

## Chapter 3

# OUT OF THE DARK

Niklas and Fabian dropped Jason at home so he could eat breakfast and tell his mom how things had gone. They agreed to meet Jason in one hour so they could play for a bit before going to help paint Jonathon's room.

"Come on, let's go to my house while we wait, I have an idea and I think you'll like it!" Niklas said as they picked their bikes up from Jason's driveway. They peddled quickly wasting no time talking. As they turned into Niklas's driveway they skid their bikes to the side and jumped into a run before the bikes even stopped.

They ran through the door and up the stairs making sure to avoid Tina who was sitting in the living room watching TV. They zipped into Niklas's room and locked the door behind them. "It's about time," Fabian said. I'm not surprised about Jason telling Jonathon how he feels, but Jonathon responding in kind, that's been a long time coming. If they'd hugged each other any longer down by the creek I think they would have both suffocated or something!" Fabian had a distant look in his eye as he suddenly turned, without warning, accidentally sending both him and Niklas crashing onto Niklas's bed. Fabian landed on top of Niklas and laid his head on Niklas's chest. They stayed that way for a few minutes then Fabian lifted up and pinned Niklas's hands to the bed.

"Well after you bowl me over like that don't I at least deserve an apology or.... or something?" Niklas's tone was questioning but the look on his face said demanding. "Or something?" Fabian answered with a light peck on the cheek!

"What was that! That's not even close to a good kiss!"

Fabian got up, pretending to ignore the question.

Niklas moved on with a huff.

"So I take it we're in agreement that Jason and Jonathon should be boyfriends?"

Fabian smiled and nodded in agreement. He knew from his tone Niklas had a plan. "What devilry are you concocting Nikki?"

"We'll need help and a few supplies but I think we can manage. Here's the idea..." Niklas whispered in Fabian's ear just in case someone was listening in.

"I like it!" Fabian said, looking Niklas in the eyes, almost close enough to Niklas's to bump foreheads. A mischievous grin suddenly covered Niklas' face as he lightly brushed Fabian's lips with his own, snickering as he watched his surprised eyes get big, just as he expected. Sometimes he couldn't resist doing the unexpected, especially given such a clear opportunity and anyway, it was just too much fun seeing the reaction.

"Aren't we sneaky today..." Fabian teased.

"What? I thought that's what you were expecting!" Niklas said innocently.

"Sure you did," Fabian stated, while trying to suppress a smile.

Niklas and Fabian sometimes expressed affection slightly differently, but he actually did think Niklas was nice. He gave Niklas' shoulder a squeeze before they silently agreed to go back down to the kitchen for breakfast.

Jason was still a little shook up by the events of the morning had brought. He still wasn't sure it was real!

When he had gotten back his mother had blueberry scones and tea waiting for him. Sniv had spent the night with Martin and Keith out at Davy's farm so it was just the two of them. This was one of the few times he wanted his brother to be home so he could talk to someone about the other happenings that he couldn't tell their mother, and Niklas and Fabian had left.

He explained what he could to his mother as he forced a scone down. It wasn't that his mom's cooking was bad, in fact she made the best baked goods of all the moms in their neighborhood, he just didn't have an appetite and his ability to taste had abandoned him. He kept daydreaming about that moment on the bridge and nearly spilt his tea all over his lap. His mom pretended not to notice his absent-minded-ness and continued to talk. "Seedear, I told you he'd come around. You be sure to tell his aunt she is very welcome, our house is always open to Jonathon. He's such a, delightful little lad!" Her gaze turned to a slight scowl as she cut her eyes at him. "Though next time you'd best wake me the moment you know he or any of the others are here."

Jason hadn't fully heard what she said. "Uh huh." Was the best she got out of him. He was still sitting at the table leaned on his elbow with his chin propped in his hand.

His eyes were glazed with a dreamy look and his cheeks were lightly rosy. "Well, I suppose it was late and you were thinking of me needing to sleep so I'll let it slide this time. But next time dear don't be afraid to wake me Ok?"

He made another grunt in response but still hadn't really heard her. Mrs. VanMason looked at her son and shook her head with a smile as she left him to his thoughts.