

CHAPTER 2

Technical treason

Sarah looked at her boss and realised that he had told her to use the satellite phone they had because it wasn't on the system which was blocked by the Prime Ministers orders. She didn't know who had called him and given him advance warning but guessed someone had broken a dozen laws and essentially committed treason so Jacob could warn his daughter.

Jacob stared back at his assistant and suddenly reached a decision. "Sarah, come with me" he said in a gruff no nonsense voice as he began to stride from the auditorium with a furious gait. Sarah's shorter legs had to work hard to keep up as walked into an empty office and turned on the television he found on the wall. Nothing but static met his efforts to find a channel reporting on what was happening.

Jacob turned to Sarah and said, "Stay here, don't report to the commissary, just stay here and wait for me. If anyone tells you different tell them it was an order from me." Sarah nodded as she looked out the window as the drama the morning had become began to unfold, she didn't notice as Jacob left.

The office had a window overlooking the courtyard and main entrance of the parliament buildings and she saw the drab camouflage military vehicles as they drove up the main drive and began spreading out and positioning themselves around the building. Soldiers in what she assumed was full battle gear spewed from the vehicles.

Sarah's remembered the movies her former boyfriend had loved watching full of soldiers and stuff and guessed that the soldiers here were setting up a defensive perimeter.

There were soldiers running around, erecting things she assumed were defensive barriers. Federal Police ran around doing things she didn't understand in their dark blue overalls and bullet proof vests. She was accustomed to seeing the federal police in their normal uniforms,

not the overalls. Ironically it was the overalls that made her realise that something apocalyptic was in train.

Time had no meaning as she watched the barricades go up around the parliament buildings. She could just see in the distance cars that approached the main entrance being met by soldiers and security and then turning around and leaving. Some people appeared to have gotten out of their cars but it was too far to see what was happening as the people appeared to drive away.

She jumped in shock as she heard Jacobs voice behind her, "Sarah"

She turned to see her boss carrying a large plastic case about a meter long. It was dark grey and the look on his face was no longer neutral, he looked like the faces in the movies when people asked if someone had seen a ghost.

Jacob stepped close to Sarah, closer than was the proper and took her face in his hands. His fingers were freezing cold on her skin but for some reason she didn't want him to stop touching her. Human contact was something she suddenly wanted more than anything and she wished it was permitted for him to just hug her and tell her everything was going to be ok.

"Sarah my dear", he said in voice which sounded older than his 50 years, "Things are bad, very bad. They have ordered that anyone trying to get past the barricades is to be shot. No exceptions, infected or not, they are going to shoot people. People fleeing whatever is out there are going to be shot by their government for the crime of seeking safety. I can't stop that happening but I sure as hell am not going to be a part of it."

"But we are safe here aren't we?" Sarah asked, her need to be comforted growing as she heard the man she respected like a father sound dead inside.

With a sigh Jacob replied, "To be honest, I don't think so. The reports from outside aren't good. Samuel in security told me that whatever this is, everywhere is being overrun and they have lost contact with just about everywhere. If it was some sort of war, well you could say we are losing if not we have already lost"

"What can we do?" Sarah asked as she felt her bladder try to embarrass her.

"There's nothing I can do for me, if I try leave I will be shot for desertion, I am too recognisable. Some people tried to leave but were brought back at gun point," he continued.

"So we are screwed?" Sarah said, her voice betraying the tears that threatened. She silently scolded herself for weakness but the tears threatened anyway.

"If anyone is going to survive whatever this is they will have to be mobile and get to somewhere unpopulated until the initial panic and situation is over. I need you to do one last

thing for me Sarah and it's going to be the biggest and most dangerous thing I could ever ask of you. I need you to get out of here. I need you to get out and find Ally and take her to safety."

Sarah started into his eyes and saw in them Jacobs fear for his daughter, the sadness of a man who knows he is condemned. She saw in the depths of those brown eyes the man who had been divorced a year before and had buried the loneliness under his work and his love for his daughter.

Throwing protocol out of the window and knowing if anyone saw it she would be fired she hugged him. She threw herself into her bosses' arms and clung onto him. With the world ending around her she figured getting fired was the least of her worries.

They stood there clinging to each other, drawing in the human contact they both so desperately needed. The young woman and the older man, not sexual just a burning need to feel the touch of another human being. Sarah felt conflicted as she drew in the contact. Jacob was a respected boss, a father like figure but also not unhandsome at the age of 50. The world was ending and this time the moisture she felt between her thighs was not from fear.

An age passed in which civilisations thousands of years old fell and they clung to each other. Finally Jacob pushed Sarah back and said, "Will you do it for me?"

Sarah caught her breath and replied quietly, "Yes, are you sure you can't get out?"

Jacob smiled wryly, almost ironically as the soldiers began taking positions as the barricades formed outside the window. "No, I have to stay so you can get out and take this to Ally."

Jacob smiled again, this time with some of the humour that had made Sarah glad she had him as a boss. He then his smile turned cheeky, "As much as I love your outfit today and think the skirt shows your bottom off to perfection it really isn't suitable for escaping the hordes." Opening the case he threw her a set of blue overalls and a black vest saying, "put this on."

Sarah picked up the overalls and noted they were a bit large. Her emotions were in turmoil and she was confused. She was just able to keep up with events in her mind and the rollercoaster of the physical contact had her lost. It took her a moment to realise they were federal police overalls.

Jacob then handed her a small backpack, in her state it took a moment to realise it was her cycling bag. Having her own bag in her hands broke the shock in her mind a little as she realised that Jacob had gone back to their office to get her things as well as find the case with the overalls.

"Could you close the curtains please" she asked Jacob as she began pulling items from the

cycling bag. Jacob attended to the task as she slipped her jacket off. He turned back and saw her unbuttoning her blouse and hurriedly turned his back.

See this Sarah laughed, the sight of her boss being prudish and slightly blushing emboldened her and with her own possessions in hand she felt more in control than since the alarm sounded, "I think that with whatever is happening decorum has probably flown out the window, it's ok to turn around. Now tell me what's going to happen next."

Jacob turned back and trying to not stare at the woman half his age as she undressed in front of him he said, "Ok, we are going to disguise you as a federal police officer. We go to the section of the barricade they are building closest to the car pool. Once there you make your way to the car pool and if I have to I will make some sort of distraction. I have a set of keys for one of the four wheel drives. It's in bay 12. The car pool is outside the barricades and since you will be going away from the barricade and look like one of the police you shouldn't be stopped. Get in the car and get out of here, take the back roads to Mount Stromolo and meet up with Ally.

"What do we do then?" Sarah asked as she reached behind her back to release her bra strap. *'Who cares if he sees my breasts'* she thought as she slipped the lacy item off and began putting her cycling sports bra on.

Jacob almost stuttered as he saw the bra come off and Sarah wearing only a skirt but quickly regained his train of thought, "Tell Ally to take you to my cousin Reece. Take the back roads and inland route and head north to Reece's place. He's a bit nuts but if anyone is going to weather this storm he is in the likely list."

Sarah repeated the plan back to Jacob as she slipped her shoes, skirt and stockings off. Realising her panties were more decorative than functional if she had to do what was needed she slipped them off and put her cycling pants on. Her mind wasn't on the room so she didn't realise she had just exposed her vagina to her boss. Jacob only smiled as he watched Sarah dressing and her face turn from scared to one that showed the young determined woman he had admired as his assistant.

Once Sarah was dressed Jacob then reached into the case and withdrew the final contents of the bag. Sarah just stared at the hand gun and rifle as Jacob handed them to her.

"Take these" he said. Sarah put the hand gun into the holster on the belt that came with the overalls and stood holding the rifle not really knowing what to do with it. Jacob put what Sarah guessed was extra ammunition into her cycling bag.

Jacob looked at Sarah and just said, "It's time, let's go. Try look like you belong."

“Wait!” Sarah almost shouted as Jacob reached the door. He turned and she rushed to where he stood, taking his face in her hands she kissed him. Sarah put all her hope and fear into the kiss finally stepping back she looked down at the floor and said, “Thank you for doing this.”

Jacob merely nodded and led the way out of the office and towards the exit nearest the car pool.