

“Are you ready for the field trip?!” asked someone loudly in Juliet’s ear, she jumped.

“Harriet, you know I’m scared of bugs,” she muttered quietly.

“Don’t worry, I can be your Princess Charming if you need me!”

Juliet sighed and went back to closing her eyes. She had always had a bad case of motion sickness, and sometimes talking to her best friend made it worse. “Please leave me alone,” she whispered.

“I CAN’T HEAR YOU!!” Harriet sang.

Juliet opened her eyes, in the distance, she could see the forest, its towering trees, and green leaves. “Isn’t it beautiful?” asked Harriet.

“Sure,” she said.

“I can’t wait to go in there!”

“I wish I could stay on the bus instead,” said Juliet.

“You could always ask Mr. Hellow,” whispered Harriet, “but he might punish you with one hundred push-ups!”

“Nevermind,” said Juliet

“Juliet!” Harriet almost yelled, “Look outside!”

Outside, they could see trees with rich green leaves, and birds of different colors. There were flowers of vibrant colors, and some of the trees bore fruit. “Look a squirrel!” someone shouted.

Juliet looked and saw it, its hazel brown fur, with a bushy tail that ended in a curl. It was holding a nut in its hands. She watched it bound away, into a hollow in a tree.

Before they could see more, the bus drove away. “Aww man,” Juliet sighed, forests might have cute animals, but just thinking of the bugs and snakes, they instantly felt worse.

“Was that cute?” asked Harriet

“I guess.”

“See, forests aren’t that bad!”

“Sure,” said Juliet.

Harriet grinned, “What?” Juliet asked.

Harriet smiled, “WE’RE HERE!”

Juliet groaned, “Noooooooooooo.”

From the front, Mr. Hellow yelled through his speaker, “ALL RIGHT BOYS AND GIRLS, GET READY FOR THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME AT THE VERY, VERY, WILD FOREST!”

Juliet winced, Mr. Hellow was loud, and with his speaker, he was even louder. and whispered in her friend’s ear, “What kind of forest is named Wild Forest?”

Harriet shrugged, “A wild one? You know if he keeps on being so loud, he’ll attract animals that might be carnivorous!”

Juliet stared at her friend, “Snakes!” she whispered.

“Come on! Let’s go!”

They squeezed out the bus with the crowd. "Wow!" cried Harriet.

From closer, the forest looked taller and healthier than the trees in her neighborhood. From afar, their leaves looked lush and green, but closer, Juliet noticed that some of them had holes.

Juliet stared at it, she could already imagine the sneaky snakes and big bugs in the freaky forest. "Don't worry, what could happen of a field trip to Wild Forest?" asked Harriet, noticing her expression of fear.

Nearby, one of their classmates, Will, said, "I heard there are Giant Anacondas in there! And at night, ghosts come out because it used to be a cemetery!"

Juliet shivered, "Leave her alone!" cried Harriet, and dragged her friend away, "Don't listen to him, he's just messing with you."

Mr. Hellow pulled out his speaker again, "Form a two by two-line, and GET READY!"

Everyone shuffled into a messy line, Mr. Hellow frowned but said nothing. Juliet and Harriet were at the very back of the line, right behind Will and his friend James. "Hey, ready to meet some snakes?" asked Will with a sneaky look on his face.

Harriet glared at him, and he shut up. Juliet noticed that his backpack was unusually larger than before. Usually, Will brought the lightest backpack possible or made other people carry it. Today it seemed like he didn't trust anyone else to carry it. *There's probably something important in there, or he's finally going to start exercising.* Thought Juliet. She would figure it out later.

Unfortunately, Harriet noticed too, "Hey Will!" she sang, "Do you want me to carry your backpack for you? It seems very heavy and I'm very strong!"

Will glared at her and shook his head, "I don't need a girl to help me."

But Juliet noticed a look in Will's eye as he said it. Just before she could open her mouth, Mr. Hellow shouted, "Let's GO!" and they marched into the forest.

As they walked closer, under the shade of the trees, Juliet's heart started racing faster and faster. The trees seemed to loom over her, the animals watching, ready to strike. Harriet put her hand on Juliet's shoulder, "Don't worry!"

From the front, someone screamed, Juliet jumped. Her eyes widened with fear, "BOO!" yelled James, and she screamed.

"HEY!" barked Mr. Hellow from the front. "Don't freak out, it's just a bug!"

Juliet sighed and kept walking forwards. "UP THERE IS A MONKEY!" yelled Mr. Hellow, Juliet just kept walking.

Suddenly, she fell forwards, into Will's backpack, "Hey, watch it!" he yelled.

She noticed that his backpack felt lumpy, like a pillowcase with the pillow put in wrong. She stared at it but said nothing, "You okay?" asked Harriet.

"Yeah, Will's backpack saved me! I wonder what's in there."

"Yeah, me too."

They kept walking, arm in arm. Juliet noticed how there was a variety of different trees: Maple, Willow, Oak, Redwood, etc. She was mesmerized by the beauty of the forest, her fears forgotten. Suddenly, Will screamed, "MR. HELLOW!!! I NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM!"

From the frog of the line, Mr. Hellow sighed. "Go over there," he pointed, "do your business."

The class watched Will jog behind some trees. Juliet noticed something, "Was he acting weird?" she asked Harriet.

"He brought his backpack with him, I mean, who does that?"

James looked over his shoulder at them, then he screamed. He pointed, his finger shaking, "Be..be-be-behind you."

Juliet and Harriet both glared at him, "This better not be another joke of yours," they said.

James was silent. Juliet slowly turned her head. She screamed. Harriet turned her head suddenly and was stunned into silences.

Juliet's brain finally processed what she was seeing, a giant green-brown snake with a head twice the size of hers. Its tongue slithered out and made a sssssss sound. She screamed again and turned right, running as far away as she could.

On the way, she passed a smug-looking Will who turned stunned. She ran past him, and many tall, scary-looking trees. From behind she heard footsteps racing after her, and Harriet's voice calling, "COME BACK!"

Juliet kept running until she couldn't. She skidded to a stop in front of a tall maple tree. Harriet, who as it turned out, was still running, ran right past her and made a quick turn straight into the maple tree. "Owww," she complained, "Why do trees have to be so hard?"

Juliet laughed, "That's their defensive mechanism for people who bump into them."

Harriet turned and suddenly looked grim. "Why did you run?"

Juliet turned red, she had just embarrassed herself in front of their entire class. "There was a snake," she said.

"It was a doll," informed Harriet.

"IT WAS!"

"Yeah, it was Will's idea."

Juliet felt like she was going to explode, "WILL DECIDED TO SCARE ME WITH A SNAKE DOLL?!"

"Yeah."

Juliet was about to speak, "I-"

"Which way did we come from?"

*Uh-oh*, If they were lost in the Wild Forest, they would be in big trouble. "We should probably go that way," said Harriet, pointing past the maple tree. "That's where I came from."

"Okay."

They headed towards Harriet's finger point. They passed trees, and flowers, "OOOH!" cried Harriet, "Blackberries!" she licked her lips

"I haven't had any in forever," she said.

"They could be poisonous," warned Juliet.

"Fine, I'll just pick a few just in case," said Harriet.

"In case of what?" asked Juliet.

"In case we get stuck and run out of food," Harriet informed her friend.

"But then wouldn't it attract bears?"

"I'll just get a few, I mean there aren't even bears here!"

"Well, there we aren't going to get lost either."

"Hm!" they both grunted and turned their head away from each other.

The two girls walked in silence. Juliet started sweating, "Are you sure this is the right way?" she finally asked, "It feels like we've been going for hours! The sun's going down!"

"That's bad!" Juliet remembered what Will had said, *at night, ghosts come out because it used to be a cemetery!*

Harriet and Juliet walked through the forest that had suddenly become scary. Everything seemed to be watching them. The wind howled and the branches creaked. *HOOT*

Juliet jumped, and Harriet laughed, "It's just an owl, silly."

They walked to a clearing with soft grass. "Let's just wait and sleep here," said Juliet

"Okay! I'll take first watch, like in the movies."

"Why would we need that?" asked Juliet

"Well, in case some creepy ghosts come out," answered Harriet.

Juliet glared at her friend, then laid down and closed her eyes. "Tell me if anything happens," she muttered sleepily.

Juliet was walking through Wild Forest. It was night and the moon was high. All around her, there was noise, but she didn't flinch. A wolf howled in the distance but she ignored it. Juliet kept walking until she saw a *Glowing, Smiling, Rainbow Unicorn?* Someone screamed, and Juliet woke up with a yelp, "WHAT'S WRONG!"

"Shhhhhh," whispered Harriet.

Juliet silenced herself, and they both heard something trampling over fallen branches and leaves towards them. As it got closer, they saw a large, shadowy silhouette, with animal ears, and brownish fur. They both screamed, scrambled to their feet, and ran in the opposite direction, "BEAR!"

As they ran, they heard the bear behind them. Suddenly, Juliet felt something under her foot, and she tripped. "Oww!" She screeched.

She had cut her knee. The bear kept coming. Harriet knelt beside her friend, "Get up! It's coming!"

"HEY THERE!" yelled a friendly voice and a flashlight shined its light on them.

Juliet looked at the figure and realized that she was just a human dressed in a puffy, brown jacket, and wore a headband with fake ears. "Hello? You girl's alright?"

"WE'RE SAVED!" cried Harriet in joy.

The person stared at them for a moment and then walked up to them. She then quickly put Juliet's arm around her shoulders. "Let's go," she beckoned, "The cabin isn't that far away."

Quickly and Quietly, Harriet and Juliet walked with her until they reached a small wooden cabin. "Is it safe in there?" asked Harriet

"My crew's in there," the person replied, "There's food too."

Harriet and Juliet followed the person to a door where she knocked. "Hey! Welcome back Jollie!" cried the man at the door, "Who are these girls you've got with you?"

"I found them, this is Harry and Jullie," said Jollie, pointing to each of them.

The Harriet gave her, her scariest glare. "Sorry, it's Harriet and Juliet," fixed Jollie, "Come on in girls."

Harriet and Juliet walked into the cabin where they saw that there were two other people sitting on chairs, drinking what smelled like hot chocolate. In the light, Juliet could see that Jollie was a lady with wavy brown hair and hazel eyes. With her outfit, she did look like a bear. Jollie took off her jacket, and Harriet saw that her T-shirt said, 'I am a great scientist.'

"You guys are scientists?" asked Harriet in wonder.

"Yep." answered one of the men in the chairs.

"Okay!" said Jollie, "Introductions first!" She smiled, "this is George." She pointed to the man who had opened the door. He had a tangly beard, and wore nothing but an 'I am a great scientist' T-shirt, and boxer shorts. Jollie's smile faltered as she looked at him, "Can't you put on some clothes?"

"It's hot," complained George.

Jollie shrugged then turned to the man sipping hot chocolate, "That's Max." She turned to the other lady, "That's Cat."

They smiled at the girls. "I'm Harriet, and that's Juliet," said Harriet as Juliet nodded.

"Here, have some hot chocolate," said George, appearing from nearby. He handed them both cups of sweet brown liquid. In them bobbed a few snow-white, cylinder-shaped marshmallows.

Juliet and Harriet both accepted it willingly. The hot liquid in Juliet's mouth made her smile. "Thank you," she said.

"So," said Jollie after a few minutes, "What are you doing in Wild Forest?"

Harriet immediately launched into their story. From the bus ride, to getting lost in the woods. "...and then Jollie flashed her flashlight on us, and here we are."

"Wait, wait, so you girls were on a field trip and then some mean kid named Will scared Juliet, and she ran. You, Harriet, followed her and you got lost. Jollie found you and brought you here?"

"In a nutshell," muttered Juliet.

"HMMMMM..." thought Cat, "THIS IS GOOD!"

"How is it good?" asked Harriet, skeptically.

"It means that we can make the government pay ransom for you!" said Max

Harriet and Juliet looked at each other in panic. “Just kidding.” said Jollie, she gave Max and Cat a glare, “Don’t worry, they were just joking, don’t scare them.”

After a few minutes of silence, George opened his mouth, “You girls can stay with us until morning, then we’ll send you back.”

“I’ll check for missing person reports!” volunteered Jollie, she walked to her laptop and opened it.

Minutes later, she let triumphant yowl, “FOUND IT! *Two girls ran away on a field trip to Wild Forest, now missing.* SERIOUSLY?!”