

Cross + Fade

Chapter 1

FADE

A man sits on a rooftop. His mind is racing as he neatly organizes his equipment. He is carrying a large black suitcase, 1 stick of gum, earplugs, and a smart phone. He begins putting together a sniper rifle carefully; but quickly. He puts his eye on the scope and seeks out his target. As soon as he locks him in sites, he puts the single stick of gum in his mouth as he stalks his target through the scope. He begins to chew the gum slowly. Everything around him has slowed as if the world is playing to the beat of his drum. He pulls the trigger slowly and shoots!

The target drops, head shot. Immediately, Fade begins to pack up his gun and other accessories. He calls someone on the phone and says, "power...out." He hangs up and begins to leave when his phone rings. He answers angrily, "power...out!" The voice on the other end responds, "lights...back on." Fade runs almost desperately back to the area to look. The man is bleeding bad from his head but is conscious and sitting up. Fade to himself, "impossible." Suddenly a gunshot whizzes by him and he realizes he's been spotted. He pulls out his handgun and unloads the entire clip at the police that are shooting at him. He then throws his case over the roof, and it bust open as he runs off. The police send some men to hunt him down and a few stays back to investigate it. As fade is running, he calls a number. A ring starts coming from the case and an officer answers and Fade says, "boom." The case explodes and wipes out all the police officers and pushes back the ongoing crowd.

The 3 cops chasing fade are gaining but Fade reaches under a dumpster and grabs 2 uzi's and a device. He tosses the device ahead by a passed out homeless man. He jumps in a nearby dumpster and closes the lids. The cops run by, and Fade pushes a button on his smart watch. The device plays a recording, "He's right here!" The cops stop to investigate, and Fade bust out of the dumpster guns blazing. The homeless man jumps up scared and pees his pants as Fade is pointing his guns at him. The homeless man says, "Mercy! Mercy!" Fade says, "Can you keep a secret?" The homeless man nods yes and Fade signals him to go. The homeless man begins to leave quickly but ask, "who are you?" Fade smiles and responds, "The boogeyman...now go!" Fade exits the area cautiously but quickly.

Chapter 2

DREAMS

Fade is walking around in a courtyard. Everything is black & white. He is dressed in a white-collared shirt and relaxed fit jeans. As he looks around, he realizes that he is on a dirt road surrounded by a row of trees on each side that lead to a large house. Fade begins walking down the pathway as the wind bristles through the trees. As he gets closer to the house the wind begins to grow a bit stronger and the leaves rustle more and more as he approaches closer and closer to the house. He walks towards the house, and he sees a baby lying in the dirt but he's not sure. He rubs his eyes and it's a little boy. Fade asks, "what the hell you are doing here kid?" The kid is writing something in the dirt, and he stops and looks Fade right in the eyes and runs out of view. Fade responds, "wait! where are we?" He squats down to read what the young boy wrote, and it says, "Mercy."

Fade is confused but remembers back to the homeless man in the alley way. He stands back up and looks at the house only to see the little boy standing on the roof. He rubs his eyes again and the boy is now a man with golden hair with light illuminating off him like a shining star. A flash of light and he's gone but there is white feathers falling from the sky almost guiding Fade to the door. Fade catches one of the feathers and as soon as he does, he hears a voice whisper to him, "Come to me and I will give you rest." Fade responds, "Is that you...Lord?" He gathers himself and approaches the door. He begins to slowly reach for the handle as he feels a sudden uncertainty within himself. As he grasps the handle it is locked and Fade struggles to try and open it. He realizes that he can't get in and a great sorrow overtakes him. Suddenly he hears a still...small...voice, "Knock and the door shall be opened."

Chapter 3

SHADOWS

Fade suddenly wakes up to his phone ringing. He answers, "Hello?" The voice on the other end responds, "hospital." Fade responds, "When." The voice on the phone responds, "Night...shadow...finish." The call ends. Fade gets on his smart phone and researches the news story about his assassination attempt and locates the hospital where the pastor is at. He begins gathering his things but still can't shake the dream...it felt so real. Fade says to himself, "Lord help me."

Night comes and Fade exits with his equipment only to be greeted by 2 men in a black car that looks beat up but has that new shimmer to it. He gets in and the men don't say anything all the way to the hospital. As Fade steps out the man driving says, "5th floor...514...finish or finished." The men drive off as Fade enters the hospital dressed normal with a card inside an envelope. Inside the card is 2 small cyanide pills and a razor blade made of glass to avoid metal detectors. He begins walking through the hospital unnoticed. His mind keeps flashing back and forth as if he is walking to different parts of his dream. He looks at a woman carrying a newborn baby and flashes back to the baby from his dream. As he's walking down a hallway towards the elevator, he hears wind rustling through the trees. He pushes the elevator button and as it opens. He hallucinates white feathers falling from the ceiling. He steps in the elevator and as it's going up, he feels like there is someone there with him. He sees a flash of light out of the corner of his eye and he turns suddenly. It is then the elevator door opens, and a hospital sign reads, "Mercy General Hospital."

Fade shakes it off and sees room 514 with a police officer in front of it. The police officer gets a call that someone is shooting at police cars on the 1st floor. The officer calls for backup and runs off to try and deal with the situation downstairs as he warns a doctor to let his staff know the situation and to seal off the area. As the cop leaves a security guard begins locking down the area Fade slips by into the pastor's room.

The pastor is asleep but in stable condition. Fade opens the envelope immediately and takes out the razorblade to cut his throat. He walks over to kill the pastor and stops dead in his tracks. He sees a badly colored picture of a feather with the word mercy on it written in crayon. He drops the razorblade, and it breaks. He realizes that he can't kill the pastor. For the 1st time in his life, it would seem that he has grown a conscious. He takes the pills out of the card. He prepares to take them knowing that he has failed and soon the officer will return. He hears a voice whisper,

“The wages of sin is death...but the gift of God is eternal life.” Suddenly the pastor grabs Fade’s arm and he drops the pills. The pastor exclaims, “He’s calling you!”

Chapter 4

TARGET

Fade panics...who? The pastor explains, “Our Lord Jesus Christ is calling you to repent...to turn away from your sins. He told me in a dream that you would come and that I must help you.” Fade is shocked, “Why in the hell would you help me...don’t you know who I am? The pastor suddenly interrupts him, “I forgive you...just like Jesus forgave me...I forgive you.”

Fade breaks down and starts crying as he kneels while the pastor lets go of his arm. The pastor explains, “Listen son...are you ready to change? Fade responds tearfully, “yes.” The pastor says, “Are you willing to change?” Fade says again, “yes...yes I am.” The pastor says, “What is your name son?” Fade says, “Just call me Fade.” The pastor then says, “My name is Peter...Pastor Peter. Well Fade...what if I told you that Jesus Christ is real...and that He loves you...and He died for your sins and all he wants from you is for you to repent and you will be forgiven of all your sins.” Fade exclaims, “I’ve killed too many people...I don’t deserve...” The pastor interrupts him, “We all deserve to be forgiven Fade because Jesus died on the cross for all of us. When I was a very young man long before I knew the Lord, I was drinking, and I hit a car and killed a young couple. During my time in prison, I met Jesus and I repented, and he changed me and gave me a new life. Are you ready to ask our Lord Jesus to forgive you of your sins?” Fade responds, “yes.”

The pastor begins praying with Fade as Fade repeats what he is saying, “Lord Jesus, please forgive me of all my sins, I know that you died on the cross for my sins and that you rose on the 3rd day. Come into my heart as my Lord and savior in Jesus Christ name I pray...amen.” Fade lights up and says, “I feel different, like all this weight and pain has been taken from me.” Suddenly the police officer enters and says, “who’s this!?” The Pastor explains, “He’s a friend just coming for a visit.” The officer looks closely at him and grabs his radio. Fade immediately lunges at him and knocks him unconscious and takes his gun. The Pastor says, “don’t kill him.” Fade then says, “I’m done killing innocent people; but if I don’t take these 2 assassins down, they will kill me and then you.” The pastor nods his head and hands Fade a small pocket bible. Fade walks out with the gun put away and pulls the fire alarm. He takes off as everyone is distracted. He tries avoiding the windows as bullets are flying through them. One grazes his cheek and suddenly gunfire starts coming in all around him as he dives and runs while avoiding being shot from the windows. As he is in cover a knife wielding assassin gets the jump on him and has a knife almost to

his throat as Fade is holding his arm. Fade uses his free hand to grab his gun and shoot the assassin in the foot. The assassin loosens his grip and Fade grabs him and throws him by a window as his partner accidentally shoots him dead mistaking him for Fade.

The partner is shocked until Fade shoots him dead from the previous window that he tried to hit him through. Fade is running outside and has a chance to shoot a cop who isn't paying attention but puts away his gun and runs to a car. The cop sees him as soon as he starts it and pulls his gun out and shoots at him through the windshield almost hitting him. Fade is forced to hit him with the car. Fade says to himself, "I still got a couple things to work out." Fade gets away and the phone in his bag rings. He grabs it and pulls the phone out. A voice speaks, "mistake...finished."

Chapter 5

JUSTICE

The phone hangs up as Fade drives to his home. As he prepares to pack-up and flee the city. He makes it back to see his home in flames. He parks and steps out to view the carnage. As he is about to drive off a gun is put to his head. He closes his eyes.

The assassin drops a duffle bag at his feet and tells him, "I grabbed your tablet and some other stuff in a backpack before the others burned the place down. That makes us even." Fade smiles and says, "Yeah Cipher...I'm good with that. I won't include how I saved your butt multiple times...so yeah, we're good." Cipher responds, "It seems that the guy who financed the job is in hiding and has made some threats." Fade responds, "You got his info?" Cipher responds, "sure do" and hands him a piece of paper with a name and an address on it.

Fade says, "I'll flush the rat out...I owe someone a favor." Cipher responds, "I was hoping you would say that. But honestly man, you sure about all this?" Fade responds, "yeah and even if I wasn't it wouldn't matter anyways." Cipher responds, "Yeah, I guess it doesn't...now get out of here before I change my mind." They hug and Fade leaves.

As soon as Fade leaves Cipher makes a phone call and says, "Bugged" and the voice on the other end responds, "End" and hangs up. Fade calls the pastor at the hospital and the pastor answers the call. Fade says, "I'm gonna leave town but before I do I want to help you. You're still a contract until the person who sent me is stopped."

The pastor says, "Ok, but no killing right." Fade responds, "Only, if necessary, I'm going to make sure this is done the right way.

Now, can you tell me why Harvey Brady would want you dead?" The pastor thinks for a minute and says, "Well...he wanted to make my church into an apartment building, and I made it clear I wasn't selling." Fade responds, "Ok, that makes sense...I needed to verify some info I got to make sure it's not a setup. Now let me handle this. You just stay at the hospital until this is all over." The Pastor responds, "Sorry Fade, I'm done hiding. I get out tomorrow and Sunday is around the corner. I'll be at my church over on Rosen St. if you need me." They hang up and Fade begins heading towards the real estate moguls house to break in. Suddenly 2 black cars pull up on each side of him and start rolling down their windows. Fade slams on his breaks as the cars pass him. 1 car blocks the road as the other starts going in reverse with an assassin starting to come out of the window guns drawn.

As Fade drives by the car, he dials a number on his phone and pushes call. Then he throws it through the assassins open window. The phone explodes killing everyone in the car as he exclaims to himself, "rookies." His car is almost to the other black car that has blocked the road. He tries to ram it, but the car suddenly moves forward, and his car misses it and flies off the road. The car begins rolling several times easily killing anyone inside. One of the assassins goes down to the car to confirm the kill as the other is watching him. The assassin who is checking the car hears something and goes closer to examine it.

He hears jazz music playing, and he looks to see Fade's tablet playing it. Fade with a knife comes flying out of nowhere and attacks the assassin looking down on the car. His blade pierces through the assassin's head from ear to ear instantly killing him. Fade pushes a button on another phone he has, and the tablet explodes killing the other assassin. Fade grabs his bag off the ground, steals their car, and continues forward.

Chapter 6

TRUTH

He breaks in carefully and quietly to the real estate moguls house using the darkness of night as his cover. Fade disables the security system. Fade begins walking through the house as he hears someone shuffling about. He finds a computer and hacks it to reveal a recently deleted email conversation from his former employer setting up the hit on the pastor. He connects his phone to the computer and begins to download the message. The message is encrypted but Fade knows the decryption key since the message was sent before he and his employer parted ways. He hears a woman's voice, "Harvey is that you? I thought you were still out of town?" Fade responds in a fake voice that sounds kinda awkward, "Came home early sweetheart, just working late...go back to bed." The women exclaim to herself loudly, "sweetheart? You haven't called me that in years...who are you?!" Fade takes out his gun and starts shooting into the roof as the woman screams and runs to her room. He grabs his phone right as the message downloads and takes off quickly and gets back to the car and exits. He then decrypts it and forwards the information he retrieved to the local police and exits promptly.

The sun begins to rise. It exhibits a golden and orange color that lights up the morning sky. Fade calls the pastor to tell him the good news as he is getting ready to leave town. The pastor talks him into stopping by his church to thank him. Fade agrees and heads over to the church. As he walks up, he begins to visualize the locked door that he couldn't open from his dream. He reaches for it slowly and grasps the door handle and...it opens. Fade walks in and greets the pastor, "Hey pastor." The pastor responds, "I'm glad you came. It's all over the news Fade. That real estate mogul is now heading to prison and his real estate license has been revoked permanently.

"Thank you for helping me and for reminding me what it's all about." Fade exclaims, "and what is that?" The pastor explains, "leading others to our Lord Jesus Christ to save their soul. Fade, I wanted to lead you in a prayer one more time before you go. Fade and the pastor say the sinner's prayer and part ways. Fade begins to open the door and is shot in the chest several times and falls down dead...

Chapter 7

CROSS

Fade is lying there when CIPHER and 4 other assassins walk in with their guns out. CIPHER walks in and examines fade's dead body. He turns back to the assassins and Fade jumps to his feet and puts a knife to CIPHER's throat while revealing a bullet proof vest. Fade speaks weakly, "Only a couple got through old friend."

"Why did you wait to kill me...you could have ended this." CIPHER explains, "We needed you to flush out Mr. Brady...we couldn't track him...he was in hiding...and now he's on his way to prison and he's a dead man." Fade asks, "why!" CIPHER responds, "It's just business old friend...nothing personal." Fade is about to kill CIPHER when he hears a still small voice say..., "mercy."

Fade looks to the heavens and says, "Lord, I will never kill again." He tells CIPHER, "I forgive you man, I know the game but know this...Jesus loves you and wants to save your soul just as he saved mine." Fade lowers his knife. CIPHER immediately dives out of the way and the other assassins come in and shoot Fade to death. The pastor prepares to die when 1 of the murdering assassins says, "your contract expired" he puts his finger up to his lips doing a shhhh sign. They leave and motion for CIPHER to come along as they exit. CIPHER looks at Fade's dead body and he hears a small voice say, "forgiveness." He crouches down over Fade's dead body and closes his eyes. He sees a small pocket Bible hanging out of his pocket. He grabs it and opens the cover to see the word mercy on it. He asks the preacher, "can all men be saved?" The preacher looks at him directly in his eyes and says, "yes!"

FiN

ONE LAST REQUEST...

Thank you very much for reading this book. But I wanted to make you an offer. One that was made to me many years ago. You see there is a God who really does love you and wants you to spend an eternity with Him. The only way to do this is to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior. He died on the cross for all our sins and God gives us this forgiveness freely. All you have to say is, "LORD Jesus please forgive me for all my sins. I know that I am a sinner and that you died on the cross and God rose from the dead to forgive me of all my sins. Come into my heart as my Lord and savior in Jesus Christ name I pray...AMEN. Now find a local Christian church and they will help guide you on your new path. God bless you on your journey.