replied Samuel. Evan and Theodor were best friends from the very beginning of their lives, just like Samuel and Angel and even closer, they used to do everything together till Evan and Angel got together. Then Theodor got tired of all the third wheeling and felt like his best friend deserves to be happy, but he didn’t count himself in the equation. Yet he kept in touch with Evan, but not as close as they were, Evan tried more than once to mend their bond, till one day Theodor decided to end their friendship for good.

5 years ago

Evan and Angel were hanging together in the arcade as usual; the arcade was their favorite place to hangout they used to play all daylong till the arcade closes then order some chicken wings and eat it on their way home. But that evening was different, Theodor called Evan more than 40 times and Evan was too busy to answer

“Evan, we need to talk” -Said Theodor

“Ted, what’s wrong?”

“We need to go somewhere private to talk” said Theodor giving Angel a side look

“What’s wrong, Ted, I guess you could speak freely, it’s only Angel”

“No, I don’t feel comfortable, talking in front of her.”

Evan took Theodor’s hand and walked with him outside the arcade, he wasn’t sure why his best friend didn’t want to talk in front of Angel, for Theodor always talked about anything in his life in front of Angel without restrictions.

“Angel, sent me this message earlier today, and I’m sorry Evan, but I can’t stay friends with you anymore, not when you’re dating that psycho.” Said Theodor; showing Evan a text message that Angel sent him earlier.

Hey Ted, I hope you’re doing well.

Ted, I guess you’re spending more time with Evan than I do, and I just don’t like it. I mean if you think you can wreck us, you’re wrong, I love him and I’ll always do. As much as he loves me ofc. So, I guess you should just back off a little bit, and let us enjoy our youth without you interfering.

Thanks, xoxo.

Evan looked stunned, and he kept apologizing for Theodor, but he wasn’t ready to talk yet, so he just chose to end their

friendship and by the time Evan returned to Angel he didn't even tell her about the text message or anything, thinking that he could already fix things with his best friend, without getting a girl involved. Even if that girl is the love of his life, for he has always cherished his friendships and especially his friendship with Theodor, they have been friends since kindergarten, with the same school and the same neighborhood. They used to go trick or treating every Halloween together, as well as going treasure hunting together, skiing together and basically doing everything together. Till Angel replaced Theodor and Evan wasn't able to balance between his friendship and his relationship. Still, Evan couldn't pick his best friend's side for he was very content with having Angel as his all, and there is was exactly where he went wrong.

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Chapter Five

Samuel told Robert everything he knows about Evan and Theodor friendship, but Robert wasn't really interested, for Angel's test was the only thing that concerned Robert, he kept on asking himself why would she send it, why would she hate Theodor and why wasn't she surprised when she knew he

died. A big question mark was there all over Angel's reactions and the way she reacts.

"OMG, TED!" Evan exclaimed standing up then started to cry

"Okay, now tell me who's that Ted?" asked Robert with absolutely nothing on his face, but a cold look, ready to strip the three of them of every emotion they have. "He is his best friend" said Angel without a reaction on her face. Neither Samuel nor Angel looked sad; however, Samuel looked a little bit surprised and showed some sympathy. For her knows more than anyone the very special bond between Evan and Theodor. So, he started to tell Robert how these two were inseparable, till one day Theodor got tired from the third wheeling. Especially after Angel's text, so he decided to let them love birds have their own time together, yet he kept in touch with Evan and used to call him occasionally. Robert listened to Samuel's words his brain with there focusing on his words, though, his eyes were on Angel who didn't seem sad or even shed a tear, she appeared to have a great control over her feelings, holding sobbing Evan without even glitching. After a moment of silence, Angel started to talk calmly "and what exactly was Ted doing in Evan's house with that

Josephine?” Everyone looked at her as if she lighted a certain bulb in their minds. “That’s exactly what are we trying to figure out here, Anj” replied Robert lighting a cigarette.

“Then try harder, detective” Said Angel sarcastically then stormed out of his office followed by Evan who looked at Robert with pain and confusion as if he just got out of a comma. Samuel was about to follow them when Robert said “Hey, Sam. I think it’s better if they stayed with you couple of days” Samuel didn’t talk much he simply nodded and got out of the office, he had no idea why Robert suggested that, he left the office with a heavy heart. His mind is stuck on one idea, seeing Angel and Evan together the whole time; it has always caused him heartache seeing them too close. His life has always been all about Angel, her spirit, her smile, her features and even her flaws that Evan didn’t even discover yet, in spite of all their years together. Samuel got into the car to find Angel and Evan kissing, for a matter of fact, it was not for sure the first time, but this time it felt different and broke his heart a little more, for he doesn’t even know whether Angel got his voice mail on the night of Evan’s birthday or not. Once they arrived at Samuel’s home, Angel and Evan settled in the guest room, changed their clothes with Samuels’ and

slept. On the next morning, Angel woke up at sharp seven, took a shower, and hit Samuel's gym at the backyard. She wasn't an athletic girl, in fact she was more on the chubby side, but she needed this for her spiritual healing. Evan and Samuel woke up couple of hours later, Evan started to make some breakfast while Samuel took a shower. Angel returned to the house, kissed Evan good morning and then hit the shower. Couple of minutes later Evan took Angel's phone to try and call Robert, he had too many questions and he was sure that Robert was the one to answer them, but he found Samuel's voice memo unopened. He pressed the button and Samuel's voice came

Angel, my sweet lil, Anj. There's something that I have been dying to tell you for ages, ever sense we were kids you were the center of my world, I believe that no one will ever understand me the way you do, you bring me everything that is amazing in this world. You're my comfort zone, my safe haven and most importantly my best friend. No one will ever love you the way I do, not even Evan, I know he is cheating on you with my sister Josephine, I know I didn't even tell you about her, but Angel he does. He cheats on you and I don't even have the guts to tell you, I'm a terrible friend, but still, I know how to treat

you and how to handle your mood swings. I know everything about you. I know you like to tuck your hair all up when you're thinking, I know you don't like the chocolate Evan's gets you, cause it's sugary and you're more on the savory side, I know that your favorite movie of all times is "Mama Mia" even when you claim that it's "Repo Men" to impress Evan, I know that you would rather go hiking on the weekends than going with Evan to the movies or to the mall. I know that you're special and do everything on your own special way. I know that Evan drives you mad most of the time cause he ain't mature enough. I know he suffocates you when he tells you what to do, cause he thinks it's better, even though it doesn't make any sense. I know you miss your dad most of the times when you're alone even when you don't wanna lose your shit, cause how dare you lose your shit am I right? I know that you strive to be perfect all the time even when it hurts you the most, I know that your favorite dessert is cakes and your favorite snack is popcorn. I know your favorite food is Mexican and that you stopped eating it spicy food isn't Evan's best option. I know everything about you, Anj, and I love you so much, I have been in love with you since we were kids, I loved you then, I love you now and I will love you

forever. And I'm aware that you love Evan I know he does too, but he doesn't deserve you, Angel I'm telling you I will treat you like the queen that you are. I love you, Angel, I really do and I can't live without you, not even a minute. Please, Angel call me when you get this and don't get mad, and if you told me to simply forget the whole thing, believe me I will. Unable to speak, move or even think, Evan stood still full of heartache, he felt so betrayed; as Samuel always had that special part in Evan's heart. He always considered him as a brother, despite all Angel's drama and being too close to her; still Evan didn't feel jealous or threatened.

Angel stepped in the room, drying her hair with a towel; she felt weird energy in the air so she said "Good morning, Babe. Who are you calling?" Evan suddenly woke up from all the thoughts that are hunting him, gave her the phone and stormed out of the room to find Samuel reading the newspaper and drinking his coffee. Evan grabbed him from the neck and started beating him angrily, but Angel controlled Evan and got him off of Samuel yelling "ARE YOU CRAZY WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?" Evan stood up yelling "SAMUEL IS EVERYTHING THAT IS WRONG" they kept arguing while Samuel wasn't able to move, he was curling on the

floor hand on his stomach feeling severe pain.

“I need to go to the hospital, ASAP” Samuel said faintly. Evan and Angel looked at him to find him in serious pain; they carried him and took him to the hospital. Angel and Evan were awfully worried about Samuel, but Evan was crying like a baby, as if someone just took his toy away from him, feeling terrible for being the reason behind all of this.

Angel left Evan sobbing on the floor and went to the doctor’s office trying to figure out why Samuel is in the operation room. “He was seriously injured; his spleen was completely damaged due to physical abuse so he had to go through splenectomy” Said the doctor explaining the situation to Angel.

“Is he gonna be okay?” Asked Angel

“Yes sure, it’s not dangerous, but I had to call 911, since it’s a fight and all of that.”

“It’s not necessary, they are best-friends who got out of control that’s all”

“I’m aware of that, but it’s the hospital policy. Besides the news is all over the town with all the “the corpses who got back to live” situation and your faces are all over the place.” Explained the doctor. Angel left him

with many questions on her mind but only one who kept on haunting her, why would Evan hit Samuel that hard. She went to Evan and he was still crying like a baby. Angel grabbed him by his shoulder and yelled at him “Get your shit together and tell me what happened” Evan stopped crying and started to stutter “I...he... heard... th...the... voicemail... on... your...ph...phone”

“What voicemail?” Angel asked and then it hit her, the voicemail that Samuel left her on Evan’s birthday, she just remembered why she didn’t hear it the same day, it was because she was all caught up in surprising Evan then it all happened so fast so she couldn’t listen to it and gradually forgot that voicemail ever existed. She picked up her phone and started to listen, she kept on tearing unable to speak, but as always, she got her pieces together and wiped her tears. “Okay, we need to call Robert right now cause the doctor already called 911” said Angel to Evan, but suddenly she found a hand on her shoulder and a voice coming from behind “I’m already here”. She turned to find Robert standing behind her.

“Stupid Evan got out of his mind apparently.” Said Angel furiously.

“Chill, everything is gonna be fine, we just have to get Samuel out of this hospital as soon as possible, cause we found drugs in Josephine’s system, apparently, she wasn’t 100 percent clean when she got out of Rehab as she told Samuel.”

“And why exactly should we leave, I mean how is this related to us.” Asked Angel

“Because we knew the drug dealers that used to sell her the stuff and one of them might be the killer, and if that’s true it means they are the same people who kidnapped me, and there is a huge chance they are searching for me and Samuel right now.” Replied Evan.

“Exactly.” Said Robert “We need to go right now, go check if Samuel is up and I’ll go make the doctor write him a medical leave letter” Added Robert going on his way, while Evan and Angel went on their own.

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Natasha went to visit Robert again, she stopped on her way to get him some bagels with crème cheese, bagel and crème cheese have always been Robert’s favorites. When Natasha and Robert were in the same house, they used to eat them all the time for breakfast, since their mother was barely

around, till Natasha started to learn how to cook, and with only few burns she became a great cook. On her way out of Starbucks she found a very beautiful girl in front of her, the girl greeted Natasha with a big smile “Hey, Natasha, right?” said the girl with as if she finally found what she was looking for. “Oh God, you’re even prettier in real life” the girl added.

“Excuse me, how do you know me?” asked Natasha with a face full of confusion.

“Oh, how rude, I’m Angel, nice to meet you” Angel shacked her hand and invited her to have a cup of coffee, but Natasha wasn’t fond of hanging out with random strange people, that she didn’t even hear their names, and for her the name “Angel” sounded gibberish.

“Natasha, Robert was behind your boyfriend’s arrest.” Angel said while Natasha was leaving, but Angel’s words made Natasha feel overwhelmed, she remembered everything about the huge number of drugs that came out of nowhere in Marcos’s drawer, and the police officers that took him without explaining anything, and the judge who gave him fifteen years. She remembered Marcos’s screams “I didn’t do it” and she remembered his reputation that got dragged in front of

everyone they knew, and the miserable days she spent alone, crying her eyes out for losing everything in a blink of an eye. She decided to collect herself and not let a stranger make her doubt her brother, so she wept her tear and turned to Angel and said “I don’t believe you” she looked at Angel to find her smiling “I expected that” Angel answered “Anyways, here’s my number, text me whenever you want” she handed Natasha a small paper with her number on it, and just walked away to leave Natasha with millions of questions. The moment Natasha’s eyes fell on Robert, she reminded herself with every memory between them, she kept reminding herself that Robert is family, and family always comes first, not matter what.

“Hey, look what I got you, Rob.” Natasha said handing him the bagel and crème cheese.

“Thank you, I’m not hungry” replied Robert lighting up a cigarette.

“You know, you can’t stay mad at me, forever right?” Said Natasha

“Funny cause apparently, I can.” Replied Robert, sarcastically.

“Are you the one who made them arrest Marcos?” Natasha dropped the bomb on Robert as if she threw cold water on a

December night, still it was the only thing that drew his attention. Robert looked at her and said “Yes” without hesitation, as if he decided it’s time for her to know the truth. “He isn’t the one for you, and I knew he is doing something shady.” Added Robert with absolutely no regret in his tone. Natasha felt shocked and started crying, “You took the only thing that I’ve cared for, the only person that truly loves me” Natasha said calmly between her tears “You claim that you’re the one that loves me the most, but you don’t. You never did, you took my whole life from me and for this, I’ll never forgive you, Robert” She added and then stormed out. She left the hospital feeling deceived, living her whole life trying to make it up to him, feeling extremely guilty about leaving him alone to follow her heart. For years he has been treating her as if she didn’t even exist, neglecting her and what makes her happy, so selfish that he couldn’t admit what he did and even when he admitted it; he doesn’t feel guilty not even one percent. She walked to the hotel crying, feeling alone, thinking that Robert have no clue that what he did to Marcos led to her miscarriage. The depression led to the death of her baby, the only thing that would carry parts of Marcos and because of that she hated Robert; she hated him even more

remembering her gynecologist telling her “It will be very risky to even think about having kids again”. She hated the idea of her own brother taking everything from her without even knowing he did, without even regretting what he owned. Robert broke her heart and for her, it was time to hurt him back. She picked up her phone and called Angel, no matter what this Angel wants she decided to follow her lead, for Robert has to suffer the way he made her suffer and has to lose everything. Angel picked up the phone saying “Hey, Natasha, I was sure you’d call” Natasha didn’t bother to know how did Angel knew her or her place not even how did she got her number, she was only concerned with teaching Robert a lesson and give him what he deserves.

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Evan and Angel both left the hospital nearly running. Evan was feeling scared, shivering with all of his bones; while Angel was holding his hand walking as if she has nothing to lose, but she was so consumed in her own thoughts to the extent she didn’t hear Evan’s sobbing.

“Angel, we should hide somewhere” Evan’s voice met her ears as if it was so far.

“Yeah, I know just the place” Replied Angel, opening the car door.

“Listen, I want you to stay calm, you’re not gonna like the place that we’re heading, but, Evan, promise me to stay calm” Said Angel looking directly into his eyes.

She drove into the night, confidently, or at least it appeared to Evan that she is so sure of what she is doing. Truth is, she didn’t know she would ever think that way, not in a million years would she go to that place voluntary. She took a left turn into a narrow dark street, she parked the car and said “We have to walk, cause the place couldn’t handle a car” Evan was too confused to reply, but he followed her anyway. They entered an old alley, Angel seemed to be known very well there, for everyone kept on greeting her, she stood in front of a small room and popped the lock open with one of her hair pins. Evan kept watching her with no words, thinking only of one thing, that he doesn’t feel safe around Angel anymore. They entered the room, it was a small room with bathroom, and only one small bed, it wasn’t fancy enough but it was okay for a couple of days, and with a place like this, no one would ever find them. Angel closed the door with the same method

she opened it with, laid on the bed with her clothes.

“So, what is this place?” Asked Evan, slowly approaching her

“It’s my mothers, she used to live here before she met my dad, she isn’t American, so she had to find a cheap place or else she would have been deported, illegal immigration and shit.” Replied Angel with closed eyes, trying to sleep.

“Angel, we need to talk” Said Evan with eyes full of fear and tears, a lot of confusion in his voice, but it made Angel pay attention to what he was going to say.

“I killed Ted.” Said Evan, not sure of anything, especially how she would react, but Angel kept an open eye and said nothing, she was trying to process what Evan just said, she was trying to find a reason that would make him kill his best friend; but she couldn’t find anything that makes sense.

“I’m not gonna ask you how cause I’m pretty sure that I don’t wanna know, I just wanna know why” Asked Angel, trying to maintain a calm attitude towards Evan, for she was scared of him being too close to her, for a minute it felt like he is capable of doing all the

horrible stuff that could ever come across her mind.

“It was an accident; I was targeting Josephine.” Said Evan, and it seemed to Angel that he doesn’t even regret killing, on the contrary, he was regretting killing the wrong one.

“I cheated on you once with Josephine, but I swear I didn’t want to, I was just drunk and couldn’t help it. Anyways, she taped me and was threatening me she would snitch to you, and things weren’t that great between us, and I was scared to lose you.” Added Evan holding Angel’s hand.

“She started to use me for money and stuff that I couldn’t even afford, so I planned that I would poison her, so I invited her for dinner at my place, and gave her the keys to my apartment.” Continued Evan. “By the time I got home, I found her dead so I thought, NOICE, someone must have killed her, casue she is an addict anyways. Just when I was about to call the police, Ted appeared thinking it was me, and he was about to run away so I kept beating him to death, it wasn’t my intentions I just lost control.” Evan started sobbing while talking “I messed up with both bodies made it look like a massacre, and then ran away. Then I found on the news that

they found out everything, so I figured, I could fake the kidnapping thing.” Evan started to sob with guilt and for a moment Angel felt his true guilt, so she hugged him repeating “It’s alright, I will save you”. In the next morning Evan woke up to find that Angel is gone, so he texted her *Where are you?* And waited couple of minutes but she didn’t answer. After six hours of being able to do nothing, in a weird neighborhood, Angel finally replied *on my way*. Couple of hours passed then Angel appeared, with a new hair color with fake id’s and passports, she kept on convincing Evan that they should run away together arguing that they should live new lives and leave everything behind; but Evan had a totally different idea. “We can’t leave Samuel, I could tell Robert everything and he would definitely understand, I have anger problems and he could help me” argued Evan, doing all what he can to convince Angel, but suddenly it hits him, they have changed, both of them, so he stopped talking, and for a moment it seemed like he doesn’t know her, and vice versa “I got it under control” Angel broke the silence. “I’m sure that Robert already knows what you’ve told me yesterday, cause I found out this morning that we were bugged, so I arranged a little accident for our friend” said Angel, trying to reassure her soulmate.

“Oh, Anj. What did you do?” Said Evan with eyes full of confusion, taking a step back.

“I called an old friend, and paid him for killing Robert, that will buy us time, to run away together, Babe. I will protect you.” Said Angel madly.

“Who the hell are you, Jesus.” Said Evan “I’m so scared of you right now, you can’t do this, Anj. I’m warning you” added Evan.

“What are you gonna do about it, huh?” asked Angel with eyes full of rage “I risked everything for you, and now you’re being such a chicken!” added Angel.

“OMG, I can’t believe you are saying that” exclaimed Evan in a shock, not sure of what he should do, the love of his life has become so dark, for a moment he couldn’t help but blaming himself for everything. He remembered when they were young and she told him “I would kill for you” he remembered how he romanticized her words then thinking that she would do anything for him, but now it’s so different, he is the one that corrupted her, for telling her or even with committing a hideous crime from the first place. He remembered thinking about how Cane killed Abel and how anger is one of the deadly sins of mankind. He remembered killing Theodor

with his bare hands, not knowing what took control of him, maybe it was the devil, or maybe it was his thoughts, or the idea of killing itself that sounded fascinating. He kept thinking what's wrong with him, and how did he beat Samuel so hard that made him go to a hospital. The idea that he would have also killed Samuel is hunting him, maybe he is bipolar, or a maniac, or maybe he is just a sociopath, he couldn't figure out what exactly drove him to commit such sin, but it didn't matter, for there's no turning back. He decided to surrender and do what's Angel thinks best, as he was extremely exhausted, overwhelmed with all the guilt in the world, and shocked that he could do it, even more shocked that Angel paid a hit man to kill someone. Angel, the one that he wanted children with, his soulmate, his better half and salvation, has become a killer, and maybe she didn't pull the trigger, but for him it's the same as killing. He turned her into himself, the terrible part, the darkest side. He kept blaming himself for telling her, but how to bare such an ugly secret and live silently, he had to tell her, he wanted to, he kept blaming himself for many things, but the main thing was knowing in his bones that he wanted her to know, perhaps she would leave him be,

but for him she turned out to be as mad, and dark as him.

Angel woke up the next morning on a phone call

“Are you insane, you can’t just call me” She yelled at someone on the other side

“I just wanted to tell you that it’s done, he is so dead. The ambulance just took him and he is dead meat” The caller replied.

“Fascinating, thank you. Now don’t you ever call me again, understood?”

“Yes understood, it was pleasure working with you”.

She hung up and nudged Evan to wake up, he woke up immediately, as he didn’t even sleep from the first place, he was wide awake all night long thinking about that girl lying behind him. Thinking about all the great times they have spent together, a little bit afraid, he was afraid from the unknown, for he has always loved being aware of everything. He despised surprises, especially Angel’s surprise parties on their anniversary, birthday and Christmas. He has always felt like it is silly to celebrate another year of forever, a year closer to death, or someone else’s birthday, but he couldn’t tell Angel how he

truly feels, and with such situation he definitely wouldn't.

"We need to lay low for couple of days, but firstly, we need to visit Samuel" Said Angel while tying her shoes.

"Whatever you say" Replied Evan, getting up.

They both went to the hospital and moved quickly asking for Samuel, but everybody was in a hurry trying to save a person in a critical case. Angel didn't feel right; she approached a nurse to ask her about the chaotic situation.

"What is happening, and why is nobody giving me attention?" She asked aggressively.

"You didn't hear?" asked the nurse in surprise

"Hear what?" Replied Angel impatiently.

"Your friend is seriously injured"

"Who? Isn't he better?"

"I'm not talking about Samuel, Ma'am. I'm talking about the detective one"

Angel was shocked, she left without talking, tho she kept repeating in her mind *not dead, how is he not dead!*

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Chapter Six

She took Evan's hands and looked deeply into his eyes "we should visit Samuel and act normal, then leave as if we have no idea about what happened to Robert" Said Angel firmly gazing into Evan's eyes, he stood confused unable to process any of the life he is living, or when did it all got this messed up. They both went to Samuel's room, he greeted Angel warmly, but couldn't even bare to look at Evan.

"Are you feeling okay?" Asked Angel

"I have been better, but it's okay, I'm gonna be fine" Replied Samuel.

"I'm sorry" said Evan with guilt

"It's okay, I know you couldn't handle it, I love her, Evan." Said Samuel looking towards Angel with all the love in this world "I have always loved her, but you are my brother and I know that you feel the same about me, we have a special bond that I cannot break. Forgive me if I have crossed a line, I'm sorry, bro" added Samuel giving Evan a fist pump. Evan was about to reply when Angel interrupted. "Aww, how cute" said Angel sarcastically. "Did you know that Evan was the one who killed Ted, and who knows maybe he is the one who killed your baby sister as well." Angel dropped a bomb on

both of them, for Evan couldn't believe she would throw him under the bus this easily and Samuel couldn't handle the fact that Evan may have killed his sister.

"I didn't kill Josephine. I swear I didn't"
Shouted Evan.

"So you killed Ted?" Asked Samuel.

"Yes, but it was a mistake, Samuel you have to believe me. He kept looking to Angel in a shock while she yelled "Someone help us" Evan stood still not knowing what he should do, couldn't believe that this is the one that he fell in love with many years ago. He saw anger in her eyes, but most importantly rage that he hasn't ever seen in her eyes before. Those tender loving eyes which he has fallen in love with ages ago since he was a kid. Two officers entered Samuel's room and took Evan after Samuel told them that maybe he killed Josephine, while Angel wept pretending to be shocked, which made Samuel confused, for a minuet he felt like she is a complete stranger.

"Are you sure he killed my sister, Anj?" Asked Samuel

"of course not, duhh" replied Angel setting a pillow and sheets on the couch and fixing it as a bed.

“I’m going to sleepover today cause idk where should I go besides, I have a lot of stuff to do tomorrow morning, not to forget that I have to visit Robert.” Said Angel and Samuel didn’t really give her any attention, for he was too scared to care about her future plans. In the next morning Samuel woke up to find that Angel is gone, he didn’t really think about her place nor what she is doing, the only thing that concerned him, was how to get away from her and keep himself safe from his very own best friend and the one that turned out to be a stranger out of the blue.

Angel was on her way to a motel near the hospital where she rented a room for couple of weeks using Evan’s credit card, got some canned food, some wine and stood there for four days pretending to be grieving on her boyfriend. She visited Evan couple of times, promising him that she will hire him the best lawyer she could ever afford. Reassuring him that it is all part of her master plan in catching Josephine’s murderer and free Evan. He was extremely confused not knowing what to believe anymore, the only one that he have ever loved is the one who put him in jail, without even thinking twice.

She kept tracking Natasha for a while after she ran into her one day while visiting Samuel waiting for the right time to middle and create a little mess between the lovely siblings, hoping to find any dirt on Robert or any connection that could tie him to anything that is illegal, till she met Natasha. She stopped on her way to get Robert some bagels with crème cheese, bagel and crème cheese have always been his favorites. On her way out of Starbucks she found a very beautiful girl in front of her, the girl greeted Natasha with a big smile “Hey, Natasha, right?” said the girl with as if she finally found what she was looking for.

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Chapter seven

Angel picked up the phone saying “Hey, Natasha, I was sure you’d call” Natasha didn’t bother to know how did Angel knew her or her place not even how did she got her number, she was only concerned with teaching Robert a lesson and give him what he deserves.

“Well, I love your spirit, Natasha, could you meet me at the motel in five?” Said Angel

“Yeah, text me the location” Answered Natasha.

“Done”

Natasha went to the motel disguised ready to whatever is waiting for her, no matter how dangerous, for she was blinded by hatred, ready to do whatever it takes to revenge for herself and her beloved Marcos. She knocked on the door and Angel welcomed her with a warm greeting, they both sat on a small couch by the TV.

“How did you find me?” Asked Natasha in a serious tone.

“Someone told me that Robert had a half-sister and spilled the tea about everything has been going on between you two for years, since you left the house till yesterday.” Replied Angel, handing Natasha a cold beer.

“I don’t want a beer, I want you to tell me how could we take my brother down, and I don’t know how you are gonna do it.” Said Natasha.

“Relax. I don’t wanna take anyone down I just wanna save my boyfriend.” Replied Angel.

“Did Robert frame him too?” Said Natasha in a slightly high tone.

“No, but I did” Said Angel. Natasha looked at her in confusion, “Sorry, what?” Said Natasha.

“I’ll tell you everything. My boyfriend is kinda stupid and he committed one serious stupid crime, your brother being the most incredible and smart guy that he is figured it out, he was going to arrest Evan so I had to do something to get him out of it, so I made a stupid thing where I accidently put him in prison” Said Angel, while Natasha took the beer and looked at Angel and said “Who’s Evan?” Angel rolled her eyes and said “MY BOYFRIND, JEZZ, are you even listening?”.

“Yeah, I am, how did you put him in jail?”
Asked Natasha.

“I wanted to protect him from those who killed Josephine so they couldn’t reach him, also I wanted them to feel safe while I dig deeper and hopefully get them.” Said Angel.

“Wow, smart.” Exclaimed Natasha. “How is this related to Robert again?” She added.

“It’s not, but once Robert found out that Evan killed Ted, he would never believe that he didn’t kill Josephine as well.” Answered Angel.

“Oh, I see. So what are you to do?” Asked Natasha.

“I have no clue, ever since your brother got into the hospital, I’m so lost cause I know he

won't leave Evan alone, and I'm also positive that he is telling the police department everything, right now and they are most probably trying to pin everything on Evan right now." Replied Angel in confusion.

They both stayed up for the next day trying to figure out how are they going to find Josephine's killer in as well as hopefully prove that Evan killed Ted without really knowing what he is doing, with Natasha being a student of law and Angel being a girl in love who is trying to help her boyfriend, something that Natasha couldn't do when they arrested Marcos. Both girls gave it their all and tried to use every brain cell they have to find a solution.

"Anyways, I don't want you to stay mad at Robert, I only brought up that Marcus thing to get you into calling me." Said Angel.

"Robert loves you, tho." Said Natasha. "and he is most probably was planning to kill or frame your boyfriend to get you." She added.

"What?" Angel exclaimed.

"Stuart told me so. Anyways I have never seen Robert in love before, but turned out he is a poet Stuart told me he kept on describing your eyes" Said Natasha.

Angel looked stunned not knowing what to do or what to say, thinking about how to get her boyfriend out of jail, to save and protect him no matter what will it coast or how many people she is going to hurt, she felt like she is changing. Into something that she has always felt like having, but didn't really know that she would unleash it for Evan, for love.

"Now tell me, who helped you killing my brother?" Natasha asked in cold tone that made Angel shocked, she couldn't lie, or even think.

"Stuart." She replied.

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In the gloomy, negative atmosphere in his hospital room, unable to even go to the bathroom by himself, with his legs totally numb that he feels awfully broken sat Robert thinking. Delving into his own memories thinking of all the times he had to protect his little sister, including that time he refused his childhood best friend's emotions towards her. For he has always been aware of Stuart's dark side, he has seen it more than once, not to forget his awful family record that makes him being a cop is an unsolved mystery itself. Stuart approached him with their favorite meals, couple of cheese burgers topped with

pickles, and large fries topped with ranch, not to forget the strawberry shake that is topped with caramel sauce. They used to get that order all the time from the steakhouse near the police station they work at, it was kind of their favorite, special order that was not even on the menu. The chef then added it to the menu with the name of “ROBSTUE” despite him being so creeped out with the weird shake mix, but he loved their bond and their taste being exactly the same in everything. He loved hearing their stories and what they have done to get a certain suspect, for him they are the perfect work due that he has ever met, with their phenomenal harmony, and no words perfect communication. These two have the ability to understand each-other without even speaking, it is rare to find that kind of connection in the cruel world they live in, however; Stuart had a flaw, a secret that his best friend didn't know.

“Rob, guess who was just here, Augustus, he dropped our favorites and vanished, said he will get back after couple of hours.” Said Stuart with a big smile on his face, unwrapping the sandwiches and fixing the table for the two of them to eat. “Isn't he the best chef! Remember when we first added this combo to the menu six year ago” Added Stuart taking a bite of his sandwich “MAN,

IT'S HEAVENLY, come on, Rob let's eat.” Robert got his chair near the table and started eating, focusing his eyes on Stuart's who had no idea that his life is about to change forever, and the first thing that is going to vanish is this amazingly rare bond between both of them.

“Stuart, how did you become a cop?” Robert dropped the question on Stuart like a cold nuclear bomb.

“What? It's been forever, besides, you already know, my uncle got me in.” Answered Stuart casually without even stuttering.

“But you were once convicted of manslaughter when we were seventeen, weren't you!”

“Yeah, but you know it was accidental” Answered Stuart with a blaming gaze, as if he can't just believe that his so-called best friend is accusing him of such thing.

“That's weird, cause I actually have here a file of your full record, and it says that you have been convicted three times, oh wow look, it says that you have also been convicted for felony, identity theft and drug dealing” Said Robert while taking a bite from the burger following it with couple of fries. Stuart was shocked, not knowing what to say

or how he could actually run from all these secrets, he knew he couldn't just deny it, so he had to say it.

"How did you get that file, Robert?" Asked Stuart with a shaking tone.

"It doesn't matter, Stu, and now that I know all of this, I'm not even sure what should I call you, is Stuart your real name?" Said Robert.

"Yeah, it is, and you have to let me explain myself, but first please tell me who gave you that file?"

"Angel gave it to me before my accident." Replied Robert staring at Stuart's face, trying to notice any change on his reaction, but there was none.

"I knew it" Said Stuart and then started to laugh hysterically "That stupid little piece of shit" he added chuckling.

"Well, I need some explaining here, how do you even know her?" Asked Robert.

"Buckle up loser, it's gonna be hella long" He said licking his fingers and started to narrate.

"You know of course that Latina branch of the family, and how they were all about getting married to each other and shit long time ago. Well, Angel's father knew my mother long

ago, they were in love with each other for as long as they could remember, as they both grew up in the same neighborhood, having the same blood and shit. One day his dad got him to marry Angel's mom to sort of break the traditions, also, because she was the daughter of a great drug dealer that he used to work with, so it was like. EXTEREMLY BENIFICIAL. After they brought Angel to life, her dad met his long-lost love of the life, yeah, my mother, Angelica, who is Angel is named after by the way. They got married and he left Angel and her mother to root in a shit-hole room that only God knows where. So, I suddenly I had a dad who is giving me all the love and support anyone could give, but I was just so curious to meet that beautiful Angel, dad always talked about, cause yeah dude, I was thinking, that guy is absolutely mental to leave his only biological daughter that way to raise me. Anyways, my dad got me from Angelica by force cause she was a drinking addict, wasn't attending AA meetings and stuff so I lived with a step mother, guess who? Angel's mom." He paused for a minute to watch Robert's expression, not sure if the bomb he dropped was loud enough.

"What the actual heck, Stu!" Exclaimed Robert.

“Yeah, I know it’s too much to handle, whatever. I grew up with a beautiful loving sister who is caring, passionate and amazing, and our life was perfect, till her mom got the business on track, and had me framed for all of her shit, Angel begged her many times to stop and to just admit what she has done, but she never listened, so one day my dad got really mad about it and framed her for dealing. Then I was released. There was only one problem that I really wanted to become a policeman, that’s why my uncle middled and got my file and me off the records. Then we left Angel and just vanished, you know. To make my dream come true, but Angel is smart and she grew up to be smarter every day, so one day she got that file from God knows where and contacted me, she said, she won’t rat out, but I have to help her find who her boyfriend is screwing, so I started to dig deeper into Evan’s life and that is how I owed her one.” Robert suddenly got it all together and saw the big picture, with all the ugly truths and the facts he tried so hard to avoid “Oh God, that’s why she hired you to kill me?” Said Robert, and he wished for any other answer but “yes”.

“yeah, but I didn’t, tho. And that’s exactly why she rated out and sent you this file.” Said Stuart.

“Why? Why would you? How could you do that, Stuart. You are my best friend and you know that well. I have never trusted anyone, the way I trusted you. Why would you do that? Look at me, Stuart. I have become disabled and it’s all because of you” Shouted Robert helping his tears from falling down.

“I’m really sorry, Rob. I swear I didn’t see that coming, I’m really sorry, but if this file got to any one, I’ll be doomed and they will never get the truth, I’m really sorry.” Replied Stuart, crying getting on his knees before Robert, begging for forgiveness.

“I’ll not give this file to anyone, Stuart. But help me find that Angel.” Said Robert with stiff eyes.

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Chapter Eight

“Come again?” Asked Natasha.

“Yes, Stuart.” Angel answered “He is kinda my half-brother, long story, anyways I have to go visit Evan before he breaks” She added, leaving Natasha to her mind, where she got lost thinking of how could the world be that unpredicted and cruel at the same time. Angel left Natasha feeling confused and high enough for not leaving that motel room,

thanks to the pills she put in Natasha's coke. On her way to Evan, she replayed what happened for the past few months that changed all her life and turned it all upside down, she tried to get everything together thinking of how did Josephine got killed from the first place, leaving a mystery that she cannot solve to free Evan from his fate. After all it is said that those who kill should get killed, but she didn't want to believe that, even if she has her own doubts around how Ted got killed from the first place, she still wanted to believe that Evan, the one who owns her heart is not capable of committing such a hideous crime. She got her cell phone out of her back pocket and dialed Stuart's number.

"Hey, where are you?" Answered Stuart

"It doesn't concern you. Did you clean up your own mess? She asked stiffly.

"What mess, Anj? You need to come here ASAP, Robert is up and he got my file, didn't know that you would break your promise."

"I was just teasing you, kill him, Stu, or I swear I will leak that file to the FBI."

"Okay, I will, stop this."

“Ohh, and while we are at it, kill Samuel.”

“WHAT, SAMUEL, no, Anj. You know that I can’t” He said stuttering.

“KILL HIM” She commanded and then she hung up the phone, threw it away and took a cab to Evan.

Stuart was extremely lost, not knowing what to do, for his only dream was to become a cop, he has dreamed it all day everyday for twenty years straight. This dream was the only thing that made him feel alive and motivated, the only thing that made life worth living, and made him feel honorable. For him being a police officer was more than just a childish dream. He remembers vividly why he wanted to become a cop from the first place, it was all about his neighbor Jared, that mid sixty’s black guy with his fat dog who used to sit on the porch in front of the house next to Stuart’s. That guy who has the eyes of a fox that makes you feel like he is always conspiring against you, he was the one who made Stuart obsess with being a cop, he used to get donuts and invite little Stuart every Wednesday and tell him all about how to be a good cop and how did he catch bad guys. He treated him as the son he never had, got him in whenever he was wrong to correct him by giving him a speech. The good

thing about these speeches, that they have always added to Stuart and made him grow as a person, he also stressed on how important reading is and used to take Stuart to reading groups that eventually made him a reader. Till one Wednesday Jared didn't come out to the porch and Stuart found out he died, peacefully, but that made Stuart get into severe depression, for he loved Jared from the bottom of his heart, then the other day an attorney reached out for Stuart to tell him that Jared have left him everything he once possessed including the dog and the house. From that day, Stuart aspired to be a very good police officer, for he wanted to make Jared proud in the heavens.

Stuart went to the room where Samuel is sleeping, he entered and as usual Samuel met him with the purest smile, Stuart approached him with a smile, and eyes full of tears. "Hey, Sam. How are you, buddy?" Said Stuart.

"Heyyy, Stu. Long time no see, bro, where have you been?"

"I have been here; Robert has been in an accident, you know him, right? He is the one working on Evan's case."

"Oh God, what accident?" Replied, Samuel.

“Yes, I know him, of course.” He added

“It’s a huge one, forget it, I came to check on you, do you need anything?”

“No, but tell me what accident! Also, I’m so glad to see you, Stu. It’s been a long time.”

“Yeah, me too, man. Remember when we used to play in our garden after school?”

“Yesss, remember when Anj found that cute bird and Monica just threw us out to get stuff to help Anj.” Said Samuel and they both started to laugh.

“Remember that bunny that is made out of milk chocolate that I used to make?” Asked Stuart

“Yes, of course, it was delicious!” exclaimed Samuel

“I got you one, when Angel called me and told me you are here, I thought I would get you one”

“Anj! You guys still talk? That girl does not tell me anything lately.”

“No, we don’t, it was purely arbitrary.”
Answered Stuart, giving Samuel the chocolate.

“Wow, the shape of the bunny has improved.”
Said Samuel while taking a bite. He

continued eating and Samuel shook his hand, hugged him and whispered “I’m really sorry” with a shaking voice then he broke in tears and added “This chocolate has ephedrine that means it will kill you in a few minutes, I’m really sorry, but Anj made me do it.” Then he pulled off and watched Stuart gasping for air, dying slowly with tears in his eyes, for he never thought that Angel, the love of his life, the one who has always got his back to do that and with the help of one of his best friends. For they have been almost raised together, as they spend too much time together, all in the same house, playing, eating, arguing, and crying. They have been together through all the ups and downs, literally through it all, through every heart break and each tear, through every laugh and each birthday, Christmas or Halloween, through it all. Suddenly, all of these memories were just vivid in front of him, he stopped struggling, he just watched these memories till he took his last breath.

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Chapter Nine

Angel went to Evan all hyped up, waiting to see him, and just touch him again and reassure him that everything is under control and that she is ready to go through fire for

him. When she arrived, she found out that they let Evan go.

“Excuse me! You let him out! How exactly!”
Asked Angel

“We don’t have enough evidence to keep him, besides, he is not even the killer.”
Answered one of the officers.

“Yes, I know, but who is?” Asked Angel

“I’m sorry, this is confidential, I can’t share with you this information, but you will find him outside, we just released him now.”
Answered the officer.

“Okay, but one more thing. I would like to give you this file of Stuart Santiago, he is a criminal on the loose, and has recently killed Samuel Hugs.”

Angel gave the officer Stuart’s file and went out so quickly searching for Evan, and she couldn’t help but cry when she found him in front of her eyes, she ran and hugged him a long hug, crying for seeing him again, but he didn’t hug her back.

“You lost weight, Babe” Said Angel

“Yes, they weren’t serving Chinese cuisines”
Said Evan sarcastically.

“Let’s go home.” Said Angel

They left the station each one stuck in his own mind, for Evan was tired, has zero energy for fighting, yet wanted to avenge himself for all the pain Angel caused him, while Angel was only happy for getting the love of her life back to her arms. She wanted to protect him from the unknown that is coming, she is aware that she is doomed for the horrible crimes she has committed, but she is steady. She kept her strength for one more day, only for Evan to see how hard and tough she has gotten, and to prove that she would go through hell and back just to protect him. She took him to the motel room where she found Natasha sleeping on the ground; she woke her up explaining everything.

“Natasha, wake up.” Angel said nudging Natasha.

“Wh..at” Said Natasha in her sleep.

“Wake up, Evan is free.” Said Angel.

“Who the hell is Evan?” Said Natasha with sleepy voice.

“Natasha, just wake up.” Said Angel angrily.

“Hey handsome” Said Natasha looking at Evan who stood still not knowing what is happening.

“Ugh, I forgot, you’re high” Said Angel and took Natasha to the sink, washed her head till Natasha was able to sense, and connect the dots, couple of minutes later when Natasha fully woke up, she said “What are we going to do now? How are we going to avenge ourselves from Robert?”

“We won’t” Angel replied “I wanted to hurt him, but now that Evan is here, I have no motive, I just wanted my Evan to be free” She added

“None sense!” Natasha Exclaimed. Then added “You have to help me, Anj”

“No, I don’t, besides it’s your brother, go and fix it your own, Natasha.”

“Okay, as you wish, but I’m telling him everything you have told me.” Natasha said walking through the door and slamming it shut.

She walked angrily, full of rage and a system full of PTSD, she went to the hospital to find the cops all over the place and Stuart is handcuffed, it all felt like a dream, as if she wasn’t really there, she emerged to Robert’s room who looked at her and the knife she is holding in fear screaming “NATASHA WHAT ARE YOU DOING” but she couldn’t really hear him, she went straight to his heart and

stabbed. Then everything came back to life and she noticed that she has just killed the only person, she really cared about in this life, crying hysterically she dropped the knife and started to blabber “I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m sorry” she got on her knees and held her little brother in her arms crying, not knowing what has controlled her. She felt heartache that she has never felt before, everything has happened too fast and the thing has gotten extremely complicated, so she took the knife and stabbed herself, hoping it would cleanse her.

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Chapter Ten

“What did you do, Anj” Said Evan.

“I didn’t do anything, Evan; I was trying to protect you.” She replied.

“Protect me! Or returning back to your origin?” He said attacking her.

“What? What origin?” She asked

“Do you know who killed Josephine?” Evan asked

“They said it’s confidential.” She said

“I heard her name, Anj. A drug dealer that Jose didn’t give her the money, Monica

Balnco, isn't this your mom?" He dropped the name with a steady voice that made Angel cry.

"Believe me, Evan, I didn't know. I did everything for you, Babe. I love you." She got to her knees holding his legs and crying.

"Angel. I'm leaving; you are the worst person I have ever met. I don't know you anymore." He said trying to leave, but she held into his legs tighter and said "NO you're not leaving me, Evan. I did it all for you."

"NO! YOU DID IT FOR YOURSELF, I DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE YOU, WHO ARE YOU! BRING ME BACK MY ANGEL, YOU HEARTLESS PIECE OF SHIT." He lashed out and grabbed her by the arm and threw her on the couch, screaming all of it in front of her face while she is setting and sobbing begging him not to leave, but it was too late.

"I DON'T WANT YOU IN MY LIFE NO MORE, YOU ARE SUCH A TOXIC BRAT WHO HAS A MESSED UP CONCEPT OF LOVING AND PROTECTING, I HATE YOU ANGEL. I HATE YOU." He said and his voice started to shake, he dropped on his knees crying then he said "I hate you, Angel for everything you have put me through, I hate you" then he added "Bring me back my

Angel, bring her back.” He kept sobbing for what felt like eternity. Then he stood up, revealed his pocket knife and approached her, at that point, Angel knew she lost everything, so she decided not to struggle, instead, she closed her eyes and wiped, at this very moment she remembered a conversation she once had with her grandmother about her name.

“Grandma, I don’t get it, why is my name considered so pure?” Angel asked

“It is not, my dear. I myself believe that you have a very bad side, you just didn’t discover yet” Grandma answered

“Why are you saying that grandma? My name is sacred I’m an Angel.” She replied spreading her arms like wings.

“Yes, my dear”

Evan slaughtered Angel with a cold heart, and eyes full of tears, for he has never in a million years would have guessed killing the one he has always imagined himself marrying. He used to lay down with her under the stars imagining their kids, dreaming of simpler days when they will have their own house together, their own roof, because Angel loved roof parties. He has always thought that Angel is the purest soul and that

she is the only one who hasn't been corrupted by everything that is happening around her, and no matter how bad her life goes, she has always managed to lift herself up, but, at the end of the day, one could never control the future, no matter how wild it gets she kept bleeding and the last thing echoed in her head was her grandmother's last words to her

“but my dearest child you must always remember that Lucifer was once God's favorite Angel.”



كم لديك من السطور الجميلة التي اخذت
منك الكثير من الجهود والاعتناء
لكى تكون افضل ما يمكن
لكى تعبر بها عن شعور داخلى
لم تستطيع ان تشاركه مع احد غيرك
مهما كانت سطورك
قصص .. روايات .. اشعار .. مقالات
باللغة
العربية او الإنجليزية او الفرنسية

تواصل معنا لتشارك سطورك مع العالم

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