

“The Untold”

By Kp Richards

- I don't wanna go!
- You're coming in, now get up off the ground and let's go.
- Why do you make me do this?
- I don't make you do anything. I can't just leave you alone, and you mother isn't here to take care of you anymore. What else do you expect from me?
- I expect you to be my daddy. And you're not doing a very good job.
- A very good job?
- OW! Why would you do that?
- It wasn't *that* hard. Now let's go, get inside before anyone sees us.
- Wait! I dropped Teddy!

##

- Where's your mother?
- She left when I was two.
- And your father?
- I don't know. Probably throwing up in the bathroom.
- You shouldn't be here by yourself.
- I'm fine. I'm here all the time. I'm used to being alone.
- You shouldn't have to be. How old are you?
- I just turned nine last week.
- And you have no other guardian to watch and take care of you?
- No. We have a cat. She is getting old though.
- How often do you come here?

— Almost every day. Depending on if someone is looking for daddy. Then he takes me to a secret spot that no one knows.

— Who would be looking for your daddy?

— A lot of people. They are scary. Sometimes they have guns.

— What is your daddy's job?

— I'm not sure what it's called, but he meets up with a lot of different looking people to move grass.

— Grass?

— Yeah. Well ... it looks like grass.

— Can you tell me what the grass looks like? Or smells like?

— Really bad. Smelly. Sometimes there's fluff. Sometimes it's in a round and hard, like, brick.

— Fluff?

— Yeah, fluff. It's white and looks like fluff sometimes. I don't know how to describe it.

— Does your daddy treat you right?

— Why do you keep asking me so many questions? Can't I just eat my chicken fingers and color?

— I just want to make sure that you aren't getting hurt.

##

— Let's go.

— Why?

— We can't get caught. I can't get caught, especially with you.

— But I haven't finished my supper.

— Grab what you can and let's go. Now.

— I hate living like this.

— Living like what?

— Like this.

— Why don't you be more descriptive.

— I hate having to run all the time. And going to so many different places. Why can't we just live in one home? And why do you always smell? Like something really really really bad?

— Lindsay. Stop.

— Daddy. You stop.

— Do you want to stop living the way we are living?

— I don't like it. I hate it.

— OK. I already get that. I just don't know who else you can live with.

— What about granny and grandpa?

— Maybe ...

— Is that a yes?

— I said it's a maybe.

— So it's a no?

— I said it's a maybe.

##

— Well hello, dear.

— Granny!

— How are you, dear?

— I'm going to be staying with you for a while, right, daddy?

— If that's OK with granny, then you can stay.

— Fine with me. How long will you be staying with us?

— However long she wants. If that's OK with you? My job has gotten ... harder. And I'll need to spend more times working late.

— Do you have your things with you, Lindsay?

— Yes.

— OK, Lindsay, be good for granny and grandpa, OK? Mind your manners. Love you.

— I love you too, daddy.

— Come on inside, it's cold out there.

— Where's grandpa?

— He's out at the store.

— What store?

— You sure ask a lot more questions than you used to, don't you?

— I guess. I'm just curious.

— He went to the feed store. We needed more hay and grain for the cows and horses.

— Do you have any new milk? Or eggs?

— We sure do. Would you like some?

— Yes, please! I *love* milk and cookies.

— OK, dear. Go on in the kitchen and sit at the table, I'll fix you some up.

##

— Have the shipments come in yet?

— No, sir. We are still waiting.

— I thought we had a lead on when it was coming in?

— We did. But they changed it.

— So we wait.

— Sir, we can't just have this whole team sit out all night and wait for a shipment that most likely won't come.

— Fine. Then I want a small team on each of the ports. No boat gets in our out unchecked. Clear?

##

— Why is daddy so busy?

— He's just got a lot on his plate. He's always been a busy man.

— It just seems like he doesn't care anymore.

— He does care. He just has to get through one more job then he will go clean.

— Go clean? What does that mean?

— Nothing. I was just talking to myself.

— Daddy isn't doing anything bad, right?

— I don't ... He wouldn't do anything to put you in danger. He loves you. Very much.

##

— We have to hold off.

— What? Why?

— Cops are locking the place down. Checking every boat.

— Then we'll ship it to a different harbor.

— That's not going to work. They have every harbor in California on lockdown.

— So we'll just do it anyway.

— That'll be a risk. Do we really want to take it?

— Payday is big. I think we should.

##

— Granny.

— Yes, dear?

— Can we take a drive?

— Where do you want to go?

— To the park. But can we drive through the harbor? I like to see the boats coming in.

— Sure.

##

— Do we know what the boat looks like? Or what else is on the boat?

— Cocaine, heroin, marijuana. Who knows what else.

— Hold on.

— What?

— Someone just radioed. The boat's just come in.

— Call for backup.

##

— What's going on?

— I knew this was a bad idea. This was a risk we couldn't afford to take.

— I didn't realize they would call in the FBI or DEA or whatever else ...

— What are we going to do?

— I'm not sure. We can't really do anything. Just dock it and give up.

— You mean turn ourselves in? I can't do that.

— We have no other choice.

##

— OK. Everybody off the boat.

— No one is leaving until this has been checked out.

— Anything?

— Yes, sir. Drugs. Lots and lots of drugs.

— OK. On the ground. You're all under arrest. Anything you say can and will be held against you.

##

— Daddy?

— What is it, sweetie?

— Those men. Over there. They are taking daddy away.

— It'll be OK.

##

— Please, just give this to my daughter.

— I'll do what I can.

##

— When am I going to see daddy again?

— I don't know.

— But, but he's got Teddy ...

END