

The Fire Within

By: Carlos D., Kolade S.

As the man poured the gasoline over the rough floor, tormenting me with my father at gunpoint. I was useless from the synthetic ropes binding my soul to the steel chair. I lashed out with anger "You won't get away with this!" "I already have" he said with maniacal laugh. "FSSSS" goes the dry match against the rough paper. Suddenly the gasoline on the floor lit a ring of fire. As the fire began to burn

I finally escape the ropes, and then it was the fire, the only thing standing in between my dad and me and pounding that guy's skull. That's when something happened, FLASH!!! There I was in my memory. "Where am I" I said confused, but nobody heard me, no one at all. "Catch the ball son" I turned around and saw my dad throwing the ball to me, at least younger me. I tried and tried to talk to my dad, but he never heard me. I crouched down and wept thinking I'd never see him again. "If you want the ball where you want it, you focus and take a deep breath and throw" he said confidently. Now I was back on floor about to die from the fire that almost consumed me whole. I noticed a small baseball at the corner of the box, that's it. I stand like I am playing the World Series; I focus on the air vent above... I take a breath and pitch like it's my last. Clack!!!! Varoom! The air comes on makes a quick flicker in the fire, I jump, Off!! I lay there on the floor for 2 minutes until I realized I wasn't dead. I got up and ran out the room to a back ally way that leads to the woods. There he was lying against on the hard walls, my dad was dead. I'm gonna KILL HIM; Clang goes my fist while I pound away at wall screaming with anger. That's when he didn't realize, he triggered the Fire Within.

It's been 3 years since the incident; I've been training ever since preparing for the day I'd get my revenge on Tony McGalleon, the murderer. Thump! Thack! Wack! Against the jagged punching bag at the best gym in town. SSSSSSSS! The sand came pouring of the punching bag. I looked around to make sure no trainers saw me. I felt a cold hand on my shoulder. Suddenly I spun around with my foot extended, knocking off my intruder's balance. My fists pulled back, ready to attack, but I got a surprise when my "intruder" was a girl. Her brown hair, green eyes, and hot pink jacket made her an angel to me. "Um. Hi," She said, seeing me lower my fists. "You kind of ripped the punching bag. Thought you could use some help.". I helped her up and felt myself blush. "I'm Mark. Sorry 'bout that. I'm just a bit defensive." The girl pushed a strand of her hair back with her finger. "I'm Audrey. I didn't mean to scare you." We both got down to clean up the sand from the ground. Soon, it got dark and she had to leave. "Uh, well see you around." She said and turned around and left with her angelic hair flowing in the wind behind her. Ten minutes later, I arrived at my man-made cabin filled with technology. I began to look for any activity related to Tony's business on my computer, but found nothing. A huge sigh released itself from my mouth and I decided to go to sleep. Second the lights went out, I was knocked out. Meanwhile, downtown Audrey lay in her bed thinking about that boy. What was his name? Oh yeah, Mark. He seems pretty nice. I

hope to see him again. She put her jacket on her desk next to the bed, which written in black on the collar said: AUDREY MCGALLEON.

Beep! Beep! Beep! My alarm woke me up and I disarmed it. Where should I go today? I thought. I'll head to the gym. After eating breakfast and showering, I walked to the gym. On my way, a sparkly lambo pulls up. I see Audrey get out and I'm 'bout to say hi, but stop when my eyes spot her dad. Tony McGalleon! Standing there, not knowing how to react, words popped into my head: KILL...KILL...KILL! My feet took off at top speed towards Tony and I plunge my fist into his stomach. He was in shock, but then saw who I was and kicked me in the leg. He then uppercut me and I fell down. The Earth began to spin and the last thing I saw before it all went black was the horror on Audrey's face.

My eyes open, well just my just my left eye because the other one's swollen, and look around. I soon realize this where he held my dad and I captive. He walks in with a pistol in his hand, probably cocked, and laughs. "Wow! Long time no see, huh, buddy?". I wanted to grab him, but I'm bound by ropes, like before. The door opens, and Audrey rushes in. "Dad! How could you! I thought you were such a caring man! Someone there for you! But this...you're really a criminal!". She yells. Pow! Tony slaps her and she falls. That's when I feel it; the fire within! I break out from the ropes and throw myself at Tony, knocking his gun out of his hand. He's on the floor, me punching at him until he stops moving. But he's faking! His fist plows through my chest and knocks me off. He removes a knife from his pocket to finish me. I see the hand with the knife raise and then-BANG! Tony's eyes roll back into his head, and his body falls. Audrey has the gun in her hand, tears streaming down her face and I rise and comfort her in my arms. "It'll be ok...it'll be ok," I say.

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