

# Chapter 12

The chapter begins with David reflecting on the growing threat of discovery after a discussion with Michael, whose anxiety about time running out becomes contagious. Realizing the danger is imminent, David prepares for a potential escape, gathering essentials like a bow, arrows, food, and blankets. His thoughts race as he plans further supplies, but he falls asleep before completing his mental checklist. The tension is palpable as the narrative underscores the urgency of their situation and the need for readiness.

David is abruptly awakened by Petra, who alerts him to Rosalind's urgent warning: Sally and Katherine have been captured, and their group must flee immediately. Michael emphasizes the need for speed, fearing David's home will be targeted next. David and Petra hastily dress and gather their belongings, moving silently to avoid detection. The scene is fraught with tension as they hear approaching horses, forcing them to flee on horseback without proper gear, highlighting their desperation and the suddenness of the crisis.

As they escape, David communicates telepathically with Rosalind, who reproaches him for his lack of preparation. Petra's excitement and confusion add to the chaos, while Sally and Katherine, now prisoners, decide to shut off their mental connection to maintain their cover. The group's coordination under pressure is evident as they strategize their next moves. David and Petra rendezvous with Rosalind, who has brought additional supplies and horses, showcasing her foresight and leadership in contrast to David's rushed efforts.

The chapter concludes with the group regrouping under the cover of darkness, their escape barely ahead of their pursuers. Rosalind's meticulous preparations, including saddled great-horses and panniers, provide a stark contrast to David's hurried actions. The dynamic between the characters—David's impulsiveness, Rosalind's practicality,

and Petra's innocence—drives the narrative forward as they face an uncertain future. The urgency of their flight and the looming threat of capture leave the reader anticipating the next chapter's developments.

