

THE RED TRAIL

by

William Lee

For entire screenplay contact info@wleestories.com

The story of The Red Trail follows Luna and Stephen, a husband and wife who are on a hiking trip deep in the woods. They encounter Aiden and Riley, a younger couple who appear to have gotten lost on the trail.

The following excerpt is a scene in which, after some coaxing from Aiden, Luna and Stephen have reluctantly agreed to share a campfire with them for the evening.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

The four of them sit around a crackling campfire, holding paper cups filled with whiskey. Aiden is halfway through a story.

AIDEN
(enthusiastically)
-So then this fuckin' guy, he grabs
my beer, runs out and dives right
off the stage...

STEPHEN
Uh oh...

AIDEN
...and the whole crowd just parts!

LUNA
Oh no!

AIDEN
Yup! Guy eats shit right into the
floor boards. Breaks his nose and
everything, total shit show.

Stephen and Luna laugh nervously at the story.

STEPHEN
So, do you still work in concerts?

Aiden's smile drops.

AIDEN
Nah. I got canned a month later.

RILEY
His manager was a real asshole.

AIDEN
Yeah, fuck that guy. I'm down at
the tattoo place on Forbes now.

STEPHEN
(pointing at Aiden's arm)
Is that where you got all those?

Aiden grins, rolls up his sleeve.

AIDEN
A couple of 'em, yeah!

Aiden points to a tattoo on his shoulder of a chubby, snoring goblin holding an oversized battle axe.

AIDEN
This one's my favorite. I call 'em
Grubby...

LUNA
Aw, he's kind of cute...

AIDEN
Yeah, you guys got any ink?

LUNA
Oh no! No, we're not tattoo people.

The conversation pauses for a beat. Aiden wrinkles his nose.

AIDEN
What's that supposed to mean?

Luna and Stephen glance at each other.

LUNA
(quickly)
Oh, just that we're not that brave!

STEPHEN
Yeah! I'm a big wuss, I could never

AIDEN
(smiling again)
Oh it ain't that bad.

He holds up the whiskey bottle.

AIDEN
Little bit of sauce never hurts.

RILEY
Hey you should do another shot.

STEPHEN
(smiling graciously)
Oh I think we're good, thanks.

AIDEN

Aw, don't bail on me now man!

RILEY

Yeah Steve, don't be such a wuss.

Stephen smiles uncomfortably, then shrugs.

STEPHEN

Alright, one more...

Aiden gives each of them a healthy pour. The two men cheers and down the whiskey.

STEPHEN

(cringing)

Ooph, that is...potent.

Luna frowns at Riley, who smirks back. Aiden leans forward, his face awash in campfire light.

AIDEN

Hey, you know I hear there's something in these woods.

STEPHEN

Wait, are we doing ghost stories?

AIDEN

Oh it ain't a ghost. It's something real. Something hungry. A buddy a mine was out here bout a month ago. He had his sights on a 12 point buck, was about to take the shot when BAM

(PUNCHES his own hand)

somethin' yanks it into the bushes.

LUNA

There's 20,000 bears living in PA. You sure it wasn't just a grizzly?

AIDEN

Oh no, my buddy knows bears. Whatever this was, it was there and gone in a blink.

Luna glances up, sees that RILEY'S CHAIR IS EMPTY.

AIDEN

(continuing)

By the time he walked over to investigate, there was nothin' left of the deer but blood and bones.

Aiden leans in further, grinning maniacally. The light casts deep shadows on his heavy features.

AIDEN
Might wanna sleep with one eye open
tonight, or somethin' might get ya.

Riley SUDDENLY APPEARS next to Luna.

RILEY
Boo.

Luna JUMPS, startled, then glares at Riley. Aiden laughs wildly.

AIDEN
Nah I'm just messin with ya'll...

STEPHEN
(sighing)
Ok, I think it's bedtime...

RILEY
(walking back to Aiden)
Sleep tight...

Luna stares at Riley's back as she walks away.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT - LATER

The campfire burns low. A lonely tent sits among the trees.

CUT TO:

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Luna lies on top of her sleeping bag, staring at the ceiling. She rolls to one side. After a beat, rolls back.

She sighs, gets up.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Luna leans against a tree, relieving herself. She pulls her pants up, starts back towards camp.

ANGRY VOICES float through the trees. She stops.

LUNA'S POV

Riley and Aiden emerge into the campsite from the other direction, arguing.

RILEY
You still shouldn't have showed 'em
your tats...

AIDEN
So, what's the big deal?

RILEY
They could ID you dumbass!

BACK TO SCENE

Luna ducks behind a tree, puts her HAND on a BRANCH.

AIDEN
Oh come on, they're fuckin wasted!

RILEY
They're not THAT wasted!

Luna feels something move. A LARGE SNAKE slithers across her fingers. She stiffens.

AIDEN (O.S.)
So what? Whadda want me to do?

Luna looks back at the campsite.

RILEY
(sighs)
Let's just get the fuck out of
here, they don't know anything...

Luna waits, motionless. Riley and Aiden climb into their tent.

Luna turns to the snake, slowly extracts her hand, exhales.

EXT. CAMPSITE - EARLY MORNING

Luna and Stephen's tent sits alone. Pale morning light filters through the trees. BIRDS CHIRPS among the branches.

The tent flap slowly unzips. Luna pokes her head out. She crawls out, stands, looks around.

Riley and Aiden's tent is gone.

END SAMPLE

For entire screenplay contact info@wleestories.com