

Relics #3:

Escape

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First Printing: USA 6/05/2018

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**Chapter One:**

**Leo**

 Pitch blackness quickly replaced the blinding green light that overwhelmed everyone. Leo fell to the ground hard, the whole world seemed to fade away. The darkness was all consuming, time seemed to be meaningless. Somewhere in the far-off distance Leo could hear banging on the solid steel door.

 After what felt like an eternity Leo awoke with a scream as his glasses caught on fire. He flung them from his face as fast as he could. “Ahhh!!” He screamed as he did so. Opening his eyes to an unfocused world, Leo once again was reminded of one of the cruelest parts of life, that it simply wasn’t fair. He mentally cursed his poor vision once again.

 “Leo, Leo are you okay?” He could hear Draco call out to him. He nodded, looking around the room for any sign of Draco but everything was so blurry. He couldn’t make anything out past vague shapes. The sounds of the banging growing louder and louder. Dr. Geller’s men wanted in.

 “His glasses are over here.” He could hear his sister call out from the direction he tossed his glasses. He glanced up and saw a blob holding something up. They didn’t look to be on fire, they didn’t look like much of anything without his glasses.

 “Careful! They’re hot!” Leo warned.

 “They don’t seem hot.” His sister replied as the blob that must have been his sister walked towards them.

 “What was that green light?” Shaw called from the control panel. Leo had almost forgot he was here as his sister handed him his glasses. They didn’t feel hot, if anything they felt a bit cold to the touch.

 “I don’t know! You tell us! You’re the one who caused it!” Draco snapped at Shaw. He didn’t sound happy. Leo’s head couldn’t blame him. It was still throbbing something fierce. Leo carefully put his glasses on and was immediately overwhelmed. His vison was better than it had ever been before. It was almost as if Leo could see everything, every detail there was to see. It was all too much for him, causing his head to ache. As if it would burst from all the import it was receiving.

 “Ahhhh!!!” Leo screamed out, tossing the glasses from his face.

 “Leo!” His sister, Cordy, cried out as she kneeled next to him, her hands on his back. “What’s wrong?” Leo buried his head in his hands, words being beyond him.

 “What’s wrong with him?” he could hear Shaw ask. It was a good question, one that Leo wanted answers to himself.

 “If we knew she wouldn’t be asking, now would she?” Draco snapped once more at their friend. Leo could hear the stress in his friend’s voice. He wanted to tell them that he was okay but that would be a lie. He wasn’t sure he would ever be okay again.

 BAM!

 The banging on the door grew louder than ever before. They weren’t using hands or shovels anymore. They had tools, and that could only prove to be Leo and his friends undoing.

 “We need to go! Now!” Draco commanded. His voice was firm and powerful. Draco has never been a push over, but he wasn’t what you would call passionate either. If he was losing his cool in this way, things must be worse than Leo thought. They needed to get out of here and fast.

 Leo reached forward onto the ground in front of him, looking for his glasses. He felt the glass resting on the dirt in front of him. Slowly, cautiously, he picked the glasses up. He felt himself freeze up, afraid of what would happen if he put them on once more.

 “How? That’s the only way in or out!” Cordelia yelled out. Leo took a deep breath, trying to muster up the courage to put the glasses back on. He didn’t want to, being mostly blind sucked but it wasn’t as bad as the headache from wearing them.

 He placed the glasses on his face, his eyes shut tightly. Slowly he opened his eyes up just an inch. The world was in focus but once more he was assaulted with an overabundance of information. He tried to ignore it, tried to see only what he needed to see but it was no easy thing. Everything he saw was screaming information at him. Telling him everything he could ever want to know and more.

 “Just let me think.” Draco said, he looked around the room, looking for something to jump out at him but nothing did. Leo wasn’t sure how he knew this, he just did. It was almost as if he could feel it. The room looked much as it did before the black out and yet completely different. Leo could see the age of each brick. The history of each grain of sand seemed to scream out at him.

 He looked back at the door and could see two men with what looked to be a metal harness unlike any he had ever seen, it had two additional arms that seemed to respond to the man’s thoughts. He was using it to lift the door up and putting it in place. The man with the harness on hated his job but he had to do his part in the war.

 Leo closed his eyes tightly. He couldn’t be seeing what he was seeing. None of this was real. That much he knew.

 “Leo, can you walk?” Cordelia asked. Leo opened his eyes to see his sister looking at him, with care and concern in her eyes. She loved him, she looked up to him and wanted to be just like him. He could see that clearly for the first time. Suddenly all the jealousy that he felt towards his sister all these years seemed so pointless. A waste of time and energy. He also discovered that she didn’t earn this internship. Draco got it for her. He wasn’t sure how he knew that, only that it was clear as day to him.

 “I can walk.” He said, trying to tune out the pounding in his head. Trying to only focus on what he needed to see and not all the extra information. It was pointless information that didn’t help them in the least.

 He got to his feet, slowly looking around. His eyes taking in far more information than his brain knew how to handle. Draco walked over to him as Shaw stood back, looking almost as scared as he felt inside. Leo could see for the first time just how out of place Shaw seemed to think he was. He could see all the hardship that Shaw had been through in his life, he could see all the drama and heartache that Leo and Draco had caused him and how despite all of that, Shaw still loved them like brothers. He found a new appreciation for his friend.

 “What do we do Leo?” Shaw asked. His voice trembling. Leo looked around, praying for any sign that would lead him out. In the back of the room he saw a door glowing. It was almost a screaming exit sign to him.

 “We go out that door.” Leo said, eyes locked on the glowing door. His sister looked back at the door they entered.

 “Are you out of your mind! They are still out there!” Shaw cried out. Tears filling his eyes as he spoke. Leo merely shook his head.

 “Not that door.” He nodded towards the glowing door. “That door.”

 “Huh?” Draco asked, looking at the glowing door and not seeing it. “What door?”

 “Are you okay?” Cordelia asked. Her voice flowing with concern. Leo got to his feet and started towards the glowing door as the pounding on the door behind him grew louder still.

 “Maybe you should sit down man.” Draco said.

 “Listen to him Leo. You’re hurt.” Cordelia said.

 “It’s right here.” Leo said, stopping in front of the door. Near the center was a pressure switch. “It’s our way out.” He hit the pressure switch and the glowing door slid open.

 “What the hell?” Draco called out. His voice full of awe.

 “How did you know that was there?” Shaw asked.

 “Does it matter? We need to go now!” Draco snapped. Cordy ran over to Leo.

 “You saved us!” She told him, pride in her eyes. Leo shook his head.

 “Not yet I haven’t.” Leo said, he looked back at his friends. “We need to move fast. That door is going to give any moment and we don’t want to be here when it does.” He knew that would spell their death. Not that he wanted to tell that to his friends and sister.

 “Lead the way man. You seem to know more about this place than we do.” Draco said. Shaw nodded.

 “Ain’t that the truth.” Shaw said to himself. Leo looked down the pathway now laid out in front of him. He could see the way to freedom, he just had to lead his friends down the path.

 “Follow me.” He told them, far more confidently than he felt.

**Chapter Two**

**DRACO**

 Draco had no idea what was going on. Everything was happening so fast and it was all getting out of hand. He just wanted to take a step back and figure it all out. The four of them ran down the dark hallway after Leo. Each and every step shooting pain up Draco’s body. His leg was still killing him from when he tried to kick down the door. The banging on the door behind them started to fade away as they made their way.

 It lifted Draco’s spirits a bit to still hear them banging away. As long as they were trying to get in, it meant they weren’t in. It gave Draco and his friends a bigger head start, something that they needed as much of as possible.

 The darkness soon became complete, but before it became a real problem Cordelia called out. “Hold on.” Moments later a blinding white light erupted from her. For a few seconds, Draco thought that whatever was happening to Leo had started to happen to his sister, but then he saw her phone. She was using her flashlight app, something that he should have thought of. He wasn’t on top of his game.

 Leo stopped in tracks, his eyes scanning the hieroglyphics on the walls. They were like nothing Draco had ever seen.

 “These don’t look Egyptian.” Draco said, he could hear the others stop.

 “They aren’t.” Leo said. His eyes scanning the walls. “They’re Atlantean. This whole place was a military base during the great war.”

 “Great war?” Shaw asked. Draco shook his head. Something was wrong with his friend. Atlantis wasn’t real, and they definitely weren’t around during World War I.

 “Atlantean? Like Atlantis? The fictional island?” Cordelia said.

 “They were in World War 1?” Shaw asked confused. This was all getting to be too much.

 “We need to move.” Draco said. Although the searing pain in his leg made him want to do anything but move. All he wanted to do was sit down and get his weight off the poor leg.

 “Not that great war. It says the war with the Olympians.” Leo said. Acting as if he could read the hieroglyphics.

 “Like Greek Gods?” Cordy asked, she seemed to be buying into all this. She couldn’t see that her brother had lost his mind. Leo looked over at Draco and gave him a sad smile.

 “I haven’t lost my mind. I just. . .” He started to say before stopping. Draco took a step back, freaked out. How could Leo have known what he was thinking? “I just see everything. I can see the history of this place. I can see it being built. The man who laid that brick,” he pointed at the base of the wall. “He was expecting his first child later that week. The people who died here, they spent every day of their lives fearing an attack, but they still tried to make the best of it. I can see. . .how you feel. It’s like. . .like, I can see your mind working. I can’t begin to describe what it is,” Leo said as blood started to pour forth from his nose. “I see.”

 “Leo!” Cordelia screamed out as Leo started to fall. His eyes rolling up in his head as he fell. Draco’s heart skipped a beat as he watched his best friend fall to the ground. This was not how this journey was supposed to go. He just wanted to come here and hang out with his best friend for the summer before going home and trying to figure out what his life had in store for him. Now he was here, locked in a tiny room as his friend laid out before him. With an army behind him and who knows what in front of him.

 “We need to move. Now!” Draco snapped as the sound of banging behind them stopped. That could only mean one thing. Dr. Geller’s men were in. It was only a matter of time before they were on top of them.

 “Go where?” Shaw asked, his voice shaking. Draco had never seen him look so scared before. Draco shook his head and moved towards Leo. Cordelia was on the ground, hugging onto him crying.

 “Move Cordy.” Draco told her, not unkindly as he pulled her off her brother. She looked up at him with tears in her eyes. It broke his heart seeing her so upset, but he couldn’t worry about that now. They didn’t have time. “We need to go. Now!” He snapped at them as he lifted Leo off the ground and threw him over his shoulder. He was surprised to find out just how heavy his friend was. The pain in his leg turned to blinding as he added his friends weight to him. It was so intense he almost felt like he wanted to pass out. Instead he grinded his teeth together and took a step. It was the hardest thing he ever attempted to do.

**Chapter Three**

**Cordelia**

 Draco let out a sigh as he took a step forward, trying his best not to drag Cordelia’s brother who draped helplessly on his side. Draco was favoring his wounded leg. Cordelia felt helpless, Leo had always been there for her, looking out for her and protecting her. Now he was sick, with what she didn’t know, but she knew he was sick. He was seeing things, hearing voices and then he just started bleeding from the nose and falling to the floor. Those weren’t the signs of a healthy person.

 “A little help!” Draco snapped, his voice straining under Leo’s weight. Shaw seemed startled by Draco asking for help, it wasn’t an everyday occurrence.

 “Oh, y. . .you want help?” Shaw asked, stammering. Cordelia couldn’t help but roll her eyes as Shaw once again made her question why the guys put up with him. He had nothing to offer.

 “It’d be nice.” Draco said, it was no longer a question. He was telling Shaw to help him. Shaw nodded and ran over.

 “Sorry.” Shaw said as he caught Leo as Draco started to drop him. The two friends managed to hold Leo up in-between them, Shaw taking on a bit more of the weight.

 “What do we do now?” Cordelia asked, not really wanting to know the answer. She couldn’t remember a time she had ever been this terrified in her life.

 “We keep moving forward.” Draco said. The answer annoyed Cordelia in that it wasn’t an answer.

 “Move forward to where? We need to get Leo to a hospital, now. He is clearly sick, and I can’t lose him!” Cordelia said, trying to keep her voice even but failing.

 “I don’t know! There is only one direction we can go, so let’s start there and figure out the rest on the way. You know, unless you want to stay here and wait for those goons to get us? Either way.” Draco said, sounding far more flustered than he had a moment ago. She had only ever seen him upset once or twice over his long friendship with her brother, but she had never been on the receiving end of his anger. She didn’t care for it much.

 “I’m sorry, you’re right.” She said, taking a step back and lowering her head. She couldn’t bring herself to even look at him. Of course, he was right, there was only one way to go. Why did she have to be so pushy? It was her worse quality.

 “Cordelia, I’m sorry. We just need to move, and the truth is. . .I don’t know where we are going. I just know we need to move.” Draco said, she risked a glance up at him and was surprised to find that he did look sorry. She gave him a smile, a halfhearted smile but a smile nonetheless as she nodded in agreement.

 “We need to go!” Shaw said in a voice filled to the brim with panic. He was looking down the dark hallway they had just come from when Cordelia heard what had scared him so. It was the sound of running. It would seem that Dr. Geller’s men were closing in on them.

 “Move!” Draco yelled. He started forward down the hall, Shaw hurrying to keep up with him as they carried Leo between them. Cordelia spared a look back, where she saw nothing but darkness, before she started after the others. Her heart racing what felt like a million beats a second. “Get in front of us.” Draco told her as she caught up to them.

 “What?” Cordelia asked.

 “In front of us, you’re faster. Don’t let us slow you down.” Draco told her, concern showing across his face.

 “I can’t leave you guys.” Cordelia said, the very thought making her uneasy.

 “Didn’t say leave, just said get in front.” Draco told her. She nodded and slid past them. She held her phone up higher to try and see if there was anything up ahead, but the tunnel just seemed to go on and on forever.

 “How much farther?” Shaw asked, Cordelia spared a look back just in time to see Shaw lose his footing and fall forward. His phone flying out of his hand and smacking into the wall, the light cutting off.

 “Watch out!” Draco yelled as Shaw pulled him and Leo down. Leo’s head smacked right into the wall as Draco reflectively caught himself, preventing his fall. Shaw fell into the wall catching himself as he did so.

 “Sorry.” Shaw said.

 “Leo!” Cordelia cried out as she ran to her brother’s side. She rolled him over, he seemed to be fine. Well, as fine as he was before Shaw tripped. She tried to keep her rage in check as she looked up at Shaw.

 “Are you happy? You could have hurt him!” Cordelia yelled at him.

 BAM!

 They all turned to look as a bright white light shines behind them.

 BAM!

 Another gunshot fired off at them. Draco snatched Leo up, pushing Cordelia back.

 “We need to go!” Draco said. Shaw looked around for the ruins of his phone.

 “Where’s my phone?” Shaw asked, his voice urking Cordelia more than usual. She wasted no time in rushing past him and running down the hall, her phone lighting the way as Draco, holding Leo, followed after.

 “Leave it! Get over here and help me!” Draco snapped at him. Cordelia was too afraid to look back to see what Shaw did. She prayed that he helped Draco and that the three of them were right behind her, but she didn’t really hear them. Truth be told all she could hear was her heart pounding.

 She ran for what felt like forever, her adrenaline the only thing keeping her moving. She was sure her body would give out on her at any moment when the light from her phone landed on what could only be steps. She almost didn’t notice them. They were off to the side and went up at a steep slope. They were made out of the same stone as the rest of the tunnel, making the stairs seem to vanish if you didn’t look at them head on.

 “Well look at that.” Draco’s voice said from behind her. She turned around to see her friends with her, each one drenched in sweat. “We might get out of this after all.”

 “Or not.” Shaw said, looking behind them as the footfalls of their followers grew louder. Draco looked away, getting that far off look he always got when he was deep in thought. Cordelia always thought it was cute.

 “On the stairs and kill the lights!” Draco snapped. Cordelia nodded, rushing onto the stairs as Draco and Shaw followed after, having to turn sideways to fit. Leo still out cold between them. “Kill the light!” Draco said. Cordelia cut the light on her phone and the whole room fell into darkness. “Now move, slowly.”

 Cordelia placed her hand on the side of the wall and slowly made her way up. It was hard, slow going. More than once she slammed her toes into the base of a step, but she forced herself not to make a sound. She could hear the guys behind her. As hard as it was for her, it must have been a thousand times harder for them.

 “Can we turn on the light?” Shaw whispered. For once Cordelia was in agreement with him.

 “No! Everyone just shut up. If they hear us we’re dead.” Draco hissed at them. Deep in her heart Cordelia knew he was right. A low source of light made its way up the stairs. They all looked back but almost as quickly as the light appeared it was gone.

 “Did they pass us?” Shaw whispered.

 “I think so.” Draco said, his voice seemed unsure. “We should move.” He said, the confidence back in his voice. Cordelia nodded and once more started back up the stairs.

 “He’s getting heavier and heavier.” Shaw whined.

 “Shut up!” Draco told him. Cordelia felt the wall end. She waved her hands in front of her and took a step forward. She was on flat ground in what seemed to be a large room. She took a deep breath and took a small step forward.

 “Uh guys, I think we made it to the top.” She said, no sooner were the words out of her mouth than the whole room was bathed in lights.

 “What the hell?” Draco yelled behind her. Cordelia turned to see the guys make it into the room with her. Their eyes wide with wonder. Slowly Cordelia turned back around to take in the room. It was huge, easily the largest room she had ever seen. A giant statue of some long since forgotten man stood in the corner with spotlights shining brightly on him. In front of the giant statue stood an army that put the Terracotta Army to shame. They seemed to be carved out of some kind of metal that almost glowed in the light. They were each armed with a different weapon, no two were alike.

 “What is this place?” Shaw asked, it was a question that Cordelia was asking herself.

**Chapter Four**

**Shaw**

 The room was bathed in lights the likes of which Shaw had never seen before. How could a room this ancient have motion sensor lights? The room was huge and filled with more treasure than Shaw had ever seen, even in movies. On top of that there was an army of armed stone soldiers that looked far fiercer than the very real killers that were after them down the stone steps.

 If that wasn’t bad enough Leo’s weight was starting to be too much for Shaw. It was taking all the will he had not to drop his friend. Draco didn’t seem bothered by it, his eyes were scanning the room, taking it all in.

 “Do. . .do you think we can put him down? Just. . . just for a moment?” Shaw asked, worried Draco was about to scream at him again. Instead he seemed surprised to see Shaw still there.

 “Wha? Oh, oh yeah of course.” Draco said, starting towards the nearest wall, next to the stairs they had just walked up. A slight limp slowing him down. Together they put a still unconscious Leo down. His glasses fell of his face, landing in the sand in front of him. Draco stood up and walked over towards Cordelia who was exploring the room. Shaw picked up Leo’s glasses and put them into Leo’s pocket. The last thing he wanted was his friend to wake up blind.

 Shaw took a deep breath before standing up and turning away from Leo. His mind racing, competing only with the pounding of his chest in terms of sheer velocity. His whole life he had felt out of place, as if he didn’t belong. He was the black sheep of his family, a family that was always looked down on by the almost everyone who lived in the Stratton apartments. The only person who ever made him feel welcome, made him feel as if he belonged was Leo. Draco was cool but the two of them never gelled, not really. Shaw could feel his breathing become more and more rapid as he thought about his predicament. His only real friend was losing his mind and passing out while armed men, hired by the professor who flew them out halfway across the world, hunted them down in the hidden passages underneath one of the great pyramids. No one knew they were here, no one ever came down here. If they died, they would never be found.

 Shaw lifted his hood over his head. It was his go to defensive mechanism when he felt scared or uncomfortable. A feeling he was sorry to say that he felt more often than not. Ever since they had landed in this foreign land, Draco had given him a hard time for wearing the hoodie. He kept going on and on about how hot it was, and that Shaw must be boiling alive inside the heavy black hoodie, but Shaw didn’t care. Yeah it was hot, but a little heat was well worth it when the exchange was the sense of safety that came with it. He could never explain it to anyone’s satisfaction, so he had long since stopped trying. It worked for him and that was all that mattered.

 The room was vast, far more so than Shaw had thought at first. The giant statue and army of stone soldiers took up a great deal of the room, but just past them was what appeared to be a library. Rows and rows of scrolls protruding ever so slightly from hundreds of slits lined along the wall. Along the back there were crates and crates with weird markings on them that Shaw had never seen before. He could only imagine that it was the belongings of whoever the giant statue was created for.

 The sound of laughter came from across the room. Shaw would recognize the gentle sound of Cordelia’s laughter even if she wasn’t the only woman in the room. He turned to look as Cordelia and Draco were walking along the back wall talking to each other in low voices. Shaw couldn’t understand it; how could they be joking around at a time like this. They were being hunted and Leo, her brother and Draco’s best friend, was lying unconscious with what Shaw could only imagine was brain damage. The things Leo was saying made no sense. There was no way that he could know the things he was claiming to know. How could Cordelia and Draco not be as worried as he was?

 It bothered him, but if truth be told, it bothered him more that they didn’t include him in their fun. Things were bad, worse than anything any of them had ever experienced in their lives, and they found a way to escape their fears, if even for a few moments. Why couldn’t they help distract Shaw? Why was he always on the outside looking in?

 He couldn’t stand watching them any longer, spinning away from them as quickly as he could. Not wanting to deal with the reminder that he was all alone, even here in a room full of “friends”. A sharp pain went up his arm as it collided with one of the stone soldiers. He wasn’t aware that he was this close to them, but he must have wondered over as he got lost in his thoughts.

 His mind was quickly pulled away from the pain in his arm as he watched on in horror as the statue fell to the ground, shattering. The sound echoed through the vast room, seeming to echo from every inch. A low ear-splitting hiss issued forth from the broken rubble on the floor. An almost white gust of wind blew out of the remains and flew into the air. The hiss growing louder and louder as it flew higher and higher, the gust of wind flew until the sound grew unbearable and the spotlights cut out, encasing them in darkness once again.

 Across the room he could hear Cordelia cry out. “What happened to the lights?” Draco called out. Shaw swallowed hard, not knowing what to say. He knew that Cordy and Draco would tear him apart if they knew it was his fault. He could hear them talking to each other, but they were too far away for him to make out what they were saying.

 “Shaw? Shaw you okay?” Draco asked from wherever the two of them were. Shaw swallowed hard, wanting more than anything to answer but he was too scared to open his mouth. “Say something!” Draco snapped, worry seeping into his voice. Shaw was saved from having to answer by the lights cutting back on. Just as suddenly as they went out.

 “Where is he?” Cordelia asked, from the other side of room. He could see the two of them clear as day, he couldn’t figure out why she was acting as if she couldn’t see him. He didn’t have long to wonder before his attention was turned elsewhere. All around him the stone soldiers seemed to come alive. They seemed to be shaking off the stiffness that could only come from centuries, if not millennia of standing perfectly still. Shaw’s heart, which had been racing almost since they left camp, suddenly stopped. He had never been so terrified in his entire life.

 The stone soldiers turned towards a terrified Draco and Cordelia. Moving like a well-oiled machine. “What are those!” Cordelia screamed out. Draco threw himself in front of her. Fear showing clearly on his face. It was an emotion that he wasn’t used to. One that Shaw doesn’t think he’s ever seen on his friend before.

 “I don’t know.” Draco said, his voice cracking ever so much. “None of this is possible.” Draco said more to himself than to her. They backed up as the stone soldiers closed in on them. “Run!” Draco screamed as he rushed forward, trying to knock a few of the stone soldiers back. Shaw watched on in awe as Draco rammed his soldier into stone and crumbed under the pain as the sound of his shoulder breaking echoed throughout the chamber.

 “Draco!” Cordelia screamed out. She rushed forward towards Draco but only made it a few feet when two of the stone soldiers grabbed her arms and lifted her off the ground. “Let me go you freaks!” Cordelia cried out. Heedless of her cries they carried her towards the giant statue they were standing guard over. Two more stone soldiers picked up an injured Draco. The rest started towards Leo who was still out cold.

 For the life of him, Shaw couldn’t figure out why they were ignoring him. Was he that useless? His heart was racing, every instinct he had was screaming at him to run back down the stairs. He no longer cared that Dr. Geller’s men were down there. He just wanted to live, but he forced himself to stay still. For whatever reason, they seemed to be ignoring him. He was the only hope his friends had.

**Chapter Five**

**Cordelia**

 The stone soldiers held her in the air between them. She knew it should hurt, being carried that way but she barely felt it. Her mind was racing as they carried her towards the giant statue of some long-forgotten Pharaoh. Out of the corner of her eyes she could see other stone soldiers picking up Draco who was screaming in pain. His shoulder cracking as it hit the nearest stone statue echoed throughout the chamber, she could only imagine how much pain he must be in. Adding his wounded shoulder to his already injured leg. She tried to see her brother, but her neck wouldn’t turn that far back.

 Her mind turned to Shaw for a moment. He was never her favorite person, but she never thought him for a coward. He just upped and left them in their moment of need. Just thinking about him made her blood boil.

 “Cordy are you okay?” Draco asked. His teeth grinding together as he spoke. She knew he was trying hard to act like everything was okay so that she wouldn’t worry. That was just the kind of guy he was. It was why she liked him so much.

 “I’m okay. How’s the arm?” She asked.

 “I’ll live.” Draco said, his voice being drowned out by a sudden grinding noise coming from up above. Cordelia looked up just in time to see the giant statue’s eyes open. A blinding white light that was purer than even the spotlights that filled the room, shot out of them. The head turned ever so slightly, as if it was trying to ease a knot in its neck. Cordy had a bad feeling about what was about to happen. The statue opened its eyes fully, allowing the beam of light to shoot forward. The head looked straight up, the beam slicing a hole through the pyramid, right out to the open night sky above them. Her heart sank. This was how it all ended, she could feel it in her bones.

 “That can’t be good.” Draco said, trying to sound like he’s joking but she could hear the fear in his voice. “Can you get free? Try and get out of here!” He called out to her, she could see him trying to struggle but he wasn’t strong enough. If Draco couldn’t escape, what hope did she have? But she figured she had to try.

 She took a deep breath, bracing herself for the pain she knew was coming, before twisting with all her might against her captures. To her surprise, not only did she not feel any pain, but she heard a smashing sound as the force of her body twisting pulled the arms right out of the stone soldiers sockets, freeing her.

 “Cordy! How the hell did you do that?” Draco asked in surprise. It was a good question, one that she wished she knew the answer to. She didn’t have any time to think about before the stone soldiers closed in around her.

 She knew it was only a moment before they tore her apart. She had nothing to lose so she swung her fist out in front of her. To her surprise it tore through the head of the nearest stone soldier. She never felt so much power in her life. She got to her feet, knocking the stone army around like flies. They felt like insects to her. No more resistance than an ant would offer.

 “What the hell is going on?” Draco asked. The stone soldiers holding him dropped him unceremoniously to the ground. He let out a howl of pain as he landed hard on his wounded shoulder. Cordelia couldn’t help but smile as she fought her way through the stone soldiers, making quick work of them. Her joy was quick lived as she heard Draco scream something to her. She couldn’t make out what he was saying.

 She figured it out pretty quickly as she battled through the stone soldiers. The giant’s head was lowering towards her, incinerating everything in its path. She smashed the last two stone soldiers together, clearing a path to Draco who was just getting back to his feet.

 “Are you okay?” She asked, concern dripping in her every word. He nodded and looked around.

 “Where’s Leo?” He asked. She turned back towards where they left him, he was nowhere to be seen.

 “What happened to him? Did the statues get him?” She asked worried. Her brother was out cold. There was no way he could have gotten up on his own.

 “No, I would have seen that.” Draco said, looking around. “He’s just gone.” The giant head started to turn towards them. “But we might have more pressing issues at hand.”

 “What?” Cordelia asked as she turned back just in time to see the head start turning in their direction. “That’s not good.”

 “At all. We need to get out of here!” Draco said. Cordelia shook her head no.

 “Not without Leo. We can’t leave without him.” She said. Her mind racing as she tried to figure out where he could be.

 “Or Shaw.” Draco said nodding.

 “Fuck Shaw. He left us. We find Leo and get the hell out of here.” Cordelia said, her mind racing as she tried to figure out where her brother could be. Draco gave her a look that told her he was about to say something but one look in her eyes and he thought better of it. She helped Draco to his feet as they started looking around the vast room, no sign of Leo. The pure white eyebeams closing in on them. The head seemed to have loosened itself up. It was moving a lot quicker.

 “What’s that?” Draco asked, looking back. She heard it too, it sounded almost like a hammer smashing against a mountainside.

 “Is something up there?” She asked, pointing at the statues head as a crack started spreading across its neck.

 “I don’t see anything.” Draco said. “Not that that’s saying much, what with that bright ass light.” No sooner were the words out of his mouth than the lights cut out. The giant head rolled forward, falling to the ground and shattering into a million pieces.

 “How the hell?” Cordelia asked.

 “Move!” Draco screamed, grabbing her hand with his good hand and pulling her as the giant’s body started to topple over. They ran as fast as they could, trying to stay ahead of the debris as it fell. Not an easy task with his limp. Somewhere behind them they could hear Shaw screaming. She turned back to look just in time to see Shaw appear in midair falling to the ground and rolling towards them, a golden staff in hand. One second there was nothing and the next he was there. It wasn’t possible, but than again neither was her single handedly taking on an army made out of stone. Nothing that happened since entering this pyramid was possible.

 Draco rushed forward to Shaw who was hardly moving. “You okay man?” Draco asked. She slowly walked toward them, not really caring if he was okay or not. Shaw nodded. He tried to sit up but fell back down. “Don’t move. You’re going to be okay.” Draco said.

 “L. . .Leo.” Shaw said, pointing towards the stairs before passing out. She just noticed how bad his head was bleeding. He must have hit it hard when he landed.

 “What?” Draco asked, turning to look in the direction he pointed. Draco’s face lit up as he jumped to his feet, favoring his injured leg. “Leo!” He yelled before taking off towards the stairs. Cordy turned to follow his glaze. Sure enough, Leo was laying on the stairs. Shaw must have moved him when the stone soldiers came alive. He didn’t abandon them, he saved her brother. She picked him up with one hand and tossed him over her shoulder. He was as light as a feather. She started after Draco. She couldn’t believe she could have been so wrong about Shaw. She still didn’t like him, but she owed him. Maybe he wasn’t all bad.

**Chapter Six**

**Draco**

 The vast chamber that once looked like something right out of a museum now looked like the aftermath of a horrible earthquake. Like the one LA suffered in that Double Dragon movie. It was a personal favorite of Draco’s, mostly because of Alyssa Milano. He’d watch anything with her in it. He’d give anything to have Phoebe Hallowell here, not just because she was the most beautiful woman, he had ever seen but also because those witch powers of hers might come in handy.

 He glanced back at Cordelia who was carrying an unconscious Shaw and Leo as if they were nothing. He couldn’t help thinking that the crazy shit that happened in Charmed was starting to seem normal compared to everything that has happened since starting this internship. Leo lost him mind, started talking about things he had no way of knowing about, Shaw seemed to be able to turn invisible at will and Cordelia, who he always thought of as delicate, now seemed to be the strongest person alive. She hit through solid stone like it was nothing more than paper. It made him shudder.

 The large chamber was starting to seem smaller and smaller as Draco made his third lap around the room, trying to keep his mind focused on anything but the pain in his leg and shoulder. So far, the only way in or out seemed to be the stairs they came up but that didn’t really seem like an option. Dr. Geller’s men could still be down there looking for them. Guns at the ready.

 “There’s no other way out, Draco.” Cordelia called out to him. Draco knew she was right, but he didn’t want to acknowledge it. As long as he was looking for a way out, it kept him moving and made it harder for her to try and talk to him. Something that he wanted to avoid. He had no idea what was happening to the others and he didn’t want it to happen to him. The idea of turning invisible or having super strength was a cool notion, but then his mind would turn to Leo and how he seemed to be losing his mind and the thought terrified him. “Can you hear me Draco? We’re just walking in circles.” She said, starting to sound annoyed. Draco stopped. “Will you just look at me. Please?” She asked. Her voice cracking for a moment.

 Draco let out a sigh, he didn’t want to make her feel bad about herself. Whatever was happening wasn’t her fault. Something did this to her, to all of them. He slowly turned around. “What do you want to do Cordy? Go back downstairs and face off with Dr. Geller’s men? Because I don’t see that going well for us.”

 She looked down, she was normally pretty good at hiding her feelings. It was a skill she had to pick up living in a house with Leo. He was Draco’s best friend, but he could be a bit much sometimes. A bit on the judgmental side. She looked up at him, with her head still down. He couldn’t help but smile, she was so cute.

 “There has to be another way out of here, Cordy. I’ve seen every Mummy movie. There are always secret ways in and out of these places.” Draco said, scanning his mind for all the tricks and short cuts used in the movies. None of them seemed to work out in this place. Part of him wanted to start feeling on walls looking for a switch. It worked before in this place, there was no reason to believe it wouldn’t again.

 “So, our only hope is your knowledge of movies?” Cordelia said, she seemed far less confident than he was attempting to sound. “What do those writers know about real Pyramids?”

 It was a fair question. One that he didn’t know how to answer. He liked to think of himself as someone who worked well under pressure. The more shit he had to deal with, the better off he came out of it. He was one of those guys that would leave all of his homework till the day it was due and knock it all out on the way to class and walk away with A’s. So it took a lot to get him flustered. This night was working his last nerve.

 “I guess nothing. Is that what you want to hear?” He snapped at her. She fell back a few steps.

 “No, I just. . .I don’t know. I’m scared Draco. This,” she motioned to their unconscious friends that she was carrying with ease. “This is scary. I’ve never been athletic. Like at all, now look at me. My brother, the smartest man I’ve ever met just snapped and Shaw can just make himself vanish.” She was on the verge of tears. It broke his heart to see her like that. “And can I even start to describe how creepy it is that that weirdo can turn invisible. I’m never going to shower again.” Draco couldn’t help but chuckle at that. The idea of Shaw watching her shower was a creepy thought, but despite Cordy’s misgivings, Draco didn’t believe for one second that Shaw would ever do that.

 “That’s it!” Draco said. “We get Shaw to check out the passageway! They won’t see him!” Draco said. Feeling proud of himself, but Cordy just shook her head.

 “He’s out for the count. He hit his head hard, who knows how long it’ll be till he wakes up. If he wakes up.” She said, not sounding happy about it. His small glimmer of hope fizzled out.

 “Okay, well, let’s just head back down. We keep the lights off. We hear anything or see light, we hightail it back up here.” Draco said. Not loving the plan. Cordy didn’t look any happier about it.

 “You want to walk around down there in total darkness?” Cordelia said.

 “Yeah?” Draco said.

 “That would be hard enough under normal circumstances, but while carrying these two? Come on Draco, I can’t do that.” She said. She had a point, that was a lot to ask, but he couldn’t think of any alternatives.

 “We’ll go slow. I’ll lead the way. Just follow as close as you can.” Draco said, trying to reassure her. She didn’t look convinced, but she nodded her approval. He didn’t give her a chance to rethink the decision, instead he turned and made way for the stairs. The sooner they were out of here and back on a plane to San Diego the better.

 It didn’t take them long to make it back down the stairs. Draco was trying to go as slow as he could but by the end he couldn’t help speeding down the stairs. It all felt like a bad dream to him.

 “Draco, I can’t see anything.” Cordelia called out from behind him. Her voice seeming to echo through the hallway. If the men after them were anywhere near there they would have heard her for sure.

 “I’m right here.” Draco said, wanting to tell her to shut up but thinking better of it. She was just as scared and freaked out as he was, if not more so. After all, she was the one with the super strength, not him.

 “I don’t like this.” She said.

 “Neither do I.” Draco said. Nevertheless, he started down the path. “Just stay close.” He called back to her. He could hear her behind him. This was going to be a long night.

 Time seemed to lose all meaning in the darkness. They walked on and on for what seemed like hours, no sign of Dr. Geller’s men or an exit. Although he couldn’t be sure, it wasn’t like he could see anything. The pain in his leg seemed to grow to an all-time high. He needed to get his weight off of it, all this walking wasn’t doing him any good.

 “How much farther?” Cordelia called out to him. It wasn’t the first time she has asked since they started down this path and his answer was the same as always. He had no clue. He was about to say as much when a light seemed to crack into existence before them.

 “What the?” He asked, not sure if he was really seeing what he thought he was. The crack of light opened up wider, revealing a trap door that lead to the outside world.

 “We’re safe!” Cordelia said, he turned back to find her smiling at the exit. It warmed his heart to see her so happy, but her smile vanished seconds later. At first he couldn’t figure out why but the answer soon became clear.

 “There you are. The camp has been all in a panic since you lot vanished.” Dr. Geller said from the opening. He smiled down at them. Draco’s heart dropped. They were caught.

 “Doc. . .Dr. Geller.” Leo’s voice said shaking. “Thank god you found us. We started to lose hope.” He dropped down from Cordelia and landed on the ground.

 “Leo!” She called out.

 “I’m fine. He said getting to his feet. He looked up at Dr. Geller and smiled. “Can you get us out of here?” He asked. A weird look in his eyes.

 “Of course. It’s why I’m here Mr. Cox.” Dr. Geller said with a look that sent a chill down Draco’s spine. Leo started past him, stopping for just a moment as he passed by Draco.

 “Trust me.” Leo whispered. Draco nodded ever so slightly as he turned to follow his friend. He had no idea what was going on, but he did trust Leo. Even if he was losing his mind.

 “We don’t really trust him, do we?” Cordelia asked Draco as she walked alongside him, Shaw still draped over her shoulder.

 “Not a chance.” He said as they followed Leo up the stairs and back out into the real world. “Not a chance.”

The End