

"Don't you think we should just go home?"

I stepped over the tree branches and piles of wet leaves, watching my feet instead of in front of me or even Matty.

"No, Jay, we have to keep going." I could just feel that he was looking over at me. He didn't have to watch where he put every step.

"It's just, I don't think Keagan would want us to die out here looking for him." It's a stupid thing to say. I'm not an idiot. But it's getting dark, we're getting to the point where neither of us really know where we are, and I've hated this forest since I was 10 years old. Getting kidnapped seems to leave some traces in your life.

"Keagan also wouldn't want us to forget about him. So we keep going." I looked up, over at Matty. He looked like he was about to cry.

"He's going to be fine, man. The police will find him, or he'll just show up one day." I told him. I just hoped it was true. "I came back, year?" I muttered.

Matty might not know everything that happened, but he knew I went missing. So I really had no right saying that. Part of me said it so he would finally agree to leave.

I was looking at the floor again. I couldn't look over at him. It had gone silent, and all I could hear were his not so steady breaths.

I didn't notice the caution tape until I'd bumped into it.

"Is this a crime scene or something?" I asked.

"Let's go home." Matty declared. It sounded even more serious than when we'd been arguing. "Now, Jay."

He took off running. I still couldn't figure out why. But I did run after him.

I'm just surprised that I don't trip on anything, because at this point I'm paying more attention to Matty than the ground.

When we get to the parking lot, he finally stops.

"What was that about, man?" I breathed out.

"Oh, I thought you wanted to leave?" Matty was going through his pockets, looking for his keys. When he found them, he looked up at me for the first time since we got here. "Just get in the car, Jay." He sounded so defeated. Yeah, we've been desperate. But this whole time he's been so desperate to find Keagan that he'd been pushing that to the side.