***Tuck Everlasting***

***Chapter 24***

***Summary and Analysis:***

***Brief Summary***

Winnie was surprised at the ease with which she left the house. As she walked down the stairs, no one stirred. She realized she could do this whenever she liked, but she knew she would never do it again. Then she left the house. Jesse was waiting at the gate for her. He took her hand and they ran to the jail. As they neared the jail, Winnie saw the gallows in the yard behind the jail.

A storm was brewing; lightening and low rumblings were warning everyone of the coming storm. Tuck and Miles appeared from the shadows. They hugged Winnie but did not say a word. Miles went to the window of Mae's cell and began removing the nails. Miles stopped only when the constable came to check on his prisoner. Then he returned to his task, removing the nails to remove the window. Once the nails were out, he handed the tools to Tuck and prepared to pull the window from the wall. He stood there and seemed to be waiting for something. Winnie wondered what he was doing. She discovered the answer when a loud crack of thunder surrounded them and Miles pulled on the window. It seemed not to have moved, but with the second round of thunder, the window was out and they pulled Mae to safety. Winnie hugged Mae and Jesse one more time. Jesse told her to remember and she knew what he meant.

Winnie was placed in the cell. Miles put the window back into place with the next rumble of thunder. She waited for Miles to put the nails back into the window, but he did not. The rain came hard and fast. She believed she could feel the dry earth relaxing. By the time she climbed up to see where they were, they were gone, but she thought she heard the music from Mae's music box fading into the night.

***Brief Analysis:***

Winnie has fulfilled her destiny with the Tucks. She has protected them and saved Mae. The individual wheels are separate once more. However, the author does allow the opportunity for the wheels to meet again, depending on Winnie decision at seventeen.

***Summary and Analysis:***

Winnie heads out of the house and runs toward the jailhouse. A storm is brewing, and lightning starts to flash. Winnie sees three shadows near the jailhouse, which turn out to be Jesse, Miles, and Tuck. They hug each other, then get to work. Winnie thinks briefly of a poem: "Stone walls do not a prison make / nor iron bars a cage." Miles pries the nails free from the window frame. They all drop down when the constable comes through on his rounds, then resume work. Finally, they are able to pry the frame from the window. Mae manages to squeeze herself through the opening just as it begins to rain. The five of them hug, and then Winnie climbs through the window into the cell just as it starts to rain. The storm rages, and Winnie looks out the little window to see an empty yard and hear the distant tinkling of the music box.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part***

***Summary Part 1:***

[Winnie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/winnie-foster) is a bit shocked by how easy it is for her to leave the house. She expects her parents and [Granny](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters) to wake up and try to stop her, and she realizes suddenly that if she wanted to, she could sneak out all the time. This makes her feel even guiltier. [Jesse](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/jesse-tuck) is waiting for her at the gate and they run together down to the jailhouse and the gallows. They see lightning and hear thunder far away and a refreshing breeze starts up.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Knowing that she can sneak out at any time again reminds Winnie of all the choices that she could make, while her guilt reminds her yet again that those choices, while certainly available to her, do indeed have consequences. It also highlights how permeable the boundary is between Winnie’s safe world at home and the complexities of the outside world. The coming storm suggests that this strange week of August, and the strange events Winnie has experienced, are coming to a close.

***Summary Part 2:***

At the back of the jailhouse, [Angus](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/angus-tuck) hugs [Winnie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/winnie-foster)  tightly and [Miles](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/miles-tuck) squeezes her hand before they all creep to the window. Winnie repeats a poem over and over in her head until the words become meaningless and listens to the storm get closer. Miles gets on a box, pours oil around the frame of the window, and begins to pry the nails out of the window frame. They drop down when they hear the [constable](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/the-constable) whistling as he checks [Mae](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/mae-tuck)'s cell, but when they see his light disappear, Miles returns to the window and pulls out more nails. He grabs the bars and waits for a crash of thunder to pull on the window. It takes two tries, but the window comes free.

***Analysis Part 2:***

The thunderstorm seems more than coincidental, suggesting again that the natural world and humans are more connected than Winnie or the man in the yellow suit thought possible at first. Especially when Miles uses the thunder to his advantage to mask the sound of the window, it shows that when people accept nature for what it is and seek to work with it and not change or control it, humans can do far more than they could otherwise.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Mae](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/mae-tuck) slowly climbs out the window with [Angus](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/angus-tuck)'s help and lands in a heap on the ground. It begins to rain as Mae, Angus, [Miles](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/miles-tuck), and [Jesse](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/jesse-tuck) kiss [Winnie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/winnie-foster). Jesse tells her to remember as he hugs her tight. Then, Miles boosts Winnie through the window and onto the cot. She watches Miles refit the window and wonders if he's going to put the nails back in. After a few minutes, Winnie looks out the window and sees that the Tucks are gone, though she thinks she can hear a bit of the music box's melody.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Though the Tucks leaving isn't the same as death, they're still leaving Winnie's life, presumably forever. This reminds Winnie that it's necessary to let things go, whether by letting them physically leave or by understanding that all living things must someday die.