

## CHAPTER 1

**I**T WAS ANOTHER EXTREMELY HOT NIGHT IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN forest, but the heat was the least of Rose Sayer's concerns. Her brother Samuel lay ill in his bed, and she knew that he was close to death. Rose was sitting at Samuel's bedside, and when he began to softly say his prayers, she lowered her head and clasped her hands together.

Samuel prayed to God to bless the mission he and his sister had spent so many years building. In the decade they had been in Africa, Rose and Samuel had successfully converted hundreds of people to Christianity. Then, World War One broke out and everything changed. The Germans, who were occupying Central Africa at the time, attacked numerous villages and took hundreds of locals with them. These people were then forced to become soldiers or bearers in the German army.

Samuel almost wept when he thought about the day the Germans had attacked his mission and the surrounding village, destroying years of hard work in minutes. The Germans kidnapped men, women and children and took livestock, poultry and food. All they left behind was the Reverend Samuel Sayer, his sister Rose, and their small house.

Samuel continued to pray quietly; he prayed that the war would end soon and he prayed for peace. He also prayed that England would rise up and defeat the Germans.

"Amen! Amen!" said Rose as tears ran down her cheeks.

Then Samuel fell asleep and Rose went to her room. She lay awake for some time, thinking about the mission and her brother. In the early hours of the morning, Rose heard Samuel call out to her. She quickly jumped out of bed and ran to his room.

"Rose..." Samuel murmured when he saw his sister approach him.

"I'm here, Samuel," said Rose.

"Rose..." Samuel gasped. "The mission... The Germans destroyed our mission..."

"I know, Samuel, I know," whispered Rose.

