



The hairs on the back of Felix's neck prickled. He tensed and rocked onto the balls of his feet.

"You came." said a quiet voice.

Felix gasped in surprise and swung round. There was no one there!

"Up here!"

Felix jerked back his head and stared up at the metal beams of the bridge. Above him, dangling from a rope was a girl. She raised one hand in a silent salute and threw down another rope.

Felix scrambled up and grabbed the rope. He regarded her with silent curiosity. She wore a dark green, baggy hoody that hid most of her face; only her questioning, blue eyes were visible. Felix noticed, with a sense of satisfied relief, that her shoes were caked in mud! It must have been she who had left the message at the cairn.

She stared down at him intently. Her dark eyes appeared to search for a sign, some indication that she could trust him.

Felix watched as the girl swung into a forward roll before elegantly somersaulting down onto the bridge. She landed lightly and took a couple of small steps forward, hovering on the edge of a pale, pink puddle. She sniffed loudly, wiping her sleeve swiftly across her face, a trail of slime glinting on the worn cuff.

For a moment, the slimy trail reminded Felix of the slugs in Dad's garden. Clearing his throat, he bent his head slightly in a cautious hello.

“It’s too exposed here,” she said, gesturing towards a row of tall, sickly-looking poplar trees at the edge of the bridge. A bench sat nestled between them and she trotted towards it. Behind her, Felix followed, scuffing his feet noisily across the surface of the cracked tarmac. He couldn’t help glancing over his shoulder just as they reached the safety of the trees. No one was watching. Or at least he couldn’t see anyone.

She sat down on the bench, her short legs dangling down awkwardly as they swung gently back and forth. Felix perched himself at the far end, his feet placed firmly on the ground. He didn’t relax. He was ready to move; to leap up and run at a moment’s notice.

“Give me the seeds.” Her voice was quiet but strong.

Felix narrowed his eyes but said nothing.

“Felix?”

Confusion flashed across his face. She knew his name!

“Why do you look so surprised?”

“You know m...my name!” he managed to stammer, jumping up from the bench.

She looked puzzled. “Of course. I asked you to bring the seeds here. I watched you read my message.”

“I don’t understand. That message was *meant* for me?”

“There’s no time for explanations. You got my message, you have come, and you have brought the seeds. Yes?”

“Why should I give *you* the seeds?”

She sighed. “We don’t have time for this.”

“Are you...” he hesitated, reluctant to say the word out loud.

She raised one eyebrow.

“The Resistance?” He muttered the word, glancing around the bridge nervously.

“I think you know the answer to that.”

“But how do you know about my dad’s seeds?”

The girl hesitated, clearly undecided. Finally, she let out a loud sigh. “I am sorry but can’t tell you that.”

Felix felt as if his heart would jump from his chest. He took a step forward and sat back down on the edge of the bench. One by one, he cracked his fingers. The sound punctured the silence between them and gave him time to think. He considered his options. Finally, he said in a quiet voice, “The seeds are not mine to give.”

The girl jumped up and leant in close. “The seeds belong to the Resistance!” she hissed furiously.

Suddenly, from beneath the bridge came a low buzzing sound. For a moment, they both froze, listening. Then the girl stepped away from him, a flash of fear on her face.

The air hummed as the insistent buzzing grew louder and louder.

The girl wrenched off her hoody. “Run!” she shouted.

A moment later a Corporation drone appeared.

Felix’s eyes opened wide in horror. A 246 SPY drone! He stood rooted to the spot, watching as its viewing lens began to rotate towards them.

“Run!” the girl yelled again. She leapt up onto the parapet and in one fluid movement flung her hoody over the top of the drone and launched herself off the bridge. Her outstretched hands grabbed the edge of the drone as she flung herself on top of it, completely covering it with her body.

The drone tipped to one side and for a moment hovered in one spot. Then it plummeted sharply to the right and down towards the bush covered slope that stretched towards the river.

Felix watched helplessly. *They’re going to crash!*

The buzzing of the drone increased in urgency and gradually it and the girl began to rise. She was being carried out over the river! Suddenly the buzzing stopped.

The drone and the girl dropped from the air and plunged into the raging water below. Within seconds her shape had vanished beneath the frothing waves.

Felix stared in disbelief. It had all happened so fast... He didn't even know her name. He turned, suddenly uncertain what to do. Before, it had all seemed so clear. Come to the bridge, give the seeds to the Resistance and... And what? Go with them? Dad had always warned against the 'dangerous Resistance' but no one else was standing up to the Corporation. Doubts filled his mind.

From out of the darkness, came a quiet, scratching sound, like the striking of a match. Alarm flared within Felix. He held his breath and scanned the bridge for the source of the sound. He took a couple of steps backwards, shrinking into the shadows. The arrival of the drone could mean only one thing: The Corporation had known about the meeting in advance. But how?

The last thing she had said to him was run. He turned and began to creep back towards the bench, to the cover of the trees. He had almost reached the edge of the bridge when a black-clad figure rose up from the bench.

Felix whirled round and began to run towards the other end of the bridge. Ahead of him, a line of anonymous black-clad figures emerged from the darkness. Slowly, they began to walk towards him.

He was trapped! But he couldn't let Dad's seeds fall into the hands of the Corporation. He searched in desperation for a way out. The girl's rope was still hanging above him. He yanked it down with trembling fingers and tied it around the edge of the parapet.

As if they realised his intent, the Corporation enforcers started running towards him. Felix clambered onto the edge of the parapet. He shifted his backpack onto his front and hugged the precious seeds to his chest. Then he gripped the rope and stepped off the edge of the bridge.