

SECRETS OF
BEARHAVEN



BOOK FOUR

BATTLE FOR
BEARHAVEN

K. E. ROCHA



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“RED ALERT! RED ALERT!” A shout tore through the woods around Spencer Plain. He jumped to his feet. Kate Weaver, the bear cub beside him, scrambled to all fours.

“We can’t leave the rope!” she exclaimed, her eyes wide as she looked down to the forest floor, to the knot game Spencer had set up for them to play. It could give them away if anyone noticed it.

“I’ll move it—you go hide!” Spencer tried not to sound frantic, but it seemed like the trees had come to life all around them. The wide trunks quaked, and the branches and leaves shook as Bearhaven bears responded to the red alert, climbing as fast and as high as they could. The bears were hiding. A red alert meant that Pam, the bear smuggler with an army of eighty-eight microchipped bears, who wanted to destroy Bearhaven, had arrived in the forest.

But how?! Spencer thought. It was too soon!

“Red alert!” the warning call came again but from farther away. The other groups of bears were picking up the alarm and passing it along through the woods.

“Kate, hurry!” Spencer urged his best friend. “I’ll be right behind you! Just hide!” He reached forward and

switched off Kate's BEAR-COM, the translating device around her neck. The first thing the bears were supposed to do in a red alert was turn off their BEAR-COMs, but Kate seemed frozen. Spencer didn't blame her. Kate had been captured once before by Pam's evil lackeys. She knew exactly how cruel Pam could be, and she had the scar on her ear to remind her.

"*Galuk!*" Spencer begged her to hurry in Ragayo, the bears' language. Now that her BEAR-COM was switched off, speaking in Ragayo was the only way Kate would understand him. Finally, she started to move. She swung her chestnut-colored head back and forth, scanning the trees and sniffing hard, then turned and ran into the woods.

Spencer dropped back to his knees, grabbing for the rope. He cast an anxious glance over his shoulder but didn't see anyone coming . . . yet. As quickly as he could, he started to untie the game of knots that ran between two raised tree roots. As he worked, he tried to make sense of what had gone wrong. Pam and his bear army were not supposed to be here for another week! And by then, Bearhaven's bears had planned to be far away, safe from Pam's attack.

How could Evarita have been so wrong? he wondered. Evarita, a Bearhaven operative, was supposed to be spying on Pam and updating the Bear Council on Pam's movements. Just this morning, she'd said he was still at his illegal bear smuggling facility, Moon Farm!

Crunch! Crunch! Crunch!

Spencer froze at the sound of heavy footsteps. *Lots* of heavy footsteps. The trees around him were completely still. Bearhaven's bears must all be well hidden by now.