



THE BEACON

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Hi everyone,

Thank you for making my twins, Kensy and Max, part of your lives. I've had a ball writing the first three books and can't wait to create more adventures. After an explosive beginning, *Kensy and Max: Undercover* sees the twins journey to Sydney, Australia, on their very first mission. While they're still grappling with their parents' disappearance, Kensy and Max are determined to prove themselves as spies and impress their grandmother, who just so happens to be the head of Pharos, the most powerful spy organisation in the world.

It was fun bringing the characters 'home' to my doorstep and coming up with lots of cool gadgets. I hope you enjoy the Australian setting as well as the action and intrigue. There are some new characters – villains as well as allies – and I see one of them becoming a friend for life with Kensy and Max. Trust me, you won't want to miss this next instalment!

Best wishes,

Jacqueline Harvey

BREAKING: UNDERCOVER SPIES IN SYDNEY SCHOOLS

How do you keep your head in the game when someone wants you gone? When those dearest to you are far away and the future is so uncertain . . . Kensy and Max are back in London for no time at all before things begin to heat up. As a result, Granny Cordelia ships them off to Australia on an undercover mission. The twins find themselves planted in a posh Sydney school where first appearances prove to be deceiving.

What seems like a straightforward assignment turns into something so much bigger. Kensy and Max must employ all their spy skills – the fate of their parents depends on it.



NEWS JUST IN

HOT OFF THE PRESS: CLASSIFIED CASE FILES DISCOVERED BY THE BEACON REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD TWINS. OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE ALLEGED SPIES, KENSY AND MAX GREY, ON PAGE 2.



The children have also continued developing their skills in code-breaking and orienteering, with Maxim emerging top of the class in both areas, although he surpassed his ability to pick locks is school hairclip to assist her in this area has been creative, to say the least. Several new gadgets have been revealed to them, including the Blunderbus Bubble Gun, which was used to remarkable effect by Rupert Spencer during a car chase in Rome; lasso shoelaces, which both twins have access to; and poison-dart glasses currently being trialled by Maxim.

EMOTIONAL STATE

While Maxim has maintained an emotional state, it is clear that Kensy is struggling with the situation.





INTERNATIONAL SPIES SPEAK OUT

Our exclusive interview with Pharos's rising stars, Kensy and Max Grey

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A SPY?

MAX: The cool places we get to explore around the world and, you know, catching bad guys.

KENSY: The wild adventures! The high-speed car chase in Rome was awesome. And so are the gadgets – we both love Uncle Rupert's Blunderbuss Bubble Gun. I can't wait to have my own!

WHEN YOU FEEL THAT SOMETHING ISN'T QUITE RIGHT, WHAT SIGNS DO YOU LOOK OUT FOR?

MAX: Sometimes it can be just that – a feeling – but we've also been trained to pick up on irregularities that the average person on the street wouldn't notice.

KENSY: It could be as simple as a person's expression or turn of phrase that gives them away. We've been learning all about body language in our Pharos lessons and it's come in real handy.

WHAT DO YOU NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT?

MAX: The watch Mum and Dad gave me for my birthday – which is how they've stayed in touch – and a pair of glasses I'm currently trialling for Pharos, which have built-in poison darts.

KENSY: My watch and this awesome hairclip that has more gadgets than a Swiss Army knife. Oh, and lasso shoelaces and pens that act as stun guns!

HOW CAN OTHER KIDS GET INTO THE SPY GAME?

MAX: Be observant, patient and learn to trust your instincts – if you think something is off, it probably is.

KENSY: I'm going to remind you of that next time you question my theories! Everyone teases me about my wild theories, but they actually help us consider every possibility in any given scenario. Anyway, I think it's important to be physically and mentally strong. You never know what you're going to come up against next.

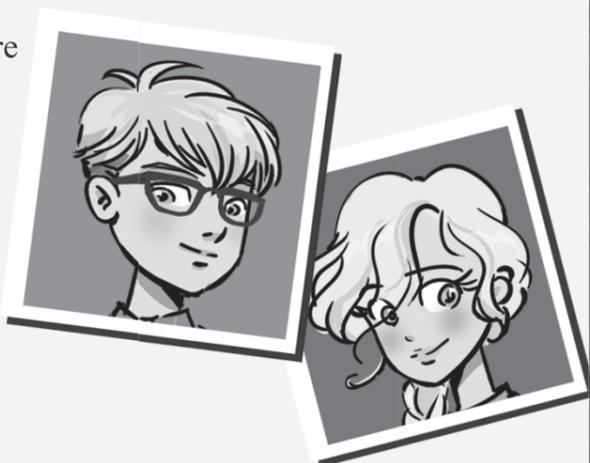
WHAT'S NEXT FOR KENSY AND MAX IN 2019?

MAX: We're really excited to share our latest adventure and I –

KENSY: Yeah! Something MASSIVE happens. Actually, two massive things happen!

MAX: As I was saying, I think readers are going to be stunned by the outcome. Rest assured it's only the beginning for me and Kensy, as we still have to hunt down a fugitive and bring them to justice.

KENSY: I suspect we're going to learn a lot more about our Uncle Rupert too. I think he's great, but Max doesn't entirely trust him. I reckon he has his reasons and it's going to be interesting to find out what they are.



EXPLOSIVE EXTRACT FROM BOOK THREE

'Here we go,' Max said, and clicked the lighter. 'The moment of truth.'

Being entirely encased in bricks, at least Esme Brightside's dank cellar wouldn't easily catch fire. He reached out and ignited the mixture, which began to burn far more fiercely than it should have. Still, it wasn't the explosive reaction that had occurred at school. He was just about to douse the flames when Kensy intervened.

'No, not yet. I tried to put it out with water, remember, and that's when it exploded.' She unscrewed the lid of the flask and poured a few drops on the burning mass. A bright flash illuminated the room and a jet of flame soared towards the ceiling. Max smothered it with the fire blanket and within a few seconds all that remained was a smoky residue. 'I think that settles it,' Kensy said, dusting her hands. 'The white powder is definitely not baking soda.'

Max nodded. 'Judging by the way it reacted with the water, my guess is it's magnesium. We'll have to talk to Mrs Vanden Boom first thing Monday morning.'

'Do you believe me now?' Kensy asked. 'It's obvious someone is trying to kill us – or at least me – and I think it's about time we find out who it is before they succeed.'

Max began to pack everything away while his sister stood by and watched. 'Could you give me a hand?'

'What?' Kensy replied, apparently lost in her thoughts.

'Never mind.' Max shoved the rest of the gear into his backpack and slung it over his shoulder. 'Let's get out of here. This place gives me the creeps.'

The twins ran up the rickety cellar stairs, back down the hallway with its ghastly floral carpet and peeling wallpaper. Kensy opened the front door and peered out. The rain had stopped for now and the street appeared empty save for a noisy car sputtering past. She looked again

and was pretty sure it was Derek's old green banger with the whale tail and giant silver rims.

'Come on,' she said, dashing into the street. 'I think that was Derek in the car, so maybe we should take the key back later.'

'What if we –'
KABOOM!

Directly across the road, 13 Ponsonby Terrace exploded into a fireball. The twins were blown backwards against Mrs Brightside's door while a huge lump of concrete smashed through the windscreen of a car parked at the kerb. Debris rained down on the street. Max felt something hit him on the forehead. He sat against the door, dazed and confused. Kensy staggered to her feet. For at least thirty seconds she couldn't speak. Then the realisation hit her like a bolt of lightning.

'Song!' she screamed. 'Song and the dogs are in there!' Remembering her brother, she turned and gasped at the sight of him. Max was covered in dirt and blood, like something out of a horror movie.

He tried to stand, but each time his legs gave way beneath him and he slumped back against the door. As the plume of dust began to clear and people came running out of their houses, there was a cacophony of shouts and screams. Children were crying and adults were calling to one another. Someone yelled that they had phoned the brigade while another fellow shouted for people to get away from the building in case it collapsed.

'Max?' Kensy grabbed hold of her brother's shoulders and shook him. He looked at her, his blue eyes vacant. Her face crumpled and tears tracked two shaky lines down her dust-covered cheeks. Kensy glanced back towards the house. The entire front facade had been reduced to piles of rubble on the street.

To find out what happens next, grab a copy of *Kensy and Max: Undercover* in stores now!

TEST YOUR SPY SKILLS

Everyone knows that spies are the greatest keepers of secrets. They deal with highly confidential information that, if betrayed, could spell life or death for an innocent soul. To safeguard their secrets, they often use codes and ciphers in their communications to keep the meaning of their messages hidden from enemy eyes. Have a go at decoding the message below using the cipher alphabet provided, and discover whether you have what it takes to be a spy!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

PVMHB ZMW NZC ZIV UOLDM GL HBWMVB ZMW FMXLEVI Z WZIP HVXIVG. DROO GSVB HFIEREV GSVRI MVCG NRHRLM?