

06. Turning Point(©elen)

Charles had never been that scared in his entire life. At this moment he did not care at all about the FBI, Red Gauntlet or Paulson. All that counted was Selena. He had to fight the impulse to simply run to her. He needed a plan. He would not help the women by getting himself killed. Charles said nothing, while Ellis drove at high speed through Berlin.

Selena sat on the floor and cried. Charles was dead. Everything was over, everything. For the first time in her life she had really loved a man. And now she had lost him, after such short a time. This wasn't fair. How could faith do this to her? What was the sense in that?

Ellis stopped the car in front of the house. Charles still had no plan. He was paralyzed by fear. When he saw it. The scaffolding. There were constructions taking place. "I will climb up there. Maybe I can see them. And find out how many men there are in the apartment." "I'll come with you", Hans said. Charles wanted to protest, but the look Hans gave him made him stop. "My wife is up there, too." Charles looked in his eyes and saw the same fear and the same wild determination he felt himself. "Ok, let's go." They tried to climb the scaffolding with as few noises as possible.

The door opened and the same man who had molested Selena before, entered the room. He pulled her up from the ground and in the direction of the bed. "Now no one is going to save you, my sweetie." He tore up her blouse and pulled her on the bed. Selena did not fight him. It was all the same to her. The man opened his trousers.

Hans and Charles were relieved. The women were alive. But when they understood what was going on in the room. Charles felt that the anger was exploding in him. What the man had in mind was obvious. He would not let that happen. This swine would not lay hands on Selena.

Julia wanted to attack the man, when her attraction was caught by something. Faces at the window. Oh, thank God, Julia thought. Charles and Hans were alive. So William would be well, too. Hans made signs to make her open the window. Julia gulped. The others had not yet seen them. Heike seemed to be paralyzed by grief, Selena laid crawled on the bed and the man stood with his back toward her. She had to risk it. The window was only a few steps away.

Julia send a silent prayer to heaven that the window would not make a sound and reached for the bolt. When several things happened at the same moment. Charles jumped into the room as soon as the window was open. Hans followed him. The man turned around. Heike reacted very quickly and ram him with the wheelchair. Before the man could react, Hans had knocked him down. Selena was still lying crawled on the bed, with her face to the wall. She seemed not to have noticed anything. The shock, Charles thought. He sat on the bed and touched her gently by the shoulder. Selena weeped and tried to get closer to the wall. Charles silently cursed. This could be dangerous. If Selena would scream, they would be finished. "Selena, Darling," he whispered. Selena turned around. Before she could scream, Charles had his hand on her mouth. "Quiet. Don't scream. Everything is going to be fine. I am with you." She nodded and he let her go. The next moment she was in his arms. He knew they had no time, but this one moment was necessary.

He passionately kissed her. Selena almost couldn't believe it. He was alive. She hold him so close that she could feel his heartbeat and kissed him. Charles had to force himself to let her go. "Come on, we have to go." She nodded and stood up. Charles looked at her torn up blouse and felt a wave of sickness. If this guy.....

Pull yourself together, he told himself. He took off his shirt and wrapped Selena in it. She wrapped it close around her. It was far too big, but it was still warm from his skin and smelled of Charles. "We have to get out of here.", Hans said. "Can you do this, Heike?" She nodded. "I have to." Julia was the first to climb out of the window, followed by Selena. Charles helped Hans to help Heike out of the window. She was very brave, but Charles saw the pain in her face. How should they make this? When he almost laughed as he saw the small elevator, which was fixed to the scaffolding. "May the ladies like a ride?" The platform was very small and had nowhere to hold. Hopefully the thing would hold their weight.

Charles hold Selena close to his body, Hans hold Heike and Julia tried to hold to both men. William did not believe his eyes, when the platform slowly glide down. Ellis smiled. "Very elegant." Charles laughed. He felt very much relaxed. "Let's get away from here." Somehow they all managed to get inside the car. They drove to the hotel where Conrad was.

Ellis called him on the phone and Conrad waited for them in the lobby. This was really better, because they gave a bizarre look. Selena still wore the far too big men shirt, while Charles stood there with blank chest. Heike leaned on Hans. They really could not be overseen. "Come, fast. I am happy to see you all." Conrad got them rooms. "They only had the presidential suite, but it should be big enough for you all." "The presidential suite?" Charles lifted an eyebrow. Conrad smiled and presented a credit card. "Expenses. I think the FBI owes you something." Despite that he was joking, Charles could feel his anger. Conrad gave the credit card to William and Julia and they went to buy clothes for Selena and a wheelchair for Heike. Conrad gave the key to Charles. "Sleep a bit. I am next door." Charles and Selena looked at each other and smiled. Sleeping was not, what they had in mind..... Some hours later they all sit together in the living room of the suite, only Charles and Selena missed. Ellis smiled. "They have to get tired by now." They all laughed.

Charles gave a tender look at Selenas sleeping face. He wrote a short message and laid it on the pillow. When he got dressed. Charles was a bit surprised to see the others gathered, but when he smiled. "I could use your help. Ellis, William, Hans, Conrad. Can you take care of Selena?" "Sure, my brother. But what are you up to? You do not want to run away again, do you?" William gave him a suspicious look and took a bit coffee. "No, of course not." The real opposite, he thought. He did not intend to be without Selena ever again. "Ladies, I need you. You must help me to buy something." "Ok, what is it?", Julia asked. "A ring." William almost choked on his coffee. "You mean....." "Exactly, little brother." William looked at him like at a ghost. His brother a married man? But the more he thought about it, the more he liked the idea. It was not be overseen that his brother was wildly in love with Selena. Charles showed a deep peace beside everything that had happened, and his brother had smiled and laughed more during the last days as he had in a decade. "Don't stare at me like that. I am serious." Charles had never imagined to get married. With his crazy job and he had never met the right person. But Selena was the right woman. Despite the short time that he knew her , he had no doubts. He wanted to bound her as close to him as he possibly could. He was terribly scared of loosing her again. Not only that something could happen to her. Most of all he was scared that she could leave him. He could not stand this.

Charles did not know that he had no reason at all to be scared. Selena woke up and smiled. "Charles.....?" She jumped out of the bed. But when she relaxed as she saw the message. "Be right back. I love you. Charles." I love you, too. Selena thought. She shivered as she remembered the terrible hours when she had believed that he was dead. She never wanted to go through this again. She loved this man and she would hold him close. But I have to be careful, she told herself. He is used to be independent. But she would prove to him that she would not be in his way.

Charles and the women returned. They met Heikes kids in the lobby and they had a great hello. Charles smiled as he saw the two girls. The younger one carried a teddy, that had seen better days, but which seemed to be wildly loved. "Hello, this is a nice teddy. What is his name?" "Mamabear.", replied the child. "By the way, I have not yet thanked you for the lullabay. Very cute of you." For a moment the child was confused, but when she smiled and before Charles could help it she had her arms around his shoulders. For a moment his fantasy got wings.....a baby? Another thing he had never imagined.....but with Selena, he smiled. Idiot, he thought. One step at a time.....and not so fast. You will drive her away. He entered the suite and played with the small box in his pocket. "Selena, may I talk to you? Alone?" She nodded. He gave William a look and whispered: "Keep fingers crossed, little brother."

Selena felt uncomfortable. What does he want to talk about? He was so serious. "Selena....." Great God, what should he say? "I.....we....." Oh dear, this will never lead anywhere. Simply do it, you fool, he thought. He took a deep breath. "Selena, I love you....." Again he did not finish the sentence. " I love you too, Charles. What do you want to tell me?" "I love you. And I do not want to be separated from you. Do you want to marry me?" Selenas face showed no emotion. He felt fear. Dear God, please don't say no. Please don't say no. It took her a moment to understand the meaning of his words. It was one of these special moments that seemed to be too good to be true. It had to be a dream. When she saw the fear in his face and understood that she had not yet answered. "Yes, yes, yes.....oh yes." She embraced him. The two of them looked very happy as they returned to the living room.

"Unnecessary to ask for the answer," William smiled. He had never seen his brother that happy. "Clever boy. And now let's see how to get out of that mess." "You still have the blade drive?", Ellis asked. Charles nodded.