

His primordial instinct suddenly kicked in and numbed every organ in his body. His mind dulled, and his nerves froze. He edged further into the shadows of the narrow passageway, peering through the beamed wedge of an officer's torch.

Finally, he stood, shoulders hunched and knees bent, over the pallid, stiff, half-naked body, lying face down. His heart crumbled at the gruesome sight, and his soul withered. A shroud of darkness swallowed him from within as he collapsed onto the cold, bloody pavement and cradled the emaciated corpse in his arms. Between heart-wrenching sobs, he uttered her name over and over—Ellen, Ellen.