

KATE

Life in Cryland has been chaotic for Kate ever since she opened her eyes. The streets have been with the stench of rotten food, filled with dying rats, and an aura of uncertainty and fear has been apparent. Perhaps these feelings are coming from the presence of the military in the city that would patrol the streets. They will harass anyone who is going against “The Code”. Kate always thought that this was the norm and never thought about anything beyond the system she was living in, but from what Kate used to hear from her mother, things used to be different.

“I remember the days when the Severance Party were the people in charge,” mom said in a sad voice, “now I thought they were terrible. Who knew that there could be someone more corrupt than those bastards.”

Mom always had a way with words.

A lot changed for Kate after her mom’s sudden disappearance. Kate was now 18 years old and she now works in construction, going from gig to gig. A while ago, Kate got a message from a mysterious figure. They confronted her one night when she was returning from work and gave her a letter.

Come to L4 Left Wing, Dayer Street in two days at 11:00 pm. When you get there, go to The Red Bar and tell them that Grant sent you there. We have some information regarding your family that you may want to know.

Sure, it was incredibly shady for a slim figure in the shadows to give you a letter and then run away like a scared deer, but the letter was really captivating. It claimed to have information about Kate’s parents, and Kate couldn’t resist it. She may regret it, but Kate was going to that location.

CLEO

Cleo has always had an uphill battle in life. Ever since she had remembered, she had lived in the Evergreen Orphanage. Cleo was always trying to figure out why she wasn't being adopted and her conclusion was that no one really wants to adopt kids when they themselves are struggling to survive on their own. In fact, more people try to get rid of their kids in order to protect them. So at the young age of 14, Cleo was kicked out after the place shut down and she had to find a way to survive on her own.

4 years have passed since Cleo started living on the streets, and she has seen some improvement.. She found Peter and Badger shortly after and they became an unstoppable trio.

“Nothing beats the adrenaline rush from beating up those stuck up people at level 2.” Cleo said with a smirk on her face while Peter and Badger nodded to that statement. As Cleo spoke those words, she noticed a slim figure following them. Without hesitation, she turned around, grabbed the cloaked figure, and propelled him down and onto the floor.

“Well look who it is that has been following me,” Cleo said as she grabbed the masked figure and was trying to take off the disguise, “now let's uncover who this mysterious figure is.” Unlucky for Cleo, she had not known that the person had a smoke bomb in his left hand and before she could even blink an eye, the guy was gone and her eyes were stunned by the gas. The only thing that was left behind was a note.

“The Red Bar?” Cleo said while rubbing her eyes trying to recover from the smoke bomb, “but why would the Separatists want me to meet them?” Cleo questioned. She began to unravel this situation and realized that this was not how the Separatists did their business. There

is no way that they would just choose anyone and ask them to meet them, unless they knew more about her than she could have known.

“Do you want us to come with you?” Peter asked, seeming to be concerned.

“Well I assume that since this person left me the note in front of you two, then they don’t seem to mind you guys as a witness.” Cleo responded.

KATE

Kate got to The Red Bar. She went inside and was bombarded with flashing lights and loud music that was hard to understand. She told the guards at the back of the bar that someone named Grant had sent her and as soon as they heard that name, they escorted her to a narrow stairwell that led to an underground base. It wasn’t very spacious, but it was definitely much larger than what Kate had expected. As Kate entered, she noticed a girl in the compound. She had dark hair and brown eyes just like Kate. She was accompanied by two twin boys who were about the same age as her. The only way you could tell the two boys apart was that one had dyed their hair white, and the other black.

“I see that you two have arrived,” Grant said as he entered the room from the other door, “welcome to the Separatists.”

There was a strange tone in the way he had said that. There seemed to be so much packed into that little statement.

“Now you may be wondering why I asked you two to join us today, and that is because I need your help,” Grant said as he went more into his plan, “as you may know, the dictatorship of NOISE has been in the streets of Cryland for the past 12 years and they have been ruling this place with violence and fear. We have been pushing back against the oppressive state and we

have seen some results,” Grant continued as his tone suddenly shifted and slowly walked towards the two kids’ direction, “ but it is not enough to win this war. I have been battling on whether or not to include you two into this fight for years since you were not the people who started this clearly didn’t need to experience the hardships that you did,” Grant continued with a heavy, labored sigh, “which is why i thought it would be best for my daughters to be with me and know who I am before the final fight.”

Kate and Cleo were baffled by that statement. Kate went into shock and at first thought that all of this was just some sick joke. Her stomach was being overflowed with a sense of dread and anxiety.

“So you think that you can just drop that on us and think that we’re just gonna come and help you?” Kate said as her voice went from shaking, to yelling, to pure sadness.

“You abandoned us and left to do whatever you wanted and left us out there to die!” Cleo exclaimed as she was starting to lunge at their “father” before she stopped herself.

“Do you think I wanted to keep you two out there and risk losing you if it wasn’t for your sake?” Grant said, raising his voice a little bit. “When I lost your mother, I couldn’t bear to lose you two just because you were part of all this by proxy. But now I know that by keeping you away from me, I have put you in so much danger and I have risked you two becoming part of NOISE’s forces. I can’t force you to accept this, but I hope that you choose to fight with me to bring an end to this cruel dictatorship, and I hope that you can find a way to forgive me,” Grant said with a defeated look in his eye. Kate knew that she could probably never forgive her father for abandoning them like that, but she had seen how horrible the regime was on the people and definitely didn’t want them to suffer any longer. “I will stand with the separatists, but that does not mean that I have forgiven you,” Kate said while struggling to look his “dad” in the eye.

CLEO

As soon as Cleo heard those words leave Grant's mouth, the world turned upside down. Her head started spinning and she was filled with rage. She wanted to punch him so bad, but pushed back against her urges. Why would he think that he can just drop that on them and expect her to trust the man that she has never met in her entire life. Who knows that he is even telling the truth. He could have been the one that killed Cleo's mother. Not to mention that Cleo had never heard of her "sister" either. From the looks of the girl, she was also feeling what Cleo herself was feeling, which made her sympathize with the girl. The only thing she liked about the plan was that she could potentially help bring down the group responsible for killing her mom, if what Grant had said were to be believed. "Fine," Cleo said with rage in her eyes, "but I have my eye on you."