The gunshot echoed without much hassle.What wasn't supposed to happen was Ava pushing Kaden into the line of fire. The gasp that left me seemed to echo louder than the gunshot as Kaden fell with a burst of red spray.

No, was my first thought, this couldn't be happening. It should never have happened, let alone what came next. Ava pointed at me and screamed. "Emma killed Kaden." I didn't have time to think I had to run because I held the gun still aimed at the down Kaden. This couldn't be happening, I thought as I swung my body behind the rusted out car as bullets exploded around me. The world was shrinking in on itself and all that remained was a hope to survive the next second.

My eyes caught sight of Kaden with the bullet wound in his forehead. He never had a chance to tell everyone I was working with him and not Bullets, my father's mafia group that had grown rapidly since the takeover of downtown New York. And if he did then Ava ruined whatever chance I had at getting out of the arranged marriage, my father, Jacob Adrian Mathews. The man for the arranged marriage was my father's second hand man, Rafael Jordans aka the Slug. He received that nickname after taking out three men who were trying to kill my father with one bullet or slug.

I had to survive to carry out Kaden's mission of killing my father. Kaden had shown me months ago how wrong my father truly was. Jacob had my mother, Grace, killed when she didn't give birth to a son to take over Jacob's empire. He never had wanted a daughter and that stood as everyone from all sides kept shooting at the rusted car. Tears flowed down my cheeks in pain of losing Kaden, my first love.

There was no more time for memories as I wiped a hand down my face smearing blood, sweat, and tears. I aimed my gun at the sniper across from me on the roof and pressed the trigger. Once I started I kept aiming and shooting. I wanted Ava's head on a pike. Blood lust rose in my vision as faces just became another number on my list of kills.

That is when I finally heard Jacob yelling, "SAVE MY DAUGHTER!" His men acted quickly and took the rest of the men out. But, I had eyes on Ava. I approached and she shot me in the shoulder as I let out a yelp of pain.

"You killed Kaden," I said simply, still aiming at Ava. Nothing around me mattered anymore. I was the hunter teasing my prey and I am sure I looked demented and tortured. I aimed the gun and pressed the trigger.

Ava though was smarter than I had given her credit for. Somehow, someway, she had gotten to my father as Jacob grunted at the impact of the bullet. My mouth dropped open in shock as Ava smiled smugly over my father's shoulder. Jacob gently used his fingers and took the bullet out of his bulletproof vest and he was glaring at me.

“What do you think you are doing?” Jacob questioned me with his deadly and lethal slow voice expecting an answer I didn’t have. How could Jacob be protecting Ava, a barely twenty-three year old? Exactly five years younger than myself.

“I could ask you the same thing father,” I almost snarl out but mask it by making it seem like a cough before putting on a mask of calm and a gentle frown.

“She is the informant I told you about last night,” Jacob snapped at me as he marched forward and slapped my face. The sting of the slap was more humiliating than anything. But, the sting of finding out that Ava was the informant for my father settled and carved itself into my bones. I had to kill Ava.

“She is to be protected just like my daughter, do you all hear me?” My father demanded and the men all nodded solemnly. I wanted to puke. The carnage Ava and my father seemed to be celebrating sent shivers of disgust up and down my spine.

“I heard that your daughter is marrying the Slug tomorrow,” Ava said with a sickening sweet smile over Jacob’s shoulder. My spine stiffened because that couldn’t be true. Then I thought about how Kaden had said my father had to die today. Was this the reason why Kaden went into this completely blind? “Maybe, we should have a double ceremonial wedding. What do you think, Jacob?” And that’s when I noticed how Ava was hugging my father’s arm.

The Slug, Rafael, moved to my side without touching me. I think if he had touched me I would have puked and my cover would be blown before the hardships even started. For an older man, he wasn’t ugly but he wasn’t Kaden who had swept me off my feet and I never touched the ground with him. Rafael was different. He barely spoke and barely passed as a functioning mute. He never seemed to accept touch without major hostility. But he was the one to speak.

“I didn’t realize the ceremony would be tomorrow,” Rafael stated, staring my father down in what I could only assume was frustration. My father didn’t realize the danger he was clearly in.

“After what has happened with Kaden, the bastard son, will have retaliation and my daughter needs the protection. Slug has been my right hand man for over two decades of unwavering loyalty. His reward is the opportunity to marry my daughter. You either marry her tomorrow Slug or I will find someone else.” Jacob said it all in one breath like it had been rehearsed in front of a mirror with absolutely no emotions attached to his face nor his voice.

My hands fisted at my sides as wild anger flew through my veins with a vengeance. I kept my stoic mask on and fisted my jeans instead of punching or really, killing someone.

Rafael didn’t look at me as he spoke, “Of course I will marry your daughter tomorrow and if you wish to be wed on the same day it is your choice.”

I swear I heard one of the men choke behind me. My father looked contemplative as he put the heel of his boot on Kaden's body. I almost lashed out and I swore I was vibrating in my skin with tension. Jacob stared at Ava holding both her hands in his own.

"Ava, my beautiful informant and spy, the true killer of the heir of Anarchy, will you marry me tomorrow?" My stomach twisted so tight it felt like I couldn't breath.

Ava smiled and threw herself into my father's arms as they stomped on Kaden's body, destroying it even more. "YES!" The smile on Ava's face told me what she was after. She wanted to be a head of a mafia and she would never make it in Anarchy past gathering information. Marrying my father guarantees her as successor if anything happens to my father.

"That's a strange sight, isn't it Vixen?" I heard the words and couldn't believe my eyes when I saw Kaden with a bullet hole through his brain. But, he was the only one to ever call me Vixen. I rubbed my eyes hard but Kaden was still there and almost, see through. "Should have killed that traitor when I had the chance," Kaden spat out. All the while everyone was cheering for my father and Ava's marriage. All I could do was stare at Kaden's ghost wide-eyed while Ava thought she had already won the war.