

DORSET, ENGLAND 2014

Late Winter

A chill wind gusted around Kate's legs as she waited for her father outside the Hiker Cafe on Hengistbury beach head. Jacob headed for the restroom before they began their walk along the beach. He knew there would be no place where he could be comfortable once they started out. Kate shivered as she beat her arms against her body trying to stay warm. Although well wrapped up the cold still cut through her clothes, chilling her. She wished her father would hurry up. She turned to look as she heard a car scrunch over the gravel of what was a deserted car park. There were not many people braving a walk along the exposed headland in such wintry weather. The only sound was the cry of seagulls as they wheeled around the grey sky and fast scudding clouds.

Two heavily built men in dark clothing emerged from the car. They looked out of place. Not the usual holiday makers or the types to be out for a walk she thought as she watched them. She lost interest and turned her back. She heard their footsteps crunch over stony ground as they drew near. Suddenly a heavy hand touched her shoulder. She felt the unmistakable cold steel of a gun pressed to the back of her neck. A rush of cold fear swept over her.

"Stay quiet and you won't get hurt. Scream and we will shoot you." They grabbed her arm, hurting her. Heart pounding Kate tried to scream but nothing would come out as they dragged her to the waiting car, its engine still running. They roughly bundled her inside. In the back seat was another black suited man who put a blindfold on her. Kate felt his gun pressed to her ribs. She didn't dare move a muscle. Is this where it was all to end for her? Her mind fast tracked back to when she was four years old, oh so long ago. She felt as scared and submissive as she had been then. That memory never faded and came back to her in force, her mind dazed with an unnamed paralysing fear.