

Why Bother?

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SNOWY FOREST - EVENING

DAVID, an eighteen year old boy, crouches low to the forest floor and moves forward slowly. Snow dusted shrubbery grow around him, rising up just above his waist. He grips a wooden longbow tightly in his left hand, an arrow rests on it, knocked to the bow string but not drawn.

As he continues to move forward he hears a rustling behind him. He freezes before slowly turning to look behind him. Between the trees, about ten yards away, David sees a lone white wolf. David moves backward, away from the wolf, not taking his eyes off of it. The wolf doesn't move.

David hears a twig snap to his right. It's another wolf. Smaller than the first, but closer to him. David stops moving and sees that he's surrounded. Five white wolves encircle him and slowly move closer. David's eyes flick from one wolf to the next. The wolves are about five yards away when David raises his bow and draws back the arrow, aiming at the first wolf.

FIRST WOLF

David.

David stares at the wolf, confused.

FIRST WOLF (CONT'D)

David!

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

David lifts his head up from his desk at the back of the classroom to see his TEACHER standing over him. All the other seats are empty.

TEACHER

Well rested for your other classes
Mr.Mullens?

David stands and begins packing up his backpack.

DAVID

Six more to go.

David walks out, leaving the teacher standing alone.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

David, his MOTHER and his younger sister, Lucia, sit around the dinner table.

MOTHER
I don't like it either, David.

DAVID
What's the problem then?

MOTHER
It's just how the world works.

LUCIA
Yeah, it's just how the world works.

The mother shoots Lucia a warning look.

MOTHER
I love that you're passionate about this, but you-

DAVID
They say nothing that comes before the word "but" really counts.

MOTHER
School and work are necessary.

LUCIA
Yeah, school and-

MOTHER
Lucia.

DAVID
Why can't you see what a waste it all is?

MOTHER
Dav-

DAVID
How much more time would you have had with dad if you weren't always at work?

MOTHER
That's enough.

David moves his food around his plate. A moment of silence passes.

LUCIA
Can I sleep through all my classes
tomorrow too?

The mother stands and points upstairs.

MOTHER
Bed.

LUCIA
But, David got to and I-

David stands and puts his hand on Lucia's shoulder. His mother continues to point up the stairs. Lucia stands too, lets out a small scream, and runs up the stairs. David pauses and then walks past his mother and up the stairs.

DAVID
Thanks for dinner.

MOTHER
You're welcome sweetheart.

INT. BEDROOM - AN HOUR LATER

David lies in bed, fully clothed, staring at the ceiling. His phone buzzes, but he doesn't move to answer it. Its clock reads 11:00pm. Seconds later it buzzes again. He still doesn't move. Then, his phone starts to ring and he grabs it, silencing the ringer.

David rolls out of bed, slings his backpack over his shoulder and opens the window. He climbs through the window and closes it behind him. Once outside, David crawls out to the edge of the roof and leaps off.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

David lands in a crouched position on the backyard lawn. The section of roof he jumped from is only about eight feet off the ground. He stands and looks back at the house, making sure all the houselights are off before beginning to walk towards the tree line at the back of the yard. Suddenly, when David is about halfway to the trees, running footsteps grow louder and a dark, growling figure jumps on his back.

DAVID
(Whispering)
Dani. Quiet.

Dani continues to growl, but quieter this time. David continues to walk towards the trees with Dani on his back, until she eventually lets go when they reach the trees.

DANI
I can't be out too late.

DAVID
You said that last night.

Dani looks at David and then walks into the trees. David follows after her.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Dani and David both hold white LED light sticks that illuminate them as they walk through the forest.

DAVID
Castle tonight?

DANI
No.

DAVID
Which then?

DANI
We need a new one.

DAVID
Quick stop at Pink Panther first?

Dani nods and the pair turn to the left, their lights moving further and further away in the darkness.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

As Dani and David reach the edge of the tree line they put their light sticks in David's backpack and creep towards what appears to be a wooden fence. The pair begin climbing and jump to the other side.

INT. PINK PANTHERS' BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

The pair sit, leaning against the fence and looking up at a thin pink house. They sit in silence for quite sometime, admiring the house.

DAVID
It's the best one.

DANI
Definitely.

Dani stands up and walks a bit closer to the house.

DANI (CONT'D)
I wonder who lives in it.

DAVID
We could find out.

DANI
I'd rather wonder.

A couple seconds pass with David watching Dani watch the house. Eventually, David stands, walking towards Dani and then jogging past her towards the house.

DANI (CONT'D)
(Whispers)
David.

David doesn't look back though and soon reaches the house's porch. Dani backs up towards the fence. David disappears around the left side of the house. After about ten seconds, David reappears, sprinting towards the fence.

Dani quickly starts climbing the fence, waiting at the top. David reaches the fence and starts climbing. A light on the first floor of the pink house flicks on as David reaches the top of the fence and the pair disappear behind it.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Twigs snap and leaves crinkle underfoot as the pair run through the moonlit forest. After a while, the pair slow, breathing heavy.

DANI
Jesus David.

The backpack unzips and their stick lights flicker on. David is holding up a small piece of pink wood.

DAVID
So you'll remember to come back.

DANI
You didn't.

Dani takes the piece of wood from David and looks at it for a second before cracking a big grin and tackling him to the ground.

DANI (CONT'D)
You're unbelievable.

Dani's smile fades after a few seconds lying on top of David. She's not looking at him.

DANI (CONT'D)
You're really not gonna go?

David doesn't respond and stands up, helping Dani to her feet.

DAVID
Come on. Let's find that new house.

David starts walking deeper into the woods. Dani pauses for a second, then puts the piece of wood into the backpack and follows after David.

DANI
You know, I don't wanna sit though
another four years of school
either, David.

DAVID
Then don't.

DANI
It doesn't work that way.

DAVID
Just because everyone does
something that doesn't make it
right.

DANI
Doesn't make it wrong either.

DAVID
You sound like my mom.

DANI
What? Am I making sense?

David keeps walking.

DANI (CONT'D)
You can't just-

David turns around and grabs Dani's hands and starts dancing around her.

DAVID
(Singing)
You've been having real bad dreams,
oh, oh.

Dani starts to smile.

DANI
Come on. I'm serious.

DAVID
(Singing)
There's nothing more than empty
sheets.

Dani, still smiling, rolls her eyes.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(Singing)
Between our love, our love, oh, our
love, our love.

DANI
(Laughing)
Ugh, you suck.

DAVID AND DANI (CONT'D)
(Singing)
Just give me a reason just a little
bit's enough. Just a second we're
not broken just bent and we can
learn to love again.

The pair's singing devolves into humming the lyrics they
don't know and then laughter.

DANI (CONT'D)
Okay, okay. You win.

David starts walking again. He waits for Dani to catch up to
him and the pair continue forward side by side. A few seconds
pass.

DANI (CONT'D)
You're a beautiful singer.

DAVID
Over a million listeners on
Spotify.

DANI
No shit?

David nods.

DANI (CONT'D)
Has Pink sued yet?

David and Dani laugh.

DAVID
She's in the early stages. I'm not
worried.

They walk side by side, grinning.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Dani walks a few feet behind David as they continue to make their way through the forest. Dani checks her phone, it reads 1:00pm. The tree line ahead is getting thinner, David points towards it.

DAVID (CONT'D)
That should all be new. We passed
Cube and Lodge awhile ago.

Dani is looking back in the opposite direction.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Dani?

The faint glimmer of two flashlights can be seen flickering between the trees in the distance.

DANI
Run.

Dani flicks off her stick light and shoots past David towards the tree line. After a second David sees the lights and does the same. The tree line grows closer and closer as they run, with heavy footsteps, through the dark.

A few seconds pass and David trips and falls. Dani turns back to help him up and the pair keep running. At the edge of the tree line they reach a low wire fence and vault over it.

EXT. FARM HOUSE BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Beyond the fence there is a long lawn with a big farm house at the end of it. The pair pauses, couched low to the ground.

DAVID
To the road?

Dani nods and the pair start sprinting across the lawn. About halfway to the house, two large floodlights bathe the lawn in light. Dani and David freeze.

David starts to run towards the house, but Dani grabs his arm and pulls him towards the right side of the lawn. David looks confused but lets her pull him.

They climb back over the small wire fence on the right side of the lawn and disappear into the trees.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

The pair are sprinting through the woods again. The lights from the farm house are still glowing in the distance.

DANI
(Whispering)
You better not get me arrested.

DAVID
Me?

DANI
Yeah, you. The vandal.

David laughs nervously.

DAVID
You think they're from Panther?

Dani nods.

DANI
No one's ever in these woods.

After a few more seconds of sprinting the farm lights are barely visible. The pair pauses to look behind them and then decides to slow to a walk as they approach a large boulder, trying to make as little noise as possible. Leaves and twigs still crunch underfoot but quieter now.

DAVID
You said you wanted a new-

Suddenly a gunshot rings out back by the farm house. The pair drops to the ground, staring at each other.

DANI (CONT'D)
Was that at us?

They continue to lie on the ground, looking back in the direction of the farmhouse.

DANI (CONT'D)
I swear to god David if I get shot.

David motions to Dani to be quiet and the pair continues to watch the forest behind them. After a moment the farm house lights go out. David and Dani continue looking back in the direction of the farmhouse. A couple seconds pass and then the very faint flicker of flashlights can be seen between the trees.

DAVID
Motherfuckers.

Dani stands up to start running but David grabs her arm, pointing towards the boulder. Dani nods and they walk towards it. The pair walks around to the opposite side of the boulder facing away from the farmhouse and lie at the bottom of it.

David lies down at the base of the rock and Dani covers him with leaves. Dani then does the same. They lie there in silence underneath the leaves and wait. The sound of voices and crunching of leaves slowly grows louder.

MAN
I don't know why I ever married
you.

Two figures holing flashlights have reached the bolder on the other side from David and Dani.

WOMAN
I know what I saw.

MAN
Dragging me through the woods.

The figures comes around the right side of the boulder towards it's back.

MAN (CONT'D)
Getting me shot at.

WOMAN
You didn't get shot at.

The flashlights shine around the piles of leaves that David and Dani are under but don't spot them.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
That farmer wasn't hitting shit.

The two people come to a stop, standing right over Dani and David.

MAN
Yeah, well, there were no kids
climbing our fence either.

WOMAN

I know what I saw!

The man starts walking back the way he came.

MAN

You have fun out here!

The woman takes a step forward to try and get a look at the top of the boulder. She steps right on Dani's thigh. Startled and now off balance, the woman falls letting out a yell. Dani and David spring out of the leaves and take off into the forest. The woman continues to yell.

MAN (CONT'D)

Crazy bitch.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

David and Dani are running, they are sweaty and quite out of breath. They continue to run and then run some more. They look behind themselves periodically but see no sign of flashlights. Eventually, David stops running and hunches over with his hands on his knees, breathing hard. Dani stops and turns back towards David.

DAVID

I don't even know where we are. No way they do.

Dani looks behind them and sees nothing but darkness.

DANI

Fuck. That.

Dani lies down on the ground. David flops down next to her.

DAVID

I think we're gonna need a new evening activity.

Dani nods.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Star gazing maybe.

DANI

Star gazing's good.

Dani sits up to look behind them. No lights are in sight. She lies back down.

DANI (CONT'D)
How about that couple?

DAVID
(Mimicking)
I don't know why I ever married
you.

Dani laughs.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I've never respected the
institution of divorce more.

David sits up and looks behind them. He sees nothing and
leans against a tree.

DANI
Pink Panther deserves better.

David nods.

DAVID
Well, they didn't seem all that
young.

DANI
David!

DAVID
Sorry.

Dani sits up and leans against a tree opposite David. They
are silent for a moment.

DANI
We can find our way back once the
sun comes up a bit.

DAVID
You want to sleep here?

DANI
I don't know if we'll be able to
get back even with the light.

David is quiet for a moment, thinking.

DAVID
Fuck.

Dani nods and leans her head back against the tree, closing
her eyes. The two sit in silence for a while.

DANI

Remember that time, we got a flat
and had to wait on the side of the
highway for like two hours for
triple A to come?

David nods.

DANI (CONT'D)

This is way worse than that.

DAVID

No shit.

Dani smiles.

DANI

You just had to take that piece of
wood.

David smiles.

DAVID

I'd do it again.

Dani looks over at him like he's an idiot. David flicks on
his stick light and covers it with the edge of his shirt,
dimming the light.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Life's about doing things you'll
remember.

Dani opens her mouth to speak but stops herself.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I'll remember this for a long time.

Dani looks at David. David stares off into the forest.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Hell of a lot longer than I'll
remember some english class anyway.

DANI

David, you-

DAVID

I don't blame you for going.

DANI

I never thought you did.

DAVID
Don't blame me for staying.

David doesn't meet Dani's eyes.

DANI
College is safe, David.

DAVID
Maybe I don't want safe!

There's a long pause. Dani still sits against her tree and David his.

DAVID (CONT'D)
You know, I can't remember my Dad's voice?

Dani looks over at David. David continues to look out into the trees.

DAVID (CONT'D)
It's been three years since he died and I can't remember it.

Dani stands and walks over to David, sitting down next to him and rests her head on his shoulder.

DAVID (CONT'D)
And I'm gonna live my life spending as much time as I can with the people I love so that never happens again.

The pair sit in silence for a moment. The wind whistles through the trees.

DANI
I miss him.

David nods slightly, still not looking at Dani.

DANI (CONT'D)
You'll visit me at least?

Dani looks up at David's face expectantly. David cracks a smile and looks down at Dani.

EXT. FOREST - SUNRISE

Dani and David are asleep leaning against the same tree. Dani opens her eyes and taps David. Her phone reads 5:31am.

DANI (CONT'D)
Come on, they won't be up for
another hour.

Dani jumps to her feet. It David takes a second to wake up but then he joins her and they take off through the trees.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

David and Dani are still running.

DAVID
I told you it was the other way.

DANI
We're close. The tree line is
thinning.

The pair runs for a few more seconds, then David checks his phone and it's already 6:13.

DAVID
We're fucked.

DANI
We're not.

In the distance a wooden fence starts to become visible.

DANI (CONT'D)
See.

DAVID
Yeah, see. I told you we'd be fine.

DANI
Shut it.

The pair reach the fence and begin climbing. When they reach the top they see a house that's unfamiliar.

DANI (CONT'D)
Fuck.

DAVID
We could be anywhere.

The two look at each other for a second, unsure what to do.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Come on.

David starts to climb over to the lawn side of the fence.

DAVID (CONT'D)
We'll make it to the road and I'll
call my mom to pick us up.

DANI
No way.

David stops climbing.

DAVID
Any other ideas?

Dani doesn't say anything. David begins climbing down again.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Can't have them worrying.

Dani nods reluctantly and starts climbing down.

EXT. ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

DAVID
I know Mom, I know.

Dani and David walk down the road as David talks to his mom
on the phone.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'm sorry....Yes, we were being
safe.

Dani raises her eyebrows at David. David shakes his head at
her.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Okay, okay, thank you.

David hangs up.

DANI
Mad?

DAVID
A little.

DANI
Mine's gonna kill me.

The pair continues talk and walk down the road, growing
smaller and smaller in the distance.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

David, Lucia and their mom sit at the dinner table. They're playing go fish. David reaches for the middle pile.

DAVID
You could've brought a change of clothes.

LUCIA
Any sevens Mom?

Their mother hands Lucia a card.

MOTHER
If you wanted a change of clothes, you should've slept in the house.

LUCIA
Twos David.

David shakes his head.

LUCIA
Liar.

David stares at Lucia before reluctantly handing her a card.

MOTHER
Also, I want you back in the house by one from now on. You can see your girlfriend at school.

DAVID
You know her name.

MOTHER
I'll be waiting up for you.

DAVID
And she's not my girlfriend.

LUCIA
Girlfriend, Girlfriend!

David goes to push Lucia's head to the side. She dodges it.

LUCIA (CONT'D)
Aces.

Lucia reaches over to David for the card. David shakes his head. Lucia opens her mouth in disbelief but eventually draws a card from the middle.

LUCIA (CONT'D)

I like her.

David's mother nods.

MOTHER

And I hear she's going to Pennbrook
in the fall.

David's mother looks deviously at her cards.

DAVID

Mom.

MOTHER

You could too.

DAVID

I'm not.

MOTHER

Honey-

David stands up from the table abruptly.

DAVID

I'm not going!

MOTHER

(Calmly)

And I won't make you.

David opens his mouth to yell more but stops.

DAVID

You mean it?

MOTHER

Right now, you'd rather live in the
woods than go to class and that's
not the son I'm gonna spend all
that money on to send to college.

David sits back down.

DAVID

Thank you mom, I promise-

MOTHER

I'm not done.

David nods.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

If you stay here, you'll help me at work, around the house and with your sister.

David nods more intensely.

DAVID

I just want to stay with you and Lu.

Lucia smiles.

MOTHER

And in a year we talk about this again.

DAVID

But-

MOTHER

In a year we talk about this again.

David pauses for a moment. Lucia nods at him.

DAVID

In a year we'll talk about this again.

MOTHER

Good, now give me your sixes.

David smiles at his mom and hands her a card.

FADE OUT.