

**Patriot in Disguise**

March 15, 1776, Lexington, Massachusetts

Emma awakes to another day that will be full of dread and sorrow. She can hear the creak of her door as her mother, Alice, enters the room. “Wake up dear, so you can eat before your day at the inn,” Alice says to her daughter. Emma doesn’t respond and remains in a still position on her bed, as still as the rock that is her heart. “I know you are feeling sad because your father has been gone for almost a year now, but you know that your father wouldn’t want you to waste your life sobbing in bed all day. He died protecting us, so that we may live on and have fruitful lives, so don’t let your father’s death be wasted,” Alice says with affirmation. “You’re right, mother. Thank you for being here. I will be down shortly,” Emma tells her mother. Emma gets dressed for work, joins her mother downstairs for breakfast, then heads off toward the local inn. As Emma serves the soldiers their food and drinks at the local inn, she listens to their war stories. Maybe Emma is strangely intrigued by these stories because her father was also once a soldier for the British Army.<sup>1</sup>

Even though Emma’s day is only halfway through, she decides to head home until her next shift. As she walks home, Emma continues to daydream of what it would be like to fight in the war. Once Emma arrives at home, she calls out for her mother, “Mother! I’m home now!”

Emma’s mother doesn’t respond. As Emma removes her shoes, she notices a redcoat<sup>2</sup> uniform on

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<sup>1</sup> The military forces for Great Britain during the American Revolutionary War.

<sup>2</sup> A nickname given to the soldiers a part of the British Army, to resemble their war attire.

the staircase. Emma quickly runs upstairs and bursts into her mother's room and views a site that she had wish she had never seen; a soldier forcing himself onto her mother. Emma, even though she is disgusted and frightened by what she is witnessing, she sees her mother in agony, so she decides to step in. Emma screams, "Get off her you monster! Leave her alone! You have no right..." and charges at the soldier and starts to punch at him. The soldier quickly retaliates and throws Emma toward the wall and Alice onto the bed. The soldier quickly grabs Emma by the throat and says, "You shouldn't \*hiccup\* 'ave interfered \*hiccup\* little lady," and takes a long sip of his flask. Emma suffers not only by the grip of the man, but by his pungent smell of mud and alcohol. "Please! Let my daughter go! She means you no harm! She was just startled! Please don't kill her," Alice begs as she is on her knees. The soldier drops Emma and turns to Alice and says, "You need to teach yer blunderbuss<sup>3</sup> of a daughter \*hiccup\* to be more respectful \*hiccup\* toward me as long as I'm \*hiccup\* quartering<sup>4</sup> here." The soldier stumbles out of the room, grabs his coat and leaves the house. "Mother are you alright," Emma asks with fear in her voice. "I am fine dear, but what were you thinking?! Trying to stand up to a man that is twice your size and double your strength?! You could have been killed," Alice exclaims to Emma. "I know what I did was reckless mother, but I couldn't bear the sight of that man forcing himself onto you," Emma explains to her mother. "What matters is that everything is alright now, and we are both safe," Alice says to her daughter. Emma begins to cry and says, "I wish father were here." "Me too dear. Me too," Alice says as she hugs Emma firmly. "You just wait and see mother; I'm going tell that man a thing or two when he gets back..." Emma starts. "Please don't upset that soldier anymore Emma. You're just going to make matters worse. Please behave, for me," Alice asks her daughter. "Alright mother. I best get going to the inn for the night shift," Emma

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<sup>3</sup> Old English slang that was used to insult someone by calling them a 'stupid blundering fellow'.

<sup>4</sup> The law forced on civilians by the British Parliament to house and care for British Soldiers in their own homes.

responds, even though deep down, Emma will get revenge on the soldier for what he did to her mother.



Emma returns to work at the inn later that night and as soon as she walks through the door, she overhears a conversation at one of the tables. “You guys ‘eard what ‘appened over at the White ‘ouse? Seems like our boy Charlie was fiddling ‘round with the missus,” a redcoat explains to his fellow soldiers. Emma, filled with rage, keeps her temper, walks past them, and continues to work. As Emma goes to serve their table, the soldier from her house takes a seat. Emma continues toward the table and pours everyone drinks, but when she pours Charlie’s drink, she pours it into his lap. “I’m so sorry about that sir, let me get you a cloth to clean that up,” Emma says with spite in her voice. As the whole table looks at her with malice, Charlie responds, “That won’t be necessary, after all you’re already here, so why don’t you lap it up like the dog you are?” Emma, more furious than ever before, throws the rest of the pitcher’s contents in Charlie’s face. The soldiers begin to stand up, but before they can fully stand, Charlie explains, “It’s okay gentlemen. She takes after her father; a useless being that can’t do anything right.” That was Emma’s breaking point. As the table bursts out in laughter, Emma quickly takes a knife to Charlie’s throat. The soldiers stop their laughter and stand up with all pistols<sup>5</sup> pointed at Emma. Even though Emma is frightened out of her mind, she stands her ground. “Ay, what’s goin’ on ‘ere,” Harold the inn owner exclaims. As he observes the scene, Harold says, “Gentlemen, I’m sorry for ‘er behavior. Emma, put the knife down.” Emma takes the knife away from Charlie’s throat and stands near Harold. Harold takes the knife from Emma and says, “She’ll be ‘eading ‘ome for the night, sorry once again. As an apology, ’ow about a round of drinks for you fellows, on the house?” The table cheers for drinks, so Harold heads to the back, taking Emma with him. “Listen. I ‘eard what ‘happened to your mum and she’s a nice lady. Go home to her, but don’t you ever think ‘bout pullin’ somethin’ like that again, cause next time, I might not be able to save ya,” Harold explains to Emma. As Emma storms out of the inn, she

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<sup>5</sup> Side arms carried by soldiers to fight in close combat and that can be operated by one hand.

turns to Charlie's table and says, "You've made a huge mistake. You'll regret ever ridiculing my father."

Emma heads home for the night, exhausted and full of hatred. When Emma arrives at her house, she storms past her mother and heads upstairs to her bedroom. Emma rummages through her things until she finds her father's old rifleman's knife.<sup>6</sup> As she holds the knife in her hand, she looks at the blade and says, "Don't worry father. I will protect mother and restore your name." Later that night, Charlie strolls into the house, bumping into everything in his sight, waking Emma from her slumber. Charlie eventually makes it to his room and hits the hay.<sup>7</sup> Once Charlie is fast asleep, Emma sneaks into his room with her father's knife in hand. Emma is intending on killing the soldier that hurt her mother and insulted her father. Right as she is about to strike Charlie and rid his existence from this Earth, Emma notices a paper reading Arthur White on his desk. She quickly swipes the paper and returns to her room without a trace. What Emma reads on the paper would change her life forever. The paper states how her father, Arthur White, truly died. Emma was told that her father died a noble death, but it turns out, he was killed in cold blood, murdered by another redcoat, and worst of all, on King George III's<sup>8</sup> orders. Apparently, Emma's father was suspected of being a spy for the Patriots<sup>9</sup>, feeding them information about the British Army. While in a state of shock from what she just read, Emma drops her father's knife and as it hits the floor, the bottom of it pops off. When Emma picks up the knife, a small piece of paper falls out. It's a letter from her father, which reads,

"To my little girl,

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<sup>6</sup> A 12' knife that soldiers kept with them for close combat.

<sup>7</sup> An old saying for going to bed. It originated because hay was a substitution for a bed back then.

<sup>8</sup> The King of Great Britain and Ireland during the American Revolution.

<sup>9</sup> The nickname for the soldiers serving in the Continental Army.

God, I hope you never have to read this, but if you are, that means I am dead. I told your mother that if anything were ever to happen to me, that she may gift you this knife, in hopes that you would find my message. I leave this message to tell you the truth about this war. I know we hail from Great Britain<sup>10</sup>, but they are not our friends. King George III is a violent man and plans to do horrible things to us, things that he hasn't even told the people that fight for him. I wanted nothing to do with him or dastardly plans, so I decided to become a spy for the Continental Army.<sup>11</sup> They will free us from King George III and his cruel intentions with us and this land. On the back of this letter is a map of where the nearest Continental Army camp is to your current location. Now that you know the truth, knowing the smart girl you are, I hope you make the right choice and don't let my death be for nothing. I'm sorry I had to leave so soon, but just know that everything I did and everything I stood for, was to protect you and your mother.

Love, Arthur.”

Emma had finally learned the truth about this war and her father's death in one night. Even though this was all so overwhelming, Emma knew what she had to do; She had to follow in her father's footsteps and become a spy for the Continental Army and the first step in doing that was to get to the camp her father was talking about. Emma flipped the letter around and just like her father explained, there was a map on the back labeled, 'John Vassal House, Cambridge, Massachusetts.'<sup>12</sup> Now Emma knew where she had to go, but now she had to figure out how she was going to get there undetected.

All of a sudden, “Emma! Come eat breakfast dear, otherwise you will be late for work,”

Alice says as she starts to make her way up to Emma's room. Emma is startled by this, since she

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<sup>10</sup> The country that denied America its independence and one of the main countries affiliated in the American Revolutionary War.

<sup>11</sup> America's military force that fought against Great Britain to obtain independence for America.

<sup>12</sup> One of George Washington's headquarters during the early part of the American Revolutionary War.

spent all night trying to come up with a plan as to how she was going to travel to Cambridge. Emma quickly hides her father's knife and letter just before her mother opens the door. "Sorry for not answering you mother. I will be down for breakfast shortly," Emma tells her mother. "Alright dear..." Alice starts, but then observes Emma, which she continues, "...did you get any sleep last night?" "No, not really. Charlie, the soldier that is staying here, insulted father last night at the inn," Emma explains to her mother. "Look, I know that man is terrible, but nonetheless he is a soldier for the British Army, and we must give him respect... even if he doesn't give it back," Alice explains to her daughter. "But that's wrong mother. He has no right to treat us the way he does," Emma exclaims. "It doesn't matter if what he says or does is right or wrong. The point is, we have no control over that, so just quit trying to fight it. Listen to me; if we do not allow him to do or say what he wants, we will be in trouble with the King. I don't agree with his words or actions, but we have to let him do what he wants, so we can stay safe," Alice states in despair. "Alright mother, I understand," says Emma to her mother. "Good. Now, come downstairs and eat before the food gets cold," Alice tells Emma. As they both head downstairs, Emma notices the remanence of the soldier's breakfast at the table. He had left the table a mess for Emma's mother to clean up. Emma sighs and shakes her head, disgusted by his display of behavior. Emma tells her mother that she'll clean up Charlie's mess, so that she can get started on more important matters for the day. Alice agrees and heads outside to start working. Before Emma could get to Charlie's mess, he rushes through the door, causing Emma to bump into him. "Ay! If you wanted to get close to me, all you had to do was ask," Charlie disgustingly says to Emma. As much as Emma wants to outburst at him, she promised her mother that she wouldn't try to upset him. "Oh no sir, that's not what I meant. Clumsy me. My apologies sir," Emma says with a fake smile. The soldier shoots her a grin, runs up to his room,

grabs his rifle<sup>13</sup>, and right before running out the door says, “I’m already late, but maybe we can ‘chat’ later,” along with a wink. Alice returns to the kitchen and notices that Charlie’s mess still remains. “Emma, I thought you said you were going to take care of this mess,” exclaims Alice. “Sorry mother, but Charlie returned and needed help finding something. I will clean the mess now,” Emma responds nervously. “No, that’s fine dear. I’m done with the outside work for now, so I can clean it. Go ahead and get ready for work,” Emma’s mother responds, with exhaustion. Emma does as her mother says and gets ready for work.

On her way to the inn, Emma continues to try and figure out a plan of how to get to Cambridge. Once she arrives at the inn, Emma heads straight to the kitchen and overhears Harold in an altercation with a farmer. “What do you mean all the cabbage’s ‘ave gone bad!?! We’re supposed to be avin’ a bunch of soldiers flood in by the end of the week and you’re tellin’ me we don’t ‘ave any cabbages to feed em’,” Harold screams at the farmer. Surprisingly, Harold’s problem gave Emma the perfect idea. Emma begins, “Excuse me sir, I…” “What do ya want blowse<sup>14</sup>,” interrupts the inn owner. “I know where you can get fresh cabbages in time for the soldiers’ arrival. Setauket<sup>15</sup> is known for their cabbages. My father took me on a trip there once and he knew the best farmer in town and his cabbage fields were flourishing. I believe he went by the name of Abraham Woodhull<sup>16</sup>,” Emma tells the inn owner. “Setauket ay? That’s gonna cost me a fortune,” exclaims the inn owner. “I believe if you send me to get the cabbages, I may remind Mr. Woodhull of my father and he may sell them to me for a reasonable price,” Emma explains. “An’ you’re sure you can get them before the end of the week,” the inn owner asks Emma. “I believe so sir. Anything to please the King’s noble soldiers,” Emma says with

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<sup>13</sup> A shoulder fired weapon with a long barrel, typically used by soldiers during an open-field battle.

<sup>14</sup> Old English slang to insult a woman by calling them ‘messy’ or ‘tousled’.

<sup>15</sup> The location of the Battle of Setauket, marking a future victory for the British Army.

<sup>16</sup> A spy for the Continental Army involved in the Culper Ring.



struggle in her voice. Harold, unphased by the struggle in Emma's voice, responds, "Alright. I'll request a wagon and a soldier to travel with you to Setauket tomorrow morning, but if you come back with no cabbages, you also come back without a job." Emma humbly takes Harold's offer and immediately heads back home to prepare for her long trip. Emma had successfully found a way to travel to Cambridge.

When Emma arrives at home, she goes up to her room and is startled when she sees her mother sitting on her bed with Arthur's knife and letter in her hands. "Mother, I can explain..." starts Emma. "No need to explain," Alice says to her daughter. "When do you leave," Emma's mother asks. "I leave tomorrow morning," Emma tells her mother. Even though she is full of sadness and pain, Alice says, "You're father was a very smart man and if he left this letter and map to you, then you must be necessary if we want to be free from the King. I know you are strong and brave, just like your father, but please try to be safe because it was hard after I lost your father, but I don't know what I would do if I lost you too." "I'll try my best, mother. I need to do this for both you and father," Emma explains to her mother. Alice nods in agreement with her daughter. "Will you be alright by yourself with Charlie around," Emma asks her mother in worry. "I am strong too Emma. You will have your battles and I will have mine and I know that we will both try our best to win, so don't worry about me. Go and finish what your father started," Emma's mother says to her while wiping tears from both of their eyes. "I love you mother," Emma whispers. "I love you too dear," Alice whispers back. Suddenly, both women hear the front door open, so they both stop crying and hide Arthur's knife and letter. They are both greeted by Charlie in front of Emma's room. "I should go and start dinner," Alice tells Charlie. "Of course, madam. Don't let me stop you. I actually wanted to have a 'chat' with your daughter," Charlie tells Alice. As Alice heads downstairs to prepare dinner, Charlie enters

Emma's room and shuts the door. "So, did ya want to have that 'chat' now," Charlie asks Emma as he gets closer to her. "Not tonight. I have a long trip ahead of me tomorrow and I have to wake up early, so I should get to bed soon," Emma nervously explains to Charlie. "I wasn't askin' little lady," starts Charlie with aggression, while stroking Emma's face. "I always get what I want," Charlie demands, but before he could do anything, Emma's mother charges into the room at full speed and pushes the soldier out of the second story window, along with herself. "Mother no," screams Emma at the top of her lungs. Emma rushes outside to check on her mother. Emma's scream alerted nearby soldiers. "What happened here," a soldier aggressively asks Emma. Emma knew if she told them what truly happened, she and her mother could possibly be in trouble. "Mother had asked Charlie to try and reach something on the top shelf, causing him to use a stool and when she leaned in to show him the correct item, the stool wobbled and Charlie fell and my mother tried to pull him back up, but she wasn't strong enough, so they both fell," Emma explained to the soldiers. They checked Charlie and pronounced him dead. Even though Charlie's confirmed death relieved/excited Emma, she was still worried about her mother's state. The soldiers check Emma's mother and say that she is breathing, but only barely. "We're going to take her to one of our medics and keep her there until she recovers. You may return to your house now and we'll let you know when you can see her," a soldier tells Emma. Emma sobs, thinking about how she may have just lost her mother, and returns to her house and when she enters, she sees a note on the dining table.

"Emma, no matter what happens to me, you must continue your father's mission to save this country and win the war. Just know that I will always love you and whatever I do, I am doing it to protect you. I love you with all of my heart and I hope to see you once this war is over.

Love, Mom"

“She anticipated that she may die trying to protect me from that soldier,” Emma thinks to herself. Emma, sad and distraught, pushes forward and packs for her journey that awaits.

The next morning, Emma arrives at the inn, where a wagon<sup>17</sup>, with a soldier atop it, is parked right in front. “Remember what I said yesterday, blowse. This wagon better be stock full of cabbages when it comes back. Now, be on your way,” Harold aggressively tells Emma. Emma boards the wagon and they were on their way out of Lexington.

*Skip forward about 3 hours into the trip*

“I’m sorry ‘bout what ‘appened to your mum,” the soldier says to Emma. “I’m sorry too...” Emma starts. “’bout what,” the soldier asks. “I’m sorry that I let you live this long,” says Emma as she strikes the soldier in the neck with her father’s knife. The soldier struggles, but only for a short amount of time, until he finally runs out of air and drops dead. Emma drags him deep into the woods, until she finds a pond. She wraps him up in the tarps meant for the cabbage, fills it with rocks and drags him into the pond, where his body sinks to the bottom. Emma falls to her knees, due to exhaustion, as well as the state of shock she was put in from the fact that she just killed someone, even if he was bad. Emma, filled with fear and confusion, brings the wagon into the woods and sleeps to try and calm herself down. Emma wakes up a couple hours later, covered in sweat, still feeling guilty about killing the soldier. She just reminds herself that these men betrayed her father and pushes forward with her mission. Emma sets herself atop the wagon, checks the map, and resets her course to Cambridge. Just before she arrives in the town, Emma is ambushed by Patriots and knocked unconscious.

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<sup>17</sup> A way of transportation for either long distances or delivering many heavy items, or both, that was usually pulled by 2 horses.

Emma wakes up in a barn, strapped to post and with a man in her face. “Who are you and what are you doing around these parts with a Redcoat wagon,” the man says as he interrogates Emma. Emma, filled with fear, struggles to answer, but before she can, another man enters the barn. “C’mon man she’s just a girl. Don’t treat her like a thief. I’m sorry about that. I am Henry Wilson, Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Light Dragoons<sup>18</sup> and don’t worry ‘bout him, that’s just Frank, he won’t mean you any harm... unless he’s ordered to,” Henry says to Emma. As Henry unties Emma, he asks, “So what are you doing around here on your own?” “Wait, you’re with the Continental Army,” Emma asks Henry. “Why yes I am. But enough about me. Now, what’s your name fair maiden and where do you come from,” asks Henry. “My name is Emma White and I come from Lexington, Massachusetts<sup>19</sup>, and I set out on a mission to join the Continental Army, to continue my father’s dream of setting America free from King George III,” responds Emma with confidence. In a state of shock, Henry responds, “I don’t fully believe you, but we’ll see what the Commander in Chief thinks,” and proceeds to take her to the John Vassall House. “Commander in Chief, the woman we captured earlier claims that she wants to join the Continental Army and be a spy for us, but she claims she is from Lexington, Massachusetts, which to my knowledge is Redcoat territory,” Henry explains. “What is your name, young woman,” the Commander in Chief asks Emma. “I am Emma White sir and my father sent me here to finish what he started,” Emma responds. “Wait, was your father Arthur White,” asks the Commander in Chief. “Why yes he was, I have his knife right here,” Emma says and shows the General. “Arthur was one of our best. He always talked about his daughter and how he wanted to end the war, so she didn’t have to grow up in it. I am Commander in Chief George Washington<sup>20</sup> of the Continental Army, and I am pleased to welcome you into our army as the first female spy,”

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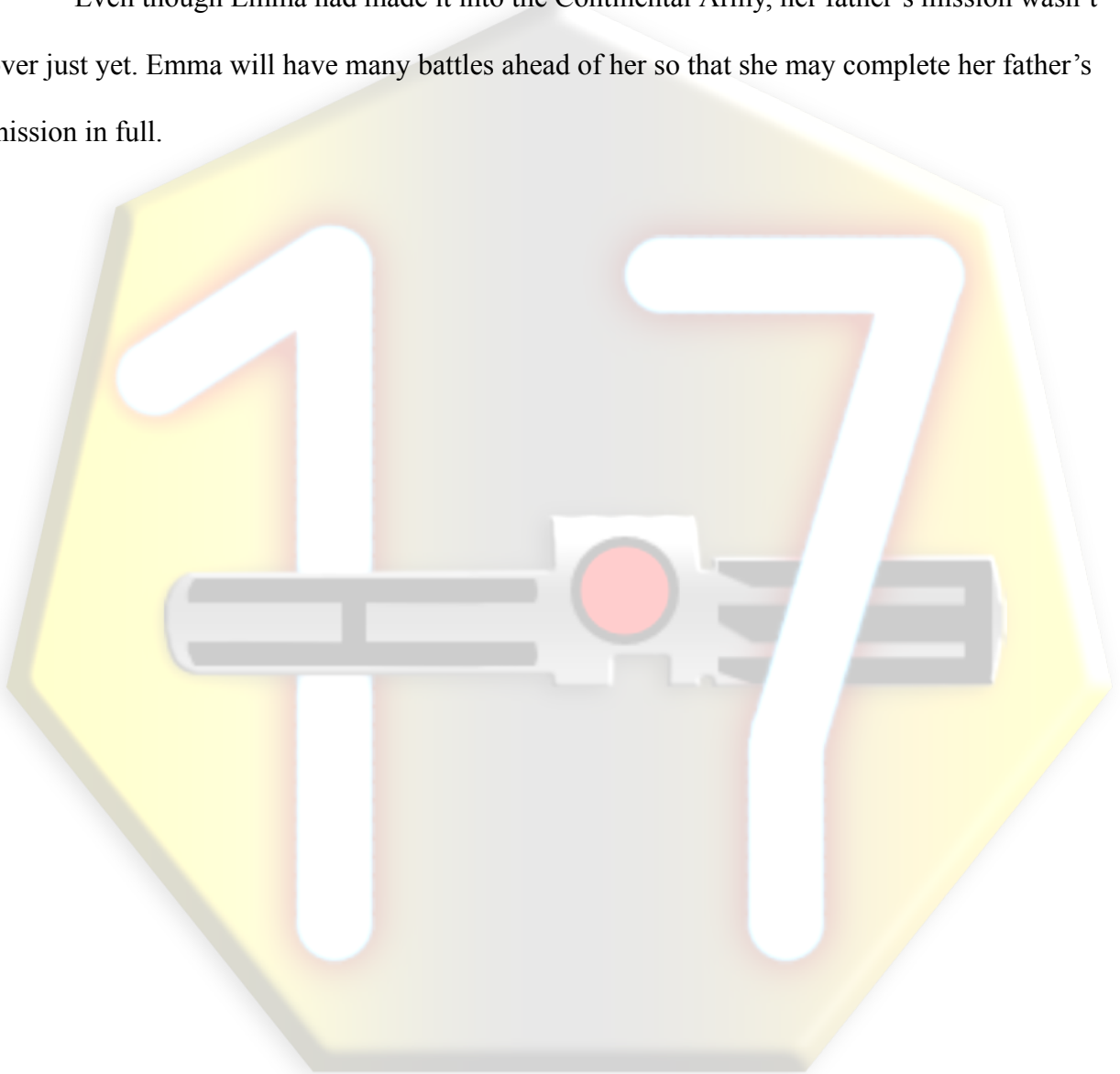
<sup>18</sup> One of the Continental Army’s units, which were mounted cavalry on horses.

<sup>19</sup> The location of the first shots fired of the Revolutionary War on April 19, 1775.

<sup>20</sup> The General and leader of the troops of America’s Continental Army.

Washington says to Emma. Emma, both surprised and thankful, responds, “Thank you so much General. I will forever be in your debt, and I will do anything and everything to help you win this war.”

Even though Emma had made it into the Continental Army, her father’s mission wasn’t over just yet. Emma will have many battles ahead of her so that she may complete her father’s mission in full.



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