



Felix huddled by the campfire and stared into the hypnotic flames. It was less than twenty-four hours since he and Clara had found the message stone! It seemed incredible that he was now about to follow the Resistance into battle against the Corporation. He cradled a mug of steaming liquid in his hands and gazed around in stunned silence. There had to be fewer than twenty people in the camp, but they were going to attack the Corporation! How could they possibly hope to win?

“Felix?”

Jolted out of his thoughts, he stared up at the girl from the bridge.

“It’s nearly time.”

Felix nodded. “I don’t know your name,” he said.

“Everyone calls me Sandy.”

He smiled. “What you did on the bridge; I mean with the drone, you were amazing...”
His voice trailed off.

She dismissed his comment with a wave of her hand. “Everyone does what is necessary.” She spread out a map on the ground and jabbed a finger at an area of grey. “That’s the Corporation seed store. Not too far away, there’s a block of flats that gives a perfect view of all approach roads. The main group will break into the seed store, switch our seeds with theirs and leave. The seeds look identical, so the Corporation won’t know and then they’ll distribute our seeds instead of theirs. By the time they realise what has happened it will be too late. Our seeds will be growing, flowering and creating new seeds which will spread everywhere!”

“That’s it?”

She nodded. “Sometimes the simplest plans are the best.”

“Why did you leave that message for me?” Felix blurted out. “I know it wasn’t coincidence.”

She looked at him in surprise. “Well...”

A figure stepped out of the shadows. “I can answer that.”

For a moment, Felix stared in shocked disbelief. Then he flung his arms around the man and breathed in the familiar smell. “Dad!” he cried out. The laugh that erupted soon after was both incredulous and slightly hysterical sounding.

“Felix!” sighed his dad.

“You’re with the Resistance?” Felix said in an incredulous voice.

His dad nodded. “I’m sorry I wasn’t able to be honest with you Felix, I...”

“But you warned against them!”

“I was trying to protect you. I didn’t want you involved.”

“For how long?”

“A long time...”

“So, you weren’t there when they came to the flat?”

His Dad shook his head. “Yesterday at work, I was tipped off that they were coming for me. I had to warn you and save the seeds. I’d overheard you and Clara discussing a dare to go into the woods and leave a wish stone. I realised that this was the same cairn the Resistance use for messages. It was clear what I had to do.” He nodded at the girl. “I got Sandy to take you a message. “You were meant to fetch the seeds and then join me here. But they came to the flat earlier than we expected and...”

“I got your seeds!” interrupted Felix.

“I know.”

“But how did the Corporation find out about you?” Felix asked.

“We have our suspicions but...”

“What?”

“Clara...”

Felix opened his eyes wide in incomprehension. “Clara?”

“She was there when you read the message. No one else could have known about the meeting at the bridge.”

“No! That’s impossible. Clara would never betray us...”

Dad gave Felix’s shoulder a reassuring squeeze. “Now is not the time to discuss this.”

Felix stepped away from his father. “Is there anything else you need to tell me?”

“Like what?”

“Mum? Was she part of the Resistance too?”

Dad gave a reluctant nod.

Felix sat bolt upright. “Do you know where she is?” he asked in a trembling voice.

“She’s at our HQ planning and coordinating the attack.”

Mum was alive! Relief and anger flooded through Felix at the same time. *How could they let him think she was dead?* Tears stung his eyes. He flung down his cup and stormed off.

Felix watched the truck carrying the raiding party disappear into the distance.

“Stay close to me,” Sandy said. She guided him towards the side of a towering block of flats.

Felix felt too drained to argue. He hadn't even said goodbye to Dad. He was still too full of anger.

"I thought that I was going to be fighting against the Corporation, that I'd be involved in the raid." His stomach tensed into a knot of disappointment.

"You are. Our job is vital to the success of the attack."

"Look outs!" Felix said in disgust. "We've got no weapons. They even took away Dad's seeds from me. All we've got is a torch, and not even one each; one torch to share!"

Sandy ignored his comments and gestured towards the metal fire escape that snaked up the side of the building. "We need to get into position. Come on."

"Have you checked that the torch is working?" Felix asked.

"It was okay when we left. They said not to turn it on unless signalling."

It was hard to race up the steps and talk at the same time. Felix decided to concentrate on climbing. Finally, they emerged onto the rooftop. He was glad it was such a still night with no wind. He crouched down beside an abandoned mattress and stared straight ahead over the roof tops. "I wonder how long we'll have to wait."

She glanced at a nearby clock tower. "Not long."

"You can see the whole city. I wonder if anyone has noticed we're up here."

"Well if anyone has, we are in big trouble."

"Yeah, I guess," Felix said.

"I reckon your street is just over there." Sandy pointed into the distance.

"We're supposed to be watching for a signal, not sightseeing," Felix muttered. But his thoughts turned to Clara. Was she at home now? Could she really have betrayed him?

Sandy placed the torch on the old mattress. If we see any vehicles, a single short flash. Corporation vehicles, two short flashes."

Felix picked up the torch. It wasn't long before his palms grew sticky from holding it too tightly. He placed it carefully on the roof top, resting it between his feet.

Suddenly, there was the sound of boots on the fire escape.

Felix and Sandy dived into the shadows and lay still, their eyes fixed on the top of the steps.

A policeman emerged onto the roof top. He wore a cap pulled low over his eyes and moonlight glinted on the Corporation badge pinned to his chest. As he turned, Felix gasped. It couldn't be!

Felix clenched his hands into fists as a wave of anger swept through him. He leapt up and strode into the middle of the roof. "Turn around and go back down the steps. You never saw us. You never came up here.' His voice was strong and steady.

The policeman hesitated. "Felix?"

Sandy looked from one face to the other in puzzled incomprehension. "You know him?" she asked.

"Clara's brother!" Felix almost spat the words. "She betrayed me to him..."

The policeman shook his head, his face unreadable. "No Felix. It wasn't Clara. It was good police-work. I realised your father was involved with the Resistance." He spoke in a deep, calm voice.

Felix breathed out a sigh of relief. Clara hadn't betrayed him! "Go! Do it for Clara," he said.

Suddenly Sandy let out a shout. "Look!" She pointed into the distance where a bright light flashed; on-off, on-off, on-off. It had to be the Resistance at the seed store!

Felix punched the air in triumph. The raid had succeeded! He reached out and took Sandy's hand. "We're going to leave now, he said. "Our job is done."