



RAVEN'S FINAL FLIGHT

- 1 SONGPA DISTRICT, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA.
1:50 pm.

For this mission, he was using the codename, *Raven*. He had travelled the world, knew five languages and was a master of disguise. There was no end to the martial arts he had mastered and, when called for, he was also a bit of an inventor. So far he had never been captured. Yet now here he was standing next to a rabbit dressed as a medieval knight. The word embarrassment might have crossed his mind, were he not charging a lot of money for this contract.

- 2 The armoured rabbit was a large, colourful statue in the gigantic indoor theme park known as Lotte World. Located in Seoul, the capital of South Korea, the theme park played host to thousands of families each day. Screams, giggles and a mix of languages filtered about Raven. He tugged at the green jacket he'd been told to wear. This was so his contact could find him at the rendezvous point, standing next to the rabbit.

- 3 An unfriendly shoulder suddenly barged into him, sending Raven sprawling to the ground. His instincts kicking in, he was up on his feet in an

instant. There was no one around. Suddenly, he felt a vibrating sensation in his pocket. It was his mobile.

Raven and his employer communicated using the latest in wireless technology. With a simple touch, his contact — the unfriendly shoulder — had transferred important information along the electric current on Raven's skin and into his phone. It was safe from any interceptions, as long as someone else with a similar gadget didn't touch you at the same time.

- 4 A message appeared on Raven's phone. It was short: Proceed to the Comet Express. Look beneath for the red box.

It was easy spotting the Comet Express — the space-themed roller-coaster that spun the carriages around in circles as they flew through a dark maze. Raven tried not to dwell upon the vomit that probably collected beneath it. His fears were confirmed, though, when a young boy rushed past him, clutching his stomach. Raven waited for what seemed like hours before the boy left.

- 5 Luckily, the red box he was looking for was untouched — not even dust had had time to settle on it. It was a small, metal box painted in a bright fire-truck red. The lid slid off easily. Inside was a black screen displaying the numerals 0 to 9 in light purple. It was a keypad. He entered his password: 72836.

- 6 The purple keypad vanished and was replaced with the words *Touch Me* flashing in red. He placed his hand on the screen. BZZZZAP! Raven pulled back his hand in shock. The box had zapped him. Whatever electrical shock it gave him also burnt out the box's computer. There was a small stream of black, metallic-smelling smoke pluming from it.

- 7 Automatically, Raven reached into his pocket and removed his mobile. The screen was filled with

maps, photos and files. This was his mission, delivered to him by the most secure of methods. In six hours time he needed to be at the COEX Convention Centre. There, at eight o'clock that night, a group of the world's largest computer companies were going to activate a new satellite network. Using the software now on his phone, Raven needed to download all of the access codes for the satellite system. Once his employers had these, they would be able to control any computer on the network.

There was one final message, flashing on his phone: Be alert. Someone is trying to stop you.

- 8 GANGNAM DISTRICT, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA.
7:30 pm.

There was plenty of opportunity for a quick steal at the Convention Centre that night. Suits, watches, shoes and — Raven's favourite — gadgets. But he was no petty thief. Over the last few hours Raven had completely transformed. He no longer looked like a tourist. A security badge hung from his black jacket, giving him access to all areas of the building. If anyone spoke to him, he responded in perfect Korean.

- 9 *Someone is trying to stop you.* That warning buzzed in his mind as he walked briskly down a service corridor. He had looked all over the Convention Centre, passing his eyes over the guests. None of them resembled any government spy he had ever met before. Neither had anyone challenged him, although there had been one point where he had to scare a kid away before entering the service corridor. There was no way Raven would let some rich businessman's whining child ruin his mission.

- 10 The service corridor ran all the way beneath the Convention Centre, and gave Raven access to the network hub. This was the point where all electronic communications entered and left the

building. All he had to do was plug his mobile into the hub before the satellite transmission at eight. Raven's heart thumped excitedly in his chest. Only a few minutes more.

11 He turned the corner and stopped dead in his tracks. Standing in the middle of the corridor, right in front of the door to the network hub, was a mother and her daughter. The girl had spilled some cordial all over her dress, and her mother was trying to clean it off. Suspicion crackled about Raven like a storm cloud. Why were they doing this in the corridor?

After some harsh words, he sent the two away. Breathing deeply, he took out his mobile. Five minutes till network launch. He swiped his security card, opened the door and —

— stepped into a squad of police officers.

12 "Well, it seems our spies were right. You're under arrest for international espionage. Looks like there'll be no more flying for you, Mr Raven," the head police officer said, slapping handcuffs onto Raven.

As they led him out of the service corridor, Raven's head was in a spin. He had been so careful. What had gone wrong?

13 Then he saw them, standing in the lobby of the Convention Centre. Their arms were crossed, their faces smiling in satisfaction. The sick boy from Lotte World. The whining rich kid. The messy girl. Raven's heart sank as he was led past his captors. In all his years of work, after countless hours spent training until he was the best in his game, he had never ever expected to be outdone by child secret agents.



Questions

- Where had Raven agreed to meet his contact?
a at the Comet Express
b at the Convention Centre
c at the medieval rabbit
- How did Raven receive information?
a through a satellite network
b through a mobile call
c through touch transfer
- Raven's mission was to
a download satellite access codes.
b stop the launch of the satellite network.
c find who was trying to stop him.
- What was one of Raven's disguises?
a rich businessman
b tourist
c police officer
- Why was Raven caught?
a He was not a good thief.
b He wasn't expecting child secret agents to come after him.
c His clothes gave him away.
- Which child spy was most likely the first to know that he was in the service corridor?
a the sick child
b the whining child
c the messy child

Vocabulary

Find words in the text that match the meanings below. The word is in the section shown in brackets.

- Became competent in a skill (1)
- An appointment or meeting place (2)
- Think about for a long time (4)
- A word meaning disappeared (6)
- To make active (7)

Grammar

A **prefix** is a letter or letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning. E.g. like/**dislike**.

Add a **prefix** from the box to make words from the text.

un re im trans

- friendly
- proper
- placed
- formed

Back To The Text...

- Prediction: What is likely to happen in the future?
a Raven will go on to his next mission.
b Raven will spend a long time in jail.
- In which part of the library would you find this text?
a fiction
b non-fiction

- Another good name for this text would be:
a The Convention Centre
b Raven Miscalculates

Sequencing

Look back through the card to find what happened first. Choose **a** or **b**.

- a Raven received a message at the Comet Express.
b Raven received a message near the armoured rabbit.
- a Raven entered his password.
b Raven pressed the 'Touch Me' message.
- a The girl spilt a drink.
b The sick boy grabbed his stomach.

Think About This

- The word *activate* in section 7 means
a make.
b trigger.
c act out.
d build.
- What information is critical to Raven if he is to receive **all** his messages?
a exact times
b correct colours
c correct children

Challenge Option

Writing: Make a list of five items you would use if you were a spy.

