

Chapter Twelve

There was the horrible day when we all had to go for an assembly. All the teachers looked red-eyed and wouldn't meet our stares. Mr Chelmsford told us that Leyla in Year Five and her brother Mehdi in Year One were no longer with us. Their house had collapsed when they were inside it. It took me a moment to realize what he was trying to say.

We couldn't believe that they'd really gone.

It did not seem real at all.

The day after that, the Reception teacher, Mrs Brook, didn't come to school, and instead they had a teacher no one had ever seen before. There was another assembly where they told us that she had died too. Everyone was crying a lot now, not only because we were sad about Leyla, Mehdi and Mrs Brook but because we knew someone else would be next.

In the days that followed, there were always a few more people who we were missing, and eventually we stopped having assemblies.