# Sleeping Sound Chapter 4

The door split open straight down the middle, the pieces smashed against the stone floor. Moonlight shined down the hole covering the ladder beneath it with an almost wonderful glint. We stood there stunned, mouth agape. The only motion was Cara’s candle falling to the ground. What followed was a voice that boomed with authority.

“Out now, or we shoot.”

My mind drew a blank, I was just staring at the ladder. What. Is. Happening.

“10 seconds, or send in a pulse mine.”

My mind snapped back into motion with the words, ‘pulse mine’ driving through my ear canals. Legs shaking, I wobbled over to the ladder climbing each rung we extreme caution eyes fixated on my hands, postponing what’s waiting for me at the top of this ladder.

I crawled out of the hole onto all fours. I look up. The night still young, I see four officers all suited with a flexible armour padding trimmed in coal black. The one standing above me has a single band of gold tattooed into his wrist. Him. He is Kratz.

A second ticks by and Leon finds his way to my side. We both get seated next to the hole an officer each holding us by the shoulder as we’re sitting.

“Anymore in there?” Kratz asks me.

I stare into his eyes, a deep brown, “No, we’re it.”

“Spriket, go into the hole, kill anybody that’s down there.” Kratz commands the remaining Warden.

Instantly regret fill my being. “You can’t, Don’t...”

“No one is here,” Spriket yell from inside the hole, and my regret turns into confusion. Kratz takes my chin positioning my face directly in front of him. He is staring into me now, he is trying to read me. Seconds pass, and Kratz pulls away from me yells to Spriket.

“Throw a pulse mine,” he looks back at me, “just in case.” A smirk finds his face.

My eyes just widen in response, Spriket reach over to his belt and unlatched a mine, a small sphere the size of a rubber ball, colored in a metallic silver except for the red band of paint that borders the ball. Without a care he pressed the button in the middle of the red band and tossed it towards the hole. Mid-flight the ball emits a screeching whine that rips into my eardrums. The whine gets smaller and smaller as it descends into the hole, and just before impact I see the metallic ball erupt into a flurry of blue flames. It consumes the room below the earth and scorches the rim of the cellar door.