

CERTIFIED DREAMVALE

The Belmont secret

Written by Arabella Paul

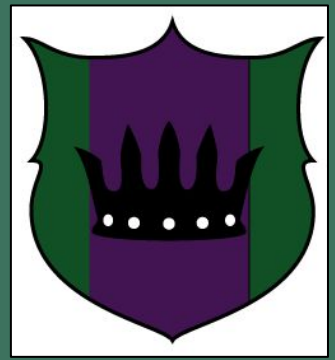
Name: Brooklyn/Brooke

Age:16-17

Species: Human/super human

Gender:Female

Home Planet: Earth



Personality Traits:

Is always late for everything, and doesn't put herself out there. Prefers to only talk to her friend. Can't swim. Loves to read. Sarcastic, and doesn't take a lot seriously.

Abilities:

- Extremely increased agility (Like Spiderman).
- Increased senses
- Intelligent
- Mind manipulation
- Can go invisible but only while holding breath

Dream(s): Finding her father.

Fear(s): Drowning. Big loud spaces.

Quote:

"Fear is just a mindset, so just don't think about it."

Backstory: There was a war with "Gifted people" who destroyed the earth until the government killed them all off, then the world later rebuilt itself splitting into hundreds of districts. Her father is gifted, so is she but doesn't tell anyone.



Planet Description. Earth but different dimension: The planet is Earth but not quite the same. There is much more land that's taken over the sea. And the oceans have turned a clearer light tealish color because they're clean. But the land itself is almost fully covered in greenery. And many more moons have formed around it.

City/Country Description:
(Old Maryland) Places were represented in districts. She lives in district 27. Next to the old Paradise park (A amusement park that shut down.) West Cambridge, Maryland to be exact.



Political Climate / History: After the world went to war, lots of the land was destroyed. Since then, the world has been over-run with greenery. People rebuilt after a few years, but not all places have laws. A monarchy formed in most places (The Belmont family is who is in charge of district 27.) There are very few rules among the people, but people have to treat the Belmont family differently. Kids 16 and younger must go to school, and you must not leave the district without permission.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: I like to visit the old amusement park. It is about a 10 minute walk from my house and is overgrown but also very quiet. But when I can't go there I like to read.



Q: What is your favorite delicacy to enjoy, unique to your planet?

A: During the war gummy bears stopped being made, but they are my favorite candy ever and I would kill for a bag.

Q: What would you do if you suddenly came upon your planet's equivalent of one million Earth dollars?

A: I would use it to help my town. Most things are run down and broken. I would also use it to pay the Belmont family for food and supplies (People must get all their resources from the Belmont family because they told not everything is clean and safe)



Q: What's one time you used an ability of yours to get out of a sticky situation?

A: The first time I found the amusement park I would spend hours there but I later learned that every Wednesday at 3:00 a team of the Belmont family Guard would patrol the park. I was sitting in the old Ferris wheel cart when I heard people talking. So I scaled the wheel till I was at the top but they saw me and started climbing but as one got to the top I was able to get into his mind and stop him from climbing.





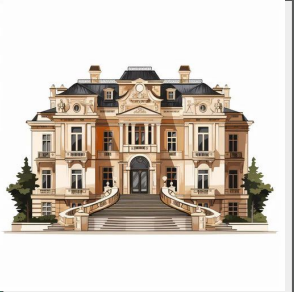
Chapter One: Bigger picture

Brook wakes up for school but is running late so she cuts through the woods, but a surprise awaits her.



Chapter Two: Paradise Park

She travels to a old abandoned amusement park, but there are guards from the royal family already there.



Chapter Three: Father troubles

Theodore hints at some major news about her father, but to make it up to her he brings her to the belmont family estate.



Chapter Four: Rule breaker

They make there way through the estate were they find the queen who knows Brooks secrets.



Chapter Five:Code black

Theodore shows her a tape from another distinct, it explains the dangerous situation her father is in.



Chapter Six: The fine line

Theodore brakes into Brooks house in order to find a way to find her father.



Chapter Seven: Belmont's secret

Theodor reveals a secret he has been hiding for a long time while they try and find where exactly her father is being kept.

Chapter One: Bigger picture



The room is dark, and a cold breeze brushes across my feet from the door in front of me. I look down but it's not me, it's a boy, his pants torn to shreds and his feet covered in blood, I can feel it like I had just stepped on a bed of nails. I hear a ringing in my head, it sounds like an alarm going off, It won't stop. I try and move but my hands aren't mine, but why can I feel them? Then I see it, the door opens and a light beams through so bright it burns, My eyes shut.

When I open them again I am no longer in the cold dark room, a light blares through the blinds on the window. I turn away, but then I hear my mother call me.

"Brook can you please get down here." my mom yells from the stairs.

"In a minute Mom" I yell back half asleep.

"It's almost time to leave for school," she yells a little louder, my eyes grow wide as I throw off my covers jumping off the bed quickly but not getting far before tripping on some dirty clothes. As I fall onto the cold hardwood floor I let out a small yelp.

"Come on Brook stop messing around up there." She says walking up the stairs

I quickly shake it off and make my way to my dresser, I throw on my uniform grab my toothbrush, and start brushing my teeth with my kid's mint toothpaste while also brushing my hair.

"Mom I don't have time to braid my hair can you help me!" I say

"I have to leave for work, I can't." she says annoyed.

I give out a loud grunt as I stub my toes on the bed frame

Crud!" I yell as I hold my toe

"Young lady we do not swear in this house." My mom yells as she walks past my room in a rush."

I said crud!." I yell back as grab some socks and slip them on then my black combat boots. "Brook let's go!"

I grab my bag and fly down the stairs on the railing.

"What did I say about going down the stairs like that, It's not a slide," she says handing me my lunch

"Sorry, Mom I know." I grab my lunch and fly out the old rusty door that sits barely on its hinges "Love you, Mom." I say looking at my watch, shoot only 15 minutes there is no way I will make it.

My feet come to a stop and I look around, I'll have to take a shortcut. I quietly slip into the woods making sure nobody sees me. I start to run through the woods stepping over logs and puddles but before I make it to the other side of the woods that lay behind the school, I hear a shake in the bush to the left of me, I slowly come to a stop but before I can take in we're the sound is coming from a shadow appears behind me. I feel a hand on my shoulder and another hand on my arm I feel them pushing me down toward the ground, but before they can push me to the ground I feel a surge of what can't tell is fear or adrenaline pulling me forward as I place my hand on the person's arm and place my legs below me so I can stop the fall and push them backward pinning them to the ground as I grab my old rusted pocket knife from my backpack and hold it out to the side off me, I knew that I would never really use it but I didn't want this person to know.

As the light shines through the trees and settles on the person's face I can finally make out what they look like. It was a girl, she had long light blonde hair with 2 blue stripes at the front with thick bangs on both sides of her face, one longer than another, she had dark green eyes but they almost glow because of how the light hits them, around her eyes is a small line of black eyeliner with a small wing on both eyes. Her lips are covered with a light gloss that glimmers in the sun.

"How do you always win!" the girl says I give a small chuckle as stand up reaching out a hand to help her.

"I heard you from a mile away," I say smirking at the girl.

"I think you have some kind of 6th sense, there is no way you heard me." she gives me a small playful punch on the arm and brushes off the sticks and leaves that stuck to her dark green cotton blazer. If only she knew she was right, I did, I knew she was there minutes before she lunged at me, but I would never tell her that.

"You were running late again."

"How did you know?" She looks down at my shoes, I look down to, and I realize, one white sock and one black. "Oh, right."

"So." the girl starts

"Is today anything special." she looks at me with a smile

"Well depends is today March 4th?" I ask with a smirk

"It sure is!" She says

"Well then, I believe this belongs to you." I pull something out of my backpack pocket, it's a small box no bigger than my hand, It's covered in a dark purple wrapping paper and a light purple silk bow placed perfectly on top. She quickly snags it from my hand and rips off the wrapping paper. She slowly opens the box dropping the top of the box, A smile forms across my face and I try my best not to smile with her

"Happy Birthday Riley"

Chapter Two: Paradise park



I watch as she places the bracelet on her wrist, the sun reflects off the gold chain, and the purple stone shimmers in the light.

“How...where?” Riley stutters

“I have my ways,” I smirk

We step out of the woods and walk up to the old stone brick school, my hand wraps around the cold brass door handle and I pull hard. I hold the door open and step to the side.

“My lady,” I say bending over

“Oh, why thank you.” She says in a mocking British accent

I closely follow her tightly shutting the door behind me. We enter a dark hallway pipes and spiderwebs line the walls and ceiling we quickly jog to the end of the hallway but, as we turn the corner I figure steps out from the shadow

“Hey, Mr. Rogers.” I say with a smile, a old man steps out smiling toward me.

“You really should not be walking through the woods you know, it’s not a safe place.” he speaks in a raspy voice

“I know, I know.”

“We won’t do it again.” Riley walks out from behind a wall

“Sure you won’t.” Mr Rogers glairs

“Aren’t you supposed to be cleaning something, go do your job old man,” I smirk

“Oh be quiet I ain’t that old, no get on out of here before I get into any trouble.” Mr. Rogers waves us off and continues down the hall the opposite way. We dash to a door on the other side of the room. I creep the door open and slip my phone out with the camera on.

“All clear.” I whisper swinging the door open and Riley follows.

We quietly make our way upstairs and make our way to a door, beside the door are the number 183. I walk inside and make eye contact with an adult in the room.

“Ms Davies, nice to see you decided to show up.” The woman glares

“I presume that’s miss Hayes cowering behind you.”

I look behind me Riley pops her head out behind me giving a small wave. She could break any law in the book but never fails to cave when it comes to authority figures.

“Well come on get to your seats ladies.”

“Yes Mrs.Bates.” Riley runs to her seat

I pull out another box, this one is bigger white with a light green stripe all around it, I open it and hand it to Mrs Bates. A big fluffy donut with a glossy chocolate glaze and solid white sprinkles.

“I think I owe this to you.”

Her eyes widen as she grabs the box

“You really do know the way to my heart Ms.Davies, Now get to your seat.”

I smile and skip to my desk in the back corner.I plop down setting my bag to the left of my chair and look to my right.

Riley glares at me but doesn't say anything, I know what she is thinking but she also knows I won't tell her the truth.

The bell rings and we walk down the hallway until we eventually part ways, As she walk down the hall I enter a door to the right and walk to a front desk and place my bag down next to me.

“Excuse me!”

I look up, in front of me there is a girl, Blonde hair pulled back into a tight slick ponytail that sits right on top of her head.

“I need to sit there.”

I look over to the right of me and I understand why, next to me is Theodore Belmont, next in line for the family name, his hair is blonde and flows down to his ears and is slightly shaved on the sides almost like a mullet but now weird. He looks over to me and I turn to the girl again.

“Sorry, Lila didn't realize you were sitting here.” I tried to make it sound as sarcastic as possible but she still didn't get the hint

“Oh it's fine everyone makes mistakes.” “Now please make it quick I need to talk to my brother.”

I sigh as I grab my backpack to move a seat behind me, Lila starts to talk to Theodore. I put in my headphones and turn on my music. The class ends and I move from class to class.

“Finally.” I say whisper to myself “Lunch”

I walk towards the lunchroom, but right before I enter it I look around making sure nobody is around and dart to the back door were I entered and fly quickly into the woods before anyone could see. Once I don't see anyone around I take my chance I cut through the woods like a blade to skin, until I come to a halt in front of me it sits just as I left it everything perfectly still no sound or person in sight.I look up at the old Roller Coaster rides, and the old game stands with stuffed animals still hanging around them.

I sigh as I take a step into the old Paradise Island Amusement Park and make my way through the streets covered in old trash and broken toys. I make my way to the Ferris wheel and climb to the top. I've done it dozens of times but still, it amazes me how easily I could do it, ever since I was a kid things like this were easy, my dad always said I was special, but that was an understatement as I got older and older weirder and weirder things happened.No body knows because if they did...I would be dead.

Once at the top, I looked up, the sun perched perfectly on the mountain as the clouds circled through the air, it was magical, beautiful. I sit up there for a while longer before I realize I have to go back but as I trickle down the ferris wheel with ease I hear something, someone, multiple. I was used to officers of the Belmont family patrolling the amusement park grounds from time to time but they never went this far into the park.

I sprinted toward a old ring toss game stand and dove inside. I backed up against a wall making sure it was opposite direction of where the voices were coming from, as they get closer I could finally make out words.

"This place is creepy, I don't know why they haven't torn it down yet." One officer says

"Ugh, it's disgusting to." the other one chuckles

I hear them turn away, but as I am about to get out the back door one of them speaks.

"At least it's not as bad as District 18."

I freeze in my tracks, 18 is normally beautiful, one of the most populated districts in the world, but it was also where my father lived, so why were they saying this about District 18, what happened? I sat and listened, but the voices started drifting away, I wanted to know more, I had to know more. I walked out of the old stand and towards the voices. Once I turned the corner of the old corn dog stand there they were, tall, with a black mask covering both their faces, they were definitely working for the Belmont family.

The one on the right spoke "Oh yeah I heard about that, it was one of them "Gifted" people."

"Yeah he destroyed the whole districts, and killed thousands of people in minutes." The other one replied.

"And to think, they were supposed to be dead."

I've heard of these people "The Gifted Ones" During the war people started developing unique abilities, they were destructive, and this made these people saute after, they were seen as weapons. So a few years after the war began they were all killed off, and mass murders all around the world hundreds dead in just a few weeks. Of course, people knew it was impossible that they were all dead, but one hadn't been seen in years, until now.

"Did they catch him?" The right one asked

"Nobody saw him get caught, he just kind of disappeared."

What did they mean by disappeared, do they mean that the man left? I need more information. I inched closer, but then I felt it, the tip of my shoe hit something, I didn't have enough time to react before it already happened, a cup, it flew into the walkway.

"WHO'S THERE"

"COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP." one yells

I can feel my heart beating out of my chest. I can hear them get closer but all I can do is stand there if I run then they are going to shoot me, if I don't I get caught, a thousand words, ideas, and worries race through my head so fast I can't think. As they turn the corner I hold my breath bracing myself for what's to come, but it doesn't I see them in front of me but they don't do anything.

"Huh thought I heard something."

"Was probably just a bird."

They walk away but I can't move. What just happened? Why didn't they see me? I look at my hands, nothing. My hands are not there, I can feel them but there not there. I take a deep breath trying to take in what I was seeing but when I looked back down, there were my hands the purple nails and the silver ring sitting on my middle finger.

"What the!" I whisper under my breath

The men are long gone but I still stay quiet. I can feel myself still shaking from the encounter with the men. But as I inspect my hands I catch a glimpse of my watch, I freeze, 12:23. I bolt through the amusement park passed the stands and the rides, I quickly make my way through the woods.

"UGH!" I yell

I feel the dirt in my palms and look back to see an old log, of course, all times to be clumsy it has to be now. I get up and brush the dirt off my palms, but before I start to move again a stinging sensation pulses through my leg, when I look down I see blood dripping from my knee. I have to keep moving I can't be late, I ignore the blood on my knee and weave through the trees.

Once I get to the door I yank it open and run through the old halls. I open the door to my classroom and everyone looks at me and freezes, I am always late they shouldn't be surprised at this point. I strut to my desk and sit down in the only open seat in the class.

"So..." I hear a deep voice beside me

I turn my head to look at the person who is speaking to me... Theodore.

"You gonna explain the blood."

"What blood?" I ask

But before he can answer I remember my knee, I stare watching the blood soak into my sock.

"Here." Theodore hands me a tissue

"Oh, thanks" I take the tissue from his hand and wipe the blood off my knee.

"So now that I helped you, you half to tell me what happened."

I smirk "Is that a demand, your highness."

"Ha Ha, you're so funny." he turns away annoyed but I know that he could care less about my smart remarks.

"Now for real, what did you do this time."

I can tell he knows the answer

"I tripped."

"On what?"

"A log," I said in a monotone voice

"So, you were in the woods again."

"Maybe." I turn away from him

He inhales and lets out a deep sigh.

"I told you to be careful whenever you're in there."

"It was just a log, it could happen anywhere."

His face was more serious at this point, his eyes like daggers stabbing into my soul.

"You know that's not what I mean." He looks me dead in the eyes.

He is talking about the "Gifted Ones" People said they took refuge in dark places like the woods but nobody has ever seen one, Theodore still hates me going in the woods just because of the possibility, and now with a "Gifted One" being spotted a few districts over. The "Royal" families are always the first to hear about these incidents so there is no doubt in my mind that he is already aware of what happened in district 18.

"So you know." I respond

"Of course, I do it's my job to know." he looks back up at the teacher "How do you know?"

I froze, I made a mistake, I was not supposed to know about what happened in district 18.

Those kinds of things are always hidden from the public so it would be impossible for me to know.

"I..." I stutter.

I have no idea how I am supposed to save myself but from this, I could try and lie, but lies always come back to bite me in the but later.

"I overheard some guards talking about it."

"Hmm, interesting." the smile has now completely disappeared from his face.

I think about what I could say but there is nothing to say, guards are never supposed to talk about what happens in other districts unless given instructions from the royal family.

"So I suppose you also know about your father."

I stop writing, what does he mean by my father, the guards never said anything about my father.

I clench my jaw, "What do you mean."

I see the expression on his face change, he is no longer calm, and his eyes widen

"Oh... it was nothing."

The bell rings and he throws all of his stuff in his backpack. I feel a shiver run down my spine...what did he mean by that, what was happening with my father. When I finally broke out of my trance I dashed through the halls weaving in between other kids til I made it down the stairs. Theodore is standing by his locker surrounded by his friends. I can't... not in front of his friends, I felt like I could explode if I went over there and imploded who knows what they would think of me. But I can't just leave it at that, I have to know what he meant. I stand there for another few seconds before we lock gazes, his eyes filled with a kind of sorrow like he was sorry for me, what did he know, what was he not telling me?

Chapter Three: Father troubles



“Hey!”

I break eye contact with Theodore to look behind me.

“Whatcha doin.”

My brain unfogs enough to focus on the person behind me. Riley stands there red paint covering her face in different patterns.

“Did Elmo attack you or something,” I smirk

“What’s an Elmo?” Riley asks

“Nothing Riley,” I reply

Riley has never had TV, only a few survived the war and they could only play what was saved.

I turn back to Theodore but he’s not there.

The bell rings and I make my way to my locker, but he keeps lingering in my head what he said, I can’t just forget about it. I walk towards the Main entrance but as I exit a black SUV drives in front of me, the royal family. They are the only ones who have these nice of cars, or cars at all.

I sit there for a second before the passenger's seat door opens and a middle-aged man in a thick black suit and a Purple tie. I recognize him as one of Theodore’s bodyguards. He walks over to the backseat door and swings it open. I stare inside the seats covered in dark purple velvet, and Theodore, he’s sitting there with a guilty smile on his face. I want to speak but I know that now would not be the right time. I wait for him, he sits there staring at me I glare back, he knows what he owes me, answers.

“Are you gonna get in or just sit out there and stare at me?”

“What if I don’t want to get in?” I remark

“Well, then I will have to arrest you and talk to you while you're in a cell.”

I look around before making any moves, everyone is staring at me, they all want to see what I do. I step forward and hoist myself into to seat next to him.

“Happy?” I glare

“Very.” He smirks

He faces forward and speaks to his driver, I can’t quite hear what he says but I can only assume we are heading to the Belmont Family Estate. We start to move, as we travel through the streets people watch as we pass, they wave and yell. Everyone loves Theodore, he is their hire, after all, soon-to-be king, Not to mention he’s not to bad looking either, which as he explains is a curse rather than a blessing.

As we near the Estate he finally speaks.

“ Make sure to wipe your feet.”

That’s it rage fills my head but I keep it from flooding to my face, after what he said about my father all he can say is “Make sure to wipe your feet.”, sometimes he makes no sense to me.

The car comes to a halt and Theodore's door opens first then my door opens soon after, I step out of the car and greeted by a lady, her hair is short and brown and she is wereing a black dress that goes down to her knees.

“Welcome Brooklyn.” she smiles “Welcome to the Belmont family estate.”

“Oh Thanks but you can just call me Brook.”

She nods and opens the door allowing me in.

“Thank you Clarisse.” Theodore says walking passed me throught the doors, I follow.

Chapter Four: Rule breaker



Most people can't say they have been in the Belmont Estate, but I can, a few years back I tutored Theodore, I would come over every Saturday and we would study together. But when he stopped needing tutoring we continued to talk, he tried to get me to visit his estate but I refused, His aunt was never very fond of me neither was his sister so I new that it would be best to stay away when I could.

As we walk through the doors I look down a big carpet, *I remember now, the rules*. Theodore had taught me the rules of the house but most of them had slipped from memory." *Don't forget to wipe your feet.*" I know why he said this now, I would always forget to wipe my feet it was a joke between us.

The room feels bigger than I remember, more grand and elegant than before. The walls lined with black borders and a dark blueish purple wallpaper, *the family colors*. It all seems so new, yet nothing has changed, the Hyacinth flowers still in full bloom inside white vases, *his mothers favorite*, the long rugs running through each corridor, everything still exactly were i remember it.

I hear the clicking of heels coming from in front of me, the sound echoes through the space, I look up, I browned haired lady in a long glamorous gown, silky black laced in gold. *Aunt Rose*. I watch as she slowly makes her way down the white marbled stairs and stops right in

“Mrs. Davies” her tone is light and ruff all at the same time its sturn and controlled,*Just as I remember.*

“Ms. Adair.” I bow my head

“Actually it's Mrs.Madden.” she glares

She holds out her hand, a big sparkling diamond sits on her finger.

“Oh sorry, congratulations.” I strike a glare at Theodore.*He couldn't have mentioned this to me before I met her!* She just smirks and walks forward.

“Hello Aunt Rose.” He bows his head

“Hello Theodore.”

“We were just heading to the library.”

The library, the most beautiful place in this house personally.

“Well go on then.” she sends us off with a wave of her hand.

Once I was sure we got far enough away I jabbed my hand into his side.

“Really! You didn't think to mention she had gotten married!” I whisper scream

“I thought it would be a nice surprise, she loves to prove people wrong.”

“She already hates me as it is, she doesn't need another reason.”

“She doesn't hate you, she just...” I glare at him waiting for a response

“Ok well maybe she does hate you, but that's not the point.”

“Well it still would have been nice to know.” I mumble.

It seems like forever before we reach the library, he places his hands on the gold plated handles and swings the door open letting me in first.I step inside and pause.The 20 foot walls covered head to toe in bookshelves filled with every book you could imagine, the skylight giving a clear view of the cloudy sky the floors is covered in the same milkshake and pizza stained floor and the silky bean bags,*we used to sit in those all the time.*I feel a smile begin to creep up the corner of my mouth as I look to the left of me.The green room filled with all of his mothers flowers, and his mother watering and trimming every single one.

"Mrs. Belmont!" I say just loud enough for her to hear.

She turns towards me and smiles, she places down her clippers and spray bottle and I put down my backpack and jog over to her. She embraces me in a hug and I gratefully accept it.

"Hello dear Brooklyn." her voice is light and soft and a tear runs down her face as she looks at me.

"It's so good to see you again." Her voice stiffens up quickly, *she was never one for feelings*, she glares towards Theodore.

"It's not his fault he tried -" she interrupts me before I can finish.

"Well not hard enough, he can demand an army but can't get a girl to come say hello to his mother."

"Well Mother." he starts "It's harder than you think." he glares

"Well, I am just glad you're back now." she wraps me in another hug before walking over to her greenhouse.

"So, Brook what have you been up to?"

"Oh nothing really, I fixed up my bike." I smile

"That's not what I mean." Her eyes glared in my direction

I look over to Theodore but he refuses to look at me.

"Theodore, what is your mother talking about?"

He knows something, and so does his mother, what else is he not telling me?

"I heard that you have taken a liking to the forest." she raises an eyebrow but doesn't look at me.

She knows? I haven't told anyone other than Riley and-

"Theodore."

"Listen Brook she is my mother, I mean how could I not." His eyes fill with regret, he refuses to look me straight in my eyes.

"I trusted you with my secret and you snitched on me," I whisper in his direction.

He knew if anyone knew then I could be removed from the district, put in jail, killed.

"Don't worry Brook." I turn back to Mrs. Belmont "You're not in trouble."

"I'm not?" "But It...it's against the law, there are serious consequences."

"Well if you would like to, I could find a punishment." She smirks

"No!" "Please, No."

"But you have to be careful, if your are caught by any of my staff, than I will have to give you serious consequences."

"Yes, mam."

"Now get out of here I have to care for my plants in peace."

"Yes, mother of course." Theodore bows his head

The doors shut behind us and Theodore starts to walk back towards the entrance. Nothing, he has nothing to say?

“Really!?” I shout but before I can get another word out I feel a hand cover my mouth, Theodore looks back at me and then down every hall.

"Not here." He whispers.

I feel his other hand grab my wrist as he swiftly pulls me upstairs. As we march through the halls he doesn't look back once, I don't know why but I want him to look at me I want him to look me in the eyes like he used to, but something is different now it's almost like he hates me, I thought I wouldn't care, but I do.

Eventually, we end up at a door, he pulls a handle and he pulls me inside and locks it. I turn around and look at the door, two handprints one pink and one green *This is his room*. Not even a second later I am pulled again.

“Can you stop it with the pulling me everywhere, I know how to walk.” I pull my hand away from his grip.

"Oh, sorry." He doesn't waste any more time apologizing and he walks over to a big wooden desk.

That's different. I take a minute to look around, not a lot has changed in the past years, more books and paperwork everywhere. I look back at Theodore and he is crouched down at the edge of a old rustic rug under the desk. He lifts up the edge and pulls something from underneath but I didn't get a good enough look. He places the rug back into its original position.

"Let's go." He is more demanding than before, he walks over to a tall bookshelf and grazes over a row of books before stopping in front of one, its Black with dark blue details, *the title*. I stop to look at the book *Peter Pan and Wendy*. Memories flood in of the nights in the library and the days exploring the estate.

“Brook!” I was so focused on the book that I didn't realize the bookshelf to the left of it was now away from the wall exposing a dimly lit staircase leading downwards.

"Yeah No, not going down there." I step backward but without warning Theodore pushes me forward and closes it quickly then walks past me.

"What the hell Theodore!" I yell

“ Shush.” He holds a finger to my mouth then turns back around and walks down the stairs.

“Don't shush me.” I follow him down.

Chapter Five: Code black



At the bottom there is a room, I recognize the room as a old radio room, Back during the war they were used to communicate between districts. I was surprised it was still in tacked, I was even more surprised when it turned on. I loud static sound filled the room as Theodore fiddled with the big machine.

I walk over to the radio, *This looks familiar?* I walk over to the side of it and open a big metal panel.

"Don't touch anything." Theodore demadads

There is wires running through every part of the panel. I don't know what came over me but I started to move the wires around and eventually found a switch. I flipped it upwards and the static stopped.

"What did you do?" Theodore asked

"I'm not exactly sure." I look over at him as he grabs a old tape.

"That looks like its from the jurassic period." I remark

"Would you believe that it's only from two days ago."

I walk over to where he is standing and he inserts the tape, there is a short silence in the room before a voice starts to form.

"Hello, can anybody hear us," The voice pauses for a minute *"I am officer Minks from district 18, we had a code Black, I repeat a code black."*

Code Black? I have I feeling I know what they mean by code Black.

"The Minister is dead along with 1,582 others killed or injured." the voice pauses again, the voice is broken and worn out but he still continues *"Dis...District 18 has fallen."* As soon as he finishes that sentence my heart drops, A district hasn't fallen since... since the war.

The war, I was only 5 years old when it started. In our history book we were told that the gifted ones attacked first, the other countries thought we had sent them there on purpose, so they fought back used the gifted people against us as weapons. We soon followed forcing them to fight for us, Towns, cities, states, even countries destroyed. This led to anarchy, cities and towns fighting each other. The whole world went to shambles, some of the world still is broken. In order to stop the war, the people of the United States decided the gifted ones were the problem, so they and other countries around the world killed them off, sent them into hiding. The war had ended after this, but the government didn't want to fix our country so they left us as we were. We rebuilt, found new ways of living, created the districts and monarchy, and after about 7 years the world was, for the most part back to normal.

After I had time to take in what he had just said I looked back at Theodore, his face was like a rock no emotion. The radio crackled.

“The threat was neutralized, we have identified the threat as Vincent Davies.”

I practically feel my heart drop in my chest, his words repeat in my chest again and again. *Vincent Davies. My father, a threat?* He couldn't even put down our dog when he was too sick to even walk, he would never do that to all those innocent people. I feel a hand on my shoulder but I don't bother looking, seeing Theodore's face, I don't need his pity. Every thought races through my head, there all so loud.

I feel a tear run down my cheek but can will myself enough to wipe it, I haven't cried in years, there was never anything to cry about, but this, I just couldn't stop myself.

Next thing I know I am back in the velvet covered seats of the car but, no Theodore. The door next to me opens and I step out my mother stands there greeting the driver then looks at me. Her smile is spread across her face. I can't do this to her, after what happened when dad left, I...I couldn't bring myself to tear her apart again. I force a smile on my face and walk towards her and the black SUV leaves.

“Brooke!” she is practically jumping for joy, “I am so happy your back.” she embraces me in a hug, but my heart hurts.

Chapter Six: Fine line



My bedroom is just as I left it, clothes on the floor and old kids figures line the walls.

“Hey sweetie, If your hungry there is leftover pizza in the fridge.” She pops her head into my room

“I'm not that hungry but thanks mom.”

I hear her footsteps drift further down the hall, my legs begin to feel weak. I shut the door and collapse on my bed. I can't seem to get the recording out of my head, his voice permanently engraved in my head, the sorrow and pain he felt, and all of it caused by my father.

The next morning my mom walk in early.

"Brooke I know it your day off but you still have to get up at some point."

Words can escape my mouth so all I can do is make a grumble sound.

“Well” she opens my curtains up wide but I am already engulfed in my blanket.”I have to go to work and I will be back later tonight.” I feel a small kiss on my forehead then the sound of the front door closing.

Was it a dream? The memories flood in but they don't feel real, or maybe I just don't want them to be real. I stand up my legs still a little shaky, but before I even get a chance I open my eyes fully and loud bang comes from downstairs followed by the sound of footsteps.I reach for my knife but its not there *My backpacks downstairs!* I grab my comb and hold it furmly in my hand as I push the door open.I quickly make my way to the bathroom closer to the stairs before hearing a voice, its meurmerd but I can still

Identify it as male. *There in the kitchen.* I make my way down the stairs and into the dining room. the voice is clearer now but still undetectable. I look around the corner a man about 6 feet, he is turned around so I can tell what his face looks like. *Do it now.* My feet propel me forward and I grab on to him and flip him forward on to his back. I hold my comb to his trough but as soon I it touches his neck I hear something metal behind my head. *A gun.*

I close my eyes expecting to be dead within the next second but I am not inside I hear the voice.

“Hughes don't!”

This voice it's familiar I open my eyes and they narrow, Theodor.

I slow my heavy breathing “What the hell theodor!”

“Hey cookie.” *That name. That was his nickname for me, there was no reason behind it just for the pure fact it rimed.*

“You could have just knocked!” I hoist myself off of him and shoot a glare to the man behind me still holding a gun.

“I am the prince, I don't have to knock.” he brushes off his suit and walks over to what I can only assume is his bodyguard and whispers something. Whatever he said made the man leave and it was just me and Theodore in the kitchen.

“Why are you here.” I pick my comb off the floor and place it on the counter.

“Better question, where did you learn to do that.” he smiles.

“I didn’t do anything, you just don’t have enough balance.”

“What is that supposed to mean?” he asked following me into the dining room

“It means I practically pushed you over.” I exclaim

I hear him huff behind me “So, aren’t you gonna ask why I am here.”

“I could not care less.” I roll my eyes

“Well would you care more if I told you it was about your father.” he steps in front of me forcing me to acknowledge him.

“Not really.” I step around him and make my way up the stairs

“Now get out of my house.”

“What if I told you he is still alive.” He grabs my wrist forcing me to stop mid step, “And that I know where he is.” I look him in the eyes, there sure...he’s not joking.

I rip my hand from his grip and dash upstairs, I hear him sigh as I close my room door. I rip my wardrobe open and grab a black shirt and some old worn light blue jean shorts. I quickly throw my hair up into ponytail, put on some mascara. When I open the door again Theodore is gone, I hear a faint car rumble and I quickly run down the stairs grab my phone and fly out the door.

In front of me is a black SUV, I open the car door and jump inside without a word.

“Thought you weren’t coming.” He remarks

“I never said that.” I smile.

Chapter 7 Belmont's secret



We enter his room for the second time, this time he goes to his closet.

“You coming.” He stated

“Yeah right behind you.” I responded

His closet is huge, covered in clothes and accessories. When I walk over to him he has already pushed a rack of clothes and a dark room appears behind him.

“Since when is there so many secret rooms in your room.” I glare

“Always, just never used them.” He smiles

When I walk into the room its dark, Theodore flicks on a light.

“He's here.” he pauses “I don't know how he got here but he is here.”

“W...what do you mean he's here” I take a step towards him
“Like in the estate.”

“I think so.” He responds

I raise my voice “You think!”

“Well I know my family has something to do with him.” he sits down in a big velvet chair.”But I just don't know what.”

I feel my heart speed up “How is a gifted on who killed a entire district be here and you not know!?”

“The same way nobody else knows about you!” he shouts.

“What do you mean, about me?” my mind starts to panic
does he know, I never told anyone, not even my mother.

“You really think I would not find out” his voice is calm again, “Come on cookie, I know you.”

I feel my heart rate speed up “I...I don't know what you mean Theodore.”

“Brook” his voice is stern but not demanding, he knows and there is nothing I can do to change his mind.

“How did you figure it out.” I feel my eyes start to water but hold my tears back.

“Your birthday 2 years ago, before you started ignoring me.”

“I wasn't ignoring you Theo I-” I feel my heart slow, I mind travels to my 14th birthday, it was just me and Theodore. We spent the whole night watching movies, and eating junk food. I go through the whole day but not once did I ever mention or do anything to hint that I was "Special"

“You stopped talking to me, you refused to come over to the estate again...” I hear him take a big breath. “I thought you hated me”

His voice, I haven't heard him like this since his father died. I did ignore him, I didn't want to look him in the eyes, but I never once hated him.

“That night...my 14th birthday, I'm missing something. There is something I am forgetting.”

“I...did something.” he pauses “I regretted it after but...I just had to know.” he sighs “I...I sort of drugged you.”

That's why I don't remember anything, that's what I am missing.

“There was something you were hiding from me and I just wanted to know.”

“You... you drugged me!?” My heart breaks, I feel like I am slowly falling.”How could you.” I can tell he sees the resentment in my eyes, I want him to know how much this hurts.

“I know... I know. You can hate me all you want but first things first we have to get your father.

I feel my voice drifting, i have so much I want to say but I know he is right.”Ok, first we have to find how he got in without you not knowing.”

Theodore lists every possible entrance.*The estate, 21 entrances in main house, 341 windows, 452 staff members total, 148 rooms, 786 cameras. There's is no way to get in or out without someone knowing.* So how did they get my dad in, and where are they hiding him.”



To be continued...