

THE WOODS™

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WE SHOULD PROBABLY START HEADING BACK HOME.



WHAT?

YOU KNOW... WHERE ALL THE PEOPLE ARE, AND THERE ARE LESS THINGS TRYING TO KILL US ALL THE TIME?



WHERE YOU HAVE A BED AND I HAVE A BED, AND MAYBE SOMETIMES WE DON'T USE ONE OF THEM ALL THAT MUCH.

SHUT UP.



FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT...

IT'S OUT THERE, STILL, ISN'T IT? THE WHOLE REASON WE'RE HERE, THE WAY BACK TO EARTH. ADRIAN WAS SO SURE...



YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.

...YEAH.



BUT STILL, DON'T YOU WONDER... I KEEP PICTURING MY MOM AND DAD, WHAT THEY'RE GOING THROUGH RIGHT NOW. BUT IT'S BEEN MONTHS...

HAS THERE BEEN A FUNERAL, OR ARE THEY STILL HOLDING OUT HOPE, WAITING FOR US TO COME BACK?



I HOPE THEY'RE DOING WHAT WE'RE DOING. I HOPE THEY'RE BUILDING A NEW LIFE FOR THEMSELVES. HELL, MAYBE GRAN IS A FAMOUS BANK-ROBBER, THE FBI HOT ON HER TRAIL... BOLTING DOWN THE FREEWAY WITH DOLLARS FLOATING IN THE WIND AFTER THEM...



I KIND OF HOPE THAT, TOO... BUT... I DON'T KNOW. IT SEEMS STRANGE TO SETTLE DOWN WHEN THERE'S STILL A CHANCE...

BUT IF THAT CHANCE IS JUST GOING TO MAKE US MISERABLE AND EAT AWAY OUR BRAINS... WHY SHOULDN'T WE TRY TO JUST BREAK AWAY FROM THAT PATH? WHY SHOULDN'T WE JUST TRY TO BE HAPPY?

I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWERS...



BUT STILL... THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT CAN'T LET GO OF THE FACT THAT I COULD SEE THEM AGAIN, AND THEY COULD SEE ME...

SHOW OFF SOME RAD NEW KNIFE SKILLS?

ALL SORTS OF RAD KNIFE SKILLS.

AT LEAST YOU HAVE FAMILY HERE. I KNOW HALF THE REASON YOU COME OUT HERE WITH ME IS TO AVOID SEEING HIM... BUT MAYBE, IF WE'RE ALL CHANGING, ALL BECOMING SOMETHING NEW...

MAYBE YOU TWO CAN START OVER?







I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SEEING, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ROOT IS SHOWING YOU. I HAVEN'T TRIED IT SINCE I WAS INDUCTED INTO THE MITHRAIC MYSTERIES AS A YOUNG MAN.



BUT I REMEMBER THE COMFORT OF THE LIES...AND THE LIES OF THE COMFORT IT WAS TRYING TO SHOW ME. WE ALL BUILD THEM. THEY ARE THE CUSHIONS WE USE TO SMOTHER OUR TRUE NATURES.

AND OUR TRUE PURPOSE.



BUT LIES, THEY HAVE THEIR PLACE. PARTICULARLY IN THE GAME WE'RE PLAYING.

BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE ARE TOO WEAK TO SEE WHAT THEY NEED TO DO, SO YOU NEED TO SWADDLE THEM WITH COMFORTING THOUGHTS...

AND THEN YOU MARCH THEM TOWARDS THEIR DESTINIES.



WHAT'S... WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

WE'RE MARCHING.



YOU'VE SEEN WHAT THIS WORLD CAN DO, HAVEN'T YOU? YOU HAVE THAT FIRE IN YOU, JUST LIKE US...



SLEEP, GIRL. DREAM PRETTY DREAMS. TOMORROW IS A NEW WORLD.

AND YOU'LL ALL BE MARCHING WITH ME.