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Grace Academy Pilot
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1 INT. BRIDGE ACADEMY - NIGHT

1

We hear footsteps in the dark but they get louder, the people become more visible. There are two guards and a young beaten up woman named KEARA being dragged with her head down.

KEARA
(moaning in pain)
Let me go. Please.

GUARD 1
(he tugs KEARA's
arm and in a very
threatening way)
Shut the hell up girl! You
were warned.

They continue to drag her through the prison hallways. They reach her cell and throw her in there. She pushes them and tries to get past them. GUARD 1 slaps her so hard she falls to the ground.

GUARD 1
(yelling)
Stay down. Don't you dare
move.

They slam the door and walk away. KEARA is left in the dark curling up in a ball and crying in the corner of the cell.

2 INT. TYNETTA BEACH - DAY

2

You see YOUNG KEARA and her dad running on the beach.

YOUNG KEARA
(laughing)
You can't catch me. I'm
too fast.

KEARA'S DAD
Hey come back here. Give
me back my tie.

YOUNG KEARA
Nope! You gotta catch me.

Her dad picks her up and tickles her.

3 INT. BLACKOUT - NIGHT

3

All we see is flashes of lights.

MAN
What did you do to my son?

Slap. Slap.

KEARA
PAPA! PAPA!

4 INT. BRIDGE ACADEMY - DAY

4

The cell door is open by a FEMALE GUARD. This startles KEARA as she wakes up from her dream.

FEMALE GUARD
(She looks at
KEARA's face and
gasps)
Breakfast!

KEARA looks down to see in a bowl of water and mush in a wooden bowl.

KEARA
(KEARA scowls at
the mush)
What is this?

ON CUE: REFLECTION. The guard shrugs, closes the door and walks away. KEARA scoffs at the guard's dismissive attitude. She looks down at her mush. KEARA then decides to drink her water. At first she is gulping it down but then stops. She puts the bowl down to look at her reflection.

KEARA
(She is horrified
at what she sees.)
Huh?

Her eyes are swollen and dark. She touches her face. Her mouth is cut up and her jawline unrecognizable because it is so swollen. Tears begin to fall down her face. Her stomach grumbles. She wipes her eyes. She reaches for the mush in much disdain. She scoops up a large amount into her hand and stuffs her mouth.

KEARA

(In much disgust
she spits it back
into the bowl)

Bleh.

She throws the bowls and begins crying again. Guy named RAYSHAWN who is next door to her chuckles.

RAYSHAWN

(With much humor in
his voice)
Must've tried the mush.
Nobody knows what's in it
but it tastes like shit.

KEARA

(She cries out)
Why?

She begins to bawl her eyes out. The other prisoners all groan and get angry.

RANDOM GUY

(In an angry tone)
Shut the hell up princess.
I'm trying to sleep.

RAYSHAWN

Hey, Hey, Hey. It's not
all that bad though.
You'll eventually get used
to it.

KEARA bawls her fist up now getting irritated with RAYSHAWN.

KEARA

(In an furious
tone)
Can you stop talking?!
Seriously it's annoying.

RAYSHAWN

(In a jokingly
tone)

I'm not the one sounding
like an in-labor banshee
and pissing off the entire
prison population down
here now am I?

JOMAL

(being nosy)

Hey sister I know that
this is unfair but best
believe the revolution
will be televised and
expose the system for the
injustices. So stay
strong.

RANDOM GUY

You can shut the hell up
too Nigga the only reason
you're in here is because
you didn't pay your taxes.

KEARA chuckles at the RANDOM GUY's remark.

RAYSHAWN

I heard that laugh. At
least you stopped crying.

KEARA

(She rolls eyes)
Whatever.

RAYSHAWN

You know it sounds like
you're not from here.

(He pretends to
sniff the air.)

I sense a little bit of
privilege. What'd you do
to end up here? Was it a
white collared crime? Or
did ya piss off the higher
ups?

Keara is no longer smiling but instead sighs
and the tears begin to resurface. He hears her
crying quietly.

RAYSHAWN

You don't have to explain.
I'm sorry I asked. It's
none of my business
anyway.

KEARA

(She sniffle and
struggles to get
her words)

No-- No-- Nobody be--
believed me.

(She wipes and face
and gained
composure)

I was all alone. Nobody
wanted to listen. I did
not want to come in the
first place. I just never
thought HE would do this
to me. They said I brought
shame to my entire family.
It wasn't my fault. But
they blamed me. And I hate
them all. So much.

RAYSHAWN is taken aback by her answer and
remains silent.

RAYSHAWN

Who are you?

KEARA feeling uncomfortable that she even
mentioned it groans.

KEARA

Nevermind I should've
never even mentioned it.
And why does it matter who
I am?

RAYSHAWN

I'm just making
conversation. I got stuck
down here because I
apparently walk away from
active duty but what they
were trying to do with me
and others wasn't right.
(he pauses)

Look I'm sorry about what happened to you. But you gotta stay strong. Remember the world doesn't owe you anything and so it's up to you to take it.

Keara sighs. She wipes her face and decides to change the subject.

KEARA

So besides sitting in here in self pity what else is there to do?

Rayshawn smiles and they begin to talk.

5 INT. BRIDGE ACADEMY - NIGHT

5

The guards come down to the prison and start knocking and opening cell doors.

RAYSHAWN

Hey. Hey. Wake up.

KEARA

(Wincing in pain)
Wait why?

RAYSHAWN

Welfare check. They do it every three days.

KEARA

(Chuckling at the thought)
Yeah they are certainly concerned about our wellbeing.

RAYSHAWN gets up to see what is going on outside his cell.

GUARD 1

We've got a dead one.

RAYSHAWN see the RANDOM GUY being dragged out.

RAYSHAWN

Shit!

He runs to the corner of his cell.

RANDOM GUY
(in a quiet voice)
For the honor of Darmon!

He looks at the wall where KEARA was sitting
at on the other side.

RAYSHAWN
(struggling to get
the words out)
Get—

Boom! The wall between them blasted. The
guards and man are killed. You hear a siren.
RAYSHAWN coughs and is squinting his eyes
trying to get a clear view of what's
happening. He sees his cell door was blasted
off and a fire beginning. A young guy named
DANTE wearing all black was down the hallway
motioning for RAYSHAWN to follow him. RAYSHAWN
looked to his right and saw KEARA unconscious
on the ground.

DANTE
(in panicky manner)
Come on man! Hurry your
ass on!

He looks at KEARA, sighs, and then walks
towards her to pick her up off the ground and
begins to walk towards the exit of the prison.

DANTE
Man what the hell are you
doing? This wasn't a part
of the plan.

RAYSHAWN
Dammit it DANTE I couldn't
just leave her.

JOMAL
(peeking out his
cell and he sees
keys)
The revolution will be
televised.

Two guards show up.

GUARD 2
Stop!

The guards are holding rifles ready to shoot but Dante gets into a fighting stance and gets his weapon. He beats the guards and The rush towards the exit when suddenly there's a boom.

RAYSHAWN

What was that?

DANTE

The other distraction.
Come on we gotta keep
moving.

6 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

6

They exit the prison and are running through the snow towards the forest. They keep running until they get far enough where the guards won't follow them. RAYSHAWN puts KEARA down up under a tree to rest and catch his breath.

DANTE

Shit. Shit. Shit. Where
are they?

RAYSHAWN

What's wrong?

DANTE

Jay was supposed to be
here by now.

RAYSHAWN

Call him now. It won't be
long until the guards find
us.

DANTE

I can't get a signal out
here.

RAYSHAWN

So what you're telling me
is that we're stuck.

DANTE

(he sighs)

Maybe not. There's an inn
a couple miles that's ran
by an old Flighter. We can
run down there and see if
he can help us out.

RAYSHAWN

Alright well let's go.

He bends down to pick up KEARA but then DANTE grabs his arm

DANTE

We can't take her bro.
She'll only slow us down.

RAYSHAWN stands up and looks DANTE dead in the eyes.

RAYSHAWN

And bro I'm telling you I
can't leave her out here
like this.

He snatches his arm away from DANTE and picks up KEARA. They begin to walk down the hill. They walk a couple of miles but it begins to snow hard and then the temperature begins to drop even more. They are shivering.

DANTE

Come on Shawn we're almost
there. Keep pushing.

They see lights in the snow and believe its the inn ahead.

RAYSHAWN

I see it.

They run towards the light only to be met with a man on a snowmobile. They stop running and realize he's not the only one. They are surrounded by more men on snowmobiles and they were getting closer.

DANTE

Look guys we don't want
any trouble. We just want
to leave. Allow us to pa
—. AHH.

He is shocked from behind by one man.

RAYSHAWN

DANTE! What do you want
from us?

He tries to stay as far as he can from them. Constantly turning around and holding KEARA close to his chest. He then sighs and drops to his knees.

RAYSHAWN

I surrender but I ask
please don't hurt her.

One of the men walk up behind him and shock him. He's knocked unconscious. They take RAYSHAWN and DANTE but leave KEARA in the snow. The mysterious men drive off.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. INN - NIGHT 7

The snowmobiles drive past the inn and the older owner assumes that something wasn't right about those men. He decides to get in his truck and drive in the direction of where the men were driving from.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT 8

KEARA wakes up the forest by her with snow covering her body. She is shivering and trying to figure out where she is at. She gets up and starts walking downhill. It gets colder and colder. She eventually gets tired and falls to ground and passes out. As she closes her eyes she eventually sees some lights. The lights are coming from the truck. A man named ELIJAH gets get out the car and wake her up.

ELIJAH

(out of breath)
Hey kid wake up.

KEARA

Mr. Wallace?

ELIJAH

Come on kiddo let's get
you out the cold.

He helps her walk to his truck. He begins to drive off.

ELIJAH gets out his car and knocks on the door. He looks back at KEARA who is still trying to warm up in the truck. A woman named AMINA opens the door.

AMINA

(in annoyed tone)
What are you doing here? I thought I told you to never come back here.

ELIJAH

Mina. Look who's in my truck.

She looks and sees KEARA in the truck. She is shocked and ELIJAH goes and gets her out of his truck. He escorts her to the front door to meet AMINA

KEARA

(exhausted)
Auntie Mina. They didn't believe me.

She begins to cry and AMINA hugs her. She guides her inside her house to lay down.

AMINA then goes back out to talk to ELIJAH.

AMINA

Thank you.

She then proceeds to close the door but interjects.

ELIJAH

You forgot I raised that girl as my own too.

AMINA

Yeah but you couldn't take care of your own.

ELIJAH

Dammit AMINA when are you ever going to let it go?

AMINA

Let it go? LET IT GO?! Our child is dead because of your carelessness. You were always off on another adventure or getting drunk.

ELIJAH

It's not my fault for what happened to our little girl. It's not. You don't think I was hurt too but I had to move forward. The only one stuck in the past is you.

AMINA

Get out.

ELIJAH

Mina.

AMINA

LEAVE!

He stares at her. She glares at him. He eventually sighs and walks away.

ELIJAH

I'll be back to check on her in the morning.

He gets in his truck and drives away.

End of Preview