

## **Chapter 18**

He had dark, flowing hair that brushed over his face as the wind blew. His swift movement was complemented by a cool look on his angular face. He looked like a prince as the sunlight hit his face. His green eyes scanning the soldiers when he walked by. The soldiers eyed him up and down and continued on with their day. He had never been here before, but it resembled a small, poor town in despair. He imagined these innocent people working for troopers, bloody sweat dripping down their porcelain faces, eyes stinging with sweat, heaving large boulders with callused fingers. He shuttered. Dressed like a king he knocked on the worn door of the Johanson family. "William," a small figure spoke. He could not interpret what it was, panic or even despair. Although he could not see who it was, he recognized the thin voice as they stepped forward. He knew who it was instantly. "Kirsti?" he said, his voice wavering with panic. Mama joined her, placing a hand on Kirsti's shoulder. "We were not expecting you today William," Mama spoke. Very quietly, only Kirsti could hear that Mama wanted her inside. Mama closed the door behind her and looked Will in the eye. He said "I have come here to tell you I will help you escape from the French as my brothers behalf." Mama's heart beat faster. "Peter was my only brother and I have come here to help you. Do you accept my offer?" A wave of silence passed over them as the girls listened quietly behind the door. Annemarie and Kirsti did not know he was Peter's brother, but knew he was with Peter helping defeat the Germans somewhere. "This is not the first time someone has invaded our little town and I wish for you to return to you family. We are fine and do not want to abandon a town we have lived most of our lives. We have helped many Jewish families along the way these past year and do not need help escaping ourselves. Thank you for your offer anyway." Mama closed the door, but not quick enough because Will's foot wedged itself between the door. "Please. May I just see little Annemarie and Kirsti the last time. I want to see how they have grown." Will said with a little fake sorrow. Although they did not know that he was a spy for the Germans. They wanted to see how the town was doing after their defeat. He knew that with his help he could get the trust of this family and bring him to the army waiting for them. He grinned at the thought. "Annemarie, Kirsti!" Mama shouted and they opened the door together, pulling the brass knob they have used for ages. They hugged William for the last time and he descended down the steps into the darkness. Later that night, he returned with soldiers from all around the world by his side. Asia, India, Spain, Iceland, and even Europe. They

hid behind the corner waiting for his call. He descended up the stairs and knocked on the door. Mama opened the door with a creak. "What are you doing here? Shouldn't you be on your way home?" William sighed and said, "I left my coat on the hanger in your closet. May I come in and retrieve it?" In his mind he hoped she was too tired to realize he never entered their house. She opened the door and he went in and took Papa's coat from the hanger. He told her to come outside with the children and Papa. Her response was, "My children are asleep and my husband has been ill lately." He went to the door and yelled a terrible shriek of terror that awoke everyone inside. Annemarie, Kirsti, and even sick, old, Papa came running to see what the matter was. He took them to the corner and the soldier captured them.

They took their hands and led them to a cabin near the area in a field, where many soldiers were stationed close by. There they found a lot of Jews, cradled in one corner of the cabin with glass around them. The soldier led them to the same spot. Terrified the others looked at them, with glassy eyes. They knew what that meant, they were tired, but going to fight back. A few minutes passed and a commotion passed over the soldiers. King Christian X entered the cabin with bloodshot eyes and blood ran down his arm, they led him into a room across the hall. They discussed what they were going to do to escape. We knew that if they didn't do it quickly, they would be gassed or torched to death. Their plan was that the smallest of the group, Tiffany, a shy little girl, was going to sneak behind the soldier before the door closes. The soldier entered. Now was their only chance. Tiffany jabbed a knife in his arm and escaped. She opened the door for them and Annemarie and Kirsti entered the room King Christian X was in. Where were all the soldiers? They opened the door and were greeted with many thanks. They stepped out of the cabin as the rest of the Jews went in different directions. Probably to their families of course. Mama, Papa, Annemarie, and Kirsti went the direction to Uncle Hendrik's. They arrived at Uncle Hendrik's house and raced to his door. Mama and Papa went first searching the house, but found nothing. They found the boat until the soldiers trailed behind and a gun shot flew through the sky, into Mama's heart. Papa sank down next to her clearly ignoring the state of his own health. Her in his arm he told Annemarie and Kirsti to take the boat and go across the ocean. Annemarie couldn't leave him. Kirsti pried my hands off of Papa. As they ran and cried Annemarie thought of the moments of happiness they had with her, the sad moments, and even the angry moments. She was a brave mother and risked her life for 2 children. They entered the boat. With exasperated looks, they pushed the boat into the freezing water. Kirsti couldn't feel her legs. Annemarie dragged her onto the boat. As they looked back at their

dying mother and devastated father, they thought that they should be brave and see what the new journey awaits.