

A Very Long Night

SCENE 3 - The Mountain

(The sun is just coming up. SKYE and CALLEN are still asleep in a patch of grass at the base of Mt. Hood. ARWEN is sitting on a stump engrossed in a book. SKYE stirs and wakes.)

SKYE: You're already up?

ARWEN: Oh! Good morning Skye. How did you sleep?

SKYE: Not great . . . How far did you say your house was?

ARWEN: It's just a little further. Not too far. Just an hour or so.

SKYE: It's kind of chilly, don't you think? It was warmer yesterday.

ARWEN: Oh, here take this.

(ARWEN stands and produces a red cloak from her backpack. She gives it to SKYE, who bundles up. ARWEN then produces a water bottle from the backpack and offers it to SKYE. SKYE takes a long drink, then returns the bottle to ARWEN. ARWEN uses the remainder to douse CALLEN in the face.)

CALLEN: *(wakes with a jolt)* AH! I'm up. I'm up.

ARWEN: Skye is restless to get out of these woods—and frankly, so am I.

CALLEN: You know you didn't have to pour water on me, Arwen. It's a rather rude thing to do.

ARWEN: You'll survive.

CALLEN: *(mocking)* You'll survive.

SKYE: Morning, Callen.

CALLEN: Hey Skye! Good morning.

SKYE: How did you sleep, Callen?

CALLEN: I slept great! I had a weird dream though . . . You were there.

SKYE: Oh really? What happened?

CALLEN: You were trapped in this old house . . . and these men were making you cook and clean for them. But Arwen and I broke in and busted you out.

(CALLEN dramatically reenacts his dream; SKYE watches and laughs.)

SKYE: *(SKYE plays along, bowing in a grateful way.)* Thank you for saving me, brave sir.

CALLEN: Thinking about it now is making me hungry, actually. Want some candy?

SKYE: Yeah, I'm starving! What do you have?

CALLEN: Loads of chocolate. Here, have some.

(CALLEN shares some chocolate with SKYE. ARWEN is heading forward, ahead of SKYE and

CALLEN. She seems to be searching for something specific.)

ARWEN: Walk and talk, people! We have ground to cover.

CALLEN: We're coming, alright? *(To SKYE)* Why couldn't my sister be more like you? She's so bossy.

(ARWEN turns and glares back at CALLEN. He reacts with a nasty face of his own.)

ARWEN: I heard that, Callen!

CALLEN: Good!

(Beat.)

SKYE: *(sarcastically)* You two seem to get along well.

CALLEN: *(laughs)* You noticed?

SKYE: You seem like very different people.

CALLEN: Yeah exactly. I'm the fun one and she's the lame one.

(Beat.)

She's always reading—when there's so much to go out and *do*. Why read someone else's story when you could be making your own?

SKYE: Yeah, I guess.

CALLEN: What really bothers me is that she makes me feel bad for not reading enough.

(Beat.)

I hate to read, personally, but that doesn't make her better than me.

SKYE: I get that.

(Beat.)

Reading can be fun sometimes, I guess. I just hate feeling like someone is *forcing* me to read.

(Beat.)

You do like Arwen, right?

CALLEN: She's my sister--I'll love her always. I guess I just don't always like her.

SKYE: What do you like about her—when you don't not like her, I mean?

CALLEN: *(taking his time to think)* Hmm. Well, there are times when she really knows what's she's doing. She knows her way around the woods, for instance.

SKYE: See, that's a good skill.

CALLEN: I get lost a lot, and she always yells at me, but I'd rather get yelled at than stay lost, so... yeah, she has her moments.

(ARWEN bends down and touches a small colored rock.)

ARWEN: Got it! This way, people!

CALLEN: Wait up!

SKYE: What was that . . . a rock?

CALLEN: That's how we find our way back. It's the only way to get to our cabin. Come on, we have to hurry now so we get back by nightfall!

SKYE: Nightfall?

(ARWEN and CALLEN run offstage. SKYE realizes they've left and runs offstage after them. Lights fade.)
