

CAPTIVE IN THEIR BASEMENT

Written by

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EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

Beautiful and scenic. A deserted two-lane road weaves in and out of majestic trees among a mountainous backdrop.

An SUV approaches. An upbeat pop song plays on the radio. Two female voices sing along.

INT./EXT. SUV - DRIVING - DAY - SAME

KERI STEVENS (26), vibrant and protective, drives. Next to her is her younger sister SIERRA STEVENS (21), a bundle of youth. Both are dressed in comfortable summer hiking attire. They sing along well to the song playing.

The music ends and they laugh.

SIERRA

It's been ages since we sung together.

Keri turns serious, even a little sad.

KERI

That's my fault. When I moved out, I got caught up in my new life.

SIERRA

No, I don't blame you. If I had gone to college, then moved to an apartment across town when I graduated, I wouldn't have had time for a little sister, either.

Keri reaches over and grips Sierra's hand.

KERI

Well, we're here together now. That's the important thing.

Sierra smiles at her big sister.

The SUV heads toward a denser area of forest.

EXT. TRAIL ENTRANCE - DAY

Keri parks the SUV near the entrance to a wide, rough trail that looks like it's rarely used. The women get out. Sierra studies the trail entrance while Keri opens the SUV's rear hatch.

SIERRA

Are you sure this is a trail?

Keri organizes two large backpacks, complete with sleeping bags and a tent.

KERI

Yes, I'm sure. I've hiked it before.

Sierra moves to Keri's side.

SIERRA

When was that?

KERI

My junior year of college.

SIERRA

That was forever ago.

Keri smirks. She grabs the backpack without the rolled up tent attached and places it on Sierra's shoulders.

KERI

I brought my dinosaur with me.

Keri straps Sierra's backpack on securely. Then she grabs the second pack and puts it on.

SIERRA

I didn't think they existed yet.

Keri gives Sierra a playful push, then closes the hatch.

KERI

Don't forget you're only five years behind me.

SIERRA

I don't think you'll let me forget.

Keri pops her door locks closed and pockets the keys. The women head to the trail's entrance.

SIERRA

Are you sure your car will be safe here until we get back?

KERI

You weren't worried about leaving your car at the exit point.

SIERRA

That's because my car is a piece of crap, but yours is kind of nice.

Keri lays a hand on Sierra's shoulder.

KERI
I'm not going to argue.

They laugh as they enter the trail.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

The increasing overcast skies are threatening. The trail follows along a vast open area in the plains. No sign of civilization in any direction.

Keri and Sierra look exhausted from the humid hike. Keri takes a look up at the dark clouds.

KERI
We'd better set up camp before it rains.

Keri removes her backpack and takes the two-man tent off of it. Starts to set it up.

Sierra slips off her pack and gives Keri a hand.

SIERRA
How far do you think we walked?

KERI
I'd guess 20 miles, give or take a few.

SIERRA
So we have about two more days until we reach my car.

KERI
(joking)
Unless you want to run the rest of the way.

SIERRA
I could have at 16 but I'm not a spring chicken anymore.

KERI
What am I? An old mother hen.

SIERRA
You said it, I didn't.

They exchange a smile.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Wind rustles the tent's canvas. A light burns inside.

INT. TENT - NIGHT - SAME

Keri and Sierra each lie inside a sleeping bag on their stomachs, eating snacks. A small lantern hangs from a strap attached to the ceiling.

SIERRA

Are you still seeing Greg?

The question makes Keri uncomfortable. She looks off.

KERI

No. He wasn't really my type.

SIERRA

(joking)

Who is?

Keri gives a brief giggle.

SIERRA

You know how bad Mom and Dad want you to give them grandkids.

KERI

Why does it have to be me? You have two functioning ovaries.

SIERRA

We don't know that.

They share a sisterly smile.

SIERRA

I think they realize I'm missing the motherly instinct.

KERI

What makes you think I have it?

SIERRA

I've seen how you are with kids. You kind of like them. That's more than I can say.

KERI

There's plenty of time for you to change your mind.

SIERRA

Oh no you don't. You hurry up and find you a breedin' man and get crackin'.

KERI

About that...

O.S. Footsteps are heard outside the tent.

The eyes of both girls go wide.

SIERRA

Maybe it's a bear.

Keri roots through her pack.

KERI

Not likely. They're not usually seen in this area,

Keri pulls out a canister of bear spray.

KERI

but just in case.

Keri also grabs a flashlight and crawls over to the flap. Sierra tenses and grabs Keri's arm.

SIERRA

You're not actually going out there. Maybe it will go away if we ignore it.

KERI

It won't go away until it finds the source of food it smells.

Sierra continues to cling to Keri's arm. Keri smacks the hand until it releases her arm. She turns the flashlight on and unzips the flap. Peels it back to shine her beam in front of the tent. No sign of anything. Keri crawls out.

EXT. CAMP SITE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Keri shines the light around the entire area.

O.S. A stick snaps to the side.

Keri whirls toward the sound with her light.

A raccoon scampers away from the beam.