

Chapter 1: Dead Man Walking

December 15, 0000

2:00PM

The day was the same as any other Ryan had just woken up, and everyone else had been up for hours. They all rush out of the door in hopes of getting to the airport on time. Phill would be showing up late and taking a different plane the next day. Ryan goes to the living room and Phill hands him microwaved breakfast sausages as he is heading out the door. From upstairs, Ryan and Alex hear Sam yell “We're leaving in 10 minuets get ready quick.”

4:31PM

They had arrived at the airport an hour early, parking almost a mile away and began walking to the front gate. When they got to the gate, Alex noticed a few military personnel surrounding the perimeter of the airport, he decided not to say anything because he thought this was normal, but something in the air felt wrong, it felt dull, or thick, he was not sure.

4:41PM

They were now only a few people back in line, the larger group of people in the front threw all of their belongings onto the table for the mandatory check, and stepped through the gate. The metal detector buzzed. Ryan and Alex looked up to the front to see what was happening, and they both saw a man who seemed to be in his later 30s or 40s.

He was about 6 feet tall and very thin with pale white skin that almost looked gray, he had short dirty blond hair that looked like it has never been washed, and eyes that seemed lifeless, dark and gray with hints of faded blue or green, very tired eyes. He was wearing a deep blue hoodie with a zipper on the front and jeans that seemed a little too long to fit comfortably. He also had luggage in his hand, it looked like those ones business men carried, very cliché. He carried it on the left side of his body, away from the boys, it was hard to see. His appearance was very similar to Alex's. The guards did an intense search on the man and didn't find anything that could trigger the machine except for his belt, so they let them pass, all without a single word to be spoken from that man.

Chapter 2: The Fall

5:02PM

Everyone had passed the gate with no problems and finally got to sit down. Alex wandered off to get food, Ryan left with him, and Sam waited at the gate for both of them to return. Sam was staring out the window beginning to get lost in her own thoughts when someone sits on the chairs opposite of her. It was that man they saw at the gate before, Sam calmly turned her head to not look scared. And as she looked over at the man, she noticed that he was staring at her with a dead expression, the lifeless, dead eyes staring deep into her soul. Sam was unsure of what to do, so she turned back to the window and began to stare. This time she could not get lost in her thoughts, she could see the man in the reflection of the window, still staring at her.

5:05PM

Alex and Ryan were wandering off looking at all of the stores, they could not decide what to get. Alex saw the donut shop and told Ryan to “meet back here in 5 minutes, I'm gonna' wait in line, go get drinks or something.” Ryan agreed and he went off on his own. While he was exploring, he bumped into a person dressed in full military attire, like they were off to fight in a war. “My bad, I didn't see you there.” says Ryan, the person turns around and looks down at Ryan, in a very comforting and soft voice they jokingly say “oh! Hello, I guess my camouflage is really working, isn't it?” Ryan noticed that they were female, her badge read “CMD. ROSE” Ryan chuckled and apologized once again, the lady said “don't worry about it, you have a good one love.” Ryan thanked her and went back on his way, meeting back in the area they had planned, Alex arrived

late, and Ryan said “What took you so long?” Jokingly Alex said “fuck off.” with a little chuckle. They stayed near the shops for a little while longer before heading back to Sam around 5:15

5:19PM

Alex and Ryan returned with some snacks for the flight to come and saw the man staring at Sam, they ignored him and sat in the seats next to her. Ryan whispered to Sam “What is he doing?” Sam whispered back “I don't know, he just started staring and I'm scared.” Alex opens a drink he bought from the small store a few rows down and gives it to Sam. The man was still staring, but his legs began to shake and he seemed uneasy, more such than before. Sam tells the boys that they should all move seats and they agree, they stand up and the man stays. They moved to a seat 5 rows down behind the man so he could no longer stare. After 10 minutes or so, the man gets up and heads towards the restroom. He came out of the bathroom and seemed to be even more nervous as if he was hiding something. The man looked out the window for maybe 30 seconds, the sound of silence ringing through everyone's ears, all anticipating what may come.

-BANG-

5:32PM

A missed shot. The glass from the window shattered down as the silence faded into screaming and running, Sam firmly grasped the boy's wrists and began to duck and run. Sam tripped on abandoned suitcases and was cut by glass shards, she told Alex and Ryan to run, Ryan stayed while Alex sprinted faster than ever before, the shooter nowhere in sight, probably in the crowd.

-BANG-

Alex fell to the ground and he watched as the feet of hundreds ran past, he began to fade. The military guards rushed to him pushing through the crowd, guns aimed down and prepared to shoot. They got on the ground and made sure he couldn't move, then realised. They shot the wrong guy. They left one person with Alex who brought him to a medical room hidden from the public and treated for his wounds. Alex had gone completely unconscious.

Chapter 3: The Aftermath

Day 16

1:16AM

Nobody knew where Alex was or what had happened. Sam and Ryan had escaped with no major injuries and Phill was still clueless to what happened. Sam and Ryan were escorted to the hospital to be treated for their wounds, and Alex was said to arrive at 2:30 in the ER. Alex regains consciousness in an ambulance rushing down the freeway, he looks around to see 2 people, the military person and a what seemed to be a nurse. Alex's vision was blurry and he was in immense pain, the nurse notices that he has woken up and tends to him immediately. The soldier was sitting with their hands folded in their lap and their head down, Alex tried to speak but no words came out. He wanted to know who they were and thank them for saving his life. Before he could make out their image, he passed out on the blood stained bed once again.

1:47AM

Sam and Ryan have been asking around the hospital for a boy named Alex Issac. They heard from a person at the front desk that he would be arriving in the ER around 2:30. They were told that only family were allowed so even if they wanted to, there was nothing they could do to see Alex today, but they still waited for his arrival.

2:15AM

Alex has woken up only once after being shot in his stomach, the bullet had gone completely through his body, he was barely alive. The ambulance was arriving late because of major traffic on the freeway, because they were in an ambulance, the process was much faster than most but it delayed the time of arrival. The truck was very loud yet quiet, the small yet noticeable bumps of the road hitting the wheels 2 seconds, the various medical tools shifting with the movement of the truck, and the machines beeping to the pace of Alex's heartbeat.

2:31AM

Alex has arrived at the hospital and is rushed to the ER by a few nurses, the military woman tries to follow but is stopped at the front desk. Sam and Ryan were asleep in the waiting room and Phill had just got notice of what happened and left the house immediately rushing to the hospital.

Chapter 4: Sorrow

Day 16

5:30PM

Alex's heart was still beating, slowly but he was alive. The clock just struck 5:30 and he is in a steady state, meaning visitors are now allowed. Sam and Ryan had moved to be sitting outside Alex's room and Phill had arrived about 30 minutes ago, they all stared at the woman who was sitting across the hall from them dressed in a full military outfit, they were wondering who she was. "Excuse me ma'am?" asked Sam, "Who are you waiting for?" Everyone sat in silence for a moment, then she answered. "Commander Rose, I lead troop 37B. And I am waiting for the boy in that room." Everyone was confused on why she was waiting for Alex as well, so Phill asked "Why are you waiting for him? Are you related?" Rose told the story of why she was there, she said "during the incident at the airport I had accidentally shot him down, thinking he was the shooter. The description was almost perfect to the suspect, so I took the shot and rushed over." A tear was rolling down her face and her speech was becoming uneven and rough. "I had rushed him to a medical room in the building to treat him, but he passed out on the table. I sat with him in the ambulance coming here. He only woke once then passed out again... I am sincerely sorry." Sam tried to talk to her and calm her down, eventually the crying stopped and a nurse walked out of the room saying "guests are now allowed in, but please be careful around him, he is awake, but barely."

5:45PM

Commander Rose was sitting in a chair on the other side of the room while Phill, Ryan and Sam were by Alex's side, he could not say any words and his breathing was heavy. Sam reached out to touch his hand, it felt ice cold and dead, her heart dropped the moment she felt how cold he was. The beeping of the Holter monitor began to go faster, and his breathing moved faster with it. The nurse rushed into the room and everyone was forced to leave for the time being, through the door, everyone heard the monitors beeps growing faster by the second. The noise was so loud and fast, then there was only one extended, ear piercing noise. The heart monitor flatlined. Everyone's heart dropped, Sam and Rose both darted into the room, running to be by Alex's side. Everyone was now crying over Alex, tears soaked the blankets that wrapped Alex's now dead body, leaking through to the blood stained bandages that postponed his final parting.

6:00PM

Alex's final moment, surrounded by those who cared the most. He was pronounced dead at 5:47:36PM. And his final words being "fuck off." Those final words spoken to his best friend, Ryan.

Chapter 5: Ryan

Day 20

3:30AM

Ryan was wandering through the streets listening to his usual playlist, just trying to forget everything that has happened recently. The streets are empty and it is very dark, the only light coming from the occasional street lamp and neon sign from a closed store. The wind is cold and everything is aching. He hasn't been sleeping much recently, he wants to sit down and just take a break. Ryan stumbles upon this bench in a park, it is under a lamp pole, one dead bulb, but one still working, he decides to sit and take a little break before heading back to the house.

GGGG

Ryan jolts up, still on the bench, he goes to check his phone for the time, when he looks up, he sees a person across the street sitting on the bench with the dead bulb, the sky was black with clouds, and fog sat motionless on the ground. Ryan froze in fright, just staring at the person, trying to figure out who they are, then the person stood up, Ryan still frozen in shock. The person began to walk slowly to Ryan, each step across the concrete path becoming more vivid as he approached, Ryan closed his eyes, terrified of what is happening to him. His hands shake with fear, but then, there is silence, the only sound heard is Ryan's racing heart and heavy breathing. He opens his eyes to an empty void, only him and his bench. He can hear something happening, he is not sure what, trying to hear better, he stands up.

-CLICK CLICK-

-BANG-

6:19AM

Ryan is jolted awake, his heart racing, and his entire body shaking in fear, a tear rolling down his face and his palms are sweaty. He sits up and stays motionless, confused on what just happened, he releases a deep breath and stands up to leave.

6:43AM

The sun is completely up now, fog sits low on the ground and Ryan has just arrived back at the house, nobody is awake so he goes to his room to rest again, when he finally gets to his bed and lays down and he is left with his thoughts. He didn't want to sleep again, he was terrified that if he sleeps he will be alone again, with nothing but his thoughts to accompany him, but yet there is the powerful thought that if he were to sleep, he never wants to wake up. After a few minutes he begins to sob into his pillow, scared and confused, his best friend is gone, and Ryan watched him die. Ryan thought it was all his fault, that if he had reached out for him everything would have been fine, but he abandoned Alex.