

WONDERLAND

Written by

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A green minivan pulls into the driveway of a two apartment duplex at the top of a cul-de-sac. SOPHIE watches from her window.

INT. MINI-VAN - DAY

AARON sits in the passenger seat. Bandages cover his left forearm and a hospital bracelet hangs from his wrist. ANTHONY sits on the drivers side.

ANTHONY

You good?

Aaron nods his head.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

We put a mattress in your old studio.

Aaron nods again.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Alright, I'll see you in there.

He leaves Aaron alone in the car.

POP

A skittle hits the hood of the car and Aaron looks up. SOPHIE, 19, sits straddling her window; her leg dangling from the side. She waves with one hand while holding a book to her lap with her other.

Aaron gets out of the car.

SOPHIE

Your brother looks kinda mad.

AARON

We're just not used to each other.

SOPHIE

How long you here for?

Aaron shrugs his shoulders.

Sophie tosses a skittle in her mouth.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

That's a lot of bandages.

Aaron looks down at his arm.

AARON
Hey, you want to go for a walk? The
sun's going down.

Sophie retreats.

SOPHIE
Uh, I think it's supposed to rain.

AARON
I mean, we don't have to...

SOPHIE
I can't be out in a storm.

AARON
Oh, okay. What are you reading?

SOPHIE
Alice in Wonderland.

Sophie holds the book up.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Here.

She drops her book down to Aaron. He catches it, favoring his right arm.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
I have another. I haven't even
started. Uh, I'll see you later.

2

INT. SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

2

Sophie pulls herself inside, shuts the window, and pulls down the shades. She walks to her bookshelf and picks a book off the top shelf. Alice.

Sophie looks at the wall mirror next to her book shelf and catches the reflection of the window. She turns to it.

SOPHIE (V.O.)

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, 'and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice, 'without pictures or conversation?'

Pictures of Sophie and her friends decorate the walls. Christmas lights zig-zag across the ceiling and illuminate a brightly colored, messy room; clothing litters the floor and books clutter the edges.

3

INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - DAY

3

Aaron sits on the edge of his mattress, reading Alice. His backpack lies open on the bed, the contents sprawled across the sheets. A notebook and pencil, markers, two paperbacks, and a pair of socks.

AARON

The rabbit hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well. Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly, for she had plenty of time as she went down to look about her, and to wonder what was going to happen next.

Few things take up Aaron's room. He looks toward an easel covered by a tarp.

4

INT. SOPHIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

4

Sophie sits on the floor leaning against the wall, thunder rumbles outside.

SOPHIE (V.O.)

'I can't explain myself, I'm afraid, Sir,' said Alice, 'because I'm not myself you see.' 'I don't see,' said the Caterpillar.

(MORE)

SOPHIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

'I'm afraid I can't put it any more clearly,' Alice replied, very politely, 'for I can't understand it myself, to begin with; and being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing.'

She picks at bandages wrapped around her fingertips. Her foot taps incessantly as she rocks back and forth. She scratches her neck, her hood hides her face in shadows.

5

INT. AARON'S BEDROOM

5

Aaron stands in front of an easel and pulls off the tarp.

A portrait, but the head is being torn in two.

AARON (V.O.)

Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to walk from here?"
 "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.
 "I don't much care where," said Alice. "Then it doesn't matter which way you walk,"

He dips a thick paint brush into a can of black paint.

6

INT. SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

6

Sophie lies on her bed, under the covers, holding a book light. A lamp lights up her night stand.

SOPHIE (V.O.)

"I mean what I say," the Mock turtle replied in an offended tone. And the Gryphon added, "Come, let's hear some of your adventures." "I could tell you my adventures, beginning from this morning," Alice said a little timidly: "but it's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then."

Crumpled up pieces of paper litter her night stand, a drawing is posted up on the wall, isolated. A young girl, looking down into the water, her reflection bright and smiling.

Aaron's name is signed in the corner.

7 INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - DAWN 7

Aaron sits by his windowsill, reading under the light of a floor lamp in the corner.

An old pencil and notebook with an elaborate drawing of a mountain path rest on the sill. Aaron rubs his eyes.

AARON (V.O.)

Lastly, she pictured to herself how the same little sister of hers would, in the after-time, be herself a grown woman; and how she would keep, through all her riper years, the simple and loving heart of her childhood:

8 INT. SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - DAWN 8

Sophie stares out the window, watching the sunrise. She sticks her hand out, braces herself, and feels the air. She quickly stands, grabs a coat, and starts to put on her shoes.

SOPHIE (V.O.)

"and how she would gather about her other little children, and make their eyes bright and eager with many a strange tale, perhaps even with the dream of Wonderland of long-ago: and how she would feel with all their simple sorrows, and find a pleasure in all their simple joys, remembering her own child-life, and the happy summer days."

9 INT. AARON'S BEDROOM - DAWN 9

Aaron closes the book and stares out the open window. He sees Sophie walk out of the backyard with her bike and a backpack. She looks up at him.

AARON

I finished the book.

SOPHIE

Me too.

Sophie looks out at the rising sun.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

You want to come? The sun's coming out.

10

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAWN

10

Sophie starts peddling down her driveway with Aaron catching up from the backyard.

The two tear down the cul-de-sac, peddling faster and smiling bigger the further they get from the house.

FADE TO WHITE