

The Scorpion Killer

By

Erica Jennings

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Erica Jennings
PO BOX 1292
Pontotoc MS 38863
(662)542-8112
(662)568-7572
brokenspirit_8@hotmail.com

INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION- NIGHT. 2003

Detective Max Tanner's eyes slowly came open. He doesn't know where he is. Only the sound of water hit his ears before his eyes fell heavy again. They came flying back open when a voice whispered his name. It came softly.

The voice was overpowered by Max's own screams. He couldn't focus. Everything was so blurry. He could hear the waves crashing against the walls. He could taste the blood in his mouth. He let his head fall to the side where he saw the source of his agony. Blood dropped to the floor. His arm was sliced open and he was bleeding out.

Then came the pain from a different area of his body. His chest above his heart turned to fire or what felt like fire as he was sliced open.

The voice came again. His name was all he could hear before he completely lost consciousness.

INT. GRACE AND MERCY HOSPITAL- DAY. 2009

Journalist Katie Monroe entered the hospital in her usual manner. As she walked past security and towards the elevators she gave a smile. Once she reached the 5th floor she pulled out her hat and placed it on her now lowered head and quickened her pace. Down the hall she could see the sign, "Records."

Once Katie reached the door she took one last look over her shoulder to ensure herself that no one was suspicious and entered.

Heading towards the file cabinets she looked over at the computers. She altered her path and sat at the nearest computer. Looking at the screen she pouted as it read "password." Getting up she headed back toward the file cabinets and toward the "T's." It was locked.

KATIE

Damn.

Katie turned and headed towards the door and as she opened it came face to face with Sheila, a nurse who worked at the hospital.

SHEILA

Miss Monroe?

KATIE

Sheila! Fancy meeting you here.

Sheila cocked her head to one side and eyed Katie. She let out a breath of air and relaxed her stance.

SHEILA

Katie Monroe you are not suppose to be in here without clearance which I'm pretty sure you don't have.

KATIE

Well, if someone would give me clearance...

SHEILA

You ever stop to think that maybe you're not suppose to have clearance?

Sheila walks past Katie and opens the file cabinet marked "T" and placed a file in.

SHEILA (CON'T)

This is a hospital. We don't just give out medical records.

KATIE

I'm not asking for a complete medical history. Since you already have the exact cabinet open, just leave it like that. Nobody will know.

SHEILA

Katie, I love you. But no.

Sheila starts to push the drawer closed again before Katie stops her.

KATIE

Wait! 30 seconds and then you can shut it.

Sheila gives Katie a long look before turning her back. Katie smiles. She thumbs her way to the file marked "Tanner, Amanda" and "Tanner, Max." After looking through the files she places them back and slams the cabinet shut. Sheila turns around.

SHEILA

Find what you need?

KATIE

And then some.

Sheila watches as Katie exits the room. Taking one last look

at the "T" cabinet she follows Katie's cue and exits.

INT. CRIME ZONE PAPER (KATIE'S WORK)- AFTERNOON

Katie enters the "Crime Zone" paper and breezed by the elevators opting to take the stairs. She enters the 3rd floor and walks past receptionist Alana.

ALANA

Kate! Boss man has been yelling for ya.

Katie continues to walk.

KATIE

He having a good day?

ALANA

Not even close.

KATIE

Just the way I like it.

Katie rushes to her desk knowing that now that she has been spotted in the office her boss, Lloyd, would be calling her any second. She bumped her mouse and her computer popped on. Frowning she logged in. Using her special software she checked her files and saw where someone had tried to open her locked, protected and encrypted Scorpio files. She looked up to find rival Tim Murray staring at her. When their eyes met, he looked away. Katie proceeded to change her password.

LLOYD

Katie! My office now!

KATIE

And so christmas comes early.

INT. LLOYD'S OFFICE

LLOYD

Katie, where the hell have you been?

KATIE

Working.

LLOYD

And you've been doing that how considering you haven't been in to work in 3 days.

KATIE

Research Lloyd.

LLOYD

Did that research take you to a restricted area of the hospital today?

KATIE

I didn't steal anything this time, Lloyd.

LLOYD

Not the point.

KATIE

I was at the hospital arranging a lunch date with a friend. I wasn't doing anything.

LLOYD

Guess whether or not I'm believing that.

Katie calmly relaxes in her chair and crosses her legs. She gives a mischievous smile.

KATIE

Come on Lloyd. I get seen in the hospital and suddenly I'm breaking the law.

LLOYD

You've been told the hospital would not give you patient records and then you get seen leaving the records room. Katie...

KATIE

I told you Lloyd. I was making a lunch date.

LLOYD

In the records room?

KATIE

Sheila was in the records room putting up a file and I followed her in. That's all. You know Sheila. She wouldn't give me a file.

LLOYD

And?

KATIE

Of course, I tried to convince her to hand over the file.

LLOYD

Katie, stay away from the hospital. Call Sheila next time, okay. I can't take anymore calls from everyone in this city complaining about you.

KATIE

Yes sir.

Katie stands to leave but Lloyd stops her.

LLOYD

What research?

KATIE

Sir?

LLOYD

You said you've been researching. What research?

KATIE

You're not gonna like it.

LLOYD

Katie.

KATIE

Look, I know you said to drop it but I can't. Scorpio is back okay. There was another killing in Warsaw yesterday.

LLOYD

Yes, I know and I also happen to know the M.O. was nothing like Scorpio.

KATIE

Something about this murder through him off but my gut says it is him. I'm gonna be there when this son of a bitch finally goes down, Lloyd. I'm gonna see him pay.

LLOYD

I know this hits close to home but

it wasn't Scorpio that night Katie.

KATIE

I know it wasn't but it was his fault.

Lloyd stands and moves around to the front of his desk. He sits on the edge of it and silently eyes Katie.

KATIE

How about I take that vacation you've been trying to get me to take? Maybe I need to rest. I've been at this nonstop since I've gotten back.

LLOYD

You look tired. You're losing weight. I think that vacation would be a good idea. I don't want to have to fire you.

KATIE

I'll see you in 2 weeks.

Lloyd watches Katie exit his office.

Katie headed toward her desk to see Tim perched on it.

TIM

He fire you?

KATIE

No, but I am taking a vacation.

TIM

You're not going to do that. I know you Monroe. You got a story, don't you?

KATIE

Do you know me, Tim? Or do you know the me I want you to know? Is that really me or am I really someone else?

Tim smiles.

TIM

I know you, Monroe. The real you.

Katie ejects a disk from her drive and turns back to Tim.

KATIE

If you knew me then you'd know that
you've already lost. Shut down the
computer for me, will you?

Katie walks away.

TIM

Of course.

With Katie out of sight, Tim gets on her computer. He curses
as he tries to open up folders. The entire computer was now
empty.

TIM

No, No No!

Tim leaps to his feet knocking over the chair and stalks off.

EXT. KATIE'S CAR - NIGHT

Katie drives along the freeway as her radio starts to falter.
She looks down at it and tries to find a station. Nothing. She
looks up in time to see the sign "Welcome to Warsaw." She
punches the off button on the radio and continues to drive.

EXT. WARSAW HOTEL - NIGHT

Katie turns into the parking lot and into a parking space
besides a police vehicle. She sits a while longer before
cutting the engine off. She checks her reflection in the
mirror before getting out.

Katie gets out her suitcases and makes her way to the door of
the hotel where a gentleman opens the door for her. Katie
smiles as she squeezes by him.

INT. WARSAW HOTEL - NIGHT

Katie looked around the hotel and enjoyed the decor. She then
noticed the eyes that fell on her including the eyes of a
police officer and a man standing next to him. Katie smiled
and they tilted their hats.

Katie made her way to the front desk where the receptionist
Caroline waited.

CAROLINE

Evening, ma'am. How can I help you?

KATIE

One room, single.

CAROLINE

Sure thing. How would you like to pay?

Katie handed Caroline her credit card. Looking over her shoulder, Katie noticed only one pair of eyes were on her and the police officer was now gone.

CAROLINE

How many nights Miss Monroe?

KATIE

3. Keep the card on file in case I stay longer.

CAROLINE

Business or pleasure?

KATIE

My business is my pleasure.

Caroline gave a toothy smile and handed the card back.

CAROLINE

Well, dinner has been served but if you'd like I could get some leftovers and have it sent up to your room.

KATIE

Perfect.

Caroline hands over the key.

CAROLINE

Room 13. Enjoy your stay and I'll have that dinner up as soon as possible.

KATIE

Thanks.

A young boy runs up to Katie and she nearly trips over him.

MARVIN

I can carry your bags for ya.

KATIE

I got them.

MARVIN

I could use the tips, ma'am.

Katie hesitated.

KATIE

Alright.

She handed the bags over to him and he nearly stumbled over them the entire trip to her room. She unlocked the door and walked inside. Reaching into her wallet she pulled out \$5.

KATIE

Here you go, kid.

MARVIN

Wow! No one ever gives this much.
Thanks ma'am.

KATIE

Here's another \$5 for calling me
Katie instead of ma'am.

MARVIN

Never again Katie!

Marvin exits the room in a hurry slamming the door behind him causing Katie to jump. Smiling she picks up her suitcase and starts to unpack.

INT. KATIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Katie lay asleep in her bed. High winds and rain push tree limbs into the room window. A branch slams into the window cracking it and Katie jumps awake. For a split second what looked like a shadow of a person illuminated in the night as the lightning flashed.

Katie reached over and turned on the lamp. Wiping her eyes she got out of bed and walked over to the window and peered out seeing nothing. She takes one last look before crawling back into bed.

INT. KATIE'S ROOM - MORNING

Katie awoke to the sound of light tapping on her room door. She got out of bed and headed for the door checking her watch.
8 a.m.

Katie opened the door to find Caroline standing there.

CAROLINE

Morning, Miss Monroe. I'm sorry to
disturb you so early but Detective

Tanner wanted me...

KATIE
Detective Tanner?

CAROLINE
Yes, Detective Tanner. He was here
when you checked in last night.
Anyway, he wanted me to check in on
you.

KATIE
What?

CAROLINE
With the storm last night he wanted
to make sure you were okay.

KATIE
First of all, tell Detective Tanner
I'm a big girl and storms don't
scare me. And the only thing that
happened last night was some
branches cracked the window.

CAROLINE
Branches? There aren't any trees
outside your window.

Katie turned back toward the window. She walked to the other
side of the room and peered out of the window. Caroline did
the same.

KATIE
No trees.

CAROLINE
Nope. Detective Tanner wanted me to
check in on you because there was a
murder last night. There's blood on
this window.

Katie took another look. She frowned.

KATIE
I'm going to shower and get dressed
before the whole damn task force is
rifling through my underwear. Give
me 20 minutes will you?

CAROLINE
I can spare you 10 before Tanner
starts barreling in here asking why

I haven't called him back.

KATIE

Then I'll get ready in 10.

Caroline nodded and exited. Katie started her shower.

EXT. HOTEL RUNNING/WALKING PATH - DAY

Katie ran at a fast pace on the hotel paths as if something was chasing her. She was focused on nothing else until the sound of a twig snapping loudly came from just behind her. She turned her head to look still running full speed and ended up tripping over her own feet. She fell hard.

KATIE

Ow.

Katie lay very still with her eyes closed and the sun shining down on her until a shadow went over her face. She slowly opened her eyes to Detective Tanner.

MAX

You took quite a spill, Miss Monroe. Are you okay?

KATIE

Perfectly fine. Or at least I will be when there are no longer 3 of you standing over me.

Max smiled down at her.

KATIE

You, know. With 3 of you, you'd think one of you would be kind enough to help me up.

MAX

Oh! Sorry. Here...

Max helps her up and watches as she dusts herself off. He follows her eyes to the blood that ran down her arm. He has a sudden flashback of his arm dripping blood to the floor. He clears his throat loudly causing Katie to shift her attention back to him.

KATIE

You wanted to speak to me, right?

MAX

Last night, during the storm, did you see or hear anything?

KATIE
Just a loud bang.

MAX
A bang?

KATIE
Maybe it was a bang. Or maybe a
thump. I don't know. I was asleep.

MAX
What did you do?

KATIE
It came from the window. I got up
and walked over to it. I saw it was
cracked. I went back to bed.

MAX
You didn't see anything?

KATIE
I'm pretty out of it when I'm
sleeping. My best work comes when
I'm wide awake and caffeinated,
detective.

MAX
Max.

KATIE
Max.

MAX
Thank you, Katie.

Max turns to leave before katie speaks again.

KATIE
Maybe I was still asleep. When I
was woken up I thought I saw
someone. But then I blinked and it
was gone. It may have been nothing.

MAX
Maybe. I'll be in touch.

He walks away.

INT. MAX'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Max sat in his dark basement he also uses for a private

office. The walls are covered with newspaper clippings and pictures from the previous Scorpio case.

While sitting at his desk he stares down at the big brown envelope with the initials "K.M." written on it. He goes to open it but stops. After a deep sigh he opens the envelope.

He pulls out a handful of pictures and looks through them. They are of Katie sleeping in her bed at the hotel and her running earlier that day. One of the pictures showed him talking to Katie.

Max slipped the photos back into the envelope and put them in his desk drawer and locking it. He gets up and goes up the basement steps and out the door.

EXT. OUTSIDE MAX'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Max quickly closes his door and heads to his car. He opens the door and takes a quick look behind him into the dark. Frowning he gets on his cell.

VOICE
Warsaw Police Department.

MAX
This is Detective Tanner. Patch me through to Keller.

VOICE
Yes sir.

KELLER
Keller.

MAX
Keller, it's Tanner. I need you to do a background check for me.

KELLER
Who's the perp?

MAX
No, perp. Potential victim. Katie Monroe. She's probably from one of the surrounding towns.

KELLER
I'll run it now.

Max hangs up the phone and gets into his car taking one last look over his shoulder.

INT. HOTEL DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Katie sat quietly as she picked over her food. She stared at her laptop reading notes, frowning as she did so.

MAX

May I sit?

Katie jumps and slams her laptop shut.

KATIE

Detective!

MAX

Max, remember?

KATIE

Right, Max. What can I do for you?

MAX

(eyeing the computer) I was hoping to take you out to dinner.

KATIE

Well, as you can see, I'm already eating.

MAX

Actually, you aren't.

KATIE

What can I help you with? Do you have more questions?

MAX

Just some of your time, Katie. I just might have some questions for you later.

After a moment, Katie responds.

KATIE

Okay. Just let me get my purse and put up my computer. Can you wait?

MAX

As long as you need me to.

Katie exits & Max waits for her in the lobby.

INT. MAX'S CAR - NIGHT

Katie eyes Max. She looks at him from his hair to his eyes to

his lips down his body, up his arms and to his hands as they tightly gripped the steering wheel.

MAX

What?

KATIE

What?

Max smiles at her as his cell rings.

MAX

Tanner.

He eyes Katie as Keller feeds him information on her.

KELLER

So, Katherine Monroe seems like a normal person who's lived a normal life. Used to be a ballerina, likes horses, graduated top of her class and she's a journalist.

MAX

Really? Where does she work?

KELLER

Crime Zone.

MAX

What else?

KELLER

There's one anomaly. One year ago a Scorpio copycat tried to kill her. Made headline news. She was lucky to be alive. The guy got all the way to trying to cut out her heart before her roommate, who was suppose to be out of town for 3 more days, came home early with her boyfriend. She was in a coma for 2 weeks.

MAX

Jesus!

KELLER

Jesus was nowhere there that day.

MAX

Thanks.

KELLER

What's going on Tanner?

MAX

I'll let you know when I know.

Max hangs up the phone and finds Katie giving him a worrying look. He lost himself in her for a second.

KATIE

Everything okay?

MAX

Police stuff? How do you feel about Cajun?

KATIE

Never had it.

MAX

Well, tonight is a night of firsts
Katie Monroe.

INT. CAJUN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Katie sat nervously looking from her menu and back to Max wondering what his agenda was.

KATIE

So, what is this about?

MAX

What do you mean?

KATIE

Do you bring all strangers that
wander into town here or just the
women?

Max stared at her for a long minute before speaking and never taking his eyes off of hers.

MAX

No, Katie. Just you. Know what you
want?

KATIE

Excuse me?

MAX

To eat. Do you know what you want
to eat?

KATIE

Oh! Um, I don't really know. How about you order for me.

MAX

Something tells me you aren't the kind of woman who likes it when a man takes control.

KATIE

How would you know what kind of woman I am, Detective.

MAX

Well, you are strong willed and a smart ass. Women like that are used to being in control.

KATIE

Wow, Detective Max Tanner. I can definitely see how you became detective with those amazing abilities to be so damn perceptive.

Katie smiled at him. He noticed that when she smiles her tongue sits between her teeth. He smiled back at her.

MAX

That's cute.

KATIE

What is? My wit?

MAX

Your smile. You have a good smile.

Katie gives a shy smile before turning her attention back to her menu peeking up at him from over her menu.

INT. CAJUN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

End of dinner and Max signals for the check.

MAX

Did you like the food?

KATIE

I did.

A waitress comes over with a cake wrapped up.

WAITRESS

Here you go detective. Your meal is

on the house tonight. Orders from
on high.

MAX
Give her a kiss for me.

WAITRESS
Will do.

The waitress walks away and Max gets out of his chair and goes
to pull Katie's out for her.

EXT. CAJUN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Katie and Max are walking toward his car.

KATIE
Kiss who?

MAX
Jealous?

KATIE
No!!

She gives him a nudge. Just as he recovers from her push he
looks up into headlights heading straight for them. He grabs
Katie and throws her clear. The car swerves at the last minute
barely missing Max and side swipes his car and drives off into
the night. Max hears Katie's voice.

KATIE
Max!

MAX
Katie!

He crawls over to where she sat on the ground. She looked
scared and was shaking.

MAX
Katie, are you okay? Hey, look at
me. Tell me you're okay.

KATIE
I'm okay. I'm not hurt. Are you
okay?

MAX
I'm fine.

KATIE

Who was that?

MAX

If I didn't know any better I'd say someone just tried to hit you on purpose, Katie Monroe.

She looked up at him and stared into his eyes for the longest moment.

INT. WARSAW POLICE DEPARTMENT. MAX'S OFFICE - DAY

Max sat staring at the pictures of Katie. Keller walks up.

KELLER

I know those lines.

MAX

What crazy are you talking now, Keller?

KELLER

Those lines in your forehead. Those lines that pop up when you're thinking so hard you just might kill yourself.

MAX

Go away.

KELLER

You called me, remember?

MAX

Right.

KELLER

This got something to do with Miss Monroe? Or Scorpio?

MAX

Right now just Miss Monroe.

KELLER

So is she just a tourist or is something else going on?

Max sat quietly for a moment before getting up and shutting his office door. He motioned for Keller to sit.

MAX

I read the background report you left on my desk.

KELLER

And?

MAX

I hunt down Scorpio six years ago but the bastard gets to me first and then disappears. Katie has some psycho killer imitating Scorpio try and kill her. She gets healthy and spends her time back at work at Crime Zone working on nothing but Scorpio stories. Two weeks ago she writes a story about Scorpio being alive and well and the murders start again.

KELLER

You don't think that's a coincidence.

MAX

I don't think the murder or Katie being here in Warsaw is a coincidence. Especially after last night.

KELLER

What happened last night?

MAX

Someone tried to hit her.

KELLER

Get a plate number?

MAX

No, it happened too fast and it was dark. I only got the color of the car. Dark blue.

KELLER

I've never questioned your abilities to do your job, Tanner. Never. But I don't think you getting back into this Scorpio case is gonna be the best thing for you to do.

MAX

I never asked your opinion, Keller. I'm just letting you in on the information. When I get back, I'll

let you know if I'm officially
reopening the Scorpio case.

INT. KATIE'S HOTEL ROOM - LATE EVENING

Katie sat on her hotel room bed staring at her laptop. She closed her computer and rested back. Thoughts of the night before flashed through her head.

A knock sounded on her door and Katie sat upright.

KATIE
Who is it?

MAX
Max.

Katie looked around the room and tried to quickly tidied up as much as she could. She made her way to the door and slowly opened it.

KATIE
Hi.

MAX
Can I come in?

KATIE
Sure.

MAX
How are you Katie? Did you sleep well?

KATIE
I slept. Can't promise you that it was well. Have a seat?

Max looked around the room. The only chair was taken by a bunch of clothes.

MAX
You pack your whole life?

KATIE
A girl never knows what she wants to wear so why should she pack outfits when tomorrow her mind's gonna change?

Max gave a little laugh and made his way to her bed and sat down.

MAX

Come here Katie.

Katie, with lots of uncertainty, made her way toward the bed but stops before she gets there.

MAX

Katie, Come here.

Max stood as Katie took those final steps toward him. When she was in arms length he pulled her against her body and slowly bent his head to her but he did not kiss her.

MAX

You should have stayed on the other side of the room.

He kissed her hard and they have wild, passionate, a little rough foreplay and then they have sex, slow sex.

INT. KATIE'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Max rolled away from Katie's still, sleeping body. He pulled on his jeans and stood at her window looking out. After what seems like a few minutes Katie awakens and sits up pulling the sheets up covering her naked body.

KATIE

Max... Max, are you okay?

Max turns toward her and makes his way back to the bed where he sits and eyes her for a long moment.

KATIE

What? You regret what just happened don't you?

MAX

No...

KATIE

It's okay.

MAX

No, Katie.

KATIE

Then what's wrong?

MAX

I wished I didn't have to ask you.

KATIE

Ask me what?

MAX

I wish you could just be a woman passing through.

KATIE

Ask me what?

MAX

I wish I didn't care for you so much. It just complicates things.

KATIE

Ask me what, Max?

MAX

Why are you here Katie Monroe of "Crime Zone" paper? Why are you in my town.

KATIE

Have you been checking up on me?

Katie gets out of bed and quickly starts to get dressed.

KATIE

I think you should leave now.

MAX

I can't leave until I get what I came here to get?

KATIE

And what was the sex? A bonus?

MAX

I didn't mean for that to happen!

KATIE

Really, because you came in here like you had an agenda wasting no time.

MAX

I'm sorry, Katie. I only meant to come here and question you on last night's events and about your past. I didn't mean to. Believe me.

KATIE

Believe you? Why should I? Why didn't you just ask me what you had

to ask?

MAX

I had fun last night. You made me smile the way no woman had in a very long time. Ever since my wife's death. I was worried about you after last night and when you opened that door and I could see those lines creeping across your brow and the dark circles under your eyes, I just wanted to take care of you. I just wanted to love you.

KATIE

Well, thanks. Now get the hell out!

MAX

What do you know about the Scorpio murders? About this town? About Scorpio himself?

KATIE

I can't do this now.

MAX

You don't have a choice.

KATIE

Why did you take me out last night? You couldn't have been that interested after our 5 minute conversation we'd had earlier that day.

MAX

I'm asking the questions.

KATIE

You'll get your answers when I get mine. What is your game, Detective?

MAX

Katie...

KATIE

Miss Monroe if you don't mind, Detective.

MAX

I received pictures of you from an anonymous source. I thought you were just vacationing until I got

those pictures. Someone wanted me to know you were involved.

KATIE
What pictures?

MAX
Katie...

KATIE
Miss Monroe.

MAX
Miss Monroe, I'm going to need you to come down to the station and answer a few questions for me.

KATIE
I'll meet you there. If you don't mind Detective Tanner, I'd like to take a shower and wash away the filth of today first.

MAX
Certainly.

Max turned on his heels and left Katie alone in her room. With tears in her eyes, Katie made her way towards the bathroom door before sinking to the floor and crying.

INT. WARSAW POLICE DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Max paced the front part of the station with a coffee in his hands. He looked at the door with every passing step. He started towards the door taking his car keys out of his pocket before seeing Katie.

MAX
Miss Monroe, I was beginning to think you'd skipped town on me.

KATIE
I'm a decent person, Detective. I wouldn't do that but what do you know about being decent?

MAX
Enough with the quips. You want professional well here you go.

Katie lifts her chin up high and takes a step closer to him.

MAX

So be it. Follow me.

Katie followed Max into his office. Detective Keller follows them.

INT. MAX'S OFFICE - NIGHT

MAX

Have a seat Miss Monroe. This here is Detective Keller. He's assisting me with the Scorpio case.

KATIE

Scorpio?

MAX

That's right. In light of the recent events I thought it was time to officially do that.

KELLER

Miss Monroe, what do you know about Scorpio.

KATIE

The same as the rest of the general public.

KELLER

I don't believe that. I have it on good authority that you're a pretty good reporter. I've read some of your pieces. Very intriguing but I have to say that your writing didn't get much buzz until after your accident.

KATIE

Excuse me?

KELLER

When you were almost murdered, Miss Monroe. You remember that don't you?

KATIE

Of course. How can I forget? I did almost die.

KELLER

You've done a lot of research on the first murders, correct?

KATIE

I kept track of them, yes. I do work for a crime paper.

KELLER

Recently you wrote an article about how you think Scorpio is alive. What makes you think so?

KATIE

Instinct.

KELLER

What else?

KATIE

The first new murder here. I think my writing triggered it. Scorpio was never caught. He's still alive and when I wrote about finding him and punishing him for his crimes, specifically the one that sparked my attempted murder, that first killing happened. It's like I woke him up.

KELLER

You proud of that, Miss Monroe? Are you proud that you got some innocent woman killed? Or maybe the man outside the hotel the very night you came into town?

KATIE

No! Why would I be proud of that?

Katie looks at Max for help but he looks away.

KATIE

Oh, I get it. This is good cop, bad cop. I'm a writer. I write. It's your fault for not catching him in the first place.

MAX

What did you say?

KATIE

I said it's your fault.

Max and Katie both stand and square off.

KATIE

It's your fault. You go your wife killed. You didn't catch Scorpio. Don't put that on me.

KELLER

Have a seat Miss Monroe.

KATIE

Blow me, Detective. If you're going to accuse me of something then do it but don't put your sloppy police work on me. You want to play good cop, bad cop, don't. I don't like games.

Katie faces Max once more.

KATIE

Are we done?

MAX

Yes.

KATIE

Goodbye.

Katie storms out slamming the door behind her.

KELLER

Whew! There's some fire in that one. What do you think, Tanner?

MAX

She declared some war on him through her writing and now he's after her.

KELLER

What is she to Scorpio? Dessert? Why all the other murders?

MAX

I don't know. Practice, maybe. He hasn't killed for 6 years.

KELLER

Why didn't he kill you last night? You said he swerved last minute to miss you.

MAX

That's a good question, Keller. That is a very good question. I'll

see you later.

KELLER
Where you going?

MAX
To try a slightly different
approach to Miss Monroe.

KELLER
By doing what?

MAX
She wants revenge. I'm going to let
her play detective.

KELLER
I don't think that will be a good
idea. You're going to get her
killed.

MAX
No. This way she's with me all the
time. How is Scorpio going to get
to her then? It's already been
proven that he won't kill me.

KELLER
How do we know this is really that
psychopath? This could be just
another copycat.

MAX
It's him. I can feel it. Katie was
right. This is my fault. I didn't
catch him and for 6 years he's been
free. Waiting, watching, living.
I'm ending it this time.

Max exits his office leaving Keller standing there alone.

INT. KATIE'S HOTEL ROOM - LATE EVENING

Katie paced the room. She picked up her suitcase, throwing it
across the bed and started to pack before sighing and
unpacking once more. A knock on the door. Katie chooses to
ignore it but the knock keeps coming. Katie jerks the door
open.

KATIE
What?!

CAROLINE

Oh! Is this a bad time?

KATIE

Caroline!

CAROLINE

I can come back, if you'd like.

KATIE

No, No! I'm sorry. I'm just in a huff.

CAROLINE

I could tell when you came in. No one on vacation should be angry. You should be relaxed and enjoying yourself. So, I figured you could benefit from some girl talk, if that's what you needed.

KATIE

Sure. Come in.

Katie steps back and Caroline comes in. She walks over to the bed and begins folding Katie's clothes and neatly placing them on the bed. Katie watches silently.

CAROLINE

You want to talk about it?

KATIE

I don't know if there's anything to talk about. It's just this trip is not going like I thought it would.

CAROLINE

Which was?

KATIE

I'd find what I needed to be at peace.

CAROLINE

Ah, being at peace. I think people never find that until they stop looking. Then, it kind of sneaks up on you and scares you half to death sending you running the other direction. Right back into turmoil.

KATIE

Really! That's an interesting theory.

CAROLINE
It's been my life's lesson. Is it
this murder investigation?

KATIE
Yes.

CAROLINE
So many women has had that same
look on their face after talking to
Max.

KATIE
What...

CAROLINE
Oh, don't try and fool me. Max is a
real lady's man, charmer that one.
Women in this town have been trying
to tame him for 6 years now.

KATIE
Since his wife's death?

CAROLINE
Yes.

KATIE
Including you?

CAROLINE
I really didn't see what the fuss
was about. Especially after his
wife. He was so dark and angry then
but women didn't care. I just took
care of him, you know. Made sure he
had something to eat. His things
were clean. He really started to
open up to me. Little by little.
Can you believe the women didn't
even mind he scars.

KATIE
That's why I didn't recognize him
when I checked in. He had
surgeries, didn't he.

Caroline moves away from Katie and towards the door.

CAROLINE
Yeah. It was necessary.

KATIE
He still has one.

CAROLINE AND KATIE
Bottom of his left jaw.

Katie smiles and Caroline scowls.

CAROLINE
He's a really good man. You shouldn't play with him for a story.

KATIE
Excuse me?

CAROLINE
I know who you are and why you're here. Stop bothering him or I'll stop you. Go home Katie Monroe. Maybe Scorpio will stop killing once you're gone. Or maybe he won't stop until you're one of his victims too.

Katie watched, stunned, as Caroline exited her room.

She sat there, her mind wondering until a knock sounded on the door. Katie decided to answer.

She came face to face with Max.

Katie only rolled her eyes and tried to shut the door but Max stopped her.

MAX
Katie, please. I have to talk to you.

KATIE
Like a man?

MAX
I'm sorry about earlier, okay. Just let me in. I need to explain everything to you. From the beginning. I want to lay it all on the line. That says a lot coming from me, Katie. A lot.

Katie hesitated but opened the door wider for him.

MAX

Actually, I'd like to go for a walk.

EXT. HOTEL PATHWAYS - NIGHT

They walked in awkward silence until Katie stumbled. Max caught her before she hit the ground.

MAX
You still falling down, I see.

KATIE
There's not really a cure for that.

MAX
Maybe you need someone around all the time to make sure you never have a hard landing.

KATIE
Yeah, that's what I need. To drag some poor soul into hell with me.

They fell into silence once again.

MAX
Katie... I don't really know where to start.

KATIE
Start at the beginning. The very first time you saw me.

MAX
Okay. It was when you checked into the hotel. It was just another day. And then the murder that night happened followed by the pictures.

KATIE
The pictures? The ones you mentioned earlier?

MAX
Yes. I didn't make the connection at first. I thought you might have gotten a stalker. There wasn't a clear connection between you and Scorpio.

As they walked they came upon a bench. Max motioned for Katie to sit.

MAX

That same night I came to talk to you. You were still just some tourist, then. I thought you were beautiful. You sat there picking over your food, frowning at your computer.

KATIE

When did you make the connection between me and Scorpio?

MAX

In the car, when we were on our way to dinner. I was having Keller run a background check on you.

Katie looked at him disappointingly before dropping her head. Max quickly took a hold of her hands.

MAX

You were just a job then Katie. I was doing the background check because I needed to know why someone would stalk you. It was my job to protect you. The innocent.

KATIE

You said that you didn't figure there was a connection between the new Scorpio murders and me until we were on our way to dinner.

MAX

Your almost murder popped up. The Scorpio copycat. That's when I got curious enough to think that you and the real Scorpio were somehow connected. I just didn't know how connected.

KATIE

Like I could be his accomplice?

MAX

I honestly did not know what to think until that car almost ran you down. I knew you might be his new target.

KATIE

His new target?

MAX

It would have been impossible for you to make such an angry enemy so fast, Katie. You had only been in town a day.

KATIE

You obviously have no idea how long it takes me to make an enemy.

MAX

Who could ever hate you Kate.

KATIE

You did. You let Detective Keller say those things to me. Use my past pains as a weapon against me.

MAX

It wasn't because I hated you!

KATIE

Why then? Because you were mad?

MAX

Yes! I knew that I couldn't do that to you. I cared for you. I care for you.

KATIE

Not enough to protect my heart. Just not enough to protect it from others that wish to do it harm, right?

MAX

Katie, I...

KATIE

Thank you for explaining things to me. I know you didn't sleep with me because... because you...

Max grabbed Katie and kissed her passionately.

KATIE

Max!

Katie pulled away breathlessly.

MAX

I slept with you because in a single instant I fell in love with

you.

KATIE

No!

Katie jumps up! She heads back in the direction of the hotel.

MAX

Kate!

KATIE

You can't love someone that fast.
That's a dangerous thing to do,
Max.

Max caught up to her and pulled her to a stop.

MAX

I don't mean to scare you and I'll
never say those words again. Not
until you want me to.

KATIE

I don't know what I want anymore.

MAX

To catch Scorpio once and for all.

KATIE

What?

MAX

I have a proposition for you. I
want you to help me catch him.

KATIE

Are you serious?

MAX

As a heart attack.

KATIE

You trying to lose your badge,
detective?

MAX

You were right, Katie.

KATIE

About?

MAX

This being my fault.

KATIE

Max, I was... I didn't mean...

MAX

No, Katie. It is my fault. I've always known it. I never caught the bastard. I let him catch me. I let him murder my wife. My unborn child. I let the press run wild and inspire copycats that ultimately got you hurt. It's all on me. Well, I have a debt to settle but I need your help.

KATIE

What can i do? I'm nobody.

MAX

So very wrong. You are somebody he wants.

KATIE

Bait!

Katie starts walking away again.

KATIE

Are you insane, Tanner?

MAX

No, honey. I'm not risking your life. Not ever. I'm gonna keep you close so I can protect you.

Katie let out a long sigh.

KATIE

For a second, I thought you might be as crazy as that killer.

MAX

Only for you.

Smiling. Happy that he likes her.

She takes a step toward him.

KATIE

So is Scorpio. At the moment.

MAX

Well, I'm doing something about

that! There is no way in hell I'm sharing you.

Max closes the final gap between them and pulls her in to him. He kisses her long and hard.

A dark figure in the distance moves in and out of view. They never noticed.

Max slowly pulls away from Katie.

MAX
Now let's get you packed. You're moving in with me.

KATIE
I don't know.

MAX
How else am I going to keep you safe? Besides, you'll be relieved when I show you what I have to show you.

Hand in hand they walk back to the hotel.

INT. MAX'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Katie stepped through the big front door and let out a low whistle as she looked around. Max smiled in male pride and satisfaction.

MAX
You like?

KATIE
I love. The decor is just beautiful.

MAX
Tara's taste.

KATIE
That's the first time you've said her name.

Max looked over at her and smiled.

MAX
That's the first time I felt like I could say it without falling to pieces.

KATIE

Do you ever talk about it, Max?

MAX

No.

KATIE

Someday, I wish you'd be able to tell me about it. About her.

MAX

Someday?

KATIE

Someday.

MAX

Let me show you the rest of the house. If you love this you'll love the kitchen.

KATIE

Ooh, is it big? Does it have an island? Bar? A really, really bright...

MAX

Just come and see woman! If you're nice I might let you see my room.

KATIE

What happens if I'm not nice?

Max leads Katie to the kitchen where she melts at it's beauty.

MAX

If you're not nice then I'll have let you see my room as punishment.

KATIE

Is it heaven?

MAX

My room?

KATIE

No, I'm sure that's dirty. This!

Max rolled his eyes as Katie made a big gesture with her arms indicating that she's talking about the kitchen.

MAX

I'll leave you two alone.

He gives her a hard but playful shove and runs away with Katie laughing and chasing him.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Katie slowly wakes up to an empty bed. She sits up just as Max entered with an envelope.

KATIE

What's that?

MAX

Did you sleep well? I didn't want to wake you. I was going to wait until tomorrow morning to show you these.

He hands her the envelope and watches as she opens it. She pulls out the pictures of her that Scorpio had sent Max. She stops on one that showed her sleeping in her hotel room her first night there.

KATIE

Oh my god.

MAX

Do you see why I wanted you here with me? He's been on your trail since you crossed the city limits.

Katie looks at the next picture.

KATIE

Or before I even crossed it.

MAX

What do you mean?

KATIE

This picture here. It's from my apartment back home. I'm on the 4th floor.

MAX

He had to have been standing right next to you. In your apartment.

KATIE

He could've killed me anytime.

MAX

He's doing to you what he did to

me.

KATIE
I don't follow.

MAX
He's warning you, love.

KATIE
He warned you?

MAX
Yes.

KATIE
How?

Max hesitated before leaning back against the headboard. Katie snuggled against him.

MAX
By drugging me, cutting up my arm to where I almost could never use it again, slicing up my face and leaving an "x" over my heart.

Katie looked up at him and then down to the mark over his heart.

KATIE
X marks the spot.

MAX
The spot where a scorpion should have been left. The final warning was killing Tara and our unborn child. Not many knew she was pregnant, including me. Not many know to this very day.

KATIE
Max, why kill her and not you?

MAX
He wanted me to live. Just like the night he tried to hit you with the car. Punishment.

KATIE
Max...

MAX
He wanted me to live, Kate. Live

with myself and my own failures and guilty conscience forever. He wanted me to live knowing my wife was dead and I couldn't protect her, save her. He was warning me that he could take anyone I loved if I did not stay away. I was suppose to look in the mirror everyday and have those scars remind me that it's my fault.

KATIE

It is not your fault! It's his. And that's why we are going to catch him this time.

Max kissed Katie's forehead and pulled her in tighter.

KATIE

Do you think he knew she was pregnant? Was that to punish you to?

MAX

No.

KATIE

Why are you so sure?

MAX

He did something different with her body than he'd done with all the others. Scorpio's signature was to cut out the heart and leave a scorpion in it's place. He sliced Tara straight to her navel. He wanted to mutilate her body as more punishment for me but I think when he did that, he saw the fetus. He left a rose instead of a scorpion. He was sorry for that.

KATIE

It's hard to believe someone like Scorpio can be sorry for something as cruel as taking a human life with no purpose except self.

MAX

I was just as shocked.

KATIE

I'm so sorry, Max. You must miss

her so much. You must love her so much.

Max released Katie and pushed her back so he could look into her eyes.

MAX

Yes and Yes. I will always love her. Nothing could ever change that. During our time together she taught me to have a bigger heart. I know now it was to prepare me for the moment I'd need the extra room to love someone else with this same fragile heart.

He kissed Katie.

MAX

Hold me now or this fragile heart just might break tonight.

She did.

EXT. MAX'S FRONT PORCH - DAWN

Katie let the wind blow her hair around closing her eyes as she did so. She took a sip from her mug before placing it on the wooden railing.

A twig snapped off in the distance. Katie jumped. Taking a moment to look she didn't see anything. Another twig snapped just as she had looked away.

Fearfully, Katie grabbed her mug and headed for the door. She twisted the knob. Locked! She had accidentally locked the door.

Katie peered over her shoulder to see a figure illuminate in the twilight. She frantically pushed the doorbell. Once, twice, three times- again and again and again. The figure moved closer.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Max jerked awake at the sound of his doorbell. He looked at the empty space next to him then around the room.

The bell sounded over and over. He threw the covers back and hurried down the hall. His house was completely dark.

MAX

Katie!

No answer. He got to the door and reached for the knob when he stopped and listened to the silence.

He jerked the door open only to find a broken coffee mug on the ground, blood on the top step and no Katie.

He ran out into the yard yelling her name only to get no answer and finally falling to his knees.

INT. WARSAW POLICE DEPARTMENT - MORNING

Max paced the room and Keller watched in silence. Max slammed his fist into the wall causing Keller to jump.

KELLER

Okay, Tanner! Calm down.

MAX

What did you just say to me?

KELLER

You might not want to hear it and you might think that's necessary but it is so I'll say it again. Calm down.

Max glared at him.

KELLER

Why was she not with you? Or was she and Scorpio actually come in your house.

MAX

He didn't come in. She was outside more than likely drinking coffee.

KELLER

Hence the coffee mug you found.

MAX

Why did she go outside alone?

KELLER

Women don't listen.

MAX

Not the time, Keller.

KELLER

I'm not saying it to be funny. Women don't listen. You tell her

Scorpio was after her?

MAX

Yes.

KELLER

Tell her she needs to be by your side?

MAX

Yes! Get to a point.

KELLER

Women don't listen.

Max collapses in his chair and lays his head on his desk.

MAX

How do we find her? We can't even find him.

KELLER

It's too bad you don't remember anything from when you were taken.

MAX

Of course I remember things. I have the nightmares every night.

INT. DARK ROOM - DAY

Katie slowly opened her eyes to a blinding pain in her head. Blood trickled down her face.

She looked around but it was too dark to see much of anything. All she could hear was water.

Suddenly a familiar voice.

CAROLINE

You're awake! I'm glad. For a minute I thought I'd killed you.

KATIE

Caroline?

Caroline threw her hands into the air.

CAROLINE

Don't you just love surprises?

KATIE

What are you doing?

CAROLINE
I'm not much of a fan of surprises.

KATIE
Caroline.

CAROLINE
Scared of them really.

KATIE
Caroline!!!

CAROLINE
What?! You don't have to scream at me.

Caroline walked away and lifted up a shade and then another letting light into the room.

CAROLINE
Now that's better. I can see your face. Oh no! You're bleeding.

KATIE
You hit me.

CAROLINE
You put up a fight. Do you want breakfast? I interrupted yours this morning.

KATIE
No, Caroline. Just tell me what you're doing.

CAROLINE
Killing you, silly.

KATIE
Why?

CAROLINE
You just couldn't leave it alone could you Katie. I warned you, fair and square.

KATIE
Are you talking about Max? Your crush on Max?

CAROLINE
I'm going to cut your heart out,

slowly.

In a hushed whisper Katie spoke.

KATIE

Scorpio?

CAROLINE

Bravo! You figure it out. Well,
it's about time somebody did.

KATIE

I don't understand. How can you be
Scorpio? Scorpio is...

CAROLINE

A man? Nope. Never was. I was
really quite clever you know. I
decided it was best not to correct
that little mistake. No one ever
expects women to be killers. Just
crazy! But you gotta be crazy to be
a killer right? So why not assume
serial killers are women?

KATIE

This can't be happening to me.

CAROLINE

Oh, but it is.

KATIE

Where are we?

CAROLINE

On our way to a special place.
You'll like it. It's very quite
there. It'll just be the two of us.
Oh, look! There it is! We're here.

Caroline grabs Katie and pulls her up.

CAROLINE

No you're going to be nice, right?

Katie just glared and her abductor.

CAROLINE

Of course you are. You don't want
to die ahead of schedule.

Caroline motions for Katie to walk. They exit through the door
and the bright sun blinds Katie.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF BOAT - DAY

When her eyes adjusted she looked around to discover she'd been on a boat. Caroline gave her a little shove and pointed to a small house on the hill.

CAROLINE

Go there.

Katie obeyed silently praying. She looked over her shoulder into the open sea hoping to see some form of rescue. Did Max even know she was gone, yet?

KATIE

What time is it?

CAROLINE

What does it matter?

KATIE

I'd just like to know.

CAROLINE

I don't have a watch.

She approached the small house and Caroline unlocked the door and shoved Katie inside. She closed it and turned on the lights.

INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE

CAROLINE

Charming, isn't it? It belonged to my mother, God rest her soul.

KATIE

Did you kill her too?

Caroline jerked Katie around so that they were facing each other. Caroline slapped Katie, hard and immediately slapped the opposite cheek. Caroline then grabbed a large handful of Katie's hair and pulled her so close to her face that Katie could smell her breath as it trickled across her face pushing strands of hair from Katie's face.

CAROLINE

Watch your mouth. My mother was a peaceful woman. I'd never harm the one person to ever love me. Apologize.

When Katie said nothing, Caroline traded her slaps with one

big punch knocking Katie to the floor.

CAROLINE
I said apologize to me!

KATIE
I'm sorry.

Katie shed a single tear as Caroline lifted her up off the floor. Caroline grabbed a nearby chair and sat Katie in it pulling her still tied hands behind the chair.

CAROLINE
There. Are you sure you don't want breakfast? You're entitled to a last meal.

KATIE
Yes. I'd love some breakfast.

CAROLINE
Do you like bacon? I have some bacon.

KATIE
And toast?

CAROLINE
I can swing that. You just sit there.

Caroline walked behind the chair pulled it along with Katie in it into the kitchen with her, dropping it once.

CAROLINE
Whoops.

Katie watched quietly as Caroline prepared her breakfast. Caroline fixed Katie a plate and sat it in front of her. Caroline began feeding Katie. Katie, disliking the food, made a face.

CAROLINE
You don't like it? You don't like it. I was never really any good with cooking for guests.

Caroline set the plate aside and left the room.

Katie struggled to free herself, having no time to do so. Caroline was quickly back in the room.

She placed a jar with a scorpion inside on the table.

CAROLINE

It's time.

KATIE

Why are you doing this? If you love Max, How could you hurt him?

CAROLINE

It was never my intention to kill him, Katie. He wouldn't stop chasing me. I had to do something. When I hurt him, I knew it was bad enough to keep him down long enough for me to dust my tracks.

KATIE

His wife?

CAROLINE

Tara? She was in the way.

KATIE

She was pregnant.

CAROLINE

I didn't know. It wasn't suppose to happen like that. I felt bad. I don't kill innocent children.

KATIE

You left a white rose.

CAROLINE

Yes. A peace offering between Max and I.

KATIE

Are you doing this to me now because you love Max?

CAROLINE

Shame really. I wish you had just been visiting. A simple vacation was all you should have been doing.

KATIE

I could just leave town. If that's what you really want. I'm not in love with Max. You want him for yourself, right?

Caroline laughed.

CAROLINE

It's too late.

Caroline went over the one of the kitchen cabinets and pulled out a case. She brought it over to the table and opened it up. Inside were knives and scalpels.

KATIE

Oh god.

CAROLINE

No, honey. God can't hear you here.
This is hell.

Caroline pulled on gloves and picked up a knife.

EXT. THE DOCKS - DAY

Max and Keller ran down the docks with 3 police officers lagging behind. Max stopped and looked around.

KELLER

You sure about this?

MAX

Yes.

KELLER

You came here your first day back.
I came here as soon as you regained consciousness and told me about the sound of waves. We both got nothing then. What makes you think we'll find something now?

MAX

Because now it's all different.
Scorpio was already in hiding by then. He'd already stopped the murders.

KELLER

This time he's in the middle of one. Something should be different.

MAX

Let's hope we get there before he actually murders. For once, let's save somebody's life.

Max, Keller and the officers looked around.

MAX

Come on. Tell me something different.

He continued to look around until he noticed that a boat was missing. An open space at the end of the dock.

MAX

There. Who's boat was here?

KELLER

Let's find out.

Keller pulled out his cell.

KELLER

All boats have to be registered before they're allowed to be docked. Old man Keys has the registrations.

Keller continued to wait as the phone rang. Keys picked up the other line.

KEYS (V.O.)

Hello?

KELLER

Raymond Keys?

KEYS (V.O.)

Yeah.

KELLER

It's Detective Keller with the Warsaw Police Department. I need the registration log of all the boats docked at the marina.

KEYS (V.O.)

I know every boat there. Just tell me which one. You got a name?

KELLER

No, the boat's missing. The one at the end of the dock, right side.

Keller listens and looks shocked. Max gave him a questioning look.

Keller snaps his phone shut.

MAX

What? Who's boat is it?

KELLER
Caroline Montgomery's.

MAX
What?

KELLER
It's Caroline.

MAX
That's impossible.

KELLER
Max, nothing is impossible.

MAX
But Caroline? Come on! That woman is practically in love with me. She wouldn't hurt me. How could she?

KELLER
It makes sense now. We never really proved Scorpio was a man.

MAX
When I was taken, I wasn't overpowered. I was drugged.

KELLER
A woman wouldn't be able to attack you straight on.

MAX
I was with Caroline earlier that day. Dammit!

Keller turns to the other officers.

KELLER
Find a boat with a key on it!

Everyone rushes onto as many boats as they could looking for one with a key hidden on it. Max yells over to Keller.

MAX
That explains why she couldn't kill me that night I went out with Katie. She only wanted to get rid of her competition.

OFFICER

Found one!

Max and Keller jumped from the boats they had been searching and ran to the officer and the boat he was on. Max takes the keys and waits for the other officers to catch up.

He starts the engine and pulls out from the dock.

KELLER

How do we know where to go?

MAX

Caroline spent a lot of time helping me heal, mentally and physically. We talked a lot. She told me about a little house where she and her mother use to live. She wanted to fix it up and use it as a place to get away from it all. She wanted me to come out here and see it one day.

The boat continued to speed off across the open water.

INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE

Caroline uses the knife to cut open Katie's shirt exposing her bra. She sees the scar across Katie's heart.

CAROLINE

Surgery?

KATIE

Not unless you consider a fan of yours trying to recreate your insanity.

CAROLINE

Pity the job wasn't finished. I'm going to give you a sedative. You shouldn't have to feel this.

Caroline picks up a needle and small vile from her case.

CAROLINE

The needle might hurt going in.

Caroline pushed the needle into Katie's skin and injected the sedative.

KATIE

No.

CAROLINE

Shh, puppet. It'll all be okay. Go to sleep now.

KATIE

Max will find me. He'll stop you.

CAROLINE

But it's already too late.

Caroline picked up her scalpel and placed it onto Katie's skin. As she pressed down, blood spilled through. Katie screamed.

CAROLINE

Now hush or I won't wait until you're out cold.

Katie's vision started to blur.

KATIE

Max.

Katie finally passes out.

CAROLINE

There. I told you I'd cut your heart out.

MAX

Not if I cut yours out first.

Caroline looks up just in time to see Max standing there with his gun pointed at her.

MAX

You should have killed me.

Max pulled the trigger. He watched as blood seeped from her throat before she finally collapsed in death. He rushed over to Katie as Keller and the officers rushed in.

MAX

Katie!

KELLER

We heard a shot!

He sees Caroline on the floor and Max trying to wake up Katie.

KELLER
Jesus. Is she... Is she...

MAX
No. Untie her.

Keller rushed over to untie Katie's hands. He turned to the officers.

KELLER
Call it in.

MAX
Katie! Honey wake up. Katie.

INT. CRIME ZONE PAPER 3 WEEKS LATER - LATE NIGHT

Katie sat at her office desk daydreaming. Images of Max flashed through her mind. Images before and after Scorpio. She remembered how he sat by her hospital bedside, worried. How he held her hand. How he smiled at her. The look on his face when she said goodbye. She heard his voice, the final thing he said to her.

MAX (V.O.)
I'll always be right here.

Katie's daydream continued. When she finally regained her concentration, Tim was perched on the end of her desk.

TIM
Katie.

KATIE
Tim.

TIM
Go anywhere interesting just then?

KATIE
What can I do for you, Tim?

TIM
I'm just curious about something.

KATIE
What, dare I ask?

TIM
Scorpio.

KATIE

What about her? She's dead.

TIM

I'm sorry, let me rephrase. The Scorpio story.

KATIE

I think it was well written considering I wrote it. How is it that you don't understand it?

TIM

What I don't understand is how you got that story if you were on vacation. Where did you say you went again?

KATIE

I didn't say.

TIM

Where?

KATIE

Maui.

TIM

Right. Maui. Liar.

KATIE

Tim! I'm offended.

TIM

Don't be a smart ass. How did you get that story so fast?

KATIE

Like every other reporter, I suppose. I'm just better.

TIM

Not even the best can get an exclusive the way you did. Photos, dates and times. You even got the story out almost a full 24 hours than Warsaw papers did.

KATIE

Your point is?

TIM

You had someone on the inside, didn't you?

Katie stands and puts on her jacket. She cuts off her computer and lets out a long sigh.

KATIE
I'm tired Tim. I need a vacation.

TIM
Last one a little too adventurous
for you?

KATIE
No. A little too heartbreaking.

She turns leaving Tim standing there alone before turning back.

KATIE
Like I said, do you really know me
or do you know the me I want you to
know?

She turned and walked away leaving Tim with one last statement as she walked.

KATIE
I'm better than you. Always was and
always will be. You'll always be
chasing the shadows of my stories,
Tim.

INT. WARSAW POLICE DEPT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Max leaned against the table of the interrogation room and tossed a baseball up in the air catching it in the process. A young, pretty woman sticks her head inside the room.

WOMAN
Sir, the file you wanted is on your
desk. Would you rather I bring them
to you in here?

MAX
No.

WOMAN
Well, then. Goodnight.

The woman waited for a response but when she got none she left leaving Max with his own thoughts. He continued to toss the baseball. With a big sigh and gave the ball one last toss.

This time he failed to catch it. The ball fell to the floor and rolled toward the door. Max watched the ball as it came to a stop against a woman's foot.

MAX

Did you forget something?

He looked up.

KATIE

Yeah, I kind of did.

Max stood up quickly but said nothing. The silence stretched on. Katie nervously spoke.

KATIE

Hi.

MAX

Hi.

Silence once again.

MAX

What did you forget?

KATIE

My heart. You didn't give it back when I left.

Max spoke in a quiet whisper.

MAX

When you left.

KATIE

I guess I didn't really know you had it.

MAX

Can I have my ball back?

Katie tossed him the ball. When she took a step toward him he moved to the other side of the room. Katie slowly followed him until he was backed in a corner with nowhere left to go. She reached up and stroked the scar on his chin.

KATIE

Warsaw is not my home but somehow you became my home. I knew you and loved you so fast it scared me half to death, almost literally. I went home with a hole in my heart,

almost literally.

MAX

I don't think that's funny.

Katie only gave a sad smile as she stood on her tiptoes and kissed the scar.

KATIE

Just a little funny?

MAX

No, Katie. Losing you and almost losing you has been painful, not funny.

He jerked away from her.

MAX

You came into my town, caused mayhem in my life, made me love a woman the way I thought I never could again only to shatter my heart.

KATIE

Max.

MAX

I begged you to stay.

KATIE

We barely know each other, Max. It was insane.

MAX

Then why are you here?

KATIE

Because I realized a little crazy is what I want. What I need.

MAX

What are you gonna do here in Warsaw, Katie. You'll just get bored.

KATIE

I'm going to start my own paper. I'm also going to be with you.

MAX

Why?

KATIE
Because I love you.

Max smiled and took slow steps toward her.

MAX
You love me?

KATIE
Yes.

MAX
We're moving way too fast.

He continued his slow steps until he was right in front of her.

KATIE
Life doesn't wait on us. We have to keep up with it. That means moving a little faster sometimes.

Max pulled her into his arms and leaned in until he was an inch from her lips.

MAX
Tell me you love me or I'm pulling out my handcuffs.

KATIE
Detective!

MAX
Tell me you love me.

KATIE
Why?

MAX
Because I love you.

KATIE
Well, in that case, I love you too.

And with a slow, sexy smile, he kissed her.