

The Search

Four hours had elapsed and we remained seated in the rusty dark black Toyota with the piercing sirens still blasting. I had now achieved a dull headache and was nearly at my limit, desperate to tell Derran to stop the car, but we couldn't afford the loss of time. There was a missing girl. Not just any missing girl but Alisson Brighthope, the daughter of the multi millionaire, Jackson Brighthope. He had donated so much money to the police station and had a very good reputation, we couldn't let him down. Derran and I had been set to drive over to Esperance, a coastal town Alisson had adored and always visited. As we sat in the car, I turned on the radio only to hear more about Alisson Brighthope. Derran sighed and turned the volume down.

"This girl better be here." Derran complained.

"I really do think she left on purpose." I scoffed in reply. I glanced out the window as we passed a blue billboard that brightly screamed '*Welcome to Esperance*', Derran shook his head.

"If you had everything in the world, why would you run away!" I understood Derran's point, Why would Alisson run away. She was one of the most popular people on the planet at the moment. Suddenly we came to an abrupt stop. We had reached the Esperance Police academy, this town didn't have many officers that specialised in searches which is why we were asked to lead this investigation.

After the Esperance Police department meeting the station had emptied out. Derran was packing away his bag while I remained rooted in my chair scrolling through all the media looking for any sightings of Alisson. Nothing. Then I stumbled upon her Instagram account, her most recent photo was of her lounging around in her messy room. Something about it caught my eye. I zoomed into the tiny corner of her closet and spotted a whiteboard which was partially visible. It had two numbers and a bunch of messy handwriting. Could it be, did Allison just give away an address? My heart rate quickened and I abruptly stood up and rushed to a nearby computer. I typed in the address on google maps and was shocked to see that this address was in Esperance. Alisson must have gone there.

I took a screenshot of the address and ran over towards Derran. I pulled him away from the backpack and practically pushed him to the car while stumbling on my words trying to explain what I had discovered.

As we pulled up to the house, my jaw dropped. This house was nothing like what I had expected. It wasn't classy, it wasn't modern, it wasn't extravagant. It was nothing like any of the Brighthope Houses. This house was abandoned. Why would Alisson be here?

"Let's go in." Derran sighed, knowing that this won't end well.

When we reached the front door Derran rang the doorbell, but nobody answered. I tried twisting the door handle but it was locked shut. There was no way for us to get in there.

Derran and I exchanged looks, then proceeded to kick the door open.

As we took a step in the house the floorboards creaked beneath our feet and silence filled the air. Then from somewhere upstairs we heard a soft shuffle followed by a tiny sob. Derran and I locked eyes and without thinking we both ran upstairs and pushed open the nearest door. There sitting in the corner of the dusty room was Alisson Brighthope. Her jaw dropped as she saw us enter the room as we stood in silence.

"Why are you here Alisson?" I questioned walking closer towards her. She shook her head still in disbelief and avoided our gaze.

"Don't turn me in." She pleaded. I sat next to her trying to understand her thoughts, while Derran remained at the bedroom door.

"We need to understand why, before we do anything." Derran suddenly made his way into the conversation.

"I needed some way to escape." Alisson said standing up from her corner spot. I opened my mouth to say something but was interrupted by Alisson again

"I know that's not an excuse but there is more to it." I sighed

"We need more detail." I said as I stood up and met Allison's gaze.

I had no idea what was about to be revealed but Allison's distressed face and deep gulp told me that this was going to be a long night.