

THE SEASON KEEPERS

Written by

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INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

JONATHAN JOSEPH, 40s, rushes through the front door, wind and snow gusting around him.

He's wearing light clothing, considering the cold.

He's a large man, tough with dark hair and a deep jaw.

JONATHAN

Quick, a fire, a winter's storm has
come in.

HENRY, 14, and GRACE, 12, look up from their school books.

Henry resembles his father, with dark features and a hard jaw, but much more slight of frame.

Grace has fair skin and long auburn hair; tall and long.

Henry leaves the table and stacks wood at the fireplace.

The room is a large gathering space, with a giant hearth in the center of a great wall with two arched doorways on either side; one to the stairs and the other to the kitchen.

One side has a large wooden table that sits a dozen people.

In the middle of the room, two chairs face the fireplace.

Along all the walls are shelves full of wooden carvings - animals, flowers, toys.

Henry walks to the window and looks out at the white blanket of snow covering everything.

HENRY

A winter storm? It's May.

JONATHAN

Yes, well, it's becoming more and more unpredictable. I'm going to get my coat and gather more wood, in case this lasts longer than we expect.

Jonathan walks upstairs as Henry finishes lighting a fire.

GRACE

We'll be stuck inside again this evening. I really wanted to go to the market...

THOMAS, 9, walks into the room. He looks at the fire that Henry is building and his shoulders slump.

Thomas is a mirror of his father and brother, but has the same auburn hair as Grace.

THOMAS
Another winter storm?

Henry nods.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Can we still go to the market?

GRACE
Thomas, you know the answer to that...

Thomas kicks over a bucket containing kindling in frustration and slumps into a chair at the table.

HENRY
You had better pick that up before Dad sees it. Or we'll all be doing extra chores tonight.

Thomas begrudgingly walks to the bucket and starts to pick up the small pieces of wood.

Jonathan comes down the stairs wearing a thick coat, pants, and tall boots, readied for the snowy scene outside.

THOMAS
How long do you think it'll last?

JONATHAN
Who's to know? Could be a few days, could be a week.

GRACE
I'll make a stew for dinner!

JONATHAN
That would be nice, Grace. Maybe with potatoes and leeks if we have any, the way Grandpa likes it. This will be hardest on him.

Grace nods and Jonathan walks out the door.

THOMAS
(mockingly)
I can make stew for dinner.

GRACE
 Be nice, Thomas! Or I'll put extra
 mushrooms in it, just for you.

Grace sticks out her tongue and Thomas returns the gesture.

HENRY
 Grace, Thomas, can you stop,
 please?

GRACE
 He started it.

HENRY
 Please. It's bad enough we're stuck
 in here without the two of you
 bickering the whole time.

VIOLET, 7, walks into the room carrying a large basket and
 slows as she sees the fire.

Violet has the same long auburn hair as Grace but looks all
 sass all the time. An oddly gentle sass, though.

VIOLET
 No!

HENRY
 I afraid so, Vie.

VIOLET
 But...

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - GRANDPA JOSEPH'S BEDROOM

GRANDPA JOSEPH, 80s, sits in his rocking chair, looking like
 a withered version of Jonathan.

The four children sit, listening intently to his story.

The fire crackles warmly - it's the only light emitted in
 the dark room, barely showing their faces.

GRANDPA JOSEPH
 Did you know that long ago, when I
 was a child like you, we had four
 seasons, every year?

VIOLET
 What do you mean, Grandpa?

GRANDPA JOSEPH
 We have seasonal storms now, right?

THOMAS

Like this stupid winter storm that kept us from the market today?

GRANDPA JOSEPH

Right, Thomas. Exactly. Well when I was a child, Winter was a season, it lasted from December until March.

THOMAS

It did? That sounds awful.

GRANDPA JOSEPH

(laughing)

Well for some I suppose. But, there was a clear beginning and end. Same with spring, summer, and autumn. They all had their place.

EXT. BEAUTIFUL MEADOW

The land is lush with plants and trees and a deep stream runs through the middle. Birds and wildlife are abundant.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)

Long ago, the world was harmonious. The flora and fauna lived together in a perfect balance. The seasons were the heartbeat of the land, each maintaining the balance necessary to ensure that life could flourish.

EXT. MEADOW IN WINTER

The same lushness is blanketed in snow and serene.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)

First, there was the winter season beginning each year; where cold covered the land and forced nature to rest and recover.

EXT. MEADOW IN SPRING

The meadow is dewy and vibrant. Flowers beginning to bloom, baby deer find their legs, and new life is abundant.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)
 After a restful winter, the spring
 came and with it, nature thawed
 from the cold, and with renewed
 energy created new life and new
 growth.

EXT. MEADOW IN SUMMER

The meadow is covered in sun as the young animals transform
 into strong, healthy adults full of energy.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)
 The spring led to the summer where
 warmth and abundance shined
 brightly and allowed the plants and
 animals to grow big and strong.

EXT. MEADOW IN AUTUMN

The meadow is full of changing colors; red, orange, golden
 yellow. Everything and everyone gathers the bounty.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)
 Lastly came the autumn time where
 the results of the previous seasons
 gave forth a harvest and a sense of
 accomplishment.

SERIES OF SCENES

- Snow falls in the meadow on blooming flowers
- The meadow becomes dry and barren from the scorching sun.
- The fruit on the trees are small, shriveled and the
 animals look weak.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)
 But the balance of the seasons was
 delicate - greed and carelessness
 grew too strong and the seasons
 began to collide, shattering their
 natural rhythm.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST

In the middle of the meadow is a large shimmering willow
 tree - behind it, four wooden doors, each adorned with
 carvings of a different seasons, nestled into a sheer
 mountain wall.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)

The seasons no longer knew their place, and the world became unpredictable, dangerous, and unstable.

To protect what remained, the guardians of the seasons – the Essence Spirits – hid their power within four Fragments of Balance, and brought them to the magical realms concealed behind the wooden portals.

BACK TO:

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - GRANDPA JOSEPH'S BEDROOM

GRANDPA JOSEPH

The Fragments are the key to restoring harmony, but they cannot be reclaimed alone. It takes courage, wisdom, and unity to unlock their power.

And now, it falls to those brave enough to find the Fragments and bring back balance.

VIOLET

But Grandpa, what did people do to ruin the seasons?

GRANDPA JOSEPH

Well, Violet, like I said, they were greedy and careless.

GRACE

But what does that mean?

Grandpa Joseph smiles sadly.

GRANDPA JOSEPH

Nature has boundaries. It's delicate. And people started to harvest more than they needed - cutting down trees, building over fields, hunting and gathering too much; leaving little for the rest of the animals that needed nourishment.

(MORE)

GRANDPA JOSEPH (CONT'D)
They took and took and took, until
the balance shifted too far, and
the seasons crashed into each
other.

THOMAS
What if no one brings back the
seasons?

GRANDPA JOSEPH
They'll continue to get worse, and
worse until...

Grandpa Joseph claps loudly causing the children to jump.

VIOLET
Until what!?

GRANDPA JOSEPH
Until the world as we know it
becomes tragic - harsh, barren, and
unlivable.

Violet and Thomas both gasp.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (CONT'D)
It's true. Someone needs to save it
before it's too late.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

Grandpa Joseph is in an armchair and Jonathan is at the
table when Grace walks downstairs in a lovely spring dress.

GRANDPA JOSEPH
Well aren't you an image of
perfection, my dear.

Grace smiles and curtseys slightly.

GRACE
Thank you Grandpa.

Jonathan looks up and sees Grace.

JONATHAN
Where did you get that dress?

GRACE
It was mama's, finally fits me.
Does it... Look nice?

JONATHAN
It looks fine, yes.

Jonathan stands abruptly and walks to the door.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
I'll be back late.

Grandpa Joseph and Grace nod solemnly as Jonathan leaves.
Grace begins to tear up.

GRANDPA JOSEPH
Oh, Grace, dear. It's nothing you
did, I promise. And you look, well
your her spitting image.

GRACE
(wiping a tear)
Yeah, well, we all miss her, but
we're not grumpy about it.

HENRY
Miss who?

Grace and Grandpa Joseph look up at the boys.

GRACE
Mama.

THOMAS
I don't miss her. She left us.

GRACE
Thomas!

THOMAS
What? It's true. I don't even
remember her except the stories you
tell. So why would I miss her.

GRACE
Because she's our mother, and we
don't know why she left...

THOMAS
Who cares why... She left.

Grandpa Joseph cuts them off.

GRANDPA JOSEPH
She left, looking for the fragments
to restore the seasons... Because I
asked her to.

They all look at him incredulously. He nods.

HENRY
You did?

GRANDPA JOSEPH
I did.

HENRY
But why?

GRANDPA JOSEPH
The season witch.

GRACE
The season... witch?

GRANDPA JOSEPH
Yes. The season witch. I don't know what else to call her. There are those trying to bring the seasons back. But there's one who's trying to destroy them, and I feared, I fear she's getting stronger, and closer to accomplishing that feat.

GRACE
Who is she?

GRANDPA JOSEPH
No one you want to know about.

The children look at each other, a sense of doom brewing.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

The door opens and a breeze of cold, snowy air follows the children as they walk inside.

THOMAS
Another winter storm... Why does this keep happening?!

HENRY
Go sit down and start your schoolwork while I get this fire going again.

GRACE
What about Grandpa?

Henry turns his head towards her and then up the stairs.

HENRY
Grandpa?!

Henry runs up the stairs as the others watch him.

They're all silent. After a moment, Grace shouts to Henry.

GRACE
Henry?? Is Grandpa okay??

HENRY (O.S.)
(voice shaking)
Go get dad.

INT. THE O'MALLY INN AND RESTAURANT

The children and Jonathan sit in chairs along the wall - all are dressed in black, their faces red, and eyes swollen.

People are mingling, talking in hushed voices and glancing at the family with sad eyes.

THOMAS
Dad? How long do we have to stay
here? I want to go home.

Grace nudges him with her elbow.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Ow! Grace! That hurt.

JONATHAN
Settle you two! Thomas, we will go
when everyone else leaves.

Thomas makes a noise of frustration and crosses his arms. Violet slumps more, and Grace looks defiant.

HENRY
Let's go outside and get some air.
(stopping himself)
If that's okay with you Dad?

Jonathan nods; the four children stand as everyone watches.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

Jonathan and his four children, tired and downtrodden, sit around the fire, staring off.

VIOLET
Daddy?

JONATHAN
Yes, Violet?

VIOLET
Can we maybe have some hot
chocolate?

JONATHAN
I think that's a good idea.

GRACE
Want me to get it?

JONATHAN
Sure, Grace. Thank you.

Grace stands, but stops when there's a knock at the door.

THOMAS
(accusatory)
Who's that?

Jonathan hesitantly walks to the door and opens it.

JONATHAN
Oh, hello May.

VIOLET
Grandma!

MAY smiles.

She's a sassy mirror of Violet, 60 years older. Her hair is long and white, save for a strip of Auburn in the front.

JONATHAN
Come in. Please.

May smiles and walks in.

THOMAS
What are those?

He points to the bags that May has in her hands.

May frowns.

MAY
I'm so very sorry about Grandpa
Joseph. Jonathan, if you need
anything...

Jonathan bows slightly.

GRACE

I was just going to make hot chocolate, Grandma, would you like some?

MAY

Oh, thank you Grace, but I've come here to give these to you.

She holds up the bags.

THOMAS

(excited)

Presents?! What are they?!

MAY

Well, they're actually from your Grandpa Joseph. He asked me to keep them for you and give them to you when he passes. And so, here I am.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

The children are seated at the table eagerly opening the gifts. An untouched box sits at Jonathan's spot.

Thomas is the first to get his box open. He pulls out a letter and a large wooden key.

THOMAS

Dad? What is this?

JONATHAN

(puzzled)

It looks like a key to me.

THOMAS

Yeah... But what's it for?

JONATHAN

I don't know, son. What does the letter say?

Thomas slowly opens it as the others examine their keys.

THOMAS

It's... It's... It's just the story of the Firebird. The one grandpa would tell us at night.

VIOLET

I have the story of the owl.

GRACE
I have the deer.

They all look to Henry.

HENRY
The wolf. But...

GRACE
But what??

HENRY
I also have a letter from grandpa
to everyone. It says to read aloud
in the Ancient Forest.

Henry pauses and they all continue to stare at him.

THOMAS
Let's go!

May smiles warmly. Jonathan matches it.

JONATHAN
Certainly not now, Thomas. It's
nearly bed time.

GRACE
Are you going to open yours, dad?

JONATHAN
Not at the moment, no. Some other
time maybe.

THOMAS
Is there anything else, Grandma?

MAY
No, I'm afraid that's it.

THOMAS
Can we have the hot chocolate now?

May looks at Jonathan who agrees.

Grace gets up as the others continue to inspect their keys.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Thomas and Violet rush down the stairs to see Henry and
Grace eating breakfast.

THOMAS
Can we go!? Can we go?!

Grace looks down at her food and Henry, looking at Thomas, shakes his head "no".

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Awww... Why not?

HENRY
Dad got woken up this morning by a few from town. A hurricane is expected to blow in.

VIOLET
A hurricane? But it's not time for hurricanes! This is the worst!

GRACE
You know it can happen.

THOMAS
But... but it's ruining my day!

GRACE
It's everyone's day, not just yours!

HENRY
Okay, please, both of you. Either way, we're here for at least a few days, so in the meantime...

THOMAS
(annoyed)
In the meantime what?!

HENRY
(smiling softly)
In the meantime, we can plan our adventure to the Ancient Forest.

Thomas huffs.

HENRY (CONT'D)
I know. It's disappointing. But maybe we can read Grandpa's letter anyway.

THOMAS
Yes!

VIOLET
No! He said we're to read it in the Ancient Forest! We can't read it here, it could lose the magic?

Thomas frowns.

HENRY
(smiling sincerely)
I don't think it's that kind of
letter...

Thomas smiles again.

HENRY (CONT'D)
But you're right, he said to read
it there, so we'll wait until we
get there.

THOMAS
This is stupid. We should just read
it. Who cares where we are.

VIOLET
Grandpa cared. So I care.

HENRY
Yes. We'll wait.

THOMAS
Stupid hurricane.

They're all quiet.

VIOLET
Henry?

HENRY
Yes Violet?

Violet hesitates.

VIOLET
Do you think...

They all look at Violet as she looks for her words.

HENRY
Do I think what?

VIOLET
A hurricane, now? Do you think what
Grandpa said is coming true? The
seasons are disappearing... forever?

Grace and Thomas look from Violet to Henry.

HENRY

I don't know Violet. But I hope
not.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - CHILDREN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Violet is awake, staring at the ceiling.

The boys are snoring away.

Grace rolls over and sees her.

GRACE

(whispers)
You okay, Vie?

VIOLET

(whispers)
It's just, a winter storm and then
a hurricane, now?

GRACE

It's happened before...

VIOLET

It has? I don't remember it.

They're both quiet a moment as the boys continue to snore.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Do you think it's why Mommy left?

GRACE

What's why she left?

VIOLET

To fix it? The Seasons. Like
Grandpa said.

GRACE

Oh. I don't know. I don't think so,
but maybe.

Another pause, more snoring.

VIOLET

Maybe she's there.

GRACE

Where?

VIOLET

The Ancient Forest.

GRACE
(gently)
I don't think so.

Violet doesn't say anything.

GRACE (CONT'D)
But maybe? I guess we'll see
tomorrow.

VIOLET
(to herself as much as to
Grace)
I think she's there.

HENRY
Who's where? What are you doing
awake?

VIOLET
Do you think Mommy left to try to
restore the seasons?

HENRY
Mom? No.

GRACE
Maybe though.

HENRY
I don't know why Mom left, but she
wouldn't leave us because of that.
Plus, we have the keys. If the
stories are true, how would she go
without one?

VIOLET
Are you sure? I'd leave to save the
seasons.

HENRY
You're not a mom. Listen, that's
not why she left, so...

VIOLET
(loudly)
Why did she leave?

They all look at Thomas who snorts and continues to sleep.

HENRY

(whispers)

Shhhhhh! Violet, I don't know why she left, but right now, we all need to go to sleep. Especially you.

VIOLET

(whispers)

Fine! But I think you're wrong, I think she's in the Ancient Forest.

HENRY

You can find out tomorrow, but right now, we need to go to sleep before Dad hears us and we're all in trouble.

Violet huffs audibly and then turns to face away from Henry.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST

Henry, Grace, Thomas and Violet are walking through a dense, treed forest.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)

By now, you all have received the keys that I've left you, as well as the stories of the wolf, the deer, the firebird, and the owl. While these may seem like small tokens from an old man, the stories are true, and the keys will open the doors to the four seasonal realms.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST - CLEARING

The children get to a meadow with the stream, a sheer mountain wall, and a giant willow tree.

The children shed their packs and sit under the tree.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)

Inside each of the realms lies the the last remaining Fragments of Balance, guarded by the Essence Spirit animals. Go to the portals, located in the meadow next to Mount Yosie where we have been many many times together. Henry should know the way by heart.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST - CLEARING - LATER

All but Henry are eating their packed lunch.

Henry walks around, inspecting the meadow.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)
Once you're there, you'll find the
portals, carved into the mountain.

THOMAS
There's no doors here, Henry. It's
just a story.

Henry heads to where the ivy is the thickest on the wall.

He pulls on it, but it doesn't budge.

The others walk up to Henry, each pulling at the ivy. When all four touch it at once, it begins to disappear like a magical essence is escaping from within.

Quickly, the ivy disappears completely revealing four ancient wooden doors with elaborate carvings on them.

The first door is a winter carving with a large wolf standing on a mountain top howling at the moon.

On the second door is carved a spring meadow with flowers blooming and a herd of deer, all with their heads buried in the tall grass, except one, standing tall and majestic.

The third door, carved in a summer dessert with cactus and palms, mountains silhouetted for what looks like eternity, and soaring through the air, an emblazoned firebird.

The fourth door is carved a dense forest of trees of all varieties. Perched high atop of one, a venerable owl stares intently out on the horizon.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)
I have given you each a specific
key for each of the portals. Though
they are reflective of your
specific strengths, you must all be
present and support one another in
order to obtain the remaining
Fragments and restore all seasons
back to our world.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST - PORTALS

The four children are gathered around the first door. Henry is holding the letter from his grandpa.

HENRY

(reading)

As you complete each journey, the strength of one season will connect with the next.

Each season relies on the others, and so too must you. There will be moments when you'll need to be brave, and moments when you'll need to be wise, but if you lean on each other, you'll find the strength to complete the journey.

Trust in the Essence Spirits. Trust in the seasons. And above all, trust in each other.

Remember, I will always be with you—in the soft snow, the gentle blooms, the summer warmth, and the golden leaves.

You are our greatest hope, and I am so proud of each of you.

With all my love and belief,
Grandpa.

THOMAS

That's it? That's all it says.

HENRY

That's it.

Henry puts the letter away and takes out his key.

The key is adorned with the head of a wolf and a long shaft with markings along it.

VIOLET

Are you sure we should do this? I'm scared, Henry.

Henry looks up and sees dark storm clouds forming.

He points at the clouds.

HENRY

I don't know what it was like before the season storms, but if Grandpa believed in us, I think we should believe too.

Henry inserts the key into the door and turns it.

They all step back as the door's engraving gains color and begins to look more like a window than a door. After the entire engraving comes to life, the door opens, slightly.

Henry looks at the others. Slowly they nod, first Grace, then Thomas, then finally, Violet.

Henry takes a deep breath and pushes it open.

EXT. THE WINTER REALM

The meadow is covered in snow and ice hangs off the willow tree's leaves and branches like a crystal sculpture.

The children immediately begin to bundle up in warm clothes.

GRACE

It's... So cold!

THOMAS

It's winter, Grace.

GRACE

I know that!

HENRY

Grace, Thomas, please, we need to be together. And it starts with the two of you being nice to each other. Okay?

Grace and Thomas look sheepish as they're scolded.

They mouth "sorry" as much to one another as to Henry.

VIOLET

Now what do we do?

Henry walks forward a few steps, looking out past the meadow, turns around and looks up. Finally, he points to the top of the mountain.

THOMAS

What is it?

They all run toward Henry and look up.

At the top of the mountain silhouetted against the light blue sky is a black wolf, just above the outline of the moon. Then they hear the howl.

EXT. THE WINTER REALM - MOUNTAIN

The children are walking on a wide trail along the mountain.

EXT. THE WINTER REALM - MOUNTAIN - LATER

It's snowing intensely.

Grace and Thomas are continuing to walk along the mountain, more labored. Behind them, Henry is carrying Violet.

Henry stops and shouts to the other two who turn around.

HENRY

We need to go back! We won't make it before dark!

They shake their heads "no".

HENRY (CONT'D)

Come on! He didn't say it needed to be done in a day!

They slump at his words and start walking back and then past Henry (and Violet), who follows them down the mountain.

EXT. THE WINTER REALM - PORTAL - THE NEXT DAY

The children walk through the portal and stop abruptly on the other side. They are all bundled for the coldest weather, but the meadow is actively melting away.

THOMAS

Why isn't it cold?

HENRY

I don't know, Thomas, but we're dressed really badly for this. I think we should go home.

VIOLET

Home? But... Are we coming back?

HENRY

Not today, Violet. But from now on, we need to prepare for everything.

They all sulk at his words.

EXT. THE WINTER REALM - MOUNTAIN - NEXT DAY

The children approach a wide body of water, large chunks of ice float aimlessly, broken off from the yesterday's thaw.

Across the way a drawbridge of sorts made out of large logs is standing upright, ready to bridge the water.

HENRY

Look! There! It's a bridge.

VIOLET

How do we get it down?

HENRY

I'll go across on the ice, and then let the bridge down for everyone.

GRACE

Are you sure, Henry? If you fall in, it's dangerous, water that cold.

HENRY

I won't fall.

Henry walks to a nearby tree and finds a large walking stick. He takes it to the water's edge where he reaches out to the closes ice piece and brings is carefully to the edge.

Gently, he places one foot on top, then, leaning on his stick, he begins to put more weight on it. Slowly he adds more and more of his body weight until...

The ice gives way and tumbles end over end in the water, shooting Henry back to the shore as Grace and Violet scream.

VIOLET

Henry! No! It's not safe!

GRACE

Henry, Violet's right, there's got to be another way.

HENRY

Look around. There is no other way.

THOMAS

I can do it.

HENRY

No.

THOMAS

Why not? I'm way smaller than you are. The ice will support me.

HENRY

No. Absolutely not.

GRACE

I can help him. Even the two of us combined don't weigh nearly as much as you.

HENRY

No, I can't let you two do that, if you fall in...

GRACE

You didn't care what we thought if YOU fell in.

HENRY

That's different.

GRACE

How? Besides, what better idea do you have?

THOMAS

Give me your stick.

Thomas holds his arm outstretched, waiting for the walking stick. Henry looks at it, and then at the others.

GRACE

You can't do this on your own. You need to trust us.

Henry shakes his head "no", but slowly, he stretches his arm out extending the stick to Thomas.

EXT. THE WINTER REALM - MOUNTAIN - MOMENTS LATER

Grace and Thomas are almost to the opposite side. They're carefully rocking on a large iceberg, using the walking stick to pull themselves to the edge.

Violet is watching intently, while Henry sits on a log a few steps away, watching and sulking simultaneously.

VIOLET

You're almost there!!!

After a moment, Grace helps Thomas onto the bank.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

You did it!

Grace, Thomas, and Violet are cheering and jumping in the air. Finally they walk to the draw bridge.

Thomas inspect it and says something to Grace who shrugs.

THOMAS
 (shouting)
 How do we lower the bridge???

Violet looks back at Henry who isn't paying attention.

GRACE
 (shouting)
 Henry, we don't know what to do!

No response.

VIOLET
 Henry!

Henry comes to abruptly. Violet points towards the others.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
 Henry, they need your help.... Now!

Henry looks at her and at them and back at her. She gestures again toward the others.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
 Henry!

Finally Henry stands.

GRACE
 Henry, how do we get the bridge
 down?

HENRY
 Look for a break, holding it in
 place, and a wheel to wind it down!

EXT. THE WINTER REALM - MOUNTAINTOP

The children are all approaching the apex when Henry slows down. He crouches and the others follow.

THOMAS
 What is it?

HENRY
 Shhh!

THOMAS
 (whispering)
 What is it?

HENRY
 (whispering)
 Look. Over there.

Henry points towards the cliff edge where a willow tree stands tall, overlooking the horizon. Nestled just inside sits a gray and black wolf, sitting stoically, staring...

At them.

VIOLET
(whispering)
Is it... Safe?

HENRY
(whispering)
I don't know...

Thomas gets up and starts marching towards the wolf.

HENRY (CONT'D)
(whispering loudly)
Thomas! What are you doing?!

THOMAS
(without turning back)
I didn't climb a mountain to huddle
in the snow.

The wolf immediately stands and takes a few steps forward, almost in a leap.

The wolf growls.

Thomas freezes immediately.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Henry?? Help!

Henry jumps up and runs to Thomas and the wolf follows his action, taking a few more steps closer.

The wolf bares his teeth and the boys take a step back.

Violet slowly approaches the boys. She takes Henry's hand. The wolf looks at her and sits, continuing to stare.

VIOLET
I think it's okay, now.

Grace walks up and takes Thomas' hand.

The four stare at the wolf, who stares back at them.

Violet takes a step forward, then another. She looks back at Henry who's still holding her hand and she pulls it.

Henry looks at Thomas and Grace, and then they all start walking forward, hand in hand.

The wolf looks at them, and then runs back toward the tree, causing them to jump back suddenly and watch.

EXT. THE WINTER REALM - MOUNTAINTOP - LATER

Violet and Thomas are sitting with the wolf, giggling as they pet it and it licks their faces.

Henry and Grace are off looking out at the horizon.

GRACE

What do we do now?

HENRY

I don't know... I thought there would be more to it. Something here. It's just a tree.

As if the wolf heard Henry, he stands and goes to him.

Henry stares down at the wolf, and the wolf runs back to the tree and sits.

GRACE

Is it... Trying to tell you something?

VIOLET

Grandpa said trust in the Essence Spirits. He's telling you to go to the tree.

HENRY

And do what?

Violet shrugs her shoulders.

VIOLET

I don't know, ask the wolf.

HENRY

How do I ask the wolf?

VIOLET

Just ask.

Henry looks at Violet and smiles. He walks towards the tree.

They all follow a step behind.

As they approach the tree, and the wolf, Henry looks back at Violet who gestures to the wolf and mouths "ask".

HENRY
Um, Mister... Wolf...

VIOLET
Miss.

They all look at at Violet.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
She's a girl wolf.

HENRY
Okay. Miss, Wolf. What do we need to do?

The wolf stares at them, unmoving.

THOMAS
This is dumb, Henry. You're talking to an animal.

HENRY
You have a better idea?

THOMAS
No... Not really.

HENRY
You, Grace?

Grace shakes her head "no".

HENRY (CONT'D)
Okay then. Miss Wolf, I'm sorry for my brother. Can you show us what to do next?

The wolf walks over to the trunk of the tree and sits.

EXT. THE WINTER REALM - MOUNTAINTOP - MOMENTS LATER

A small door is open in the trunk of the tree. The door mirrors that of the portal door.

THOMAS
There's nothing here! We came all the way up here for nothing!

Violet starts to cry, and Grace goes to her.

HENRY

Thomas, calm down. It's not here,
that doesn't mean it doesn't exist.
We just need to search more. Or,
maybe there's another tree. Or
another door, or something?

The children are startled by the sound of a giggling child.

THOMAS

What was that?

Henry stands and looks around frantically.

They hear the giggling again.

HENRY

Who's there?!

Nothing.

Giggling.

The children crowd around Henry.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I said who's there?!

Slowly a small girl, LUNA, 8, with platinum blonde hair and
crystal blue eyes appears from behind the tree.

LUNA

(giggling)

Hi, I'm Luna, who are you?

The children relax. Violet wipes her eyes and steps forward.

VIOLET

I'm Violet. These are my brothers
Henry and Thomas, and my sister
Grace. Where did you come from?

LUNA

(smiling brightly)

Me? I live here silly.

THOMAS

You live here? With who?

LUNA

With Tala.

Tala, the wolf, sits next to Luna, and she strokes her fur.

LUNA (CONT'D)
Are you looking for the Fragments?

THOMAS
We were...
(pointing)
But it's not there.

HENRY
Do you know where to find it?

LUNA
No, sorry, but Tala does, just ask
her.

They look at Henry and then back at the girl and the wolf.
Henry says nothing, and finally Violet gives him a look.

HENRY
(huffing)
Ms. Wolf, um, Tala? Can you show us
where the fragment is?

Tala starts running down the trail. She gets down the
pathway and sits, waiting for them.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Come on everyone!

EXT. THE WINTER REALM - MEADOW

Tala is sitting next to the door to the outer world when the
children approach, winded.

GRACE
This is the door home...

Thomas slumps down on the ground.

THOMAS
Can we just go home?

Henry looks for something else nearby, but there's nothing.

HENRY
(head hung)
Yeah. Let's go.

VIOLET
Luna? Do you want to come with us?

LUNA
Oh, I can't. I have to stay in the
realms.

GRACE

The realms? All of them?

LUNA

Yes of course, silly. I can go in all four realms, just not... Out there.

VIOLET

We'll be back tomorrow!

HENRY

Maybe.

VIOLET

What do you mean maybe?

HENRY

I mean we'll try...

LUNA

I hope you do!

(giggling)

But if not, I'll see you soon!

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

The door swings open and the children file in, bickering loudly and incoherently as they do.

Jonathan looks at them from the table, wide-eyed.

JONATHAN

What is this? Henry? Grace?

No one responds.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

ENOUGH!

His voice is booming and the children all stop immediately, except for Thomas.

THOMAS

We walked the whole way for nothing, that was...

JONATHAN

Thomas!

Thomas cuts his sentence short and looks at the others, realizing they have all stopped speaking.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
 (calmer)
 Now what is all this about?

VIOLET
 Daddy, we took the keys from
 Grandpa and went to the portals and
 went into the winter realm and
 there was no Fragment there. The
 tree was empty, but we met a new
 friend!

JONATHAN
 (smiles)
 Oh - I understand, it was a game.
 And Thomas lost?

THOMAS
 It wasn't a game! It was real!

JONATHAN
 Of course it was.

Jonathan looks at Henry for some assurance and Henry nods.

HENRY
 Yes, it was a game, and I guess it
 was fun until it wasn't.

VIOLET
 Henry's lying! Henry, it's real!
 Tell him.

Henry gives Grace a look and smiles and she smiles as well.

GRACE
 Oh Violet, that's what makes it so
 much fun! It feels real...

JONATHAN
 Okay, well go wash up before
 dinner, then. And you can tell me
 all about it.

Thomas huffs and marches upstairs.

Violet looks at the three of them and starts to tear up in
 frustration. She begins to walk off.

VIOLET
 It... It... It was real.

Jonathan smiles as she leaves and the older two feign the
 same smile in return.

JONATHAN

They do have quite the imagination, those two little ones. Are you two okay? Did you have fun?

HENRY

Yeah, yes. We did. They're just tired now, we did a lot of walking in the woods.

JONATHAN

Good. Something to keep their minds off of your Grandpa. Okay, you two, wash up for dinner.

They turn and walk out.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - LATER

Jonathan and the children are eating dinner. The children are quiet, picking at their food.

JONATHAN

You all seem tired, so tell me about this this adventure you went on today.

VIOLET

We were looking for the fragment in the Winter Realm!

Jonathan looks at Henry and Grace.

GRACE

We were in the Ancient Forest. Playing a game.

Violet slumps, tears building in her eyes.

JONATHAN

Oh lovely, your mother and I spent so much time in that forest, it's very special.

THOMAS

You did?

JONATHAN

Yes, of course. Many afternoons exploring...

VIOLET

You never took us there.

Jonathan is hesitant.

JONATHAN

No, I suppose I didn't. Well not you or Thomas anyway, not since you were babies. Not since...

He trails off, pensive.

THOMAS

Not since mom left?

GRACE

Thomas!

THOMAS

What?!

JONATHAN

(clearing his throat)

It's true... When she left, I just, it reminded me too much of her, so we stopped, I stopped going.

The table is silent.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Anyway, it is quite lovely in there.

(standing)

Well, I need to turn in, early morning. Grace, you'll see to it that dinner is cleaned up?

Grace nods.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Henry, can you stack some more wood, in case we need it?

Henry nods.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

And you two, please listen to your brother and sister.

Violet and Thomas nod.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Okay, goodnight then.

Jonathan walks up the stairs and the children look at each other, sad and tired.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - GRANDPA JOSEPH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Henry is lying on Grandpa Joseph's bed, staring up at the ceiling. The wind outside is howling when he hears a creak and looks at the door opening.

Thomas walks in first.

THOMAS
(whispering)
So this is your room now?

Henry roles over as Violet and Grace follow Thomas in.

HENRY
(whispering)
We can share it if you want.

THOMAS
I'm fine just where I'm at.

HENRY
Shhhh.
(whispering)
Thomas, don't wake up Dad.

Thomas doesn't reply.

HENRY (CONT'D)
You all okay?

Violet pushes Grace forward.

GRACE
What are we going to do? About the realms?

HENRY
What do you mean?

VIOLET
(loudly)
What if they're all empty?

Everyone collectively shushes her.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
(whispering)
What if we can't find the Fragments
and we can't put the seasons back?

HENRY

Nothing I guess. We never knew the seasons before, so it'll just stay like it is.

THOMAS

But Grandpa said...

HENRY

I know what Grandpa said, but that doesn't mean it's all true. Maybe it was just supposed to be... fun.

VIOLET

But the realms are real, and the keys, and the doors, and the Essence Spirits! It's got to be real! We need to find the Fragments or the storms will get worse and worse and worse!

Henry looks at Violet who starts to cry. Then he looks at Thomas and Grace, both looking at him intently.

HENRY

You want to keep looking?

They all nod together. A smile slowly creeps up on his face.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Then, you had all better get back to sleep; who knows how far we'll have to go in the Spring Realm.

They light up, excited about the adventure.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Okay, go back to bed.

They all start to file out of the room, and before leaving, Thomas turns back to Henry.

THOMAS

Henry?

HENRY

Yes Thomas?

THOMAS

I do want to share the room with you.

HENRY
I'd like that. We'll move your bed
tomorrow, okay?

THOMAS
Okay.

He walks out and shuts the door.

EXT. THE SPRING REALM

The portal to the Spring Realm opens to a beautiful meadow,
filled with warm sunshine, flowers all abloom, and birds and
butterflies and bees buzzing everywhere full of life.

The children file in behind Grace, Henry in the back.

GRACE
It's so beautiful, and smells
wonderful.

They all take in a deep breath and Thomas begins to sneeze.

THOMAS
Yeah...
(sneezes)
Really wonderful.

Henry stands next to Grace looking out.

HENRY
So what do you think we do?

No one answers and then Violet nudges her.

GRACE
Me?

VIOLET
It's your key, Grace.

THOMAS
Yeah, Grace, it's your key.

GRACE
(snaps back)
I know that! I just...

She looks up at Henry.

HENRY
I just had a feeling of what to do
when we walked into the Winter
Realm. Do you have any feelings?

THOMAS

She has too many feelings if you ask me.

HENRY

Thomas that's not helpful.

They all stare at Grace who takes a step back.

Violet takes her hand.

VIOLET

Just close your eyes.

Grace takes a deep breath and then closes her eyes.

They all watch in high anticipation, when suddenly Grace's eyes open wide.

GRACE

I... Uh, I think I know what to do!

Violet and Henry smile, Thomas looks skeptical.

THOMAS

You sure?

Ignoring him, Grace points out toward the meadow.

GRACE

That way, we need to find the herd!

VIOLET

Wait!

They all look at Violet.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Luna?! Luuuunnnnaaaaa?

Nothing.

Violet slumps.

HENRY

Come on, maybe she's with the herd.

EXT. THE SPRING REALM - LATER

The children are walking though the meadow, bobbing along, in good spirits - a spring in their steps if you will, when Thomas stops suddenly.

THOMAS
What's that?!

The others stop and turn to Thomas.

A low hum begins to build.

It grows louder as the children all look around wildly.

GRACE
Look!

Grace points not too far away at a low, dark cloud moving toward them.

GRACE (CONT'D)
What... Is that?!

Henry doesn't hesitate. He picks up Violet and then yells.

HENRY
Run!

The children start running as fast as they can in the opposite direction, but the cloud is getting closer and closer until finally...

The girls scream.

Surrounded by thousands of crickets, the children crouch down and wildly swat at the insects covering everything.

EXT. THE SPRING REALM - MOMENTS LATER

The children are sitting in the same spot, distraught and reacting to the last straggling crickets around them.

THOMAS
I want to go home.

EXT. THE SPRING REALM - THE NEXT DAY

The children are staring at the meadow which no longer resembles what they saw yesterday - the flowers are mostly gone or wilted, there's a steady cold rain from gray skies.

GRACE
This is so... sad.

VIOLET
Will it come back?

No one answers, because no one knows.

GRACE

Ready?

They all nod and take a few steps forward.

Their footfalls are thick, heavy with mud, and only Henry gets more than a half dozens steps before he looks back.

HENRY

You guys okay?

VIOLET

The mud is almost at my knees,
Henry! I can't walk the whole way
like this, it's too deep.

Henry looks at the other two who huff and nod and show their full disappointment.

HENRY

Right. Okay. Tomorrow then.

THOMAS

This is taking forever...

EXT. THE SPRING REALM - THE NEXT DAY

The children are walking along a path when they get to a fork. At the fork there are two paths each with a sign.

The first sign says "Follow the sun, it leads to the renewal and the path forward."

The second sign says "This path seeks the shadows, allowing growth in the darkness."

VIOLET

Which way do we go, Grace?

GRACE

I don't know.

She looks at Henry.

HENRY

My gut says follow the sun. I feel like the shadows could make it more challenging. I don't really want to walk in the dark.

THOMAS

Follow the sun? We're in the spring, it doesn't have to be that, I think the shadows is the right direction.

HENRY

Thomas, Grace didn't ask you.

THOMAS

She didn't ask you either, Henry.

They both look at Grace who looks distraught.

HENRY

You just need to choose one, Grace.

GRACE

But I don't know!

They all look at Violet.

GRACE (CONT'D)

What do you think Violet?

VIOLET

Hmmm... I think this is your realm, and you need to pick.

GRACE

Ughhh! This doesn't make any sense to me!

Grace walks over to a tree and sits down leaning against it's trunk. She closes her eyes.

Henry and Thomas continue to bicker.

Violet walks over to Grace.

VIOLET

Grace?

Grace opens her eyes and looks at Violet.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

You need to pick a path.

GRACE

I don't know, Violet.

VIOLET

Which one feels right?

GRACE

I don't know! Henry's idea seems right to follow the sun. But Thomas maybe right too.

VIOLET

But what do YOU think? Which path do you think is the right one?

GRACE

Violet! Stop asking me! I just don't know!

Violet starts to tear up as the boys stop talking.

VIOLET

(sniffling)

I was only trying to help.

Grace's face softens.

GRACE

I'm sorry, Vie. I know. I just don't know which way to go. The sun or the shadows. I can see the reason for both.

VIOLET

I trust you.

Henry looks at Violet and then to Grace.

HENRY

I trust you too. Pick whichever path you think is best.

THOMAS

This is dumb, we can't do this by ourselves. I think it's time we ask a grown-up to help us.

GRACE

(under her breath)

Yeah, a grown-up... Grown...

(shouts)

Grow! Growth begins in the shadows!

THOMAS

What?

GRACE

Grandpa always said it to me!
Anytime I complained about it being
too dark to see my schoolwork, he'd
say that to me. We need to take the
shadow path.

THOMAS

Are you sure?

GRACE

I know it!

HENRY

What are we waiting for? Let's go!

Before they can move, giggling stops them in their tracks.

VIOLET

Luna?!

They all look around for her. Finally, she appears, but this
time her hair is yellow and her eyes are green.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Luna?

LUNA

(giggling)

Oh hi everyone! I'm so glad you
came back!

VIOLET

You look different...

LUNA

(giggling)

Yes, it's strange, but my hair and
clothes change when I go to a
different realm. It's kinda fun!

THOMAS

And your eyes changed colors too.

LUNA

(giggling)

They did? Neat! What color?

GRACE

Uh, they're green.

LUNA

Oh wonderful, I love the color
green.

(MORE)

LUNA (CONT'D)
 (giggling)
 So which path are you taking?

GRACE
 (swallows)
 Um, this one.

LUNA
 Are you sure?
 (pointing the other way)
 That's the one I would take.

Grace smiles and looks less confident.

GRACE
 I... I guess we could go that way.

THOMAS
 No, you chose, we should go the way
 you said.

Grace looks between Luna who's smiling and Thomas who's
 glaring.

GRACE
 I did really think it was the other
 way...

LUNA
 It's your choice of course. But...

THOMAS
 But nothing. Let's go.

Thomas starts to march down the shadows path.

They look at him and then at Grace and lastly at Luna.

Grace follows Thomas, and the rest follow her. An ever so
 slight darkening of Luna's eyes appears before she skips
 towards them, giggling again.

EXT. THE SPRING REALM

Cutting through the meadow is a small stream with a tiny
 bridge made of wood over it.

GRACE
 Over the bridge, this way! We're
 close, I can feel it!

EXT. THE SPRING REALM

The children are in a row facing a herd of deer, grazing on the grass, paying no mind.

THOMAS
So? Which one is it?

Grace is scouring the herd, looking for something to give her an indication. All the doe look similar, the buck as well. Even the fawns all look the same.

GRACE
I don't know.

Thomas huffs audibly, and Grace drops her head, crying.

GRACE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry! I just, there's nothing.

VIOLET
(looking up at Grace and
whispering)
Ask.

Grace raises her head and Violet gestures to the deer. Grace looks at Henry who shrugs his shoulders.

HENRY
She was right the last time. Just
make sure you know if it's a he or
she you're talking to.

Henry smiles and nudges Violet with his hip.

LUNA
(whispers)
He. But... Maybe he's not here...

Grace takes a step forward. All the deer heads' pop up and stare at her. She swallows hard.

Thomas smirks.

GRACE
(softly)
Um, Mr. Deer?

Violet pushes her forward and Grace stumbles slightly before standing tall.

Luna huffs and they all look at her.

LUNA
 (whispers)
 Sorry. Raleigh. His name is
 Raleigh.

GRACE
 (more confidently)
 Mr. Raleigh?

All the deer heads drop except one.

Grace looks back at the others, smiling. They all smile back, except Thomas, who looks annoyed.

Grace looks back to the Raleigh and clears her throat.

GRACE (CONT'D)
 Hi, hello. Um, we're looking for
 the tree that contains the Fragment
 of Balance for Spring. Can you show
 us that tree?

Raleigh doesn't move. Grace looks back at the others, disappointed. Thomas looks satisfied.

Then his tail flicks up, bright white and starts to wave.

Violet smiles and points at it.

VIOLET
 Look!

Grace whips around just as the Stag starts to hurry off and the rest of the herd follows, bouncing along. Luna giggles.

GRACE
 Let's go!

They all start running off, chasing the deer and laughing to themselves, giddy with excitement.

Even Thomas.

EXT. THE SPRING REALM

The herd surrounds a large willow tree, much like the one at the cliff and in the meadow, however it is a fantastic, bright yellow.

Raleigh walks to the tree, parting the herd, and then stands majestically in front of it, staring out at them.

Grace walks up slowly and the others follow.

Violet gently places a hand on the deer closest to her.

GRACE

It's there!

Grace rushes to the door that resembles the portal. She pulls out her key and inserts it. She turns the lock and slowly opens the door.

EXT. THE SPRING REALM

The children are sitting solemnly on the ground, Thomas is eating, Henry and Grace are staring out, and Violet is petting a small fawn lying next to her.

THOMAS

(mouth full)

I knew this was stupid.

No one responds.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

(swallowing)

Again, we walk all this way for nothing. There's nothing here!

VIOLET

(calmly)

We found both the willow trees with the doors, so there must be something. We'll find it. Right Henry?

HENRY

(awoken from a daze)

I don't know, Violet.

VIOLET

We will.

LUNA

Maybe it's just for fun! I'm glad you're hear with me.

They're all quiet for a moment until a cracking noise breaks the silence. Henry jumps up and the tails on all of the deer become alert.

Another cracking sound.

HENRY

Who's there?!

At the booming sound of his voice, all the deer run.

Another crack.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 Don't come any further!
 (whispering)
 Guys, come here, behind me.

Grace, Violet, and Thomas scurry up and stand behind Henry who's looking out wildly.

Another crack.

Then another.

Then another.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 I said stay back!

Henry takes a step forward.

Another cracking sound.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 Stay back! I mean it!

ELIZABETH
 (meekly)
 Henry? Is that...

ELIZABETH appears. She has long auburn hair looking very much like Grace, only older.

HENRY
 (almost inaudibly)
 Mom?

Elizabeth starts to cry and runs for her children. She first gives Henry and Grace a big hug as they all tear up.

Thomas and Violet stare at the three of them.

Elizabeth steps back and stares at the two. She takes a breath in and covers her mouth, tears coming down.

ELIZABETH
 Thomas... And Violet... Look how
 much you've grown.

VIOLET
 (hesitantly)
 Mama?

Elizabeth starts to nod as the little girls runs to her and they embrace, Elizabeth picking Violet up off her feet.

Thomas isn't sure about any of this.

THOMAS

What are you even doing here?

GRACE

Thomas!

THOMAS

What??

Elizabeth puts Violet down and walks toward Thomas, who remains stoic. She takes his hands gently into hers and kneels so as to be eye to eye with him.

ELIZABETH

It's okay, Thomas. I understand. I came here... For the same reason you did. Your grandpa sent me.

THOMAS

There aren't any... Fragments.

Thomas pulls his hands away.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

So why are you still here?

Elizabeth looks at him, and then at the others. She pulls the bag she has across her shoulders to the front.

As she opens it, Grace and Henry gasp as a light emits in an icy blue and soft pink.

Elizabeth pulls two shapes emitting a bright light from the bag and holds them out.

GRACE

They're... Real!

Luna steps forward and Elizabeth recoils.

ELIZABETH

What are you doing here??

LUNA

(giggling)

Me? Just playing, with my new friends.

ELIZABETH

No! These are my children. Leave them alone!

GRACE

Mom? What's wrong?

ELIZABETH

She may look innocent. But she's not. Stay away from her.

LUNA

(giggle)

Oh Elizabeth, that's not nice. We're just friends. But I'll let you have your moment.

(giggling)

Bye friends! See you later!

Luna skips off through the woods and the children all look at Elizabeth, confused.

HENRY

What was that about?

ELIZABETH

Nothing, just, stay away from her. She's... Nevermind. Just stay away.

They all tentatively nod.

Breaking the moment, Grace walks to the glowing object in Elizabeth's hand and smiles brightly.

Thomas and Violet look around confused.

VIOLET

Grace, what is it?

GRACE

The Fragment, Violet, you don't see it?

HENRY

It's blue...

GRACE

It's pink...

Violet shakes her head. Thomas looks annoyed.

GRACE

No, it's pink.

HENRY

It's definitely blue, and it's in her other hand.

THOMAS

It's nothing. You guys are making this up.

The three start bickering with one another, until Violet finally walks up to Elizabeth.

VIOLET

Mama? What are they talking about?

Everyone looks to Violet and Elizabeth.

THOMAS

Nothing, Violet, they're just making it up so we think it's real.

VIOLET

Is that true? Or are they real?

ELIZABETH

Yes, baby, they're real. I'm holding them... One is blue, from the Winter Realm, and one is pink from the Spring Realm. Grace, Henry, do you have your keys?

They nod.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Will you take them out?

Henry pulls his bag forward and Grace follows. They pull out their keys and hold them up.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Will you switch with one another?

They look at each other and hesitantly listen. The moment they exchange, Grace takes a breath in, covering her mouth.

GRACE

It's... How did that happen?

VIOLET

What is it?

Grace walks to Violet, hands her the key and Violet screams.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

It's real! It's really real!

THOMAS

You all are full of it. This is all stupid. I'm done with this game.

Henry walks to Thomas and forces the key in his hand. He stares at the pink fragment. Starts to speak and then slumps to the ground.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
 (almost to himself)
 It really is real...

EXT. THE SPRING REALM - PORTAL

Elizabeth and the children are staring at the portal door.

HENRY
 So you need the key to get in and
 to get out?

ELIZABETH
 Seems that way, at least that's why
 I don't think I can get out.

THOMAS
 What happened to yours?

ELIZABETH
 After I found the tree and got the
 fragment, I was walking back and
 then this giant cloud...

GRACE
 The crickets?

ELIZABETH
 Oh my goodness, yes! The crickets!
 Somewhere in the field I lost the
 key. And I searched for weeks,
 months, but never found it.

Henry hands his key to his mother. She looks at the key and then opens the door and walks through.

Henry tries to walk through the open door and walks into it like walking into a sheet of glass, stopping him abruptly.

HENRY
 Ow! I guess I could have done that
 a little less confidently.

Elizabeth walks back in.

ELIZABETH
 Any luck?

They all shake their heads and she sags.

HENRY

What if we hold hands?

Elizabeth reaches out her hand and Henry takes it. They smile at each other and start for the door. Henry is cautious, but his confidence comes from his mother.

Elizabeth slams against the invisible force-field as Henry gently collides with it.

They all snicker as Elizabeth grabs her nose.

ELIZABETH

Ow! I guess I was a little too confident.

HENRY

Yeah, I just learned that the hard way, too.

VIOLET

Mommy, what are we going to do?

Elizabeth kneels down to Violet and takes her hands.

ELIZABETH

Don't worry bug, we'll figure it out. But now, you need to get home before your dad starts to worry.

Elizabeth hands Henry the key. He looks down at it and shakes his head.

HENRY

You go, I'll stay here for the night.

ELIZABETH

No, absolutely not.

VIOLET

Don't you miss Daddy?

ELIZABETH

I do. But it's been a long time, and I can wait a few days longer.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

The children rush into the door.

THOMAS

Dad! Dad!

VIOLET

Daddy! Dad! Dad!

Jonathan comes running down the stairs in a hurry.

JONATHAN
What's going on? Is everyone okay?

VIOLET
Yes Daddy! We're okay and we have
the most amazing news to tell you!

Jonathan looks at her in anticipation.

THOMAS
Mom's alive! We found her! We were
in the Ancient...

Jonathan looks at Thomas, the words registering slowly.

Finally he understands and furrows his brow.

JONATHAN
Stop. Go clean up for dinner.

VIOLET
But Daddy, its true!

JONATHAN
I said enough! These stories, I'm
tired of them! Your grandfather,
and now all of you! I'm done with
the Ancient Forest, and I'm done
with all these games!

The children cower.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
(calmly)
Go clean up for dinner.

The children march out of the room, completely deflated.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - LATER

Jonathan and his children are at the table, eating silently.

GRACE
Dad? May I be excused?

Jonathan nods and Grace stands.

THOMAS
And me?

Jonathan doesn't respond, but Thomas slowly gets up and
walks away without rebuke.

VIOLET

Daddy?

Jonathan looks at Violet, Henry looks at Jonathan, and Violet looks at Henry.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Daddy?

JONATHAN

Yes, Violet?

VIOLET

How did you and Mommy meet?

He furrows his brow. A slight smile crosses Jonathan's face.

JONATHAN

You don't know?

VIOLET

I do, I just like to hear the story. Can you tell it again?

Grace and Thomas hesitate as they walk back into the room.

JONATHAN

Sure.

Grace and Thomas sit back down at the table and all four of them stare at Jonathan.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

I was in the Ancient Forest...

VIOLET

No, from the beginning!

JONATHAN

(smiling)

Okay, okay... 15, nearly 20 years ago...

EXT. TOWN HALL

A grouping of people are gathered in front of a town hall building where TIMOTHY, the town mayor is standing next to a much younger Jonathan and Grandpa Joseph.

TIMOTHY

I am so please to announce the winners of the woodworking competition, Arthur Joseph and his son Jonathan!

The crowd applauds.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)

The result of this contest has awarded Arthur and Jonathan the contract for a new Town Assembly meeting table for our meeting room here at the Town Hall. Based on what they've created for this contest, I expect nothing less than the most beautiful table most of us have ever seen!

More applause.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST

Young Jonathan is walking through the forest, a large pack with tools appended to it, including a large ax and saw.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

So after Grandpa and I won the competition, he sent me into the Ancient Forest to find a tree to cut down to build the table.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST

Young Jonathan approaches a meadow with a large oak tree in the middle. He walks to it and gently touches it's trunk.

Content with the choice, he takes his pack off and puts it on the ground nearby, removing the ax at the same time.

He walks back to the tree and swings the ax back, ready to begin when a voice shouts out.

ELIZABETH

No! Don't!

Jonathan looks around until finally he sees Elizabeth, just at the edge of the meadow. She looks identical to Grace.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

What are you doing?!

Elizabeth puts herself between the tree and Jonathan.

JONATHAN

(confused)

What does it look like I'm doing, I'm about to cut down this tree.

ELIZABETH

Why?? Why would you do that?

JONATHAN

(proudly)

My father and I have been
commissioned by the town to build a
new meeting table.

ELIZABETH

(disappointed)

And you think you need to cut this
tree down for that? Shame on you.
This tree contains the spirit of
this forest.

JONATHAN

(puzzled)

This tree?

ELIZABETH

All trees do, but this one in
particular is filled with the
essence of the seasons. Taking this
tree down could change the seasons
as we know them.

Jonathan smiles at her.

JONATHAN

This tree right here? Okay, fine
then. What tree can I take down?

ELIZABETH

None of them! Nature has
boundaries, and you're breaking
them!

Jonathan takes Elizabeth in. As if on queue her auburn hair
starts to blow gently in the wind and a ray of sunlight
breaks from the clouds giving her a golden hue.

Jonathan starts to blush.

JONATHAN

Eh hem, okay, so no cutting down
trees? What, then, do you think I
should use to make the table.

Elizabeth considers his question and the perks up.

ELIZABETH

I know, follow me!

Elizabeth runs, startling Jonathan. He quickly gets his pack and the ax and shouts to her.

JONATHAN

Hold on! Wait! Where are you going?

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

All four children are sitting on the floor now, and all four are staring at their father, who's smiling nostalgically - sitting in his chair.

GRACE

Was she really as beautiful as you say, Dad?

Jonathan looks at Grace and continues to smile.

JONATHAN

Grace, she looked just as beautiful as you do today.

Grace blushes and Violet furrows her brow.

VIOLET

That's not the end... What happened after?

THOMAS

You know, Violet, Mom took Dad to the fallen oak tree. He made the table from that. And our table too.

Thomas points to the table and they all look automatically.

JONATHAN

That's right Thomas.

VIOLET

Is the tree still there?

JONATHAN

What tree?

VIOLET

The big oak tree that Mommy stopped you from chopping down.

Jonathan's face drops.

JONATHAN

Why are you asking?

VIOLET

Is it?

Jonathan pauses for a moment.

JONATHAN

No. It's not.

VIOLET

(visually upset)

What happened to it?!

JONATHAN

Well, a few years later, I took it down.

THOMAS

You did? Why?

JONATHAN

Well, it was a very very long, and very very straight tree. And it gave us a lot of boards.

VIOLET

(curtly)

Boards for what, Daddy? More Furniture?

JONATHAN

Well, some, but actually, a lot of them are in this home.

The children look around the room.

GRACE

In this house? You built our house out of the tree?

JONATHAN

I did. And most of the carvings in this room are from that tree. Some of your toys.

Violet looks down at the toys her and Thomas were playing with not long before and tears up.

VIOLET

(crying)

Our toys are from the tree?! How could you??

JONATHAN

Violet, please, it was a long time ago, and what would you have me do, not have a home? I think it's time for bed.

THOMAS

What? Why? I don't care if our toys are from some stupid tree.

JONATHAN

All of you up to bed!

They wince at his loud voice.

VIOLET

Fine!

Violet starts towards the stairs.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Daddy, are you gonna come with us to see Mommy?

Jonathan looks at Henry who immediately looks down. He begins to speak, stops, and then stands.

JONATHAN

I don't want to hear any more mentions of your mother. She left us. That's the end of it! It's time for bed. Henry, I'll be out back, but everyone better be asleep by the time I come back in.

Jonathan walks out.

VIOLET

Henry?

HENRY

Yeah, Violet?

VIOLET

Why doesn't he believe us?

HENRY

Give it time, Vie.

Violet wipes a tear away from her face.

EXT. THE SPRING REALM

Violet runs up to Elizabeth with a big smile on her face.

VIOLET
Mommy, did you miss me?!

Elizabeth picks her up and twirls her around.

ELIZABETH
Of course I did, bug!

VIOLET
Why do you keep calling me bug?

Elizabeth slowly puts her down and looks at her and then the others. Grace looks away, and Henry shrugs.

ELIZABETH
I... always called you bug... We
all did.

THOMAS
We don't call her that, now.

ELIZABETH
(sadly)
Oh...

Henry walks up to Violet and puts his hand on her shoulder.

HENRY
No one really remembers a lot, you
know, before you left.

ELIZABETH
Of course.

GRACE
But we talked about you... All the
time. Mostly when Dad wasn't
around.

ELIZABETH
Why not when your father is around?

GRACE
He gets angry.

ELIZABETH
Angry?

GRACE
Yeah... well he just yells, and he
doesn't usually yell, so we just
stopped, when he's around...

ELIZABETH
I'm sorry he yelled at you.

HENRY
He thought you left.

ELIZABETH
Left? On purpose? I could never.
(smiling broadly)
I love you all so very much, and
missed you every minute of every
day.

Elizabeth wipes a tear away. Grace mirrors her.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
(putting on a face)
Anyway, I was thinking that maybe
the way to fix this is to finish
it.

GRACE
Finish it?

THOMAS
She means get the other
Fragments...

GRACE
I wasn't asking you!

ELIZABETH
(calmly)
Grace, I am talking about getting
the other Fragments. We have Winter
and Spring, and if the four of you
get the other Fragments from Summer
and Autumn, then maybe the portals
will open.

VIOLET
And you can come home???

ELIZABETH
And then I can come home.

GRACE
Okay, so then we need to go to the
Summer Realm.

Elizabeth pulls out the Fragments and hands the blue one to Henry and the pink one to Grace. They both stare at them.

THOMAS
If you're done staring at your
hands, maybe we can go?

Grace and Henry sheepishly put the fragments in their packs.

EXT. THE SUMMER REALM

Thomas opens the portal door revealing the barren version of the meadow, filled with cactus, an empty wash, and a giant desert willow.

Thomas walks in and the rest follow.

THOMAS
It's so....

VIOLET
Hot!

They begin to discard their heavier shirts and place them in their packs. They look at Thomas, who's mind has wondered.

THOMAS
(coming too)
What?

GRACE
We're waiting on you...

HENRY
Your realm, your plan. Think about
where we should go.

Thomas looks around, takes a breath, and points.

THOMAS
We need to find the palm trees.
Let's follow the wash.

GRACE
Are you sure?

THOMAS
Yes I'm sure!

Thomas marches defiantly in the direction he just pointed.

EXT. THE SUMMER REALM - LATER

Thomas is ahead of the group and approaches a sign in front of a large canyon.

The others circle around Thomas and the sign.

"Echo Canyon"

THOMAS

I think we have to cross it.

They all look at Thomas and nod and he begins to walk.

EXT. THE SUMMER REALM - MOMENTS LATER

The four children are climbing down the side of the canyon cautiously. Thomas turns to them.

THOMAS

We need to go faster!

Thomas's words echo so loudly they all cover their ears.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

What is that?

It echoes again, just as loudly.

GRACE

(whispers)

I guess I know why they call it
echo canyon.

Grace's voice echoes, slightly less loudly.

HENRY

(whispering)

Thomas, I don't think we can talk
until we get to the other side.

Henry's echo booms even though he's whispering.

Thomas huffs and continues to walk.

EXT. THE SUMMER REALM - ECHO CANYON

The children are walking through the canyon floor, silently.
Thomas is trying to look confident.

But he's lost.

Violet nudges Henry.

Henry catches up to Thomas and taps him on the shoulder.

Thomas pauses, knowing what's coming.

HENRY

(whispers)

Break?

Henry's voice echoes loudly, breaking the silence.

THOMAS
I know where I'm going!

They jump at the sound, covering their ears.

GRACE
You don't!

Grace's voice echoes even louder.

THOMAS
(mouths)
Yes I do!

VIOLET
(as quiet as possible)
Thomas?

It echoes like a whisper. Finally, he turns to the group.
Giggling echoes through the canyon and they look for Luna.

HENRY
(whispering)
Luna?

Luna's name echoes along with her giggles. After a moment she appears from beyond a group of boulders.

She walks up to them and waves.

Violet smiles brightly, the others hesitant.

VIOLET
Your hair!

Her voice echoes loudly and they all wince.

LUNA
(whispering)
Yeah, it's red. Here. In Summer.

GRACE
(whispers to Henry)
Mama said we should stay away from her.

Her voice echoes loudly and everyone can hear.

LUNA
(quietly)
You should listen to your mother.
(MORE)

LUNA (CONT'D)
 (giggling softly)
 Where are you going?

They all look at Thomas.

Thomas gestures "what?".

Violet looks at him sternly.

Thomas gestures again.

Violet continues to stare at him.

After a moment, Thomas grumbles.

THOMAS
 (mouths)
 This is stupid.

Violet smirks.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
 Ughhh!

They all wait for him and he doesn't move.

VIOLET
 (whispers)
 Thomas...

Her voice echoes. Thomas huffs loudly.

He looks up and sees nothing in the sky.

THOMAS
 Firebird?

His voice reverberates. He waits. Nothing.

VIOLET
 (whispers)
 Luna, do you know it's name?

Luna considers her and finally answers.

LUNA
 (whispers)
 Ember.

THOMAS
 Ember?

They all hold their ears again.

Luna giggles and shakes her head "yes".

Thomas hesitates.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Ember? Where do we need to go?

The echoes boom. But there's nothing.

Thomas gives Violet a dirty look.

Thomas marches over and sits down on a rock.

Nothing.

LUNA
(whispers)
I guess she isn't here. I know
somewhere fun we can go!

A screeching pierces the sky and a large, emblazoned bird streaks across the sky.

Violet points up wildly.

Thomas stands excitedly.

VIOLET
(whispers)
Ask.

THOMAS
Ember! Take us to the Fragment!

Thomas's voice booms and they all hold their ears again.

Ember swoops around, just above their heads. It's giant fiery wings pushing the air as it hovers, measuring them.

She screams again and takes off.

Thomas starts to run.

They all start following, smiling.

EXT. THE SUMMER REALM

Ember is perched high above in the giant desert willow.

Thomas is sitting on a rock, holding the Summer Fragment, it emits light like the others, but glows like a campfire, all yellows, oranges, and reds.

His smile is wide and bright, unusual for him.

HENRY

Thomas, can you put the Fragment in your bag and get us back to the portal?

THOMAS

Isn't it amazing?

GRACE

We can't see it.

THOMAS

I was asking Henry.

GRACE

He can't see...

HENRY

(interrupting)

I can't see it either, Thomas. I can just see you staring at your hands.

THOMAS

Oh.

LUNA

I can see it. It's beautiful. Can I hold it?

Thomas considers her, but puts the fragment into his pack, cautiously. He looks at Ember and gestures with his head to go. She's stoic, but after a moment she takes off.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST - PORTALS

The children all stare at the fourth door.

HENRY

Okay Vie. Your turn.

Violet walks to the door and puts in the key, turns, and opens the giant door.

EXT. THE AUTUMN REALM

The door opens to the meadow, vibrant with fall colors.

Violet gasps.

HENRY (O.C.)

What is it?!

VIOLET
It's just so beautiful. The colors.

The others file in beside her, taking in the landscape.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Owl?? Are you here?

HENRY
(smirking)
Not wasting any time, huh?

They all look around patiently, but nothing appears.

VIOLET
Owl?? Are you here?

Still nothing.

Violet turns to Henry, tears building in her eyes.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Why isn't he coming?

Henry is hesitant.

HENRY
Umm... I...

THOMAS
(interrupts)
They're nocturnal.

GRACE
Nocturnal?

THOMAS
Yes. Owls. They're nocturnal. You
won't see one in the daytime.

VIOLET
Is that true, Henry?

Henry nods.

HENRY
It sure is. Good thinking Thomas.

Thomas makes a face at Grace who returns the gesture.

VIOLET
So we need to wait?

HENRY

No, I think it's better if we come back later tonight. We don't even have any flashlights.

EXT. THE AUTUMN REALM - NIGHT

The children are at the meadow, but now, it's all shadows and moonlight.

VIOLET

(whispering)

Mr. Owl? Are you here?

HENRY

(leans in)

I don't think you need to whisper.

VIOLET

Oh, sorry.

(shouting)

Mr. Owl?!

THOMAS

You don't need to yell either.

Violet smiles, embarrassed.

VIOLET

Mr. Owl? Can you take us to the Fragment?

Nothing.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Henry? What's wrong?

HENRY

I don't know Vie.

GRACE

Ummm... I think...

VIOLET

What is it?

GRACE

Aren't most owls are solitary.

VIOLET

Solitary? What's the mean?

GRACE

They live alone. I think...

THOMAS
Just say it.

GRACE
I am!
(takes a breath)
Violet, I think you need to go...
By yourself.

VIOLET
By myself???

She looks from Grace to Henry and then Thomas. They all have the same sad look on their faces.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
But I can't.

THOMAS
You believed in us the whole time.
Now it's your turn to believe in
yourself. You can do it Violet.

Grace looks at Thomas proudly.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Or the whole world will go to
ruin...

GRACE
Thomas!

THOMAS
What? It's true.

Violet takes a deep breath and looks out into the darkness. Then she looks at her siblings, and finally she agrees.

VIOLET
What do I do when the owl comes?

GRACE
Just follow. Trust the Spirit like
Grandpa said.

Violet nods and takes a deep breath.

HENRY
Okay, Vie. We'll just be on the
other side of the portal. You can
do it.

VIOLET
I can?

GRACE

You can.

The siblings walk out of the portal back to the ancient forest, leaving Violet alone in the autumn meadow.

VIOLET

Wait!

Violet opens the portal door and peers out to the others.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

I think... I need your fragments.
And, maybe your keys?

They look at each other puzzled.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

The door in the tree won't unlock
without all the fragments.

THOMAS

Are you sure?

VIOLET

Yes. Grandpa said "Each season
relies on the others". Remember?

THOMAS

No, not really.

Henry looks at Violet and then the others. He cautiously takes his key and fragment and hands them over to her.

Violet immediately puts them in her pack.

Grace follows.

They all look at Thomas who shakes his head.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I don't want to.

GRACE

Thomas, you have to!

THOMAS

No!

Henry places his hand on Thomas' shoulder.

HENRY

We all have to trust her. It's the
only way to get mom back home.

Thomas stares at his fragment.

Grace begins to speak and then stops herself when Thomas holds out his fragment and key to Violet.

VIOLET
(gently)
Thanks, Thomas.

THOMAS
Yeah, whatever.

Violet puts them in her pack with the others.

VIOLET
It's so heavy now!

HENRY
Well you'd better hurry, then,
before you get too tired.

Violet nods. She takes a deep breath and shuts the door. F

For the first time, she's alone.

She turns away from the door and towards the darkness and clicks on her flashlight.

VIOLET
(almost inaudibly)
Mr. Owl?

Violet hears the familiar giggling.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Luna??

Luna appears next to her. Violet shines her light on Luna and sees her hair and eyes are dark brown.

LUNA
(giggling)
Hi Violet! Where are the others?

VIOLET
We think I have to do this myself.

LUNA
Oh...

VIOLET
Maybe you can stay with me though,
since you're already here.

LUNA
(giggling)
Okay!

VIOLET
What's the owl's name?

LUNA
Veda.

VIOLET
Veda! Are you there?

Nothing.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Veda?

Still nothing.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Veeeedaaaaa!

No sound but a gentle breeze blowing through the leaves.

Violet looks at Luna.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Maybe...

LUNA
(giggling)
Maybe what?

VIOLET
Maybe they're right, and I really
do have to do this alone.

LUNA
(frowns)
Oh. Of course.

VIOLET
But I can call for you when I'm
back!

LUNA
(giggling)
Promise?

VIOLET
Of course!

LUNA
Okay, see you soon then! Tell Veda
I said hello!

VIOLET
I will.

Luna skips off, giggling.

Violet clears her throat.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Veda? Can you show me the Fragment?
Please?

Before she can see it, she hears the swooshing of giant wings, flapping around her.

She looks around for the owl, but it's too dark to see.

Shining against the moonlight, Veda appears, staring down.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
You're here! You're here!

Veda takes off and Violet starts to follow him.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Hey! Slow down, it's really dark!

EXT. THE AUTUMN REALM

The Willow tree is surrounded by a deep, dense forest, at the top of a hill, with a long rolling field in front of it.

The moon casts light everywhere except the treeline.

The owl can't be seen in the dense willow tree, but he hoots as Violet holds her fragment - glowing a deep autumn yellow.

VIOLET
So what do I do now?

The owl hoots again.

EXT. THE AUTUMN REALM

Violet approaches the portal and sees Luna standing there in front of the door.

VIOLET
Luna! I did it!

LUNA
(giggling)
You did? You got the Autumn
Fragment?

VIOLET
I did!

LUNA
(giggling)
That's so wonderful. Now you just
need to tell the others, and get
all the fragments together!

VIOLET
I have them.

LUNA
(voice darker)
You... Have them? All of them? With
you?

VIOLET
Yes! I didn't think I could get the
last one without having them all.

LUNA
I see. Can I see them?

Violet considers Luna and then hesitates.

VIOLET
Um, yeah, but I think I want to
show the others first, so I'm going
to go, and then I'll come right
back, okay?

LUNA
(giggling)
Aw, I just want to see! It'll be
quick, I promise!

VIOLET
(hesitantly)
Please, I want to show my brothers
and sister first. Can you move,
please?

Luna doesn't move.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Luna, please. You're blocking the
door.

Luna starts to giggle and the giggle turns to a sinister laugh. A cloud appears around her as she transforms from a little girl into a tall, emaciated woman with long black hair and deadly eyes.

Violet gasps.

LUNA
Give them to me! Now!

VIOLET
No! Who are you, Luna?! You're
the... the... the season witch!

Luna shrieks with laughter.

LUNA
Season witch?! You fool! You really
think you could just take the
fragments for yourself?! I am a
true Keeper of the Realms. And now,
I can keep them protected forever!

Violet screams as Luna rips the bag from her. She opens the portal door and pushes her out!

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST

The Autumn portal opens swiftly and Violet rushes out, crying hysterically.

The siblings jump up and rush over to her.

VIOLET
She took them! All of them!!

HENRY
Who?!

VIOLET
Luna! She's... She's not a little
girl, she's a witch, like Grandpa
said! She called herself a Keeper,
but now she has them all!

GRACE
What is she going to do with them?!

A wind gusts suddenly, sending shivers through the children.

They look up to see dark clouds rushing in overhead. Moments later snow begins to fall and the winds begin to howl.

GRACE (CONT'D)
 (looking up)
 What's going on?, Henry?

HENRY
 I don't know, but I think it has
 something to do with Luna and the
 Fragments. We have to go!

GRACE
 Go where?

HENRY
 Home!

The thunder roars.

VIOLET
 (over the wind)
 Henry?

HENRY
 (over the wind)
 Yeah Violet?

VIOLET
 (over the wind)
 What's going to happen?!

Henry looks at Grace and then at the two younger ones.

HENRY
 (over the wind)
 I don't know, but it isn't good.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

The children chaotically file in from outside, stopping abruptly when they see Jonathan sitting in a chair, a dim light barely showing his face.

GRACE
 Dad! Dad!

JONATHAN
 Where have you all been in the
 middle of the night!

HENRY
 Dad, we were...

THOMAS
 We got the Fragments!

VIOLET

All four of them! Mom had the first two and then we got the other two! But now Luna has them and we're scared of what's going to happen!

Thunder claps, shaking the house and Jonathan gets up from his chair and goes to the window.

HENRY

It's a winter storm... But it gusts like an autumn storm.

THOMAS

We think it's Luna!

Jonathan looks at Henry and Grace and then shakes his head.

JONATHAN

Okay, this was a fun game when you were taking walks and picnics in the woods, but now - sneaking out at night. This has gone too far. Give me those keys to start. And the letters. And no more of this Fragments business.

THOMAS

We don't have them anymore! Luna took them!

JONATHAN

Thomas, just give them to me and go back to bed! Who knows what this storm is going to do, we need to get some rest in case...

VIOLET

In case Luna makes it worse???

JONATHAN

(loudly)

I said ENOUGH! They're stories!
It's not real! This storm is real.
Now go to bed and not another word!

They all jump and the little ones start to stifle cries.

They all look to Henry who nods and they start to walk toward the stairs, sulking.

Once far enough up the stairs that Jonathan can't hear, Violet whispers.

VIOLET
(quietly)
What are we gonna do now?

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

Violet comes down the stairs to see Henry, Grace, and Thomas, sitting at the table eating, but mostly staring at their breakfast. All solemn and defeated.

VIOLET
Where's Dad?

GRACE
Gone for the day.

Violet slumps.

VIOLET
I'm scared, what is Luna going to do with the Fragments?

HENRY
I don't know.

Thunder shakes the house.

HENRY (CONT'D)
But we need to figure something out.

VIOLET
Is it storming again?

HENRY
No, it's just... I don't know, but it's not storming.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST - PORTALS

The four children are standing at the willow tree. Above, the clouds are moving and shifting wildly.

THOMAS
There's nothing here... No doors, keyholes, nothing.

GRACE
We can all see that, Thomas.

HENRY
Not helpful.

VIOLET
Henry?

HENRY
Yeah?

VIOLET
What about Mom?

Henry looks from the tree to her.

HENRY
What about her?

VIOLET
Is she okay? Maybe she knows something. Luna isn't going to hurt her?!

HENRY
I don't know, Violet...

THOMAS
But how are we gonna get to her without our keys?

HENRY
I... Don't...

Henry trails off, frustrated with himself.

GRACE
(mostly to herself)
How did she get her key?

HENRY
What?

Grace looks up.

GRACE
Nothing, I just...

THOMAS
You just what?

GRACE
I just... She had her own key. And we had our keys.

THOMAS
Yeah? And?

GRACE

Maybe there are more keys?

They all think on it for a moment.

Breaking the silence, Henry points up.

HENRY

Quick! Let's go, a summer monsoon
is coming!

They all look up and see the dark clouds rolling in and staying there. Big fat raindrops start to fall and the children run.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

The children file in, drenched from the rain.

VIOLET

I'm cold! That didn't feel like a
summer monsoon, that felt like a
winter storm.

GRACE

Come on, let's go get changed.

They start for the stairs when the door opens abruptly and Jonathan rushes in, soaking wet.

JONATHAN

Henry, get your galoshes, we need
to brace the channel walls.

Henry looks at him.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Now!

Henry grabs his boots and puts them on. Jonathan walks out and Henry follows.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - LATER

The door opens, a cold breeze blows leaves into the house as Jonathan carries a limp Henry through.

JONATHAN

Grace, fire, quickly.

Jonathan moves a chair in front of the fireplace and sets Henry into it.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Grace! Now!

Grace hurries and gets the fire ablaze.

GRACE
(worried)
Is Henry okay? What happened?

JONATHAN
(sternly)
He's going to be fine.

Violet walks up to Grace and holds onto her arm as the both stare at Henry's unmoving body.

VIOLET
(crying)
Daddy, are you sure?

JONATHAN
Yes, of course. Of course I'm sure.
He'll be fine. He's fine.
Everything's fine.

Thomas walks to the girls.

THOMAS
What happened to him, Dad?

Henry shivers slightly, but otherwise doesn't move.

Jonathan puts a heavy blanket on top of him.

JONATHAN
He fell, in the water.

Grace gasps.

GRACE
It had to be freezing, that rain
was so cold.

JONATHAN
It was.

THOMAS
Why is a winter storm coming in,
Dad? It's June.

Jonathan hesitates.

JONATHAN

I don't know, Thomas. The seasonal storms have been erratic recently. It's like something's changed. Something... dangerous.

They all look to one another. Violet starts to say something and the others shake her off.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

A fire is going in the fireplace and all but Henry are sitting at the table eating dinner.

GRACE

Should I take Henry something to eat?

JONATHAN

He's still sleeping. Let him.

Grace nods and continues to eat.

VIOLET

Daddy?

Jonathan looks at Violet.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Daddy? Is Henry okay?

JONATHAN

He will be.

VIOLET

I wish Mama was here.

Jonathan ignores the comment. Takes a last bite and stands.

JONATHAN

Thomas, it's your turn to clear the table tonight.

THOMAS

(mouthful)

I did it yesterday!

JONATHAN

Thomas! Not another word! Clear the table when everyone is finished!

Jonathan gets his coat and walks to the door. He starts to say something but walks out without another word.

THOMAS
Way to go, Violet!

VIOLET
What did I do?

THOMAS
You mentioned Mom!

GRACE
Leave her alone, Thomas. You're
just mad he picked you to clear
dinner.

THOMAS
So?

GRACE
So, just leave Violet alone.

THOMAS
You leave me alone!

HENRY (O.C.)
(hoarsely)
Will you both stop?

They all look at Henry who's gently walking down the stairs.

VIOLET
Henry! Are you okay?

Henry nods and slowly makes his way to the table.

GRACE
Hungry?

Henry nods.

Grace gets a bowl of stew and sets it in front of him.

HENRY
(still hoarse)
Where's dad?

THOMAS
He left when Violet mentioned Mom.

GRACE
That's not true.

THOMAS
Yes it is.

GRACE
Can you just be nice for once?

VIOLET
(tearing up)
It is true.

No one says anything for a moment as Henry takes a hesitant bite of the stew.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Henry?

HENRY
(clearing his throat)
Yeah Vie?

VIOLET
How are we gonna fix this?

HENRY
I still don't know...

THOMAS
I have an idea.

They all look at Thomas, curiously.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - LATER

The children are sitting at the table when Jonathan walks in the door. He looks at them and then down at the present from Grandpa Joseph sitting at his chair.

JONATHAN
What's this all about?

They look to Thomas.

THOMAS
Dad. You need to believe us. The stories are real. We were in the Realms, and we got the Fragments, and an evil witch took them from us and we think that's why the storms are so bad.

Jonathan is getting visibly angry.

GRACE
Please Dad, just listen to him.

Jonathan looks at her and then to Thomas and waits.

THOMAS

We don't know what to do about it,
but we're hoping there's something
in your gift that will help.

Jonathan sighs.

JONATHAN

Get washed up for dinner.

VIOLET

Daddy! Please! This is serious!

JONATHAN

Violet, no! I'm not listening to
anymore of your stories!

They're all stoic. He looks at them one by one. He gets to Henry and stares him down until finally, Henry hangs his head and pushes his chair back.

Thomas and Violet follow Henry's lead, disappointed.

Grace remains in place.

GRACE

No.

They all look at her bewildered by her forwardness.

JONATHAN

Grace, I don't want to hear another
word. Now go, do as you're told.

Grace takes a deep breath.

GRACE

No, Dad. It's true. Thomas is
telling the truth. You need to help
us. I don't... We don't ask you for
anything, and we're asking you to
believe us.

JONATHAN

No. This is all...

Jonathan looks at his daughter who's resolute. After a moment, he backs down.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

You think it's real?

Grace nods.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
 And you think I can help?

Grace nods again.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
 You all think there's something in
 this gift that will fix it?

They all nod in unison.

He considers this and finally walks to the table and sits.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

In front of Jonathan are four woodworking tools.

A small ax, a copper chisel, a knife with a black blade, and
 clump of bronze wool.

Jonathan's holding a letter as the children look between him
 and the tools.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)
 Jonathan, nothing makes me prouder
 than seeing you as a father, except
 maybe for the exquisite craftsman
 and woodworker you've become. These
 tools that I leave to you will
 allow you to create invaluable
 objects that may just save the
 seasons, and our world.

Jonathan picks up the ax.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 The ax is forged from meteoric
 iron. It represents the cold, the
 winter. With it you can chop and
 carve keys that open the Winter
 Realm.

They all look at Henry as Jonathan places the ax down and
 picks up the chisel.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 The chisel is of copper. Copper
 represents new life, new beginning.
 This chisel will allow you to
 create keys to the Spring Realm.

Jonathan puts it down and picks up the knife.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 The knife has a blade of volcanic
 glass. Given to me by the Firebird,
 this will allow you to craft items
 to open the Summer Realm.

Jonathan sets the knife down and looks at the bronze wool.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 And lastly, the Autumn wool made of
 bronze. Representing the turning of
 the seasons, with the wool you can
 shape items and allow entrance into
 the Autumn Realm.

Jonathan stands and puts the letter down.

VIOLET
 That's all it says?

JONATHAN
 No. Children, these are stories.
 These are nice gifts, but none of
 this is has anything to do with the
 storms.

HENRY
 What does the rest of the letter
 say, Dad?

Jonathan walks to the fireplace and Henry grabs the letter.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 I have given a key to each of the
 children that will grant them
 access to one of the realms. If,
 though, on their journey they
 should lose or destroy one of the
 keys by accident, use these tools
 to create new ones. Be warned,
 these tools may not look it, but
 they are powerful, and have the
 ability to create... and destroy.

Henry stops.

THOMAS
 Is that it?

HENRY
 That's it.

THOMAS
 How does it help us?

HENRY
I don't know.

They're all pensive for a moment.

VIOLET
We need to take Dad to see Mama.

They look at Violet, and then back to Jonathan who squirms.

JONATHAN
I've put up with all this for long
enough. I'm tired. I'm going to
bed. Goodnight.

Jonathan goes toward the stairs.

HENRY
She's there.

JONATHAN
(without looking)
Henry, please.

HENRY
What's the harm? What's the harm in
believing us? What's the harm in
searching for Mom?

JONATHAN
The harm? I've wasted years looking
for her! I'm not wasting any more
time, and no portal or fragment or
key will change that!

VIOLET
That's it! You need to make Mommy a
key! Right now!

Jonathan looks at his youngest daughter tenderly.

Violet is resolute.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
I know it, Daddy. I know it's what
you need to do.

Jonathan looks at her and then the others and they all nod
in agreement.

JONATHAN
Violet, I'm too tired for this.

Thunder shakes the house violently. Then rain pounds on the windows, startling everyone.

HENRY

It's not going to end. It's going to get worse. You need to listen to us! What's the worst that can happen?!

A gust of wind forces the window open. Rain comes pouring in and Jonathan rushes over to shut it. After, he looks at the children who are unwavering and sighs.

JONATHAN

Tell me what you want me to do.

They all begin to smile.

VIOLET

You need to carve a key, with the chisel.

JONATHAN

Okay, I'll find a piece of wood tomorrow and carve a key.

VIOLET

(full of herself)

No, now!

(apologetic)

Sorry, Daddy. I mean, can you do it now so we can go first thing in the morning?

JONATHAN

I don't have any wood, Violet.

Violet runs over to the wall and grabs one of the carvings.

VIOLET

Here, use one of these!

Jonathan smiles in spite of himself.

JONATHAN

Okay, okay.

He sits down at the table, picks up the chisel and begins.

As the children watch, Grace gets up and gets more carvings from the wall and sets them down in front of him.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

What's all this for?

GRACE

We all need keys. All of us.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST - PORTALS

The four children and Jonathan are standing at the four doorways, crowded closest to the Spring Realm.

JONATHAN

They really are here.

THOMAS

We told you, Dad.

JONATHAN

You did. So what do we do?

GRACE

Just put the key in the lock and turn. Nothing special.

JONATHAN

A portal to a seasonal realm is nothing special?

GRACE

(sheepishly)

I meant the door.

Jonathan takes out his key and inserts it into the portal to the Spring Realm. He turns the key and the door opens, making him gasp slightly.

EXT. THE SPRING REALM

The door to the realm closes behind them and inside, the meadow is in full bloom.

GRACE

Where do you think Mom is?

JONATHAN

Mom... lives here?

GRACE

Yeah.

JONATHAN

Why didn't she leave like you did?

GRACE

She couldn't. You need the key to open it, and to leave.

JONATHAN
So she had a key?

GRACE
Yes.

JONATHAN
But now she doesn't?

GRACE
Right. She lost it in that field.

JONATHAN
(under his breath)
So she didn't leave. She was...
trapped.

HENRY
There!

Henry points out to a small column of smoke in the distance, and they all start to march toward it.

EXT. THE SPRING REALM - LATER

The five of them approach a small, smoldering campfire and see no one around. They all shout for their mother.

Seeing and hearing no one, Violet slumps down on a log.

VIOLET
Why isn't she here?!

ELIZABETH
Why isn't who here?

Elizabeth approaches with some firewood from behind them and stops in her tracks at the sight of Jonathan.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
(under her breath)
Jonathan.

JONATHAN
(under his breath)
Elizabeth.

Elizabeth drops her firewood and runs towards Jonathan who picks her up and swings her around, laughing, with tears streaming down his cheeks.

ELIZABETH
Jonathan Joseph put me down this
instant! You're making me seasick!

JONATHAN

No! I'm never putting you down
again!

His words are short-lived as he immediately drops her to the ground without letting her go. All the children except for Thomas run to them, embracing each other as a family.

THOMAS

Can we all go home now?

Elizabeth pulls away and looks at Thomas, who turns away.

ELIZABETH

All?

VIOLET

Daddy made you a key!

ELIZABETH

Made me a key? Really?

Jonathan pulls out the key and she gasps.

HENRY

What are we waiting for? Let's go!

The children march forward, following Thomas.

JONATHAN

(whispers to Elizabeth)

Don't worry about Thomas. He'll
warm up, I promise.

Giggling breaks up the party, and the children look around frantically.

LUNA (O.C.)

You came back, friends...

Luna is a little girl again.

VIOLET

Where are they!? Where are the
fragments. Don't trust her, she's a
witch!

LUNA

(giggling)

A witch? That's not nice.

THOMAS

Where are the fragments you witch!
You're ruining our world!

LUNA

(hisses)

I'm ruining your world!?! You stupid child, your parents ruined your world! I'm keeping the seasons here, perfect, just as they should be!

HENRY

Give us the fragments!

LUNA

Never! You'll never get them! Now get away from my realms!

Luna motions with her hands in a swirling gesture and they can hear the crickets before they can see them.

GRACE

Run!

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST - PORTALS

Elizabeth shuts the door behind her as the rest of the children and Jonathan pant and swat at the bugs around them.

ELIZABETH

What do we do now?

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

Elizabeth is walking around the home, touching various items like an adult entering their childhood bedroom as the rest of the family watches her.

ELIZABETH

It's exactly like it was when I left. Oh I never should have left you all, I'm so very sorry.

JONATHAN

It's okay, you're home now.

ELIZABETH

I know... But I just never thought this day would come. I. I cried for what felt like months, and then, I thought it was a nightmare that I'd some day wake up from. But it never happened. Until now.

Elizabeth collapses into her armchair by the fireplace.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how much I missed this chair? Any chair for that matter. What's it been, five years since I sat in a chair?

HENRY

Six.

They all look at Henry abruptly.

HENRY (CONT'D)

It's been six years, and two months, since you left.

ELIZABETH

(distantly)

Right, of course. Six years.

VIOLET

(impatiently)

What do we do about Luna and the fragments??

JONATHAN

I think we all got out of there, and that's enough. We're home now, and safe.

THOMAS

Dad, it's going to get worse. And worse. You need to listen to us!

VIOLET

Mama, do you know what to do?

ELIZABETH

I'm afraid not, Bug. Grandpa Joseph only told me how to get them, not what to do with them when I found them.

VIOLET

Then what are we supposed to do???

Violet cries loudly and Grace and Henry go to console her. They stare at their parents. Elizabeth looks out the window.

ELIZABETH

(under her breath)

I wish my mom was still alive.

THOMAS

Of course she's alive.

ELIZABETH
She is? Where is she?

THOMAS
Uh, her house...

GRACE
She doesn't know what happened when
she was gone, Thomas.

THOMAS
Not my fault.

Elizabeth looks at the two bickering and then to the others
who all shrug their shoulders.

VIOLET
It's their thing.

Jonathan and Henry laugh.

THOMAS
No it's not!

GRACE
No it's not!

VIOLET
See...

Jonathan walks to the Elizabeth, putting his arm around her
and looks out the window.

JONATHAN
Monsoon maybe. Dust storm? Hard to
tell. I don't think we can leave
right now. Besides, I'm sure your
mother would like a nice hot bath
and warm meal here tonight. What do
you say?

ELIZABETH
I say I never thought I'd hear the
words hot and bath together ever
again.

THOMAS
No! We need to go now, or it'll get
worse!

VIOLET
Thomas is right!

They all look at the two younger ones.

HENRY

I don't think one more night will
change things too much.

Thomas and Violet both scowl.

ELIZABETH

No, they're right. We need to fix
this before it gets worse.

Elizabeth looks at Jonathan who relents.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - LATER

Jonathan comes into the door, a sheet of rain coming down
and he shivers at the cold.

A fire is already started and he rushes over to get warm.

HENRY

Another winter storm? It got really
cold so we started the fire.

JONATHAN

(shivering)

No... I don't know. It's an autumn
hurricane, but... cold, freezing
cold. I've never seen anything like
it.

The children look at each other, worry on their faces.

THOMAS

It's Luna and the Fragments! I told
you we were wasting time!

GRACE

We need to get them put back where
they belong!

JONATHAN

(still shivering)

Well there's nothing we can do now
with this storm. We'll have to wait
it out.

VIOLET

We need to see Grandma, now. Thomas
is right, it's just going to get
worse, Daddy!

The rain stops, but the wind starts to blow harder than
before; shaking the house, and then one big gust blows down
through the fireplace extinguishing the fire.

JONATHAN
 (looking down at the
 fire)
 Okay. Let's go, now. Before it's
 too late.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST

The family is bundled up and fighting the wind and the rain as they make their way through the Ancient Forest.

THOMAS
 (shouting over the wind)
 Why did we come this way?! Isn't
 there a better way to go?

VIOLET
 (shouting)
 Daddy! I can't go much more!

They all look back at Violet who is struggling mightily.

Henry picks her up as before.

JONATHAN
 (shouting)
 Come on! Let's rest over here.

They all nestle under a tree with a large canopy that shields them somewhat from the rain.

GRACE
 How much further is it?

ELIZABETH
 Not far, I promise. We're almost
 there. If this rain stops just a
 little bit...

Almost as if on queue, the rain does slow and then stop completely. The wind as well.

VIOLET
 It's stopped!

JONATHAN
 But for how long? We should go,
 take advantage.

They all stand and immediately feel the shift.

The winds are back, but hot, with a thick cloud of dust coating everything that was wet just a moment before.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Be careful, it could get muddy.

Jonathan starts to walk and the others follow, Henry carrying Violet.

EXT. FIELD

The wind is blowing and dust is settling everywhere, Jonathan points out across the field.

JONATHAN
(shouting)
It's just over there! Be careful,
watch your step!

They start lurching forward. The winds pick up and then dies down suddenly, stopping everyone in their tracks.

They look around and then up, only to see big fat snowflakes begin to fall.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Come on!

EXT. GRANDMA MAY'S HOME

The family approaches a tiny little cottage with a small column of smoke coming out from the chimney.

Everything around them is covered in a blanket of snow.

Elizabeth walks to the door, knocks briefly and opens the door.

ELIZABETH
Mom?

As she walks in, May turns and sees her daughter and let's out a sob. They run to each other as the others file in.

May pulls back to look at her daughter.

MAY
I thought you were gone, where have
you been all this time?

VIOLET
She was stuck... in Spring.

May clasps a hand over her mouth.

MAY
(muffled)

No!

She drops her hand.

MAY (CONT'D)
This whole time? Stuck in the
realms?

ELIZABETH
(laughing slightly)
I was. Stuck in an eternal Spring.
Which sounds much nicer than it is.

JONATHAN
You knew about the realms?

MAY
Of course I did. Why do you think
your father entrusted me with the
gifts?

THOMAS
Can you make keys too?

MAY
(laughs)
Oh my goodness no!

VIOLET
Grandma! Luna has the Fragments, we
found them all and then she took
them from me!

ELIZABETH
(gasping)
Luna...

They're all staring at her. She sits down in a chair and her
long hair falls across her shoulder.

GRACE
Grandma... Your hair... It's all
white now.

They all look at Grace and then back at May who's hair no
longer has the auburn strip.

MAY
Yes, well it was eventually going
to go. That's what happens over
time, you lose your powers.

HENRY

Powers?

May nods.

MAY

Sit. I'll tell you everything.

INT. GRANDMA MAY'S HOME - LATER

They're all listening to May intently.

MAY

Luna was one of us, a Keeper.

VIOLET

Luna said that to me, she said she was a true Keeper. What's a Keeper?

MAY

A Season Keeper. Long ago, when the seasons started fading, the Spirits came to a few of us who were trying hard to get people to make the right decisions, for our seasons and our world.

When the Spirits created the Fragments, we were in charge of protecting them.

GRACE

Protecting them how?

MAY

In our hearts, and our actions. Making sure that no one did things to our world to break it.

VIOLET

Like cut down a tree...

They all laugh as Violet gives her father a dirty look.

MAY

Yes, like that.

HENRY

Grandma, what happened to Luna.

MAY

Ah, yes. Well she grew tired and frustrated with the townspeople, and tried to take the seasons away from them by destroying the fragments.

THOMAS

That's how she got locked in the realms?

MAY

Exactly. She couldn't destroy them in there, because she couldn't get to them. They were locked away and she needed a key, which she didn't have.

VIOLET

But she has them! And the keys! What's she going to do?! How do we get them back???

MAY

There is only one way...

INT. ANCIENT FOREST - PORTALS

The children all stand in front of their portals and look at one another before opening the doors. Jonathan and Elizabeth stand next to each other, behind their children.

ELIZABETH

Be careful.

They all walk through the doors, and they close behind them.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST - PORTALS - LATER

Elizabeth and Jonathan are staring at the closed doors.

ELIZABETH

We need to go after them... It's not safe.

JONATHAN

We need to trust them, and trust your mother. Luna can't hurt them.

Finally, the door to the Winter Realm opens and Henry walks out, Tala following him.

Thomas walks out of the Summer Realm with Ember just above his head.

Then Grace with Raleigh and Violet with Veda come out.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST - PORTALS

The Elizabeth, Jonathan and the children are standing in a line facing the portals which are all open.

Tala, Raleigh, Ember, and Veda are out of sight.

THOMAS
Nothing's happening.

VIOLET
Grandma said she would come.

THOMAS
How does she know? We need to go after her.

No one responds. They just wait as Thomas gets visibly frustrated. He huffs and turns to walk away when a faint giggling sound stops him.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Did you hear that?!

GRACE
Of course we heard it.

THOMAS
I was just asking!

ELIZABETH
(softly)
Shhhh.

They all silently stare at the portals.

The giggling grows louder and bounces between the realms.

Luna appears at the door to the Autumn Realm, and then goes between the portals, changing her hair and attire each time.

LUNA
Hi friends! What are you doing here?

HENRY
We've come for the Fragments.

Luna giggles and the giggle transforms into a shrieking laugh as she transforms into the dark woman.

LUNA

And why would I ever give them to you?

GRACE

You wouldn't. We're going to take them.

LUNA

(laughing)

Oh? How do you think you're going to do that?

VIOLET

When you come out here.

LUNA

Out there? Hah, you fools. I can't leave the realms.

VIOLET

Yes you can.

Luna looks at her, puzzled. And then smiles.

LUNA

Okay, girl, how is it that you think I can.

VIOLET

I know you can... Because you have all 4 fragments, it opens the portals to everyone.

Luna thinks about what she's just said.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Our Grandma May is a keeper, she told us!

LUNA

May???

(smiling broadly)

May is your grandmother? But of course she is. Just as naive as you are isn't she?

Luna paces, jumping from portal to portal.

LUNA (CONT'D)

Yes, this must be true, I can finally break out of here with the Fragments, and finish this once and for all!

Luna disappears.

They all look at each other confused and deflated. Then the giggling gets their attention again. Finally, Luna appears in the Spring Realm, holding Violet's bag.

They all stare as the little girl hesitantly takes a step forward and out into the Ancient Forest, transforming into an old lady with white hair. She laughs maniacally.

LUNA (CONT'D)

Now how do you expect to take them from me?!

ELIZABETH

We don't.

HENRY

Tala!

GRACE

Raleigh!

THOMAS

Ember!

VIOLET

Veda!

The Spirits come out from their hiding. Tala and Raleigh stand in front of Henry and Grace. Ember circles above, and Veda perches on a tree.

LUNA

And you think they have any power over me?! I'm a Keeper. No one can take these from me!

THOMAS

Were.

LUNA

What little boy?

THOMAS

You were a Keeper.

LUNA

I am a Keeper.

JONATHAN

The moment you left the realms your true age appeared, and your powers faded.

ELIZABETH

Just like my mother's did! You have
no power. Give the Fragments to us.

Luna stands tall and scowls angrily and takes a step toward them. Everyone takes a step back except Tala who takes a step forward and starts to growl.

Ember streaks through the sky and swoops toward Luna, burning her hands and causing Luna to drop the bag. Veda soars down and grabs it with her talons.

LUNA

No! Give that back to me! I am a
Keeper! I deserve to have them!

Raleigh grunts and then charges toward Luna, driving her into the realm, instantly turning back to a little girl.

She walks to the portal and hits it like a glass wall.

HENRY

Too much confidence...

They all laugh.

LUNA

Let me out of here! Bring back
those Fragments!

Jonathan rushes up and shuts the portal to the Spring Realm. Henry, Thomas, and Violet run and do the same.

ELIZABETH

We did it! I can't belie...

Elizabeth's words are cut short by a blasting cold wind.

GRACE

What's happening?

They all look up and see the clouds forming, dark and angry.

JONATHAN

Hurry! Let's get out of here!

INT. GRANDMA MAY'S HOME

Everyone is gathered around May.

ELIZABETH

Mom? Do you know what to do with
the Fragments?

MAY

Do you have them here? With you?

HENRY

Yes, Grandma.

One by one they all take the fragments out.

May looks confused.

MAY

Where are they?

VIOLET

We're all holding them. You can't see them?

May shakes her head.

THOMAS

She needs a key to see them. Give her a key so she can see one.

VIOLET

One? I can see all of them.

They all look at Violet, confused.

GRACE

What do you mean you can see all of them?

VIOLET

I can see all of them. Yours is pink, Henry's is blue, Thomas' is orange...

THOMAS

It's not orange, it's like a fire.

VIOLET

Okay, Thomas' is the color of a campfire, and mine is dark yellow, like the moon. Right Grandma?

MAY

I'm afraid I don't see any of that, Violet.

Violet looks around, uncomfortable by their stares.

VIOLET

You really can't see them?

They all shake their heads "no".

MAY
(softly)
Violet, will you take off your cap?

VIOLET
Why?

ELIZABETH
Please, Violet, listen to Grandma.

Violet looks around again and then removes her winter cap.
Her auburn hair falls revealing a long white strip.

GRACE
Violet! Your hair!

VIOLET
What?!

GRACE
It's got... It's got a white part.

Violet looks down at her hair and see the bright white
strands just near the front of her head.

VIOLET
Mama? What is this?

ELIZABETH
I... I don't know.

MAY
Oh Violet, I should have known...

VIOLET
Known what?

MAY
My powers. The ones I lost. The
connection to the seasons. They've
gone from me... To you.

VIOLET
They have? How?

MAY
It's passed through the
generations. And now it's you.
Violet. You are a Season Keeper.

VIOLET

I'm a... Season? Keeper? What does that mean? What do I do?

MAY

You keep the Fragments, the balance. You protect the seasons.

VIOLET

How?

May smiles at her granddaughter.

MAY

The answer is in your heart. Trust it.

Violet looks at them and then sets her fragment down and closes her eyes. They all watch.

She takes a deep breath, stands and walks to Henry, holding out her hands.

He looks at her and hesitantly gives her his fragment; the moment it touches her hands it shines brighter than before.

HENRY

Violet, are you okay!?

JONATHAN

What's happened?!

HENRY

She... It just glowed brighter...

ELIZABETH

Violet, are you okay?

Violet nods and steps to Grace.

She gives her fragment to Violet. The fragment immediately connects with the winter fragment and the bright lights turns a purple hue.

Jonathan and Elizabeth gasp.

GRACE

(barely audibly)

Wow.

Violet steps to Thomas and holds out her hands.

THOMAS

No, it's mine!

GRACE

Thomas, just give it to her.

THOMAS

Maybe I'm a Keeper too.

Grace looks at Thomas about to say something and then slides over to him and puts her arms around him, gently.

GRACE

It's okay, Thomas. I promise.

He looks at Grace for a moment and then reluctantly hands over the fragment.

When it brightens, his eyes brighten as well, as it connects with the other two, glowing a myriad of colors, constantly changing.

Violet walks over to her fragment and picks it up. It shines the brightest and completes the earth-like shape, glowing in various rich colors.

They all look at Violet, wide eyed.

VIOLET

What do I do now, Grandma?

MAY

I'm not sure, Violet. I've never seen them together like that.

Violet looks at May intensely.

VIOLET

Grandma?

MAY

Yes, Violet?

VIOLET

You're necklace, where did you get it?

May instantly grabs her necklace and everyone looks down at it. The charm is a small wooden willow tree.

MAY

My mother gave it to me, why?

VIOLET

Can I have it?

May takes off the necklace and hands it to Violet who sets it down on the table.

Violet looks up at all of them and then places the fragment orb on top of it. The orb grows bright white, forcing everyone to shield their eyes.

Then the light disappears into the necklace, changing the charm into a vivid colorful tree, shimmering with color.

Violet puts the necklace on and covers it, hand over heart.

Thomas squirms out of Grace's embrace.

THOMAS

That's it?!

GRACE

What do you mean that's it? It was so beautiful.

THOMAS

What now?

Violet walks to the window and they all watch her. She opens it and pushes the shutters open, letting in the sunshine and the sounds of birds singing.

GRACE

The storms! They're gone!

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE

The children file into the house as Elizabeth puts their dinner on the table.

THOMAS

Thanks a lot, Violet, now that you've restored the seasons, we have to go to school every day. There's never a storm to keep us home!

VIOLET

That's not my fault!

THOMAS

Let's see, before you were the Keeper, we had days off of school all the time for winter storms, dust storms, hurricanes... And now, nothing. Youngest children really do ruin everything.

ELIZABETH
Thomas, be nice to your sister.

GRACE
Yeah, Thomas, be nice!

Thomas starts to storm away.

THOMAS
You be nice!

JONATHAN
Everyone be nice!

They all look over at Jonathan who just walked in the door.

VIOLET
Daddy!

Violet runs to Jonathan and jumps into his arms.

Elizabeth walks to him and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

ELIZABETH
You're home early.

JONATHAN
It turns out that scavenging for a
fallen tree takes a lot less time
than cutting one down.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - EVENING

Elizabeth and Jonathan are sitting in their chairs by the fireplace, the children on the floor in front of them.

VIOLET
One more story? Please??

Elizabeth looks at Jonathan who shakes his head "no".

ELIZABETH
I'm sorry, Bug, not tonight, it's
time for bed.

Thomas huffs audibly.

Jonathan begins to say something and Elizabeth gently stops him by placing her hand on his arm. She nods towards Thomas.

JONATHAN
Come on, let's go.

Jonathan stands and everyone except Thomas follows.

GRACE
Come on Thomas!

THOMAS
Leave me alone, Grace!

ELIZABETH
It's okay, Grace. Go on.

They all get up and leave except Elizabeth and Thomas.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Thomas?

Thomas doesn't respond.

Elizabeth sits down next to him, still no response.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
You know, I would take it all back
if I could.

THOMAS
Take what back?

ELIZABETH
All of it. I would never have gone
if I knew I'd be gone that long.

THOMAS
Yeah, sure.

ELIZABETH
Thomas?

She waits until he looks at her.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
I promise.

He starts to tear up.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
There wasn't a moment I didn't
think about you while I was stuck
in the realm.

THOMAS
Mean it?

ELIZABETH
Of course I did.

THOMAS
(smirking)
All of us? Or just me?

ELIZABETH
All of you... But mostly just you.

Thomas buries himself into Elizabeth.

EXT. TOWN HALL

The town is alive with celebration as children chase each other, laughing in their Essence Spirit costumes.

GRANDPA JOSEPH (V.O.)
And so the balance was restored.
Winter brought it's sleepy snow;
spring, it's colorful blooms;
summer the warmth; and autumn the
bountiful harvest. The world
breathed as it once did, it's
heartbeat back - steady and true.
Once again, people understood and
respected the boundaries of nature.

EXT. ANCIENT FOREST

The children stand in the magical clearing where it all began. The four portals are now vibrant with life, their carvings glowing faintly.

GRACE
It's like everything in the forest
is alive again!

HENRY
It always was... We just needed to
protect it.

INT. THE JOSEPH HOUSE - EVENING

The family sits at the fireplace.

VIOLET
I wish Grandpa Joseph could have
seen the seasons restored. Do you
think he knew we would do it?

Jonathan and Elizabeth look at each other, then to Violet.

JONATHAN
He always believed in you.

VIOLET
How do you know?

JONATHAN
Every night after you went to bed
he would say, if I don't wake up
tomorrow, tell the Season Stewards
to make me proud.

They're all quiet, sad, but smiles grow on their faces.

THOMAS
Dad? Can you tell us a story?

THE END