

Eighteen

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CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS- DAY

Darkness. A sharp intake of breath is followed by hysterical panting.

We wake urgently with AMORETTE SEABERRY, our heroine, pawing the dirt from off her body, which has been completely buried underneath a coagulated layer of mud.

She scrambles to her feet, shaking, and frantically examines her surroundings. Morning light peeks through scrawny trees as a raven cries in the distance. Wind screams through bare branches and a gloomy mist envelopes the rising sun.

Amorette scrabbles at the hole she lied in until it is full, grabbing a rusty necklace adorned with a serpent. She's now caked in oozing sludge and lets the catharsis overwhelm her.

AMORETTE

Oh, wh-

She trails off into thought. After a while, a trembling Amorette takes a final bewildered glance at her supposed grave before tentatively jogging into the forest.

A little later, Amorette is still plodding through the undergrowth, mud seeping down her, as she begins to tire.

AMORETTE

Hello, Alby? Nat?

Finally, the exhaustion seems to take control of Amorette. Sighing, she turns the corner into a clearing until:

DAISY

(hitting Amorette)

Oh- I'm so sorry, I-

Beat.

Amorette!

Amorette looks up as her sister, DAISY SEABERRY, careers into her. She speaks with a clipped English accent that carries an air of superiority as she gapes at Amorette.

AMORETTE

Oh, hi Daisy, a bit early for you to be up-

DAISY

Amorette, what the hell!

AMORETTE

Shh, I'm okay, it's fi-

DAISY

Oh would you please just shut up for one minute? And while we're on the subject of earliness, would you care to explain to me exactly-

Amorette, taken aback by Daisy's rage, takes a step back.

DAISY

(gesturing wildly)

Get back here! What on God's green Earth are you doing? You are supposed to be lying dead in a hole right about now!

AMORETTE

Daisy it's not-

DAISY

Not, not what?!

AMORETTE

It's really nothing to panic about.

DAISY

(sneering)

Of course it's not.

AMORETTE

Listen, I'm not dead. Yet, that is. I don't know why. Does it look like I know any more?

DAISY

Well done dear. Of course you know nothing, this is obviously just a daily occurrence for you.

AMORETTE
 (looking down)
 Well I had to dig myself out of my own
 grave if you even car-

Daisy suddenly grabs Amorette's hands in a burst of wild
 euphoria. A startled Amorette tries to break free, but her
 grip is too strong:

DAISY
 I've got it.

AMORETTE
 Who what now?

Daisy yanks out her phone and shoves it into Amorette's face.

DAISY
 We can call Nat!

AMORETTE
 That was your epiphany? Nat?

Daisy lets go of Amorette as her face resumes its previous
 scowl.

DAISY
 Like you have a better idea, Jesus.

AMORETTE
 Fine. If you care so much, call her.

DAISY
 Fine.

Amorette slouches against a tree until realisation dawns on
 her. She flips round, face contorted with mania as Daisy
 pulls her phone up.

AMORETTE
 No wait stop! Stop!

DAISY
 (pulling her phone down)
 What, why?

AMORETTE
 You ca-can't call Nat. Oh what was I

(MORE)

AMORETTE (CONT'D)
 thinking? She'll- she'll take me
 experiment on me or something because
 I broke the ruddy system! For God's
 sake, they'll kill me, Daisy!

DAISY
 Oh don't be ridiculous. Nat's our
 friend.

AMORETTE
 Yes, our good friend the president.

DAISY
 And, your point is?

Amorette's eyes flit around, toes tapping as she plans her
 escape.

DAISY
 Hello? Amorette?

AMORETTE
 I'm g-gonna go.

DAISY
 Sorry what did you just say?

AMORETTE
 I can't stay Daisy, you know that.
 I'll sort something out, I promise.

DAISY
 Amorette, just, don't go. Nat can help
 us, we'll figure this-

Before Daisy can finish, Amorette darts in the opposite
 direction.

DAISY
 Amorette! Amorette stop!

Amorette sprints further into the forest, ignoring Daisy's
 pleas, until she reaches a clearing and collapses to the
 ground. She rips off her jacket, and with a scream of anger,
 flings it to the ground before drawing her knees into her
 chest and choking out a sob.

Meanwhile, Daisy paces back and forth where Amorette left
 her. She gnaws at her chapped fingernails and dials a number
 into her phone.

CUT TO:

INT. NATASHA'S BEDROOM- DAY- SAME TIME

Morning light peeks into a cluttered room. Torn out notebook pages lie scattered as a battered copy of "The Maze Runner" hangs off a small table. PRESIDENT NATASHA DARK sprawls across the single bed.

Natasha awakes groggily to the sound of her phone's ringtone- "Every breath you take" by the Police- and slides out of her bed, groaning. She grasps the ringing phone off of the table and answers it, speaking with a shrill voice that seems constantly on edge:

NATASHA

Hello?

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS- DAY- SAME TIME

DAISY

Oh Nat thank god.

CUT TO:

INT. NATASHA'S BEDROOM- DAY- SAME TIME

NATASHA

Daisy! What's wrong is anything-

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS- DAY- CONTINUOUS.

DAISY

Amorette. Just-

CUT TO:

INT. NATASHA'S BEDROOM- DAY- SAME TIME

NATASHA

Oh- oh what?!

DAISY (O.S.)

Well, I'll be honest,

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS- DAY- SAME TIME

DAISY

She's- she's, well, not dead.

Beat.

(CONT'D) 5.

Bloody minx left me outside HQ while she runs off to God knows where-

CUT TO:

INT. NATASHA'S BEDROOM- DAY- SAME TIME

NATASHA

It's alright. I'm on my way.

Natasha hangs up before dashing out of the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS- DAY- SAME TIME

Amorette takes a shaky breath, sniffs and wipes away tear stains. She lies onto the cacophony of leaves and lets her eyes droop shut.

She is so engrossed in her own fatigue that she does not notice ALBY THANATOS, her long-term best friend, skulking through the trees, descending upon her. She keeps lolling in the morning sun, until:

ALBY

Morning.

Alby lies placidly next to Amorette, slender back pressed against the undergrowth, his southern accent infused with arrogance.

AMORETTE

(jolting upwards)

Alby!

ALBY

Ah, Amorette, how wonderful it is to bump into you on this fine day!

AMORETTE

Why are you here?

ALBY

I could ask you the same.

AMORETTE

Alby! Just, I- it's been a long day
and you prancing up here isn't
helping!

ALBY

Long day? At, what, 8am?

Amorette shoots an icy glare at Alby as they scramble to
their feet.

ALBY

Listen, I don't want to poke at the
obvious but are you meant to be, like,
decomposing at the bottom of some pit
instead of pacing around?

Amorette ignores his remark and continues traipsing in
circles.

ALBY

Uh, Amorette? I-

AMORETTE

(cutting in)
How did you find me?

ALBY

(smirks)
I have my ways.

AMORETTE

Oh just shut up, alright!

ALBY

Woah, calm down.

Amorette completely loses her temper, yelling at a retreating
Alby

AMORETTE

Calm down? Did I hear you wrong, or
did your foolish self just have the
audacity to tell me to calm down? Just
in case your ego is too far up your

(MORE)

AMORETTE (CONT'D)

own ass for you to notice, I should be dead. And as you may have noticed, I'm not. It's all fine and dandy you sitting telling me to calm down when it's not you who is being tracked by half the government, who- oh, by the way, have teamed up with Daisy and Nat. You're not processing the likelihood of torture and death. No. You can sit in your own little bubble as I'm hunted like prey for something that I don't understand. How dare you think that you can tell me to calm down. Maybe you should use that precious breath of yours to, I don't know, give me a hand?

Amorette, who is as shocked as Alby by her raging monologue, sniffs triumphantly and turns away from him. Alby, for once, is speechless.

The two stand silently for a while, before Alby sheepishly sidles towards Amorette and clutches her hand between his. Their eyes lock.

ALBY

Amorette, I'm sorry. You know I d-

AMORETTE

(cutting in)

Didn't mean it I know, I know

Beat.

That was a brilliant monologue you know. I hope you appreciate the art you have just witnessed.

ALBY

It was terrifying.

AMORETTE

(sighing)

I wanna kill you sometimes.

ALBY

Same old Seaberry.

The two pause, admiring the view. Glimpses of rolling fields, lined with green, peep from between trees, light ricocheting off of them into spectrums of colour.

Eventually, Amorette breaks the silence:

AMORETTE

So what's the plan, genius? Strut back into Terestria? Disguise ourselves as trees?

ALBY

About that-

AMORETTE

Alby? What is it?

Alby turns to face Amorette, his eyes almost boring into her soul.

ALBY

Amorette, we're not going back.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SEQUENCE.