

Rise Of The Disrespected Trillionaire Heir Novel

FIFTEEN – RESCUE MISSION

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“What the hell happened here? Where are all the children?”
Luke demanded from one of the police officers present.

The officer turned to him,

“Sir, please step back. This is a crime scene.”

Luke froze.

“Crime scene? You mean...someone is responsible for this?”

“Yes, sir. We have reasons to believe that the house was hit. There’s a lot of damage and it’s currently not safe to be around here without appropriate protection. Please step back, sir.”

Luke stumbled backwards, completely dazed.

“What about the children? Where are they?”

“We’ve only just arrived. The only person we found was the director...”

“How is she? Is she okay?”

The officer narrowed his eyes at Luke, confused at why he felt so concerned. It almost looked like he had a personal connection with the place and the people involved in the incident .

“Well, she was rushed to the hospital a few minutes ago.

You just missed her.”

Luke remembered the ambulance that had zoomed past them on the freeway. Shit. This was bad.

“Sir, do you have a relationship with anyone who might’ve been in that building? Any family members?”

Luke shook his head slowly,

“They’re all my family.” He whispered.

He turned to his men and beckoned on them to come closer,

“We need to find those kids. Spread out and search everywhere.”

“Yes, sir.”

His men spread out and surrounded the building, risking their lives to look for the orphanage kids. Luke joined in the search, but after looking for thirty minutes and finding nothing, he began to get even more worried.

“Nothing?” He asked his men when they reconvened.

“No, sir. Not even a sound or trace that someone might still be in there.”

They were all dusty and tired, but Luke was not ready to give up. He had to find those kids.

“We need to spread out then. Check the neighbourhood buildings. Perhaps they ran out in panic when the house started collapsing.”

“Right away, sir.”

Luke scanned the rubble, anger slowly eating at him at the fact that someone had dared to launch an attack against defenceless kids. He vowed to find that person and make his/ her life miserable.

Just as he was about to join his men, he saw something suspicious in the distance and paused. He walked over to investigate, realizing on arrival that it was a trap door.

“Hey, officer! Come take a look at this.”

Two officers hurried towards him immediately.

“What have you found, sir? Any leads?”

Luke gestured towards the trap door.

“Where do you think this leads?”

One of the officers shrugged.

“From the map I was given of the building, it has an underground storage basement. I guess this is the entrance.”

Luke did not want to waste anymore time.

“Then let’s go in there and find out. The kids might be in there.”

He was about to get in when the second officer grabbed his shoulder.

“Sir, you’re not properly equipped to go down there. You

could get hurt.”

Luke got in his face,

“I don’t care if I get hurt. That could’ve been me down there, officer. I’m going in. Nothing you say will convince me otherwise.”

That being said, he followed one of the officers down the rickety stairs, coughing from the over concentration of dust in the small space.

The stairs ended and they found themselves in a narrow room. The beam from the officer’s torchlight hit every part of the room, but there were still no signs of life.

“Hello?! Anyone here?” Luke called.

“Kids? Anyone?!”

After a while of standing in the silent darkness, he said,

“ I don’t think there’s anyone here.”

Completely defeated, Luke was about to leave when he heard something. He went still and gestured to the officer.

“Did you hear that?”

The officer nodded and put a finger to his lips, indicating that Luke should stay silent. They both listened quietly until they heard it again. It sounded like a muffled sob.

They followed the sound until they got to a tiny alcove. Lo and behold, the kids, numbering about fifteen, were all

pressed against the alcove. Some of them were already whimpering and crying from discomfort.

Luke's heart thudded with relief when he saw that they were all safe and sound.

At the sight of the men, the children pressed backwards in fear

"Hey, kids. We're here to rescue you, okay?" The officer said softly, trying to reassure them. "Don't be scared. Now everyone, form a single file and go up the steps."

The kids obeyed him without protest, their eyes wide and filled with fear. While at the top, the kids were handed over to paramedics who searched them for injuries.

"Sir, we do not have enough equipment to conduct a proper examination here. There's a possible case of dust inhalation. The kids will have to be transferred to a hospital ASAP."

The officer nodded thoughtfully.

"Ready the ambulance then."

"Some of them can follow in my car." Luke interjected. "It's big enough to hold five small children."

"Thanks a lot, sir. We greatly appreciate your service."

Luke led some of the kids into the backseat of his Tesla and within minutes, they were trailing behind the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Finally at the hospital, the kids were

taken to be examined and Luke asked around for Mrs. Agnes, the female director.

“Sir, I’m sorry but we cannot disclose such information for security reasons.”

“Please, you have to understand that I only want to help her. I can help. Just let me see her or you can inform her about my presence.”

The nurse was tired of his ranting.

“Okay. I will inform her, but please note that I will only call you up to her room if she agrees to see you. What’s your name again?”

“Luke. Luke Bradford. Thanks a lot.”

Luke paced the length of the room for a few minutes before the nurse returned.

“Luke Bradford? The patient will see you now. Room 304. Fifth door on the right.”

“Thank you so much.” Luke hurried down the hall until he arrived at the director’s room, then he took a deep breath and stepped in.

“Hello, Mrs Agnes. How are you feeling?”

She turned in his direction, her gloomy face breaking into a smile of happiness when she saw him.

“Luke, my child. I can’t believe you’ve come to see me. How are you? How did you hear about the incident?”

Luke felt a pang of pain as he took note of all machines and drips which Mrs. Agnes was hooked to. She must be in so much pain.

He hurried over and gave her a quick hug.

"I was coming over to the orphanage to surprise you when I saw the cop cars. What happened? Are you okay?"

Mrs Agnes looked away, her eyes filling with tears.

"I had no idea how it happened, my boy. One minute I was preparing the children for bed and the next, I heard a very loud bang. Before I could do anything about it, half the building was already falling on my head. I was able to tell the children to run to the basement, but I could'nt join them because rocks had fallen on my legs."

She paused to wipe the tears which trickled down her cheeks.

"The doctor says both my legs are broken. How on earth will I take care of the kids now? Where will we live? We have nowhere else to go. I know the orphanage wasn't much, but it was our only home."

Tears pricked Luke's eyes when Mrs Agnes began crying in earnest. He stepped forward and took both her worn hands in his.

"You are one of the few people who never looked down on me, Mrs Agnes, and for that, I want to repay you."

She waved him away.

"I don't need to be repaid." She sniffed, "I only did what was right."

"I know. Hold on. I'll be right back."

Without waiting for her response, Luke stepped out, whipped out his phone and placed a call to his butler.

"Hello, Rashford. Do I own any children-friendly properties?" He asked without preamble.

"Of course, your lordship." Rashford replied without missing a beat. The man was just too good. "Do I need to get any one of them ready?"

"Yes, please do. Possibly one with a back garden where the children can play in. It has to be big, Rashford. They're a lot of kids involved."

"Will a twenty bedroom house facing the park be okay? You have that amongst your property list."

Luke breathed a sigh of relief.

"Yes, please. Get it ready for me. Thank you."

"My pleasure, your Lordship."

Next, Luke put a call to his security team.

"I have reasons to believe that the collapse was not an accident. Someone has a hand in this. Now, I don't care if you have to hire private detectives to work alongside you,

but I need answers.

I want to know who the hell tried to kill those innocent children ASAP. When I find him, he will wish for death.”