

CHAPTER THREE

I returned to our new home and found Emsley in the backyard. “You’re back!” She exclaimed as she ran towards me. To my surprise, she jumped into my arms and almost knocked me over. “Whoa!” I said and laughed. “You’re in a good mood, huh?”

“Of course I am! I get to spend eternity with you...and this pool.” She said, as she gestured out to the yard. I laughed and kissed her, and she led me around the backyard and eventually into the mansion, telling me everything new she had discovered.

I had never even seen a house this big in person, let alone live in one. It took some getting used to, but after a few weeks I felt that Emsley and I were settling in pretty well. I ended up getting the six-pack that I had always wanted and was able to style my hair how I had never been able to in my previous life, all without any effort on my part. What made me the happiest, however, was Emsley. She remained in the good mood that she was in without any signs of slowing down. Every morning she would kiss me and leave the bed, only to return with breakfast a few minutes later. The TV shows in heaven were...heavenly as well. To top things off, God would regularly check in with us. If Emsley or I had any concerns, God would instantly fix them. I

could almost stress myself out about how little I had to stress over.

God and I were really building up our relationship as well. Admittedly, I hadn't been very religious on Earth. I hadn't spoken to God much prior to the accident, but God was turning into one of the best friends I'd ever had. God even gave Emsley and I tickets to his seats for a new Shakespeare play! The play was, of course, free to attend, but getting God's own personal seats was an indescribable honor. Out of all one hundred billion people in Heaven, God gave his tickets to me and Emsley. The more I thought about it the more incredible it felt. Plus, we got a better view of the stage.

Emsley and I typically would go out and enjoy the night life of Heaven, which was its own incredible experience. To my surprise, there were actually bars in Heaven. They were a bit stricter on what they served than bars back on Earth, though. Typically we would go to live events such as concerts, sporting events and plays. Babe Ruth and Walter Peyton had apparently teamed up and created an entirely new sport, and watching Bob Marley live was incredible. Tonight was the night of Shakespeare's new play, and I couldn't wait.

I was excited, but remained very relaxed in anticipation. I was just walking around the house. The sun rays coruscated

through the windows of our grand hallway, which overlooked our beautifully mowed lawn and tended garden. Neither the garden or the yard had any work done to it, as everything in Heaven simply remained at its peak. Grass always stayed mowed and flowers always flourished. I made it a point to regularly walk through the halls and soak in the atmosphere, a luxury I could not afford, nor did I care to do in my previous life.

“Babe!” I shouted out. My voice echoed through the halls. “What?” I heard Emsley yell back. “I’m gonna go to God’s office to get the tickets and thank him again. Do you need anything while I’m out?”

A portal opened up next to me and Emsley walked out of it. She wrapped her arms around me, kissed me and said, “No thank you.” Life in Heaven was truly magical.

I made my way to God’s office, deciding to walk and continue enjoying the scenery, rather than using a portal. I walked past several construction yards which I thought was odd. I know God said people could work if they wanted, but I still found it surprising to see. I guess people get bored after sitting around for thousands of years. I actually liked the construction, as it brought life to the city. Cars were still common as well, despite the means of transportation through portals. Considering

we have all of eternity to get places, I suppose that can be justified as well.

Our house was fairly close to God's office building, so it only took about half an hour to walk there. I walked in the building, which made no physical sense. Each of the 7,184,906 floors stretched out far beyond what the eye could see, and the entire thing was built into a mountain on the edge of town which I doubt could fit more than twenty stories into it. God's office was on top, and I could tell from the view his office window had I was nowhere near 7,184,904 stories off of the ground. I never questioned it though, and went into the elevator. Luckily the elevator was somewhat of a portal as well, and I didn't have to take an extremely long elevator ride up.

Once I was on the top of the building, I walked out into the hallway. It was the same hall I had first entered when I arrived to Heaven, with the chandeliers and marble floors and walls. This was actually the first time I had been back. God always made portals for me when I came for check-ins, but this time I was just dropping in. I decided to create a portal to God's office, only to find that it was empty. "God?" I called out. I walked over to the window. The view overlooking the city was just as jaw-dropping as when I first saw it. "God?" I called out again, walking away from the window.

God's office was pretty open with very few places to hide and it became pretty clear it was empty. I ended up out in the hallway and discovered the black door next to God's office was open. It was always locked up so tightly, and seemed so out of place. The aura the door gave off just felt...wrong. The first day I saw it, I thought that the most likely destination behind this door is Hell. I couldn't stand the thought of Hell, especially after experiencing Heaven. I wanted to look, just so I could know it wasn't Hell. I stood to the left of the doorframe and peered in. The room was almost as dark as the door was, however, I could see a faint light to the left. I leaned in and squinted and was able to make out a wall of...screens?

I assumed the screens were displaying live footage of security cameras positioned around the building, although why would God need cameras around the building? Was there a security issue in Heaven? I looked back in God's office and saw that it was still empty. "God must be in here." I said to myself.

I slowly walked through the door and over to the wall of screens. As I approached the screens, I saw a computer which appeared to be mirroring its display onto the wall. As I looked closer, I realized the cameras weren't of the outside of the building. I didn't recognize anything I saw. "Maybe these are pictures, not videos." I thought.

I noticed text in the corner of the screen. The text read “Elizabeth Elvett: 858,754,263.” I decided I should probably go and was turning around when the computer outputted the sound of a door slamming shut. I jumped and turned around to see a girl walking into one of the rooms. I approached the computer and watched. A man followed her in and they began talking.

“Yond wast an astounding evenin.” The man said.

“You doth prevail.” She responded. “Those gents seize all nights and days to impress’

“Agreed.” The man said back. “That gent is not as valorous as thee, though.”

“My love for you is infinite.” The girl said.

I smiled and decided I would say that line to Emsley when I got back.

The man kissed the girl and then said “My love for you is infinite as well, Elizabeth”

As soon as the man called her Elizabeth, I looked back at the text in the bottom right corner of the screen and saw again that it said, “Elizabeth Elvett: 858,754,263.” Is this some sort of spy camera on Elizabeth Elvett? I clicked the name and a panel

opened up. A picture of the girl in the video displayed on the screen, along with the information: “Elizabeth Elvett. May 3rd, 1559 - July 14th, 1585.” Below the information was a search box.

I typed in “Owen Leigh” and found quite a few results. I filtered them in order from newest to oldest and was able to find myself. Quickly, I clicked and the screens changed. The screens were now displaying my house. “God’s spying on us??” I asked myself. My stomach sank, and for one of the few times since I had gotten here, I felt something other than complete peace.

I clicked my name and a picture of me along with my birth and death dates showed up. I turned around to make sure I wasn’t being watched and quickly typed in “Emsley Hall” into the search bar. I was able to find Emsley as well by filtering the results, but as soon as I clicked on her I could tell something wasn’t right. The screens displayed a girl and a baby sitting in a room I had never seen before. I double checked that I had the right Emsley Hall and saw that I did.

“Who is this? Where is Emsley?” I thought to myself. That’s when a man walked in the back door. The girl with the baby turned around and I realized it WAS Emsley. “Is she... babysitting?” I asked myself. She went over to the man and handed him the baby. Then she wrapped her arms around him

and before I could think or do anything else, she kissed him. “What the..?!?!” I yelled out. Apparently I caused some commotion because God came into the room and found me, watching the security cameras or whatever this was.

“Owen? What’s wrong?” God asked. “What are you doing in here?”

I didn’t even care to ask why God was spying on us. All that I had on my mind was that Emsley was cheating on me. “What the hell is going on here?” I shouted. As soon as I said it I knew I had made a mistake, and I felt a shock course through my body. I fell to the floor, and God helped me up, asking again, “What’s wrong? What did you see?” God looked at the screen, and saw what was happening.

“Adultery is a sin, God!” I shouted. “How is this happening in Heaven? Why isn’t that dude getting shocked?” I felt another shock and dropped to the floor again.

“Calm down, Owen.” God said. Your anger isn’t going to help the situation.

“What did I even do that time to get shocked?!?” I shouted back. Immediately I felt another shocking sensation run through

my veins, and I wailed out in pain. “What’s going on?” I exclaimed.

“You’re not supposed to be this aggressive in Heaven.” God told me. “Every time you do something wrong, the shock gets worse. Yelling at God isn’t necessarily something you’re supposed to do.”

I was getting very frustrated and asked, “Can you disable these shocks or something?” I asked.

“I don’t want this to be happening any more than you do.” God said. “This is happening as a result of your choice to sneak into where you’re not supposed to in the first place.”

“I was looking for you!” I responded. “Can you at least fix this? And why are you spying on us anyway? Isn’t that kinda screwed up?” I felt another shock which knocked me to the ground.

“You don’t understand, Owen. You weren’t meant to see this room.” God said.

“Clearly not!” I responded, slowly standing back up.

“She’s not committing adultery. It is not a sin to kiss your husband.” God explained. I began to get angrier than I had ever been on Earth as a result of being cheated on, God’s lack of sympathy, and continuously being shocked for ultimately no reason. “She married someone else?!?” I yelled.

I felt another shock, this one far worse than all of the others. I fell to the ground, this time for good. “Owen, that man is you. Now stop doing this to yourself.” God finished.

“How is that me?” I asked. “I’ve never seen that place before.”

“This is Emsley’s perfect world.” God answered. “Emsley wanted to live in this house, and she opted to have her baby now. That baby is your firstborn child.”

“Emsley didn’t want to have the baby yet, though.” I told God.

“No.” God corrected me. “You didn’t want to have the baby yet. In your perfect world, you waited on the baby. In her perfect world, she had the baby immediately. This is Emsley’s version of Heaven. You have been living in your own, personal version of Heaven. Everyone experiences Heaven differently. This

computer shows me how they experience it and how I can make it better for them.”

“So you’re saying that everything I’ve been living in has been a lie?” I asked.

“That’s not a very good way of putting it.” God said.

“But that’s how it is.” I said, a tear rolling down my cheek. “Everything I’ve been experiencing has just been some sort of vision fabricated inside my mind, or rather, inside yours. How could you do this to us?”

“Owen.” God said calmly. “This is Heaven. It’s meant to be perfect, and everyone views perfect a little bit differently.”

“I wanted Emsley and you gave me some modified fake version of her.” I said. “This is not Heaven at all.” I immediately regret saying it, but it was too late.

“Don’t ever say that again.” God yelled back.

God yelling at me was the most terrifying experience I’ve ever had, up until the moment immediately afterwards. It felt like an earthquake, but as soon as I saw the ground begin to split apart, I knew what was happening.

The room began to glow red. Heat filled the air and I looked down into what appeared to be a large pile of human limbs, burning. What was the most terrifying, however, was not the horrific sights but the sounds of the screams.

“What are you doing??” I asked God. “I don’t belong in Hell! You know that! You screwed me over, this isn’t my fault!”

“That’s not how it works, Owen.” God answered back. God levitated up to the ceiling and backed away from the canyon ravine that had now formed within the room.

“Do you have no mercy whatsoever?” My pleas fell upon deaf ears, however, as I began to get sucked into the pit.

“I’m sorry, Owen.” God said. “This isn’t what I wanted.”

All I felt was betrayal, which turned into fear. As I fell, I felt my skin heat up. The air I felt pushing past me got hotter and hotter, and soon began to feel unbearable. I could have never prepared for what was in store for me.