

SECRETS

It was 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. My friend and I, Mary, were walking to St. William's church. In a second we heard a deafening blast. All I could see was fog. This perplexed me, leaving me in confusion. I was hugging my little brother, Jamie, tight. The scene around me terrified me. Buildings were left in ruins, blood everywhere, and worst of all no one knew what was going on. Jamie the poor little 7 year old didn't get what was happening, but I did. We were under attack! Jamie was crying. Thinking about our parents, I grabbed the closest telephone, but the phone lines were burnt. "Ruth!" I heard someone cry my name. I couldn't make out who it was in all the confusion, but then it came clear to me. It was Mary! She helped me up and handed me my crutches. I asked her what was going on, but she too didn't know what was happening. Finally I got hold of my mom and her words were grim. "Get out of the country! Quick they'll catch you". Who were they, I wondered, but by then she stopped talking. "MA!" I screamed with great grief. It scared me so much that she wasn't in touch. I had plenty of questions, but I decided to follow her advice. Jamie, Mary, and I hopped on a ship so we could escape quickly. It was a long ride, it probably took a month or two. We sat there terrified, pondering on the matter. We also had no leads on where our parents were, which scared me the most. It was a long ship ride. Every night we would just hope our families were safe and the next morning we would wake up to more worry than the night before. Thank the lord we didn't get sick or anything. People on the ship had gotten diseases caused by rat bites. We had somber moments, but some good ones too. Finally we landed ashore. It was a bitter-sweet moment. Worries about my parents quickly flowed in my mind. I hope Ma and Pa were alright. After all, they had only a few seconds to spare on the phone. A woman in a buttoned up uniform and black shoes came up to us. She had a cold look on her face which made me shiver. The woman proclaimed, "What are you kids doing here all alone, surely your mother or father are around", I answered, "We came here from Pearl Harbour, Ma'am". "You kids can't be all alone." "Well we are, we talked to Ruth's mother on the phone", she pointed at me. "Oh yeah", I mumbled awkwardly. Her last call was two months ago. "Two months ago!", the woman jumped at the thought. "Yeah, why do you think something happened to her?". "No, but that was quite a long time ago. I could try to get a hold of her, but I can't ensure that I will". "We can go to the telephone booth now if you want". "Really?" Jamie exclaimed excitedly, it had been a while since he had heard her voice, "please can we go Ruth". "Fine, but quickly", I told Jamie.

“We'll come Ma'am”, I notified the woman. We went to the telephone booth but then we realized something. “I don't know where the call came from so we can't call her”. “You're right”, “but maybe you kids don't have to live on the street”. “I know the perfect person to take care of you children”. “That won't be needed”, I said while I was dragging Jamie and Mary away. “No you just can't live on the streets. You are coming with me and that's an order”. “Fine”, I declared crossley. Without any more words she put us on the horse drawn wagon and we left. It was an eerie path; It had deciduous trees that were as bare as a plain cloth. It gave me a slight chill as the land was barren and rough because of the war. We all reached safely at a cozy looking cottage. A woman with short brunette hair and an apron came out. “Hello Annmarie. How are you today?”, said the police officer. “I'm fine”, answered the woman in the apron. “How are you Elizabeth”. This time she didn't answer, instead she conveyed a message that I just couldn't understand. The woman in the apron took us inside. As soon as we came in, Annmarie started hollering orders at us. “Now start being useful and cook me dinner”, she yelled. “Oh my ! Hide that ugly thing at once”. I had just realized that she was looking at my foot. I hid my foot at once, hoping she wouldn't yell at me again. She was a very awful host and staying with her was a nightmare. “Ma'am”, I said while I was looking outside. “You have a dog”, I was really happy. I loved dogs, I used to have one at home. “You children call me Miss not Ma'am”, she snapped at once. I got annoyed as she didn't answer my question. When it was time for bed she made us sleep on the floor. Oh how my back ached. It turned midnight and I snuck out. I enjoyed the brisk moonlight and gorgeous meadow. I was right, there was a dog. He was specifically a spaniel, a cute one at that most. His adorable eyes stared into me. I had to take him around the yard. As I was walking I saw the police officer just about to knock on the cottage door. I ran back inside leaving the spaniel there. I heard a knock on the door. Probably the police officer I thought, but I didn't open the door, knowing not to open it to strangers. The next day I woke up the the smell of eggs. They smelled delicious. I went downstairs. “Miss may I have some eggs”, I said to Annmarie. “Yes you may”, she said, with an emphasis on may. I didn't care though, she was a ruthless person. Something was off, she was a more benevolent, It was nice. Once Mary and Jamie woke up she told us why she was such a grouch yesterday. “I'm sorry, I know I was mean yesterday”, she began. “You see I couldn't get over on where my best friend disappeared. Last week we were bombed by Hitler. Hitler also took some captives. One of them were my friend Iris. I have no idea what they're doing to her”. I didn't want to believe her, I felt like she was a terrible person. I felt like it was a

ruse. She kept secrets, I just knew it. Annmarie gave us a room, it was rustic. It had a dusty cupboard and the room had spiderwebs all over it. There was a bed in the middle of the room. The room also had a picture of her and another girl, which I'm guessing is Iris. For lunch she made us rationed chicken with bread. This was a war food, a curtesy to the second world war that was going on. After lunch she said that she needed to go run some errands, so she left Jamie, Marie, and me at home. I took the time to snoop around with her dog. I knew she was hiding something and I was going to find out what. I went through the halls till I found a locked room. I didn't know how to pick locks, so I had to ask Jamie. Jamie learned how to pick locks on the ship when him and some other boys tried to get into the captain's cabin. It didn't work though, they got caught by the maid. That's how I know about it. There was a knock on the door, it was Annmarie. I hurriedly ran down the stairs and opened the door for her. She came and inside with her dog this time. She made us take a bath and wear some new clothes. I wasn't supportive of this, but she was very convincing. She tucked us into bed, turned off the lights, and sung us a lullaby. Honestly it seemed babyish. When she finally went downstairs, I got Jamie to pick the lock on the door I found earlier. I couldn't believe what I saw. It scared me so much that I ran back to our room. It was pure evil that I saw. It pained me to think about it. I was half awake the whole night. I had to keep one eye open to see if she would come after me. The next morning I woke up to horrible news. Pa was executed. I sobbed with Jamie and Mary. we all were depressed that he was gone. The whole day was gloomy and terrible, but I knew I had to stay strong for there was more bad news coming. I knew that I had to do something. I was going to find Ma.