

THE LAST SUNRISE WE NEVER SAW

Chapter 1: The day it all started

It was just a normal day and my family and I were just playing charades. The time was about 1:30pm before it happened. “Ellie it’s your turn!” my mother said to me... there I stood in front of my family, my 14 year old brain thought to myself I would act like spider-man, so I did his classic pose shooting web. “SPIDER-MAN” my 5 year old brother Alex said. “yeah that’s correct, good job!” I replied.

“Dad... w-what is that?” Alex said, “what are you talking ab-...” my dad began to say with this jaw dropping. We were all looking out the window and we saw an asteroid coming closer, closer, and closer... until it hit the moon! Then we heard people screaming outside. As our protective dad, he went to go see what was going on. At this point we were all scared, “Mommy are we going to be okay?” I mumbled as tears started falling from my face. “Of course! Don’t be scared, we’re going to okay. Just keep your brother close to you, okay?” my mother tried to reassure me even though I could see the fear in her eyes. Suddenly I felt the ground shaking... “HURRY EVERYONE FOLLOW ME” my dad said to us. So, we quickly followed him, running with thousands of others rushing to get to safety. Finally, we made it to a bunker with other strangers where we had supplies, food, and oxygen. We could hear people outside still screaming in fear. Many people died that day...

One year has passed. I’m now 14, my brother is 6 years old and my parents unfortunately passed away because of an illness. The air quality was so bad after the asteroid hit with toxic chemicals and pollution, that it was impossible to not get sick from breathing. My parents were no exception. I’m surprised my brother and I didn’t get affected as much, probably because we knew to wear masks. We are still in the bunker but recently I have been hearing rumors that we’re running out of food and the “leaders”

(we call them) are discussing what to do. However, right now all I'm worried about is my brother because he is still so young.

Around 5:20pm one day, I was reading a story to Alex when I felt the ground shaking "oh no" I said in my head. Suddenly the walls and ceilings were starting to crack, so my first instinct was to pack our stuff and leave as soon as possible. So that's exactly what we did.

Chapter 2: The beginning of the journey

When we left, I didn't exactly have a plan. All I could think about was my brother and how I wanted him to have a good future and enjoy his childhood. After everything we had been through, I didn't think he needed more trauma in his life. To be honest, I was planning to leaving anyway, before all the damage inside. In my spare time I had been looking into other places that had fresh water, clean air and food supply...and I finally found one! It seemed perfect for us. I really don't remember the last time I could breathe without an oxygen mask. I was so excited to journey there with Alex.

After hours of walking, we came to a coastline. "Wait... is that a boat?!" I thought in a grateful way. I took my brother's hand and ran like my life depended on it because we weren't the only people who wanted that boat. It was hard and scary but we managed to get on the boat as well as a few other people, 1...2...3...4... there are 12 people on the boat counting my brother and myself. The guy that was driving the boat said it might take at least a week to get to Europe because that's our best shot at safety, so I said "Let's go to Germany, my cousin lives there and I think she's still alive. I bet she can help us." I said. My voice was a little shaky because I was so tired and desperate. "If anyone has a better idea, I'm listening?!" Everyone was silent and the captain said "you know what? I agree Germany it is, but get comfortable it's going to be a long journey"

sigh here we go... I thought to myself.

A week has gone by and we finally made it to Germany. Now everyone is depending on me to lead the way which is pretty stressful. I took a deep breath, held Alex's hand tight and we started moving. After two days of searching and wondering around, we finally found my cousin's house or so I thought... the whole house was burned down and in rubble. I guess an asteroid exploded around here. But strangely, I saw a couple of people in this area were not wearing oxygen masks like me and the others in my group. Maybe the air is okay? But I don't want to risk it so we will just keep it on. Besides, they weren't looking well anyways. I'd say they have a couple more weeks before they get really sick.

Back to the main mission. I got stressed and sad when I saw the house burnt down but then I felt something... something that felt familiar. I turn around and saw my cousin! I was so happy to see her and she quickly took everyone inside her bunker. We caught up and shared stories of what had happened to each of us, how we survived and what our future plans were.

Though it was nice catching up with my cousin, I had to keep reminding myself of our actual mission; finding that perfect place to live. So, we stayed for two days then packed up and together with Alex we set out again.

Chapter 3: Trying to get somewhere

Days were getting shorter now, so we had to make the most of the daylight and cover as much distance as we could. Along the way, by some miracle, I found two of my friends that had also made the journey all the way to Germany by boat. I was so happy to have found them. One was named Lina and she is French and the other named Dalia and she is from Mexico,(I used to go to an international school).

“Oh my God Ellie. It’s been such a long time hasn’t it?” Dalia said to me with a warm smile and a big hug. “Yeah it really has! I honestly thought I would never see you guys again. I’m so glad you guys made it here and you’re safe!”. We decided we will all stick together. Lina and Dalia didn’t know anyone else and they were separated from their families. Having familiar people who you could trust and rely on was very important in times like this. They were also so nice and caring towards Alex. He was and is my number one priority.

As we traveled, we rested where we found shelter, ate whatever food we could find and encouraged each other with positive thoughts.

Then one day, we came to an area that was forbidden and cut off for everyone by the military. The problem was, that that was the only way to our destination. It was swarming with soldiers and anyone who tried to get in was shot! We knew we had to be clever and think of a plan so we could get across safely.

After 30 minutes of brain storming, we finally thought of a plan. We noticed that there was one guard really near us who was all by himself. So, Lina was going to sneak up and take his gun from his back pocket and give it to me. Then all we had to do was wait until night when most of the soldiers would be sleeping. We’d then slip past them and try and get across. The gun was just in case someone woke up and we needed to threaten them to shut up. I knew it wasn’t the best plan, but that’s all our 14 year old brains could think of on short notice.

It’s now 10:30pm. We all fell asleep waiting for it to get dark but woke up just in time and refreshed. Everything was going according to plan and we almost made it across. As we stopped to take a breather, Alex accidentally stepped on a branch, a big one. The sound caused the soldiers to wake up and they noticed us immediately. They started shooting at us. I grabbed Alex tightly and ran as fast as I could, dodging bullets and trying to take cover. In all the chaos, I lost track of Lina and Dalia. It was only after I got across to the other side that I realized they weren’t with me and Alex. As I looked behind, I saw my friends on the ground with soldiers around them. Unfortunately, they both didn’t make it.

Chapter 4: Tomorrow will come sooner than later

I started feeling depressed and empty on the inside. Why did I have to lose my friends? They were the best and didn't deserve to die. I was trying my best to hide my feelings from Alex to keep his spirits up. Everything was catching up to me and I could tell I didn't have much energy left to go on. We were very close to our destination, but to make it there I had to find a car or something to drive because I knew we couldn't go on like this.

"Hey Alex you're not really talking, you okay? Are getting tired? I can try to find a car and we find a spot for the night how does that sound?" I said trying to sound energetic. "Um yeah I guess I am getting tired that sound like a good plan, but you don't know how to drive, do you Ellie?" he said in a soft quiet voice, I could barely hear him. "Well I'm old enough to drive and I did have a little practice. I mean I don't see any other option. We are going to get tired of walking eventually".

It was 6:15pm and the sun was down so we set up camp for the night but before we went to bed we were laying down on our backs next each other while looking up at the stars. For some reason you could clearly see the stars. I don't mean one or two, I mean all of them. You could even see the asteroids shooting across the sky. "Hey you see that? That is a Pieces, you were born on March, that makes you a Pieces, you're a fish" I said that while acting like a fish, we started laughing. We hadn't really been talking that much during this journey so It was nice to have some bonding time with him. "and what are you Ellie?" he said with excitement. "well if you look over there you will see those stars connecting, that is a Cancer, since I was born on July that makes me a cancer, I'm a crab". "*giggling*" at least I'm not a crab" he said while giggling still. "hey! Well anyways it's getting late, we have to look for a car in the morning so let's get some rest, good night, love you". "love you" he said it in a way that I knew he was sleepy.

I woke up before Alex around 7:00am because we need some daylight before around 5:00pm according to my calculations. I woke him up and we began to search for a car, so far only a lot of old rusty cars, basically just a pile of junk. After an hour, I saw this decent looking car so I decided to take a look and “it was good enough” I told myself, so we hopped in, found the keys still in the keyhole.

I didn’t exactly know where I was going, I was just, going with the flow and hoping for a sign from the universe

Chapter 5: On the road to find tomorrow

I felt like I learnt fast considering I had never driven a car, and I think I’m getting the hang of it. “shoot!” I ran out of gas, should’ve known, I don’t know why I thought there would be full gas. Now I have to find gas, but how?

After a couple of hours searching and the sun was down, I felt hopeless, “when it rains it pours” I thought to myself (a saying I heard from a book I was reading a long time ago) and I think I get it now. Then suddenly there it was, a gas station! I was praying for there to be at least one working because the air is contaminated with lots of bad stuff, but I check in a rush holding Alex’s hand. I checked and there was one that had enough for about 2 hours I’m estimating. We went back to the car and filled it up and I figured it will be a while until we find more gas so I can’t be wondering around. I went inside the gas station to stock up on food and water. I had my gun ready just in case...

I looked around for a map for this area and I found one on the floor luckily and snatched it and took off with Alex. We were in the car, I took a closer look at the map trying to figure out where we were. Few minutes later I figured out where we were and drove off heading west. After some time, we left the car and starting walking again, because we needed to cross a cliff.

There were a few people who had the same idea. Some people made a very dangerous bridge that looked risky and could fall anytime. It was a really windy day so I don't what to do risk it. But it didn't look like had any other options.

So we had to do what had to be done, "okay we have to cross this bridge, but don't worry I'm right here" I said to him trying to look confident. "o-okay I will follow your lead" when Alex said that very obediently, I was proud. I went first so he wouldn't be scared and he can see I can do it so he can too. As I went across that bridge I could feel my legs shaking as well as the bridge swinging which didn't help, I think I was feeling anxiety but I'm not sure, it was really windy. While crossing feeling worried for my brother, suddenly a very hard wind blew towards us and at that moment I thought the bridge snapped. Turns out it did, but at that moment I already crossed the bridge. I looked back at Alex and he was holding on tight, scared and dangling from the bridge!

Chapter 6: the chances of dying or freedom

I could tell from the start that he was terrified. When you're scared, you tend to sweat and at the time, I knew I had a few seconds to pull Alex up or else he would fall. I quickly snatched his hand but it was slippery so it was hard to grip but there was nothing else I could do. So I did what I had to do. I grabbed his arm and yanked him up so hard that his arm broke, but at the same time I got him up. I didn't realize what I had done at the moment but I knew something was wrong. I touched it, he screamed out of pain to the point tears were going down his face. "What happened!?". "it hurts" he said painfully, I immediately picked him up and rushed to get the medical kit in my backpack. I found something that wrap his arm I used it to at least support his arm.

Obviously it wasn't in my intention to do something like that but at that moment I had no other choice and I couldn't think of anything else to do. It was 6:25pm considering what just happened and we used up all our daylight for the day. I decided to take a break and recharge. Since we did all the hard and tense stuff we could rest for a couple of ours and I thought that's the best thing I can do for Alex. I'm no doctor so I couldn't tell if it was serious or not, so I don't know what to do but just to improvise until I know what to do next.

I didn't think Alex wanted to talk for a bit so I thought I would give him some space, but I also have other worries. We were in a whole different area and I needed to find a safe place to get some rest. I couldn't find anything besides a big tree so I thought we could just lay under the tree until we feel ready to continue.

While Alex was sleeping I was in deep thoughts, what if tomorrow doesn't exist? There's no going back either so I'm really trusting and putting fate to somewhere I don't even know if its real or not. I really do try to not be negative but its hard when things are falling apart. I lost everyone I care about, I only have Alex now...

Chapter 7: The possibilities to death

We checked the map but quickly realized where we were was not on part of the map. The place we were had a lot of toxins that could kill us so we wore our oxygen masks again. The area was really sketchy and everything looked very dead. There were a few houses but it was all abandoned. We wanted to leave as soon as possible but we didn't know how so we just started looking

for an escape. I saw a beaming light, so we followed it slowly. It could be a trap or military.

We were getting closer to it but soon someone was trying to shoot us. We sprinted away trying not to get hit. We were running out of breath so I grabbed Alex's hand and hid under a big rock. My hand was covering Alex's hand. There were still shooting and I felt excruciating pain on my left leg. I took a look and I realized I got shot. I was trying so hard not to scream in pain for our lives so I had to think of plan fast. Hiding here will buy us some time while I think. I couldn't think straight with the pain, so I took a deep breaths a couple of times. "1...2...3" Then I ran as fast as I could with Alex being in front of me. I was putting more pressure on my right leg that made running awkward while feeling the most pain I ever felt in my life.

While was trying to run, I tripped and fell on the ground struggling to get up, Alex looked at me and ran back and tried to drag me but I was too heavy so he took my arm and put it around his shoulder and I tried to get up. Once I got up we ran as fast as I could but they were following us and still shooting until we both fell off a water fall down to a river. We lost them but we had bigger problems, we were stuck in the river. I couldn't see Alex at that moment, while I was looking around but the river was moving too fast and I went deep in the water. Then a big rock hit my head harshly and I felt I was going to drown. I used my remaining energy to swim to the surface but I couldn't make it. I fell unconscious and then everything went black.

Chapter 8: A miracle

I felt a warm feeling and sunlight on my eyes and a voice calling my name and it got louder and louder. "Ellie...Ellie...Ellie!" My eyes opened so fast then I exhaled loudly and rose my head up to see Alex right there. I hugged him right away but I still couldn't stand up. "Alex, where is my backpack?" I asked him anxiously. "um I think it got lost in the river". "all our supplies

are in that bag... wait how could you swim? Your arm.” “ It doesn’t hurt anymore, while we were hiding behind the rock I took it off”. I ripped my jeans with my pocket knife I keep with me and took a small tree branch and put it in my mouth and my teeth was holding it so I wouldn’t scream while I was wrapping my leg. It was a painful process but I think I handled it pretty well.

I tried to stand up, I was still in pain but decided to ignore it. On the bright on side, my eyes couldn’t believe it... I think I actually see the place I studied. “c-could that be tomorrow” I said in my head. I knew exactly where we had to go next now, we weren’t lost anymore, finally some hope. Just to think how far we went to somewhere I barely had faith in means everything to me and I did not travel for months just for nothing. It was nice to know that there was a future for us.

We were in the woods and it was getting dark but the only way to get to where we need to go, we have to start hiking without gear. Risky, but everything we have done so far is risky so I think we were used to the feeling now. It took us about 30 minutes to get to the top. We found an abandoned tent, small but we could make it work. I tried to clean it and make it comfy for the night plus I needed a good sleep. It was 3:15am, and I heard bushes moving and foot steps. I woke up instantly, Alex was still asleep but I knew we were in trouble of some sort. I didn’t think it was safe enough to open the tent so I just observed to see if I can see shadows moving but I didn’t so I thought it was just a racoon or some animal. But when I was about to go back to sleep I saw a shadow. It was a figure that I couldn’t really describe but it was tall and it had a long cloak and a mask or something that had pointy like ears. I was really sleepy so everything was blurry so I was not sure but I went back to sleep hoping it wasn’t anything.

Chapter 9: The cult

It was 1:35pm. It was a nice sunny day and I felt good to be honest. Knowing that we were so close. I thought we will just take a break and pause the journey and have a nice sunny day recharging. Alex is holding up pretty good, his arm heeled, and he looks normal. But I don't know why I couldn't shake off the feeling I had late last night. I don't know what that was but I hope it was just a bad dream.

Around 6:50pm we went back to our tent to sleep for the night I wanted to stay up a little bit longer. Once Alex fell asleep I took my pocket knife and went out of the tent to investigate. I found binoculars in the tent so I grabbed and went to a high point to get a good view. Before I could use the binoculars, I heard a scream, I got freaked out, but when I took a look from the binoculars I saw a fire, I zoomed in, and I saw a cult with those figures I saw earlier. They all look the same but one was wearing white instead of black, and they were roasting the hell out of someone. While watching that I accidentally gasped loudly. I thought they didn't hear me because they were far but when I gasped all of them turned their heads at the same time staring at me. Then one of them was moving in a fast pace coming closer my direction and I knew they were coming after me.

I couldn't shake of the fact that they were a cult living here roasting someone in a huge fire and I'm guessing they were cannibals or something. I did not want to know. When I saw it getting closer to me I went dizzy but I had to get my head straight and take my brother out of here, quickly. I ran down the hill, opened the tent and carried Alex and started running for my life. I threw the binoculars in the opposite way we were running from so I could trick him. While I was running I saw a tower, I think it's a lookout tower so my instincts told me to go towards. I ran towards the lookout, up the stairs and there was a bed so I put my brother under the bed first then I went in and by the time he woke up he was in shock, but before he made any noise I covered his mouth.

2 minutes later I hear banging and kicking on the other side of the door. Some guy knocked down the door and started looking around for us, but after a while he slowly walked out of the lookout. I had a feeling in my guts

that he was still close to us. I told Alex we were going to make a run for it. We went down the stairs silently but fast, once we were out of the lookout we ran, to the direction towards tomorrow. Wasn't sure if I was right but I didn't care at the moment because I had a feeling they were going to roast us and possibly eat us.

Chapter 10: Tomorrow

We managed to escape without being followed. Now I'm estimating it will take us a 40 minute walk to get to our final destination. I honestly didn't think this day was ever going to happen. I feel like over this entire year of traveling, it was worth it. A year is a long time but if this is the outcome, I would do it all over again.

"Ellie what is that?" he said while pointing to where we were headed. "you'll see" I said proudly. I noticed the air was not toxic anymore, it looked clear, so we took off our oxygen masks. When we got closer, you could actually see a really nice view of tomorrow, it was beautiful, flowers blooming and colorful, trees that were actually green, fresh clean water, lakes, waterfalls, green grass, and clean non-toxic air. I noticed it looked like there was protection, like a shield that all the toxins couldn't enter from the rest of the world. I almost started crying, I mean I was proud of myself that I could manage to do something this big.

This whole year was full of surprises and other "stuff" I didn't expect. I'm 15 now and I actually learnt a lot that made me more mature I guess and I had to learn this by survival instincts. I'd say it's the better way to learning things. Anyways, at this point all we had to do now is go down a hill and... Well that's it were here.

"Ellie, where are we?" Alex said. "Here? I call it tomorrow, where we're going to live for the rest of our lives" I said proudly. I grabbed his hand and ran down the hill, laughing, smiling brightly. This is what I call...Happiness. We ran too fast and fell on the grass and just laid there for a second to catch

our breaths. The feeling of the sun being on your face, the clean air, peace is the feeling I needed my whole life. "Are you happy?" Alex asked. "Yes of course I am." I replied. " You sacrificed so much for me and I will forever be grateful, you're the best sister I could ever have." The way Alex said that to me, made me realized how much he grew up in just a year.

My leg hurt so bad after I tripped running down that hill but I couldn't care less, I had other things to care about. Since we have a new beginning, a fresh start there's a lot of memories I want to make with just the two of us, unbothered for once. I don't want military soldiers or cannibals chasing us all the time so hopefully no one will ever find us here.

We lost a lot and sacrificed so much and now we can finally start fresh. There's still so much I want to do and see but for now I think we're just going to enjoy the moment for the time being.

The end?