

"No," I say, terrified that that's what he's about to suggest. Some crazed sacrifice – giving himself up for us.

"But I could do something, couldn't I? Create a distraction. Get one of the security alarms to go off in one of the regime's buildings. That'd do it."

"Yeah, and I'd leave knowing you were being packed off to the Institute."

"I'm just trying to help," he says, frowning again.

"What about a fire?"

Etienne looks at me curiously. "Yeah, that would do it. If you knew how to start one."

I smile. "Well, it just so happens our camping gear contains a box of matches!"



"I'll help, Ju." Bear looks up at me, a deep assurance in his eyes.

"I know you will, Bear."

I'm in Bear's room, working out which of his clothes to take – the lightest and warmest. Annie Rose is in the kitchen, muttering about city rations and finding all the food we can carry.

"Are you taking Emily?" Bear asks.

I shake my head. "No, Bear. We have other stuff to carry." She could be another blanket. She could be more food.

"You're leaving her?" Bear sounds shocked.

"She's just a doll. People my age don't play with dolls."

"You do."

I roll my eyes at him. It's not playing. It isn't like that with Emily. She's my link with Mum. "There's no room for toys. It's essentials only."