

How could they have lost Dan? If Amy was frantic about finding her brother, Nellie was doubly so. She was outwardly calm—no point in making Amy even more distraught. But these were *her* kids—in *her* care—and one of them was missing!

Well, not missing, technically. Dan was with Jonah, which was better than him vanishing completely or landing in the clutches of Isabel Kabra. Jonah wasn't the worst of those Cahill vipers, but that was like saying it was preferable to be attacked by a tiger shark than a great white. Especially since Jonah was up to something. Why else would he lie to them about Dan?

Nellie's instructions were clear: "Finding Dan is important," the voice on the other end of the crackly line had told her. "But *nothing* takes precedence over the clue hunt."

"You're talking about an eleven-year-old kid!" Nellie had shouted into the pay phone.

"Who happens to be Grace Cahill's grandson," the voice had added. "He has shown himself to be quite a resourceful young man. We have every reason to believe he can take care of himself."

Big talk from someone sitting in a paneled office thousands of miles away.