

## **APRIL AND SONNY**

*(APRIL and SONNY, early 20s, drop their backpacks at a campsite. Some stones form a circle for a fire pit, and there are a couple of logs around it. The sun is going down.)*

*(Sonny has also been carrying some firewood and kindling and drops it near the pit. He immediately starts working on building a fire. April watches, but is disinterested/distracted.)*

**APRIL**

Are you sure it's alright to be here?

**SONNY**

I told you don't worry. My mom's a cop, she patrols this area all time.

**APRIL**

Don't you need a permit to make a fire.

**SONNY**

Yes. We're covered. I took care of it. Do you trust me?

**APRIL**

Yeah.

**SONNY**

You sure?

**APRIL**

Yeah. I do. I just. I'm not used to being out here this late. It's dark.

**SONNY**

That's why I'm making a fire. Are you cold?

**APRIL**

Is your mom working right now?

**SONNY**

She works day shift. Where'd I put the matches? Did I give them to you?

**APRIL**

No. Where's your Dad?

**SONNY**

Are you sure I didn't give them to you?

**APRIL**

I don't think so.

**SONNY**

Can you check your pockets because I'm pretty sure I did.

*(April checks hers. Sonny keeps checking around, and in his pockets.)*

**APRIL**

Did you lose them?

**SONNY**

They're not lost. They're just misplaced. Anything?

*(April turns out her pockets. Nothing.)*

**APRIL**

Should we go back?

**SONNY**

What? No. Definitely not. I don't need the matches. It was just a modern convenience. Which we rely too much on anyway.

**APRIL**

How are you going to start the fire then?

**SONNY**

I have my ways. Don't worry about that.

**APRIL**

It is getting a little cold actually.

**SONNY**

One roaring hot fire coming right up.

**APRIL**

I should probably go back anyway. I have to study.

**SONNY**

What? No. Tomorrow's Saturday.

**APRIL**

Monday always sneaks up on me.

**SONNY**

Give me five minutes. No fire by then, we can go back. Okay? Alright?

*(April stands, zips up her coat, and paces. Sonny continues to fiddle with the firewood.)*

**APRIL**

Think I did the right thing?

**SONNY**

By coming out here?

**APRIL**

No! Well that's beginning to seem questionable.

**SONNY**

Are you kidding me? Just us and the wilderness. Spell that. Pine needles and bark.

**APRIL**

No, because of Gaia.

**SONNY**

She's not dead.

**APRIL**

Yeah but she almost was. She wanted to be. Because of me.

**SONNY**

You don't know why she jumped. I think you did... what you had to do. You did what you thought was right.

**APRIL**

Yeah but was it right?

**SONNY**

You thought it was right.

**APRIL**

I know what I thought. I'm me. I was there. But now I'm here and I'm questioning what I did. Reflecting on my decision and having some serious doubts and I'm asking your opinion and all you're doing is avoiding me.

**SONNY**

I'm not avoiding you. I'm right here. I'm doing the opposite of avoiding you. I'm the one who asked you to come out here. Clear your head.

**APRIL**

You're dodging my question.

**SONNY**

I'm saying you did what you thought was right, and in a situation like that, that's all you can do.

**APRIL**

I ruined her life.

**SONNY**

You don't know that.

**APRIL**

You're right I don't. I don't know anything about her. She's probably a good person. We'd probably be friends. I'd probably—

**SONNY**

You're not the one who cheated. She did. She's the one who faked going to school. Not you.

**APRIL**

I didn't have to report her. I coulda pretended like I didn't see anything. It wasn't even an important test.

**SONNY**

It was the midterm.

**APRIL**

I mean in the scheme of things. Can you even make a fire? It's been like ten minutes.

**SONNY**

It's been two minutes out of my allotted five. C'mere and hold this will ya? Please.

*(Sonny hands April a stick and she holds it while he tries to ignite.)*

**APRIL**

You're probably going to light me on fire before this wood.

**SONNY**

You'd make decent kindling.

**APRIL**

That's sweet. No one's ever called me kindling before.

**SONNY**

Do you believe in karma?

**APRIL**

You mean you get what's comin'.

**SONNY**

What goes around comes around.

**APRIL**

You think I'm going to be punished for being a snitch? You think that's why I'm out here in the middle of woods with no fire?

**SONNY**

No, that is not what I think.

**APRIL**

Because that doesn't seem fair at all.

**SONNY**

I mean you don't know what Gaia did before that test. Or why she jumped. You don't know what she's going to do with the rest of her life. I mean maybe there's a bigger reason you caught her cheating. In the cosmic scheme of things. Maybe she's not meant to be in school, or that school, or at this time. Maybe she's meant to be doing something else. Maybe she needed you to rat on her and get her kicked out so she could do that other thing.

**APRIL**

Then why was did she jump.

**SONNY**

Because maybe she can't see that other thing yet either.

**APRIL**

Maybe. Maybe that's just wishful thinking.

**SONNY**

Maybe.

**APRIL**

Maybe life just sucks for her.

**SONNY**

Maybe. But that's not what I believe.

*(A spark from the pit.)*

**APRIL**

Ohh! A spark.

*(Sonny tries to blow on it. It's gone.)*

**APRIL**

You had it.

**SONNY**

We did.

**APRIL**

Keep going.

*(Sonny rubs the two sticks together. April still holding the branch for him.)*

**APRIL**

Your Mom teach you to make fires, too?

**SONNY**

My Dad did. Before he got... misplaced.

**APRIL**

He didn't do a very good job.

**SONNY**

I guess not.

**APRIL**

Thanks for showing me this place. It'll be sad when it's gone.

**SONNY**

Yeah.

**APRIL**

Wish we came sooner.

**SONNY**

It used to be crowded here. When I was little.

**APRIL**

My family never did outdoorsy type stuff. My mom gets nervous if she can't see a street light. Sorry about the matches.

**SONNY**

That's alright. We can head back if you want.

**APRIL**

No fire?

**SONNY**

Eh.

**APRIL**

You had sparks.

**SONNY**

We did. I need some smoke.

**APRIL**

Don't give up.

*(Sonny continues to work the fire. April stands and walks around the camp. Looks out to the trees. Pretty dark now.)*

**APRIL**

The trees are more comforting than I thought'd they be.

**SONNY**

Most of them are older than this town. There's an oak over that way that's two hundred years old and a hemlock that's almost four hundred.

**APRIL**

They seem closer than when we first walked in though. Denser, right? Right? Like they're moving together, towards us.

**SONNY**

The light is playing tricks.

**APRIL**

I've been in this part of the park before I just never appreciated it I guess.

**SONNY**

It's like a good book in that way. When you're younger you understand it in whatever way you can at the time, and then when you read it again years later, it seems completely different and its meaning deepens. The book doesn't change. You do. It's the same with nature, with trees. The forest. We're different people than when we walked in.

**APRIL**

Yeah that's how I feel now. Like right in this moment I'm a different version of myself. I'm looking up at the stars and everything seems new. Even though they've obviously been there for billions of years. These trees, these leaves, this stone, everything.

**SONNY**

They're new to you. So you're new to them.

**APRIL**

You think we're meant to experience the same things over and over until they're new again?

*(Some smoke from the fire. April comes to inspect it.)*

**APRIL**

Do think it's that way with people, too? Someone you've known seems new.

**SONNY**

Sure.

*(Sonny sticks out his hand.)*

It's nice to meet you.

*(April takes it. They shake.)*

**APRIL**

It's nice to meet you again, too.

*(They pull each other together.*

*And kiss.*

*At the moment they do, a burst of light: the fire.*

*They continue kissing as the light from fire grows and roars behind them.)*

*(Lights down. End of scene.)*