

“Mom? I’m scared,” I say as I crawl under my blanket.

“Look at the stars. Try to find the Little Dipper,” my mother says in her calming voice. She knows it’s my favorite constellation since it looks like our spoon. As I drift off I feel Luke lightly hug my arm. Before I can fall asleep, I roll over and hug him back.

“I love you,” I whisper.

The next morning I wake up to the smell of an already open box of cereal and day old rice milk. I get up to find that Luke has already taken the spoon.

“Give me the spoon Luke,” I say in my groggy but threatening voice.

“Early bird gets the worm!” He teases. Ugh! He knows I hate it when he says that!

“Luke, give your sister the spoon! You got it yesterday!” Dad says coming to my defense. Luke gives me the spoon knowing that this is the closest dad will get from yelling. Dad never yells.

“Ugh. Can I go to Cam’s tent?” Luke complains “It’s so boring with Catherine!”

“You know the drill Luke, Catherine has to walk you there.”

“But Catherine’s allowed to walk to Olivia’s tents alone!”

“Catherine is five years older than you, she is practically a teenager,” Mom says matter of factly.

“Thank you!” I say exasperated.

“Catherine. Tone,” Mom warns.

“Mom can I go to Olivia’s tent?” I ask, hoping to get out of walking Luke to Cam’s tent. Luke is literally impossible to control.

“I know your ways Catherine,” Mom says. “And I have my own. Cam’s tent is on the way to Olivia’s!”

“Ugh fine!” I grunt. As I’m walking Luke to Cam’s tent he keeps running across the street and back. Finally we get to Cam’s tent.

“Bye Luke! Have fun!” I yell as I run away.

“Catherine!” I hear Olivia scream before I can even get to her tent.

“Olivia!” I scream back. The second I get to her, she starts gossiping a mile a minute.

“Have you heard that Jack and Lily are dating? #jily! Also did you hear that Cam’s little sister Mila has the flu? They’re not sure if it really is the flu but they said that’s what Dr. Links said.”

“Hey, hey! Slow down! Luke is at Cam’s tent right now!” I interrupt with concern in my voice.

“I think Mila is staying in Dr. Links’ tent so he can monitor her health just in case she takes a turn for the worse. So Luke should be fine,” She reassures me. Well at least, she tries to reassure me. But, sadly, I can’t say it works.

“Will you walk over to Cam’s tent with me to make sure?” I ask. “Please?”

“Sorry but I think we should leave Luke and Cam alone. They’ll be fine. Like I said Mila isn’t there.” “Wanna go role play that we are rich?”

“Okay” I laugh.

“¡Vamos!”

As we walk to Olivia’s blanket I hear someone scream. Olivia and I both stop in our tracks. All I see is a flash of light, then everything goes black.

I wake up to heat and light strokes of fire.

“Where am I?” I ask Olivia who thankfully, is still by my side.

“You’re on my blanket. But no time for questions we are in a fire!” Olivia says quickly. It takes me a minute to process this new information.

“Wait, we’re in a fire? We have to go!” I panic. Then we run. Olivia and I run into the rest of my family after about five minutes.

“Where’s everyone else in camp?” Luke asks.

“They’re still in camp!” My dad realizes. His eyes widen.

“We have to save them!” My mom exclaims. We run back into the fire. My parents run around picking up the other adults while Luke, Olivia, and I run around picking up the other kids. I don’t remember much after that. I just remember the pain in back the next morning when I wake up surrounded by mansions.

The part of camp that we where able to carry looked so out of place here. Everyone comes out of their big wooden doors to see a bunch of people in ripped clothes covered in smoke laying on the ground coughing. It’s kind of embarrassing. When I turn around I see Kiki, a sweet little five year old curled up in a ball shaking. I look closer and realize she’s crying. I make sure not to step on anybody as I make my way to Kiki. I sit down next to her and hold her.

“What’s wrong?” I finally ask. I know that everything is wrong but since she’s only five i figure it is something other than the fire.

“Cody...,” she whispers through her crying.

“What happened to Cody?” I ask. I know that Kiki’s dog was the only thing keeping her happy.

“No one can find him,” she says in her little voice.

“Oh. We’ll find him! I promise,” I say.

“Pinky promise?” She clarifies as she looks up at me.

“Pinky promise,” I assure her.

A few hours later I hear one of the older ladies come out of her house and say,

“Does anyone have a tan and white beagle?” I run over to Kiki.

“Kiki come with me for a second!” I say excited.

“Okay,” she agrees. I grab her hand and we run toward the old lady. Before we even reach the house Kiki squeals with delight. “CODY! You’re not dead!” I just stand there and smile. Then the lady asks,

“How did you all manage to escape the fire?”

“My family carried everyone.” I reply this lady seems nice so I ask her name.

“My name is Bertha, what is your name sweetie?”

“Catherine,” I say. We shake hands.

“Catherine, will you stay here while I get something from my house please?”

“Sure!” I say. As she goes inside I wonder what the inside of her house looks like. Then I start to think about what she is getting from inside her house. After about five minutes she comes back out and hands me a thick wad of hundred dollar bills.

“I appreciate what your family has done. In return here is two million dollars.”

“Thank you so much!” I say still in shock. I run back to my family and jump into my parents arms. We stand there and hug for like ten minutes when we finally break apart my parents say,

“We just heard everything that happened! This is the best day of our lives!” Then my mom adds,

“Catherine, do you wanna go shopping? We can get new clothes for everyone and go to the food court and everything! We can even buy more spoons,” She looks at me and winks.

“Okay!” I agree. We grab each others hand and run to the mall. Lucky for us it happens to only be a mile away! The nice lady that gave us the money told us how to get there. Once we get there we get really good fresh food. After we eat all of that we run to the other side of the food court and get ice cream. When we’re done all we do is look at each other and nod then, we run. We go into this store and that store buying everything that we think our old camp mates will like. We even get a little doggy costume for Cody since he’s the only dog in camp. We also get a few extra things for the old lady. As we walk back home with all of our big shopping bags. We just lean against each other and walk.

Later that night, as we are falling asleep. I look at the Little Dipper and whisper

“best day ever.”