



Rumblestar: Chapter 22



Q 1: Utterly tells Casper how her sister, Mannerly, died. Why does Utterly think it's her fault?

'Three years ago, when I was eight, I persuaded my older sister, Mannerly, to come out onto the castle roof to see a moonbow I'd spotted from my bedroom window.' Utterly tried to swallow the lump in her throat but that only drew more tears down her cheeks. 'We were always watching the night sky together – sometimes from our bedroom windows, all tucked up with hot chocolates, then other times we'd creep out of the castle when everyone else was asleep and the world was ours for the taking. That night was one of the best lunar rainbows we had ever seen – a glowing arc surrounding thousands and thousands of stars. But then I told Mannerly we could get an even better view if we climbed up the spire and when she was following me she slipped on a loose tile and . . . and she fell. If I hadn't persuaded her to come out onto the roof, if I hadn't told her to keep climbing when she wanted to turn back, she never would've fallen. She would still be here. And *that's* why I'm not allowed to cry or even talk about any of this – because it's *all my fault*.'



Q 2: Why haven't Utterly's parents been able to send a letter to her?

'Yes. But what I'm trying to say is that the Lofty Husks wrote back to us – they even tried to send a search party before the Midnights blocked their way out of the castle altogether! – but their message never reached us because the Midnights have disrupted the kingdom's SkyFly. Now it seems to have broken completely as *no* paper aeroplanes are able to get over the castle walls so the reason your parents haven't written is because they *can't*.' Casper paused. 'But I did find this.'

