

Escape (Tip of the Spear Book 1) Excerpt From Chapter 6

“Where the fuck is she?” Cyrus growled as he followed the guard down corridor after corridor. Finally, at the end of an isolated hallway, they stopped. He heard a muffled cry from behind the steel door. Drawing his ZOAF PC-9 pistol, he pushed the female guard out of the way and kicked open the door.

Anger flooded his nerve endings. His finger pulsed on the trigger, itching to fire. Cyrus hated Mohammad, but never more than at this moment. Everything he detested in his fellow man – the cruelty, the abuse of power, the ignorance and disrespect for human life – every vile human characteristic lived in this one individual. With pleasure, he would have shot and killed Mohammad, ending the life of an animal who didn’t deserve to live. Had Mohammad actually raped her, Cyrus would have killed him on the spot but he had arrived just in time. He controlled his impulse to exact punishment. His plan of action did not allow for deviation. He needed to stay focused on the goal of getting Layla out of Evin Prison.

In Farsi he ordered, “Put your hands up, Mohammad, and don’t move.” In English he asked the girl, “Are you all right?”

Mohammad slowly raised his hands. “Don’t shoot, *Agha*. I can explain. The girl is a witch. She seduced me.”

Layla, shielded by the hulking frame of her assailant, slowly rose from the table, raising and securing her pants. “Yes, I’m okay, but this animal was about to rape me.” Still in a shooter’s stance with the gun trained on Mohammad, he ignored the man’s ridiculous statement. “That isn’t going to happen, Miss Wallace. You’re safe now. Just do as you’re told and get behind me.”

When the girl emerged from the shadow of Mohammad, Cyrus temporarily lost his focus. His pulse quickened and his gut tightened in an automatic response to her beauty. Even as her face darkened with swelling and bruises, distorting her features, he found himself drawn to the large, turquoise eyes, the glorious auburn hair, and her luscious lips. With a mighty effort, he regained his composure, reluctantly dragging his eyes from her.

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Layla, shaky on her feet, held fast to the table for support. Her heart still pounding a fearful arrhythmic beat, she tried to regain her composure. Tears welled in her eyes from

her close call. A miracle had occurred, and someone had saved her. Following her hero's command, she emerged from the shadow of her would-be rapist. Her eyes met those of her rescuer. The tall, dark man's face was angry and unforgiving, his gun pointing at her assailant. When he looked at her, for a moment his expression softened, and then just as quickly, his emotions flickered and died, becoming unreadable.

Indicating the door with the barrel of his pistol, he commanded, "Let's go. You're through, Mohammad. As much as it would please me to kill you, I'm going to let you live today, which is better than you deserve." He turned, glancing over his shoulder at her. "Take the *chadar* and put it on. The fewer people who get a good look at you, the better."

Layla complied without answering. She wanted to grab the man who had rescued her from the monster and kiss him, but she was still reeling from her close call.

From the moment they left the room, everything proceeded at a rapid pace. The man remanded her attacker into the custody of a commanding officer, to whom he gave a brief account of what had occurred. Led away in cuffs, looking like the devil's dog, Mohammad delivered a curse on her rescuer and brandished his fists in a threat of vengeance. Her deliverer turned away, ignoring him. He whispered a reassurance, "Don't worry, Miss Wallace, you'll be out of here very soon."

A female guard took her arm and led her back in the direction of her cell. Before the doors to the cell block closed, she turned her head and caught a glimpse of the man who had saved her. His gaze was fixed on her.

She felt her cheeks grow hot, but she couldn't look away. The tiniest of smiles teased his lips.

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Belle Ami Bio

Belle Ami writes romantic/suspense with a teaspoon of sex. Her latest book ***Escape (Tip of the Spear Series Book 1)*** was published January 10, 2017. Coming 2017 the sequel ***Vengeance*** will be published by Hartwood Publishing. She lives in Southern California with her husband, two children, a horse named Cindy Crawford, and her brilliant Chihuahua, Giorgio Armani.