

Chapter 1: September 13th 19:00

Situated on the cliffs on the coast of Hayabala, this building was very gigantic. The perimeter wall was a majestic brick red which stood about one hundred feet tall and ten feet wide. Spread over an area of fifty acres, the ground was covered with a concrete floor. The walls of the inner building was grey cement. A contrast to the outer wall which provided a sense of beauty; this grey lifeless wall was the true facade of the building. The walls were as grey as the life of the prisoners inside it was drab. Yes! this was a prison.

Antonio's fork falls to the floor. In his distraction to speak to his friend, he did not keep the fork properly on the plate. He looks down bends over to pick up his fork. A knee connects with Antonio's chin. Antonio's head bangs up to the heavy table and makes a huge noise. The double impact from the table at the top and Jason's knee at the bottom makes Antonio speechless. He looks up. Jason was grinning at him. "You are getting rewarded for the good deeds you did on your

way down”, he said. Antonio suddenly got up from his table in a rage but he saw a correction officer walk towards them.

His four friends who were already seated there, had seen the encounter. They grinned in acknowledgement to Jason's smile. The correction officers were watching all of this. They only interfered if the violence was going to escalate into a group war. They knew that this was over for tonight. Jason went and sat in his chair. His friends patted him on his shoulder. Antonio was still glaring at him. Brady was the first one to acknowledge him. “You taught him a good lesson. He is probably seeing stars”. Jason turned around and looked at Antonio. He laughed heartily in the pure pleasure of Antonio's face screwed in pain. “You know Brady! that was the best highlight of the day”, he replied.

Jimmy leaned over towards Jason. “Jason, you are right. 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. He needed it desperately.” David who was on Jason's left and across from him whispered softly. “Jason, he will pay you back for this; you know that?” Jason replied. “Of course David, I know that. But I will still do it. I

will pay him back on the double, if he even looked at any of you with an evil intention.” Lucas who never could say a good word but never wanted to be left behind, piped in. “Yeah right. No one is that sincere here to actually take the slack for the other.” David looked at him with annoyance. He was fed up of his brother always being negative about his friends. Jason looked at Lucas pointedly but refused to be drawn into that useless debate.

Chapter 2: September 14th 11:00

The morning air was cold, crisp and fresh. The day was sunny. Brady, Jimmy, David and Lucas stood outside the prison gates. They had been officially released. They had said their goodbyes to Jason after breakfast. David and Lucas' parents were waiting with their car outside the prison gate. They were anxious to get away from there. However, Lucas and David took their time bidding farewell to the other two.

David shook his hand with Brady and Jimmy. 'Well this is it. Our parents are waiting. I am

surprised that they are here at all.” Jimmy laughs and remarks “Perhaps they are thinking that you have turned over a new leaf.” Lucas grunted in response. David and Lucas walked up to their parents and hugged them. They got into the car, waved good bye to their now friends and ex-prison mates and drove off.

Bob sat up when he heard this piece of the news. “I hope Marty is alright”. Bob Walter is a heavily built tall man. He looked handsome in his tailored suit, tight haircut, clean shaved face and an expensive watch on his wrist. He was smooth and suave. He had a series of legitimate businesses which acted as a front for his diamond smuggling, money laundering and counterfeit currency business. His net worth was four hundred million. He lived a careful life so that the public or the government were not aware of his shady deals. Yet he moved around in both circles - the upper world and the underworld alike with unrealistic ease. The mobile phone sitting on the dashboard chirped. Monty picked up the phone and looked at the caller id on the display. He silently handed it over to Bob. Bob looked at the caller id, accepted the call

and said, “Hello Marty, I was just thinking about you--”.

Marty spoke over Bob's acknowledgement and asked him if he had heard the news? Without giving Bob a chance to answer he said that he will speak about it later. “But at present, I need a favor from you”. His partner Tommy, during the commotion, had fled with the diamonds which was their life savings. Marty further went on to explain that he had caught one of Tommy's loyal, Jack. He had confessed that Tommy had sailed towards Clapa Gopolini in his trawler 'Marissa'. “I will send you his details.”