

It is very impressive.

-Lyra stuffs her headphones in her bag and begins to climb the latter that leads to the door. She unlocks the hatch, and pushes up into the treehouse.

INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Inside is a luxurious interior. The floors are covered in blankets and pillows, and battery powered lights string the walls. There's a small shelf of books, a cabinet of snacks, and a large window opens to an extraordinary view of the ocean and the Cerulean Power Plant.

Lyra sits cross-legged the center of the room and closes her eyes. She takes a deep breath and meditates. We can hear the ocean WAVES and the WIND blow through the trees. After some time, Lyra does not move. That is until the floor door slams open and up pops up a head. Lyra jumps at the sudden noise. 19 year-old KAI ROWAN, cheery and energetic, climbs out of the door, a large smile on his face.

KAI
Hey Lyra!

LYRA (SIGNING)
Holy shit! Kai what the hell!

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
What?

LYRA (SIGNING)
You scared the shit out of me! Why didn't you tell me you were coming?

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
(Laughing)
I did! You didn't get my text?

LYRA (SIGNING)
No. My phone's in my bag.

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
(Mockingly)
Well that's not good. What if I died? What if I was on my way into the woods and a bunch of wolves attacked me and ate my legs. The only thing I could do is reach my phone and call you. And when you don't pick up, I take my last dying breaths I leave a final message

of just me saying 'Why... didn't you... answer... your phone...?' And then I die right there. You wouldn't even know!

Lyra throws a pillow at Kai and he barely dodges it as he laughs.

LYRA (SIGNING)
(Smiling)
You're an idiot. There aren't any wolves on this island.

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
Yeah. But theoretically.

Kai pulls a container from his backpack. He opens it to reveal it's full of warm cookies.

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
Oh, by the way, Calypso strikes again.

Lyra fist pumps the air and snags a couple cookies. Kai grabs one and leaves the container between the two of them.

LYRA (SIGNING)
I haven't heard you call Alice, Calypso in a while.

Kai shrugs and brushes crumbs off his pants.

LYRA (SIGNING)
How was work?

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
(Mouth full)
Fine. Kind of boring. But hey, money is money.

The two friends spend some time in silence enjoying the cookies. They stare out the large window at the ocean in front of them.

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
I can't wait to move off this island.

Lyra just looks over at him waiting for an elaboration. Kai is staring at nothing, lost in his own mind.

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
I'm almost there. I just need to work

a couple more months then we can afford to take the monthly plane. It's what Mom deserves. A normal life.

LYRA (SIGNING)
You think it's better out there? On the mainland?

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
I don't know. But there are better universities there. If I can attend one then I can get a real job.

LYRA (SIGNING)
How do you know? Not many people on this island have been there.

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
That's because they say that anyone who goes there doesn't want to come back. They'd only come back because it's cheap.

LYRA (SIGNING)
What about Zara? Are you just going to leave her here?

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
(Huffs)
Why? You don't want her coming along?

LYRA (SIGNING)
It's not that, it's just-

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
Speaking of, have you spoken to her recently?

Lyra makes a face.

LYRA (SIGNING)
(Innocently)
No. Why?

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
(Suspicious)
Huh. Because I recently got a text from her. She told me to keep you in check.

Lyra tries not to smile and plays it off as if she's taking

another bite of a cookie.

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
Lyra, what did you say to her?

LYRA (SIGNING)
(Defensive)
That doesn't matter. She was the one who started it. She made a joke about my mom.

Kai laughs, clearly not angry.

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
You two should start getting along.

LYRA (SIGNING)
I don't see that ever happening.

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
Give it time.

Lyra rolls her eyes.

LYRA (SIGNING)
How can you date someone like her? All she does is bitch about everyone and everything. All except you.

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
(sighs)
Okay, she might be rough around the edges, but she's actually very sweet. She just needs someone to talk to. To listen to her. To understand her. She didn't have an easy childhood either. She needed a partner.

LYRA (SIGNING)
She has Evren.

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
It's not the same. Having a significant other is a whole different thing. Once you find yourself someone, you'll understand. You'll tell them things you've never opened up to me about. And that's saying something since we grew up together.

Lyra slouches and rests her head on her fist as she stares at

Kai.

LYRA (SIGNING)
How are you so perfect?

KAI (SPEAKING AND SIGNING)
What do you mean?

LYRA (SIGNING)
You're perfect! You're always happy,
or at least you come off that way. You
have a good job, a girlfriend, a plan
for the future, you care for your mom.
You're the nicest, most caring person
I know. Hell, you apologize every time
someone gets your food order wrong.
Anyone would be lucky to have you. You
don't deserve to be taken advantage of
because someone has trauma.

The room goes silent and there is a heavy feel to the room as the the two think about the conversation. Kai's smile has faded away, and Lyra looks elsewhere. After a few moments of silence, Lyra signs again, still not making eye contact with Kai. Now she's the one who is in her own head.

LYRA (SIGNING)
Do you think I could find my parents
if we moved off the island?

KAI
What?

Lyra doesn't ask again. Instead she just stares outside. Kai doesn't sign anymore as he has trouble finding the right words to say.

LYRA (SIGNING)
Never mind.

KAI
(Concerned)
You want to find your parents?

LYRA (SIGNING)
I said never-

Suddenly, an ear-deafening BOOM sounds from outside the treehouse. It vibrates the entire room and things fall off shelves and walls like an earthquake. Kai and Lyra panic and try to steady themselves, then shoot their heads to look out

the window to see a horrible sight. Across the ocean, on the island where the power plant was, we see a large plume of black smoke rising and flames flowering the ground. None of the buildings can be seen, but large pieces of wreckage float in the unsteady water.

KAI
(Panicked)
What the hell?

LYRA (SIGNING)
(Shocked)
The power plant.

Kai moves quickly and slams open the trap door and begins to climb down. Lyra looks around panicked and doesn't know what to do with herself.

LYRA (SIGNING)
Where are you going?

KAI
Back to the house. I want to know what happened.

Lyra tries to sign telling him to wait, but he isn't watching her. She pounds her fist on the hard wood floor to get his attention, but he ignores her. Frustrated and confused, she grabs her things and quickly follows Kai down the ladder. As she climbs, Kai stands at the bottom, staring at his phone.

KAI
Dammit!

Lyra gets to the ground. She can't help but keep looking over at the explosion, trying to comprehend what had happened.

KAI
My phone is dead. I think I accidentally left it on when it was in my bag. Try yours. I'm trying to get a hold of mom.

Lyra reaches into her bag and pulls out her phone as well. She tries to turn it on but with no success.

LYRA (SIGNING)
(Confused)
Mine's dead too.