

Chapter 1

The world flickered before my eyes and I felt a bump on the back of my head.

I tried to stand and black spots shoved their way into my vision.

I looked around to see where I was and saw chairs thrown across the room and pictures smashed on the floor.

I staggered around trying desperately to find something to hold onto, then I saw something; a door, I staggered over, pushed it open, and breathed in fresh cold night air.

Even though I didn't know **who** I was or, **where** I was I knew I could survive.

With one problem, I hurt all over.

A burning sensation filled my head.

I dropped to my knees and saw pine needles strewn about on the hard dirt ground.

I was going to stay there until I died of hunger or thirst and then rotted, but...but something compelled me to get up, to run.

So that's what I did.

I ran until I couldn't run any more so I dropped to the ground in the middle of the cold road.

The burning sensation filled my whole body until I was sure I was going to explode.

I lay there on the ground trying and failing to get my breath.

The sky turned from black to crimson to red to pink and finally blue.

When I was sure I could stand I stood and kept running.

My plan was to run until I found civilization and then tell them my story, but then I realized how crazy my story sounded.

I mean seriously I woke up in the middle of a ransacked cabin with no idea who I was or where my family is.

They would probably just think I was some crazy person trying to disturb their peace.

I slowed down to a walk and call it fate call it destiny (I think it was that I was winded) I saw a sign by the side of the road that said "Detroit 1/4m".

I sighed and slowed down even more.

If I kept up at this pace I realized I would never make it by sunset.

"Hey little lady" a gruff voice surprised me "Whatcha doing out here in the middle of nowhere" a rough hand slapped my shoulder, I slowly turned around seeing an equally gruff man wearing a tattered, oil stained shirt and ripped and patched overalls. I looked up at his rough face; scrubby beard, sunken eyes, and graying hair.

"Answer me! What are you doing out here"

"I....I...." I thought about telling him my story, but what if he was just some crazy kidnapper, or worse what if he was **my** kidnapper, so I decided to tell a lie. "I was um...up here with my um...aunt? Yea aunt and she um...went to the store and um...and I saw an um...animal that was a skunk and it um...almost sprayed me?" It wasn't very convincing but I hoped this guy was dumb enough to believe it.

"Uh-huh..." he looked at me like he didn't believe the lie but dropped his hand anyway. I slunk away down the road, when I got a little further I realized I could have asked him if there was any towns nearby then I remembered the sign "Detroit 1/4m" I sped up to a run. I needed to make it to wherever Detroit was, maybe there was even somebody who would believe my crazy story, now including the gruff man.

Chapter 2

I had been running for an hour and finally saw a second sign "Detroit 1/8m" "I'm almost there" I repeated in my head, even though it wasn't helping I repeated it again, that's when I saw a ton of buildings, it was Detroit! I slowed down to take in the beauty of the setting sun behind the buildings. "Beautiful isn't it?" a voice said mockingly behind me, I whipped my head around, nobody "Detroit skylines, so pretty!" Now the voice was in front of me. I whipped my head back around to the front, nobody. The voice kept swirling around my head becoming a blur of color so hypnotic I had to sit or risk falling over. The blur became a sort of shell around me and all I heard was a high-pitched cackle. The noise subsided into a lulling noise and I fought to keep my eyes open, but realizing how little sleep I got, I let them close.

I woke up in a small white room with tubes in my head. I tried to sit up but my neck, arms, and legs were strapped to a metal bed. The tubes were gushing something red, with a start I realized that it was my blood "Get these things off of me!" I screamed, while trying to pull off the tubes "Help, help me please! Anyone, help!" I twisted my head and two of the tubes popped off with a sickening sound. Even though there were two tubes still stuck in my head I didn't care, because at that moment a scrubby little man came in, "Well what do we have here?" he asked in a breathy little voice. I clamped my eyes and mouth closed hoping he would think I was still asleep. To late, he had seen the tubes and walked over to me. "Yippee another test subject!" He said clapping his hands together like a three year old who just got the best present ever. "I haven't gotten a

test subject in three years!" I didn't know what the heck a test subject was but I was guessing it wasn't to good. Mr. Scrubby as I called him skipped out of the room gleefully again like a three year old. I gave my head a jerk and the last two tubes popped off. Right when the last tubes popped off the bed sank into the floor with a squeaking noise and the straps retreated into the metal bed. The bed thudded to the ground sending a jolt through my whole body "Stand up!" a little voice commanded "Stand up!" I looked down at the little person-no elf that was commanding me "Awww look at Santa's little helper!" I crooned, his face turned red "I am not Santa's little helper!"

"Whatever."

"O.K. now follow me!"

"Whatever."

"What does whatever mean?"

"Whatever."

"Here we are! The *test subject's* room"

"Whatever."

"Stop saying whatever!"

"Whatever."

"If you don't stop saying whatever I will kill you with my bare hands!"

he said jumping up and down "Whatever."

"Now you've done it!"

"Whatever." I said and when he ran at me I closed the door in his face. BANG the little elf ran into the hard metal door "Ow!" he moaned "Whatever." I said and sat down on my bed.

Hours Later...

I had sat on my bed for about three hours before I heard a knock on the door, this puzzled me because I would think Mr. Scrubby would like just walk in. "Knock, knock who's there?" a voice that was sharp as icicles and sweet as syrup at the same time said. "I'm coming in" the voice said. "I don't care!" I thought imitating the voice. The door creaked open and a woman that was half metal came in. "We're going to the lab now." She came over and grabbed my arm with her metal one slitting it open, then she pulled me down the rotting hall digging her thumb deep into my wound. I grit my teeth and kept going until we reached a sign that said >>>LAB<<< "We're here!" she said pulling me in. The lab smelled of rotten flesh (not a good sign), and cherry's (just plain weird). The woman pulled me over and strapped me to another metal bed and flipped a sign that said "The doc is out" over so it said "The doc is in" then she took a syringe and injected me with a sedative medicine that smelled strongly of cherries "Oh so thats why I smelled cherries" was my last thought before the drugs pulled me under.

When I woke up my head still felt heavy but I could sit up. I sat up and immediately realized where I was; in a white hospital room "Huh where am I?" I said "Oh your up!" said one of the helpers in white said "What happened?" I asked "Oh Lydia, your...how can I put this nicely? You have a mental problem that causes you to see vivid hallucinations" for some reason I felt that that didn't cover it but then I remembered the gash on my arm "Well then how did I get this" I said holding up my cut arm "Oh that, we had to drug you to perform the medical procedures and you jerked your arm causing

the needle to cut it" for some reason that didn't seem real either but the memories came flooding back, I was a mentally ill girl who experienced vivid hallucinations that sometimes felt so real that I went into a coma, the worst one had been two hours but I had experienced years. I could barely even guess how long I had been in a coma. "How long was I in a coma?" I asked the woman in white "Three weeks. We were just about to put you to sleep because we didn't think you would ever wake up."

"Oh." I hadn't expected that, I had thought that at the most I was in a coma for three days not three weeks.

Just then a woman came in that I recognized as my mom when she screamed my name through her tears "Lydia your up!" she sobbed then a little boy came bounding up and asked "Lydia can we play super heros?" I giggled "Sure Max" I said and messed up his hair something I remembered doing a lot "Hey!" he swatted at my hands grinning. Then his face turned serious "Where were you?" he asked "Well I was off in faraway lands battling with evil lord doofus" I said grabbing his super hero figures out of his hands and posing them for battle "but he hit me into a marsh where a met a water snake named Clyde and he brought me to shore where these people found me!" I lied "Wow!" Max wandered away daydreaming and walked into a wall "Ow" he moaned but mom was to busy squeezing me to care.

TO BE CONTINUED...