

be there. They have to be.

There's a tap on Bear's door. I glance up, surprised. It's Etienne. "Annie Rose said I could come in. I brought something for you."

"A present for me?" Bear asks, excited, staring at this thing in Etienne's hands. A kind of box.

"For Juniper too." Etienne's eyes flick across to me.

"What is it?" Bear trills.

"It's a kind of map. For when you don't have space to spread yours out."

I laugh. Bear's bed's entirely taken up with the map and I start to fold it so Etienne can sit down. The thing he's carrying is small and circular. Etienne flicks a button on the side and it's like it wakes up. It's got a screen on it, displaying a map with a little green flashing dot.

"Where did you get it?" I ask, suspicious.

"I found it once. In the Emporium, in Miscellaneous. I don't think Barney knew what it was, and I wasn't sure, but I figured it out from some old science books. It's a GPS."

Bear and I look at him blankly.

"Global Positioning System," Etienne recites. "It shows you where you are, exactly where you are, and when you put your destination in, it shows you which direction to take to get there and how far away you are."

"How's that even possible?" Bear asks, his eyes wide.

Etienne starts explaining satellites – these orbiting bits

of metal out in space, pinging back signals at the speed of light.

I frown. "I didn't think satellites worked any more? They've gone off course, surely?"

Etienne scoffs. "That's what Steel says. She doesn't want us believing any of that technology works. And it's true, most of the satellites are useless now, but there are a few you can rely on. Those are the signals the GPS looks for."

"Someone's maintaining them?" I ask, dubious.

"Somewhere," Etienne says. "I guess that means some countries are doing better than us."

I nod, slowly. I don't believe the tick disease is everywhere, despite what Silvan said and what Steel tells us in her bulletins. Surely some places have recovered by now. But I'm not bothered about anywhere else right now. My question's much simpler. "Is it easy to use?"

"I've tried it out, with the obvious limitations of course. It works here OK. Once I walked all the way to the North Edge. It got me there. It's a long time since it had an update, but it has the other cities programmed in, I checked that. So you can steer clear of them."

"Can we put in Ennerdale?" Bear asks eagerly.

"You should do it, Bear," Etienne says, pushing the GPS across to him. "It works best when you put in numbers. Two coordinates. Latitude—"

"And longitude," Bear finishes. "I know from our