

# INCOGNITO

BY C. R. MALONEY

## CHAPTER 1

The air was thin. I strained against the chains holding me back. "Oliver!" The deep rough voice of my father broke the silence of the dark room. "You have failed me. Now you must face your consequences." The cold cuffs around my wrists and ankles grew hotter and hotter. Something buzzed in the distance. I looked up at my father, he was wearing a dark cloak and a silver mask that glistened in the dim light of the room. He raised a thin metal rod buzzing with electricity. "No father no." I stuttered. He slowly brought the rod to my chest. A chill went down my back, a sharp pain pierced my chest. Ah! I let out a shrill scream. My hand shot toward the rod and my wrist burned against the white hot chains, but my fingers securely grasped it. I pried it off of my chest and for that quick second, set the rod against the metal chains. With a horrible hissing sound the cuffs around my wrists began to melt just enough to slip a skinny hand like mine through. Fuming, I raised my fist like a loaded gun and launched it at my father. There was a cracking sound as my fist collided with his chin. He stumbled backward onto his hands. I slipped my other hand out from the cuff then my feet. My legs had a mind of their own in those last few minutes of running to the door until I stumbled into the cold night air. My foot faltered and I tripped over something that felt like brick then I blacked out.

## CHAPTER 2

1 year later

5:00am, the clock read. I looked around the room. Plain, white, motionless. Carved into the bedside table were the words, WEST POINT HOSPITAL. Wait, bedside table? White sheets covered the essence of the bed I must have been sleeping in. "You're awake," the doctor walked over. He was wearing a surgeon mask around his neck. I looked up at his meaningful expression concerned eyes. Then I remembered pain beyond measure. Excruciating pain. I winced. "Is there anything wrong?" The doctor's reassuring voice reminded me that I was not falling from a 800 ft building. Wait falling from an 800 ft building. "A pedestrian found you at the bottom

of a building in Dubai. You had three broken ribs. The question is, a drop from that kind of height should've killed you." I looked up at the doctor once again. He was right, I shouldn't have survived that fall. "What do you remember?" The words clanged in my head like church bells. My whole body went numb. *I drifted off to a 17 year old boy running out of a dark room, into the light then tripping over the edge of a building. Freefalling, awaiting my death. Then all time stopped. And I was slowly dropping, my limbs flailing about. All of a sudden I was back to normal speed but only a few feet from the curb. My left side felt like it had been smacked by a baseball bat as I slammed into the sharp cement.*

Returning to consciousness and realizing that my ribs felt exceedingly better, I looked up at the doctor who was looking directly at the health status, bewildered! This was my chance, I jumped out of the bed, broke through the door and rocketed down the hall to the hospital exit. Yells broke out behind me from the doctors who were now chasing me down the hall. The woman at the desk looked at me like I was completely insane but I kept running. Finally I burst into the fresh air of the city and turned down an alley ducking behind a dumpster. Out of site.

### CHAPTER 3

My eyes opened and I realized that I must have dozed off after the close escape. But something was different. I was no longer leaning against a dumpster but in fact I was sitting on the rooftop of a deserted building. I looked over the edge then quickly lay back down. The dumpster was about 300 feet below me. I hear alarms go off on the floor under my feet. Smoke rose from a couple of windows. The building shakes and I roll to the edge. The bit of space I was standing on before, explodes into flames. I scream and heat blisters my pale face. The building shakes again and my feet are now hanging off the edge. People start yelling from below me. "The building's going to fall!" A corner is blasted into flames and sizzling shrapnel pierces my skin. The building shakes once more and I lose my grip. Falling. Just as the whole roof erupts into flames. Turning in mid air I see that the street is only 40 feet away blurring with cars. Not again, I think. A red convertible comes racing out of nowhere and I fall into the back seat. I am groaning but not severely hurt, thanks to the cushioned leather seats and the perfect timing. The driver screams and swerves to the side.

Sending me flying out the open roof and tumbling on to the sidewalk. I roll into a man's leg and he trips. Falling over me. Perfect. I think. The red convertible comes spinning towards us. I grab the guy's arm and look toward the end of the block. Air starts whirling around us and we go flying up into the air and shooting to the end of the block. We come to a soft landing. Standing up I realized that guy I had been dragging along just fainted.

#### CHAPTER 4

I ran. As fast as my legs could carry me. I turn again down an alley and see a man in a black cloak. He grabs me by the collar of my shirt and punches me square in the forehead with more force than I expected. Therefore knocking me out.

Footsteps echoed through the dark room. Chains cuff my ankles and wrists. Leaving a bloody rash. The man in the dark cloak takes off his hood. Revealing his pale skin and glimmering white eyes shining brightly in the dim light. "Bring me the quantum chip by Monday. If you do not, well, your life will come to a short end." Bring you the what? "The quantum chip, you know. The- never mind. Anyway it's at the the Burj Khalifa building, top floor, very small and very well guarded." The floor dropped under my feet but slowly brought me to the city ground. I looked up to see the biggest building in the world. The Burj Khalifa.

There were four drones circling the building so I have no chance of flying to the top. I'd have to get through the building. Just as I got to the front, two police cars pulled up behind me. I started to run, which was probably not the best decision because the two policemen took out their guns and yelled FREEZE! I jumped into the air, flew past the guards at the entrance and straight towards the elevator. The amount of floors seemed to go on for ever so I just pressed the top button and waited. More waiting. More waiting. Ding! I reached the top floor and four guards confronted me. I flew into action. My foot connected with the first guard's chest sending him crashing into a display case. Next I dove to the floor just as the other guard swung his fist above my head. I swept his foot and he went crashing into the third guard. For the last one I summoned a huge gust of wind and sent the fourth guard flying out the window screaming. A lasered grid protected

a small glowing chip. The third guard began to get up. Next to it was a small panel with a retinal scan. I grabbed the guard and thrust his face into the panel. The laser grid disappeared and I jumped in grabbing the purple chip. Alarms went off and the lasers reappeared. I ran through the grid and jumped through a hatch leading to the roof.

Eight more guards awaited me. I summoned a blast of air so powerful it could have knocked a building over. ( fortunately that didn't happen) Two of the guards were blown off and the other six rolled to the side avoiding the blast. These ones were smarter than the others. They surrounded me and charged. One punched me in the back and I fell into the one one ahead of me who then kneed me in the chest. I flew to the end of the building but the four drones still circled it. Three more guards popped out of the hatch with semi automatic rifles. Police put the building on lockdown and stood waiting. My feet left the roof and dove off the building flying past the drones as fast as I could. Towards that creepy dude's lair.

## CHAPTER 5

I landed on the roof and climbed the ladder down to the second floor. "You're here." whoever he was, he came out of the dark wearing a silver mask. I handed him the chip and he grasped it tightly. "Go to the roof." I climbed the ladder once more and he followed. Only I shall know I behold the chip. And with that he took out a silver pistol and aimed it at my head. "Thank you" he said. He pulled the trigger and I tumbled off the building. Into what seemed like endless blackness.

THE END