

Short story by Chiara Kranemann - 10b

Controlled

I walked through the streets of my city. Everything was dark. I made my way to the cemetery. Everywhere there were small lights on the graves. I often came here when I was sad, but the days of safety are gone. Today there was another reason. In the darkness it was difficult to see me and I was also well masked. The cameras had no chance. Nevertheless, this action was dangerous for me.

One million in small bills under the old oak tree before midnight; that was the message and it was unmistakable. Otherwise heads will roll and not only my own. I had to pay very much. If I run out of money, I will have a problem. I could afford it with the help of my troop but if I'll say one word too much, it will be my turn. Then the money would be missing. It was my protection. If Ash betrays me, it will be over. I paid and he kept quiet. Actually, I shouldn't have let him do that to me. But he was family. I couldn't betray him. Pah, ridiculous! I would feel guilty about it and he just did it. All he had to do was open his mouth and tell the right people what I was doing and with this my plan would fail. Everything depended on him. He had good connections to the boss of the company. I wouldn't be surprised if the boss was also from our family. I had stretched my head too deeply into the loop and now it was closing. The party was over now. No tricks anymore. No more ambushes. If I gave any more information to the public, they would make sure very quickly that my voice is suffocated.

In a world like this, you had to take certain risks to survive and to be able to protect your privacy. And that was exactly what I did. All right, I admit that it was perhaps a bit exaggerated. But I would not allow the whole world to be legally controlled and therefore ruled by just one company. Cameras were everywhere. There was no safety anymore. They could control you. Sometimes the company knew about your decisions before you even made them.

Have you ever asked yourself where your face is stored and what happens to your data? No? I can tell you: data protection is yesterday's news and your data can be seen by just about anyone.

I was controlled as well. But I didn't like it and I tried to fight against it with my people. I gathered information against the company, hid myself in my house to escape the cameras. I made this information public and that was very stupid. Unfortunately, I didn't realize it until it was too late. The company was able to identify me easily. But fortunately I had an ace up my sleeve that they didn't know about.

I walked back home. The streets were empty and I thought of the whole situation. What should I do? Well, I had a plan but I was not sure if it would work well.

I had made it safely back to my apartment. No one acted differently toward me. I grabbed a piece of paper and started writing my message. Tonight the bomb would go off! Then I let Martha, my trusty dove, fly out the window. "Take it to them. They will know what it means even without me. Maybe death is coming to me tonight?", I said to her.

The sun was setting and my troop was getting ready. My plan took advantage of the moment of surprise. It just had to work. I had only this one chance left. I waited and waited. Nothing happened. My plan was so safe. What was the delay or was there a mistake, a leak? Didn't they get my message? "Something went wrong", I thought. Now it would be up to me to save the plan. The kitchen clock ticked and my heart beat twice as fast. "No more time. Gone. You've lost", it echoed in my head. I got into my shoes, took the key from the hook and opened the door. A dark person. "Hello, may I introduce myself or do you remember me?" Over, out, missed chance! Damn, how could I be so stupid... I was controlled the whole time. Ash smiled."It's over isn't it my dear brother? You cannot destroy my company ! I don't want your money for my company anymore. I just want to see you ..." he stopped and took out a gun. He, Ash, my brother, was the leak in my plan. So now my ace didn't help anymore.

He never told me the truth about everything!

Liar...