

Searching

by

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"SEARCHING"

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

It's spring and the woods are green and thick with new growth.

UMA (24), quiet and determined, hikes slowly through the trees, her eyes scanning the ground.

Twelve feet away and keeping pace with her is KAMI (24). She has a small whistle around her neck and curious eyes which are searching the forest floor, but she keeps sneaking peeks at Uma.

Kami drifts a little closer.

KAMI
It's a beautiful day.

Uma is a bit surprised by the sudden conversation.

UMA
I guess so.

KAMI
I mean, like... the weather.

UMA
Yeah, no, it's a nice day.

Kami smiles and Uma can't help but smile back.

KAMI
I like your sneakers. I should've worn sneakers. These boots are fucking killing me.

UMA
They're cool boots.

KAMI
You think so?

UMA
I do.

KAMI
Me too.

They continue walking slowly as they talk, moving a little closer to each other.

KAMI

Okay, so I keep having this dream where I'm surrounded by little people. Not kids, but little people, you know like Dorothy in Oz and these little people, is that what you call them? I don't want to be offensive.

Uma has no idea what to say to this.

KAMI

Anyway, there's like a dozen of them all around me and they're all looking up at me. Like I'm special or something, but they don't say anything, they just keep staring at me and it's freaking me out. I don't know what to do.

UMA

What happens next?

KAMI

Nothing.

UMA

Nothing?

KAMI

That's when I wake up.

Uma looks confused.

KAMI

What do you think it means? Do you think I'm weird?

UMA

Definitely.

KAMI

Okay then.

Kami steps away and Uma chuckles to herself.

UMA

No, weird is good. I'm too normal.

KAMI

I doubt that. I bet you're plenty strange.

UMA

Nope.

Kami steps closer, almost whispering.

KAMI

What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

Uma thinks about this.

KAMI

I won't tell anyone. It'll be our secret.

Kami crosses her heart.

UMA

When I was a kid, maybe nine years old, my mother took me to a toy store to buy a birthday gift for my cousin. I hated my cousin and I didn't want to get him anything. Instead, I wanted this little stuffed rabbit for myself and I begged and begged, but my mother said no.

Uma looks around as if someone could hear her.

UMA

So, when she wasn't looking, I took the rabbit and hid it in my pants. I stole a toy rabbit.

KAMI

You're a thief. A criminal. I knew it. The first time I looked at you, I thought, she is dangerous and I'd better be careful.

They stop walking for a moment.

UMA

Is that all you thought?

KAMI

I thought you have nice hair for a thief.

Kami gently brushes the hair out of Uma's face.

Uma looks around.

UMA
 Maybe we shouldn't get so close.
 We should probably keep our
 distance.

KAMI
 You're right.

They drift apart again and resume walking.
 After a brief and awkward silence.

UMA
 Do you know her?

KAMI
 Kind of. Not really. I was at a
 party years ago and I think she
 might have been there. You?

UMA
 No, I just wanted to do something.
 To help.

KAMI
 You're a good person, for a
 criminal.

UMA
 Thanks.

KAMI
 Hey, maybe, we should hang out,
 after all this.

UMA
 I would like that. We could...

Suddenly, Uma stops, frozen.

KAMI
 What is it?

Uma slowly points at the ground in front of her.

A naked foot and leg poke out from underneath a mound of
 leaves and sticks, the rest of the dead body hidden below.

For a moment, Uma and Kami stand there, staring in shock.

Finally, Kami reaches for the whistle around her neck and
 blows it - weakly at first and then stronger and louder.

The other SEARCHERS, next to Uma and Kami this whole time, also come to a stop, turning and looking in their direction.

The line of searchers, spread out at twelve foot intervals, extends as far as the eye can see, disappearing under the canopy of trees on this beautiful day.

FADE OUT.