

OFFICER MEMORANDUM

BATTLECARRIER ALEXANDER-78V

SUBJECT: "Brace yourself. You're about to be immersed in a mindscape that you'll never want to leave."

FROM: **MARIE LU**, bestselling author of the Legend trilogy.

<<CONTINUED>>

our
not
is s
the
is

ILLUMINAE

THE ILLUMINAE FILES_01

: First, survive. Then tell the truth.

AMIE KAUFMAN

and 1

JAY KRISTOFF

Th

moon
attac

Yo

Quarant
In
cre
are

Breach in

Th
moon
attac
Yo

Yo

ILLUMINAE

THE ILLUMINAE FILES_01

AMIE KAUFMAN &
JAY KRISTOFF



ALFRED A. KNOPF
NEW YORK

THIS IS A BORZOI BOOK PUBLISHED BY ALFRED A. KNOPF

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are the product of the authors' imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

Copyright © 2015 by LaRoux Industries Pty Ltd. and
Neverafter Pty Ltd.

Ship insignia illustrations copyright © 2015 by Stuart
Wade

Ship blueprint and schematics copyright © 2015 by
Meinert Hansen

Movie poster illustration copyright © 2015 by Kristen
Gudsnuik

Jacket photograph and interior art copyright © 2015 by
Shutterstock

All rights reserved. Published in the United States by Alfred
A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a
division of Penguin Random House LLC, New York.

Knopf, Borzoi Books, and the colophon are registered
trademarks of Penguin Random House LLC.

Visit us on the Web! randomhouseteens.com

Educators and librarians, for a variety of teaching tools,
visit us at RHTeachersLibrarians.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Kaufman, Amie.

Illuminae / Amie Kaufman ; Jay Kristoff.

pages cm.

Summary: "The planet Kerenza is attacked, and Kady and Ezra find themselves on a space fleet fleeing the enemy, while their ship's artificial intelligence system and a deadly plague may be the end of them all." —Provided by publisher

ISBN 978-0-553-49911-7 (trade) — ISBN 978-0-553-49912-4 (lib. bdg.) — ISBN 978-0-553-49913-1 (ebook) — ISBN 978-0-553-49914-8 (pbk.)

[1. Science fiction. 2. Interplanetary voyages—Fiction. 3. Artificial intelligence—Fiction. 4. Plague—Fiction.] I. Kristoff, Jay. II. Title.

PZ7.K1642Ill 2015

[Fic]—dc23

2014017908

eBook ISBN 9780553499131

eBook design adapted from printed book design by
Heather Kelly and Jay Kristoff

Random House Children's Books supports the First
Amendment and celebrates the right to read.

v4.1

a

**FOR NIC,
WHO ALWAYS TELLS THE BEST STORIES
AND STARTED THIS ONE**

CONTENTS

Cover

Title page

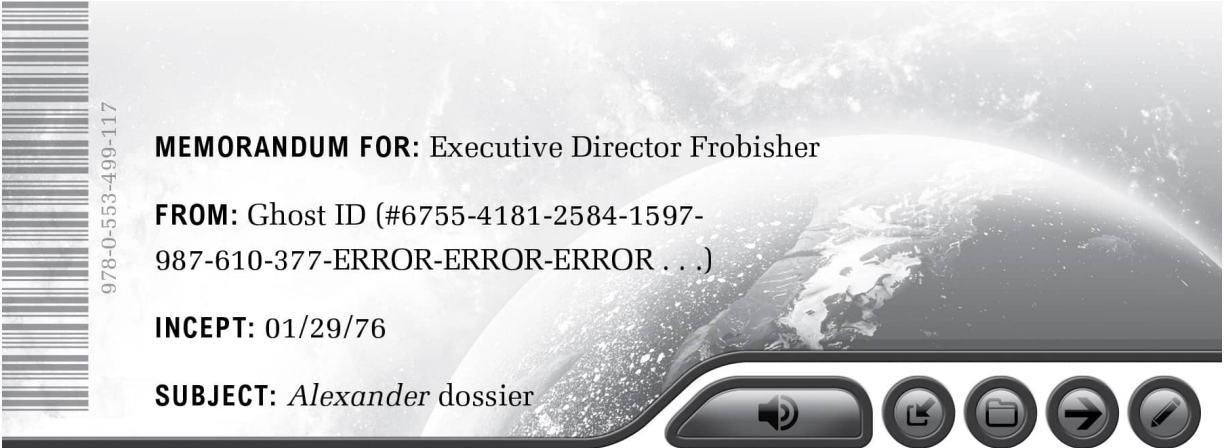
Copyright

Dedication

Illuminae

Acknowledgments

About the Authors



So here's the file that almost killed me, Director.

I won't bore you with the tally of databases plundered, light-years jumped, or cute, sniffing orphans created in its compilation—our fee already reflects Level Of Difficulty. But this dirt is out there, if you know where to look. Seems your cleanup crews weren't quite as thorough as you'd like, and your little corporate war isn't quite as secret as you'd hoped.

You'll find all intel we could unearth concerning the Kerenza disaster compiled here in hard copy. Where possible, scans of original documentation are included. Fun Times commence with the destruction of the Kerenza colony (one year ago today) and proceed chronologically through events on battlecarrier *Alexander* and science vessel *Hypatia* as best as we can reconstruct them.

All visual and audio data are included in original form, along with written transcripts. *All typographical and graphical anomalies are present in the original files.* Commentary from my team is marked by paper clip icons. Some written materials were censored by the UTA and had to be reconstructed by our commtechs, though profanity remains censored as per your instruction. Sure, the story kicks off with the deaths of thousands of people, but god forbid there be cussing in it, right?

The Illuminae Group

In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act. —Orwell



BRIEFING NOTE:

The following are extracts from debriefing interviews with the subjects of this dossier, Kady Grant and Ezra Mason. The interviews were conducted shortly after the evacuation of Kerenza.



Incept: 01/30/75

Interviewer: Tell me about yesterday.

Kady Grant: I was in class when it started. This is going to sound stupid, but I broke up with my boyfriend that morning, and he was right there on the other side of the room. I'm staring out the window and coming up with all the things I should say to the jerk, when these ships fly right overhead and all the windows start shaking.

Interviewer: Did you know something was up?

Kady Grant: No. You don't jump straight to an invasion. The Kerenza settlement wasn't exactly *legal*, but we still got traffic around the mine and refinery. I figured it was an ore carrier coming in too low and went back to plotting my idiot ex's downfall.

Interviewer: When did you become aware of the invasion?

Kady Grant: That would be when all the sirens started screaming. Some bright spark who's probably dead now sounded the spaceport alarms. The *Defiant*—that was our WUC protection ship—had transmitted an alert to let us know unfriendly people with big guns had arrived, and—

Interviewer: How do you know the *Defiant* transmitted a warning?

Kady Grant: I'm good with computers. I wanted to know what was going on at the port, so I took a look.

Interviewer: You evacuated at that stage?

Kady Grant: You make it sound way more organized than it was.

Interviewer: How was it?

Kady Grant: All kittens and rainbows. Apart from the screaming and explosions.

Interviewer: How did you make it out?

Kady Grant: I'm a lateral thinker.

Interviewer: Meaning you used your comput—

Kady Grant: Meaning I broke open a window.

Interviewer: Oh.

Kady Grant: I had a truck in the parking lot. I borrowed my mom's because I didn't want to have to take the tube home with *him*. Having the truck there saved my life. I saw one of my teachers in the lot, and this chunk of metal came screaming in from the sky, and...

Interviewer: Miss Grant?

Kady Grant: I had this moment when I thought I'd left the keys in my desk, and I pulled apart my bag and threw stuff everywhere—I guess I knew I wouldn't need any of it again, isn't that weird? But I found the keys at the bottom and jumped in, and just as I start the engine, I look across and he's standing right there, staring at me. I swear—

Interviewer: Hold on, the survivor list is refreshing. What was the name you were after?

Kady Grant: Ezra Mason.

Interviewer: We have him. He's on the *Alexander*.

Kady Grant: [Inaudible.]

Interviewer: Are you okay to continue, Mr. Mason?

Ezra Mason: I'm all right. My shoulder hurts.

Interviewer: I'll have an orderly bring you some more meds. You were saying about your escape from the school?

Ezra Mason: Never seen anything like it. Just this crush of people and screaming. Teachers. Students. I mean, we *knew* each other. Colony that isolated, everyone pretty much knows everyone. But it was like they all just lost it. I remember getting pushed along in the mob and wondering why the hallway was soft under my boots. And then I realized what I was walking on.

Interviewer: So how did you get out?

Ezra Mason: I'm six-five. Played point defense on the school geeball team. One time I hit this receiver so hard they had to ID him with DNA.

Interviewer: Where did you go after the first missile strike?

Ezra Mason: Everyone was headed for the tube station, but I figured a tin can in an

underground ice tunnel was the last place you'd want to be with bombs going off. So—

Interviewer: Wait, you people had a subway system? I thought this settlement was illegal?

Ezra Mason: Chum, the Kerenza mine operated undetected for twenty years. Whole families lived there. You know how far from the Core we are, right?

Interviewer: Maybe further than you might think...

Ezra Mason: ...What the hell's that supposed to mean?

Interviewer: Nothing. I'm sorry.

Interviewer: You were saying about the subway?

Ezra Mason: Yeah...Right. Basically I didn't wanna risk it down there, so I lit out through the fire escape. Doubled back into the parking lot. Which might not have been the best plan, since I didn't have wheels. And I'm looking around, and the sky is raining fire and I'm

still freezing because the windchill on Kerenza could hit forty below on a bad day. And there she was.

Interviewer: Who?

Ezra Mason: My ex-girlfriend. Who'd dumped me maybe three hours before. So that was...awkward.

Interviewer: What did you do?

Ezra Mason: Well, I figured there was a good chance she'd just run me over if I stood in front of the truck. So I knocked on the window and said something like "Lovely day for a drive," and at that point the southeastern anti-missile battery got vaporized by what I assume was a missile. So maybe you might wanna note in your report that those things don't, you know, *stop missiles*.

Interviewer: So she let you in?

Ezra Mason: She let me in. I guess she figured she didn't hate me enough to let me get X-ed out by a BeiTech kill squad. She had to think about it for a minute, though.

Interviewer: How did you know BeiTech was behind the attack?

Ezra Mason: I think the biggest giveaway was the huge BeiTech logo on the warship hovering overhead. It'd dropped out of the clouds and was X-ing the rest of the defense silos by then.

Interviewer: By "warship," you mean the BeiTech dreadnought *Lincoln*?

Ezra Mason: Yeah. That's them. ██████s. Wait, can I swear in this thing?

Interviewer: So what happened next?

Kady Grant: We took off outta the parking lot like we were in a chase scene. Some moron had parked blocking the exit, but the truck was all-terrain, so we rammed it.

Interviewer: What was it like outside the school?

Kady Grant: There were a lot of explosions and a lot of dead people. Dead civilians who worked for a [REDACTED] mining company. I mean, imagine you're an interstellar corporation, right? You discover an illegal mining op run by one of your competitors. Do you (a) report it to the UTA and laugh as the fines roll in, or (b) jump in an attack fleet and X-out every man, woman, and child on the planet? What the hell was BeiTech thinking?

Interviewer: What you and I need to do is focus on what happened on Kerenza. Gathering intel on the attack is the best thing we can do to help right now.

Kady Grant: I can't believe this.

Interviewer: Miss Grant—

Kady Grant: Okay. Fine. We took the main arterial, and Ezra turned on the radio. For a second I thought the idiot was looking for the right soundtrack or something, but there was an emergency broadcast up. They were telling us to get to the spaceport, and our research fleet was going to send down shuttles to ferry us all up to orbit.

Interviewer: So you turned for the spaceport?

Ezra Mason: Yeah. I turned on the radio to maybe find us some getaway music, but there was an emergency broadcast telling everyone to hit the port for evacuation. So that's what we tried to do. But there were cars everywhere, and some truck had overturned on the strip. Kady nearly flipped us, and when I offered to drive, she...well, she called me a very bad word.

Interviewer: I see.

Ezra Mason: I can repeat it if you want, but—

Interviewer: That's fine, Mr. Mason.

Ezra Mason: Mr. Mason is my dad. And you still won't tell me why I can't see him.

Interviewer: We need you properly debriefed before you have any civilian contact, Mr. Mason. I mean...Ezra.

Ezra Mason: "Civilian contact." Wow. He's my *father*, chum. You guys still have fathers,

right? Or does everyone in the great United Terran Authority get grown in a vat nowadays?

Interviewer: Why don't you just tell me what happened next.

Ezra Mason: BeiTech blew the ██████ing spaceport, that's what happened next. Popped a half-dozen missiles and turned it into a smoking hole in the ice. I played geeball with one of the ground crew guys. Rob Flynn. Burton, our next-door neighbor, he worked the quarantine bays. There was this girl, Jodie Kingston. I knew her since eighth grade. She worked the port comms rig. She was...

Interviewer: Ezra?

Ezra Mason: Wow. I just realized. She was the first girl I ever kissed...

Interviewer: Do you need a minute?

Kady Grant: No, I need to get this done. Once the spaceport was gone, it was hard to know