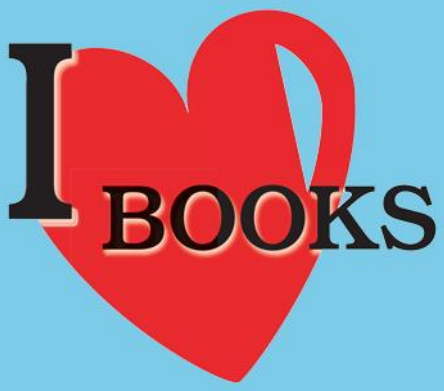


Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from

Sniper

Written by

Chris Bradford

Illustrated by

Nelson Evergreen

Published by

Barrington Stoke Ltd

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Lovereading4kids.co.uk

For more information on Chris and his books visit:
www.chrisbradford.co.uk

First published in 2016 in Great Britain by
Barrington Stoke Ltd
18 Walker Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7LP

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

Text © 2016 Chris Bradford
Illustrations © 2016 Nelson Evergreen

The moral right of Chris Bradford and Nelson Evergreen to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in any part in any form without the written permission of the publisher

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library upon request

ISBN: 978-1-78112-446-8

Printed in China by Leo

Warning: Do not attempt any of the techniques described within the book. These can be highly dangerous and result in fatal injuries. The author and publisher take no responsibility for any injuries resulting from attempting these techniques.

CONTENTS

1.	Glint of Sunlight	1
2.	Bullet Ears	7
3.	The Judge	15
4.	Zanshin Zone	22
5.	Funfair	28
6.	Bait	37
7.	Unbroken Shield	45
8.	Blackout	49
9.	Blood	56
10.	Face I.D.	59
11.	Subway	64
12.	Shock to the System	69
13.	The Verdict	76
14.	Doubt	82

CHAPTER 1
GLINT OF SUNLIGHT

The Near Future

Troy waited like a patient boyfriend as Pandora browsed the racks of glamorous dresses. But he had little hope that he would ever be the sweetheart of this beauty with her raven hair and honey skin. Pandora was the daughter of Carlos Lomez, the Mayor of Terminus City and the Chairman of the all-powerful Council. She was way out of Troy's league.

His job was to protect her.

Troy's gaze swept round the designer fashion store. Among the customers he spotted

an ice-blonde girl. She appeared to be looking at a silk top. In fact, her sharp blue eyes were watching the other shoppers.

Kasia was a bulletcatcher like Troy, assigned to guard Pandora.

Outside the shop a large boy loitered, with arms like blocks of black granite. That was Lennox – the muscle on their team.

There was no sign of any threat. Even so Troy felt on edge. He'd hated shopping malls ever since his parents were killed in one in a terrorist attack. Over a year had passed, but the grief still burned like acid in his gut.

As he kept a lookout for danger, Troy caught sight of his own reflection in a mirror. Tall and pale with sandy cropped hair, he looked a little gawky. But he was no longer the scrawny boy he once was . After months of intensive bulletcatcher training, his body was stronger and more defined.

“What do you think of this one?” Pandora asked. She held a ruby red dress against her slim figure.

Troy stared at her. His confidence was growing, but he was still tongue-tied when it came to girls. Especially one as pretty as Pandora. “Ermm … very nice,” he said.

Pandora smiled. “You’ve said that about *all* the clothes I’ve shown you.”

She paid for the dress and several other items, then strolled out of the store. Lennox walked ahead and took ‘point’. Troy kept close on Pandora’s right. Kasia followed behind on their left. In this way, Pandora was protected from all sides.

“Heading to north exit,” Kasia whispered into her throat mic.

Troy heard a reply in their earpieces from Joe, their comms contact at SPEAR HQ. “Transport ETA one minute,” Joe said.



Troy's nerves grew worse. Whenever a VIP got in or out of a vehicle, they were vulnerable. This was the moment they were most exposed to a potential attack.

Pandora and her bulletcatchers reached the exit as the limo pulled up to the kerb outside.

The mall's glass doors slid open. Lennox stepped onto the street and did a quick scan. His eyes lingered on a man talking into a mobile before he gave the all-clear.

Troy escorted Pandora across the pavement. Lennox opened the limo's rear door. As Troy guided Pandora towards it, his eyes darted everywhere for threats. The man with the mobile had finished his call and was walking towards them. Kasia stepped forward and blocked his path. The man may have been innocent, but they couldn't take any chances.

Pandora was totally unaware of the threat as she slipped into the back seat with her shopping bags.

"Well, that was easy," Lennox said with a grin. He had begun to close the door when the limo's front tyre burst. "Oh hell!" he said. "We've got a flat –"

Troy looked up. His eyes were drawn by a glint of sunlight from the roof of a building further along the street. Suddenly Lennox gave a wounded cry and keeled over.

At that moment, Pandora climbed back out. "I've forgotten my purse," she said.

"No!" Troy cried as she left the safety of the vehicle.

Troy leaped forward to cover Pandora with his body. He felt a bullet strike his back. Then another. The impacts knocked the air from his lungs. He hit the pavement hard.

A second later, Pandora fell beside him. A bullet in her head.