

Brave Scars

written by

Shayleen Rae Smith

shayleenrsmith@gmail.com

EXT. WOODS NEAR HOUSE - NIGHT

KIP (17) picks up a wool hat and tosses it to a young girl, MILLIE (10).

KIP

Keep that on! You'll freeze without it. Honestly, I wish you used your brain more often.

MILLIE

Ope, sorry.

Millie fumbles to shove the hat down over her hair, nearly covering her eyes. She grabs the flashlight out of her mouth with her oversized mittens. The flashlight blinds Kip.

MILLIE (CONT'D)

I know you hate my iguana, Kip. But thanks for helping anyways.

KIP

You're welcome. But for the record, I don't hate him... he hates ME.

Kip holds up his finger and eyes Millie.

MILLIE

He doesn't hate you. He just thought your finger was dinner.

They continue walking into their backyard woods, shining their flashlights all around.

KIP

I am glad you took my advice and put those bells on his collar. This should be the easiest find yet.

MILLIE

(nervously)

Yeah... you're SO right.

Millie fiddles with her flashlight as she walks behind Kip.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

KIP

Okay, he was around here last time. I'll check the trees. You check under those rocks. Got it, Mills?

Kip turns around and sees only empty woods. A flashlight drops from above him, landing at his feet. He shines his flashlight up and sees Millie climbing a tall branch.

KIP (CONT'D)

What are you DOING!? Come back down!

MILLIE

I thought I'd have a better view from up here. Could you toss my flashlight back up? I can't see a thing.

KIP

Absolutely not. You are too clumsy! Come back down here!

MILLIE

C'mon Kippy, I'm not that clumsy. I've got my strength back now. I'm fine. See, look.

Millie tries standing up, but a twig catches on the edge of her hat, pulling it down over her eyes. She loses her balance and her footing slips.

KIP

MILLIE!!

Millie falls to the branch below, grasping it like a koala.

MILLIE

KIP!! HELP ME!

Kip is halfway up the tree, swiftly making his way towards her. He gets to the branch below Millie before he secures the flashlight in between two twigs and reaches his gloved hand out towards her.

KIP

Grab my hand! I've got you.

MILLIE

I can't KIP! I'm too scared!

KIP

(softly)

Hey, hey, hey. Mills. Look at me.

Millie pulls the hat off of one of her eyes and looks at Kip.

He takes off his glove. Millie gazes at the scar on his finger.