

CHAPTER 62: JAMESON

Jameson is consumed by frustration after Branford finds the first golden key in the smugglers' cave, a discovery that highlights Branford's advantage from growing up on the estate. As Jameson exits the cave, he reflects on how Branford's familiarity with the manor and its secrets gave him an edge, possibly bypassing the need to decode Rohan's clues. The thought of losing gnaws at him, and he worries that Katharine and Zella might already be ahead in the Game. Despite his irritation, he forces himself to focus on finding the remaining two keys, refusing to believe the first key is the one that unlocks the ultimate prize.

Avery's calm presence grounds Jameson as they regroup. She reassures him that the key Branford found is likely not the most important one, given how easily multiple players located the cave. Jameson agrees, recognizing that the next key must be theirs. His competitive drive kicks in as he replays Rohan's cryptic instructions, analyzing every word for hidden meaning. The stakes are high, and Jameson knows that winning requires meticulous attention to detail—something the Hawthorne family fortunes have always depended on.

As they climb back up the cliff, Jameson meticulously reviews Rohan's exact phrasing, searching for clues. He fixates on terms like "no rest for the wicked" and "smuggle nothing out," convinced they hold significance. The mention of a "mark" instead of a chip or token stands out, suggesting deeper symbolism. He also considers whether "leave no stone unturned" refers to something beyond the statue, possibly hinting at another hidden location. Every word feels intentional, and Jameson is determined to decipher the puzzle before his rivals do.

The chapter ends with Jameson still deep in thought, mentally cataloging Rohan's every statement for overlooked hints. He refuses to be distracted by thoughts of his father or uncle, focusing solely on the Game. With Avery by his side, he remains

determined to outmaneuver Branford and the others, knowing that the next key could decide everything. The tension builds as Jameson's analytical mind races, setting the stage for the next phase of the high-stakes competition.

