

**TEASER**

EXT. DEEP WOODS NEAR ANTELOPE CREEK, SO. OREGON - NIGHT

SHILOH, a girl who looks about 12 years old, runs through the woods.

She's being chased, but it's not clear who or what is chasing her. She wears ruddy, dirty homemade clothing: a coif, a short cloak, an undertunic and a braies (short, linen pants). The clothes make the time period unclear since they seem somewhat medieval.

Her ethnicity is also difficult to pin down. She has dark skin, has dark hair and when she speaks she has a UK accent. She is short for her age.

Shiloh darts between the trees, breathing heavily.

CYRUS BADLAND, a man in his 50s or 60s, also with a UK accent, calls out to her from the distance. His voice is very distant from her.

CYRUS BADLAND (O.S.)

Shiloh!

She stops at a low cliff - a bank over the shallow creek. The creek has receded from the bank. When it's higher, the creek gets up to the bank, but it's summer and low now.

She quickly climbs down the bank and moves toward the creek.

EXT. ROCKY POINT BEACH

She crosses the creek and gets to a rocky beach.

She runs past the beach into trees alongside the creek.

EXT. GROVE NEAR ROCKY POINT BEACH

She stops to catch her breath. Then she hears dogs barking. They are coming from further upstream which happens to be the direction she's been heading.

Downstream she hears the man calling for her again. He's getting closer.

CYRUS BADLAND (O.S.)

It's Cyrus - I know you remember  
who I am! You get home - now!

She stops and stands completely still behind a large tree and listens. She's trying not to make a sound as she looks around scared. Shiloh holds her breath.

The dogs are getting closer and barking wildly as they splash through the water.

CYRUS BADLAND (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Shiloh! You will come home!

She looks up the tree, grabs hold of the lowest branch and climbs up a few feet.

She doesn't get far up the tree when a whistle blows. It's odd sounding - more than one note emanates from it. The sound is piercing to her - it drowns out the dogs barking - and she falls down from the bottom of the tree as she covers her ears.

She leans up against the base of the tree, ears still covered and she screams. The scream blends with the whistle sound.

**END TEASER**

ACT ONE

TITLE: Shiloh

INT. GARZA HOME - ETHAN'S ROOM - DAY

ETHAN GARZA, a 12 year old boy, sits in the middle of his bedroom floor, his back to the open door. He wears clothing that is typical for a middle-class suburban pre-teen boy - jeans, t-shirt, and tennis shoes. It's apparent by the unpacked boxes everywhere that he has just moved in. Like Shiloh, he is small for his age.

He plays a game on a pad. Ethan looks disconnected from his activity and sad.

Ethan's mother, ALEJANDRA GARZA, appears in the doorway. Her face is not shown. She has a very slight, not entirely noticeable Mexican accent. (NOTE: The faces of all adults in the real world are never shown. They should have the sense of appearing less important to the experience of the children and less important in comparison to adults we fully see in the fantasy world.)

ALEJANDRA GARZA (O.S.)  
You haven't finished unpacking yet?

ETHAN  
No.

ALEJANDRA GARZA (O.S.)  
(sarcastically)  
It's only been three weeks. What's the hurry.

He doesn't respond and he still has his back turned to her.

ALEJANDRA GARZA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Look, you don't have to unpack everything right now. Why don't you go play outside?

ETHAN  
I will.

She walks away and speaks as she's leaving.

ALEJANDRA GARZA (O.S.)  
It's why we moved here after all.

He doesn't react to her, but it seems he's heard all this before.

EXT. GARZA FARM - NEAR BARN - DAY

Ethan walks out toward the barn. He looks bored. The house is behind him. It's clear this whole farmstead is small, no more than 10 acres, and a real fixer-upper.

The wooden barn is a bit run down. There are no domesticated animals in or around it. The roof has pieced together aluminum siding on top. The aluminum reflects brightly in the sunlight.

Ethan stands in front of the barn. It has a rickety wooden gate as the doorway. He pulls at the gate. It doesn't open, then he notices an old self-latching gravity latch on the gate.

He lifts the latch and tries to pull open the gate. Gravity has been more kind to the latch than the gate. He pulls with more force and it scrapes open.

He walks into the barn.

INT. GARZA FARM - BARN

Ethan stands inside the barn and it's dark. There is a light switch. He flips the switch but no light comes on. He turns it on and off a few times, but no luck, so he flips it off.

With the light that's coming through some interior windows and the main gate door, he sees storage barrels and some wooden crates lying around.

There is a utility room door. He opens the door and looks in it. There are spider webs thick in the room.

He sees a few old, long-handled tools leaning up against the utility room wall and laying on the floor. There is a shovel handle with no shovel blade attached to it leaning here, too.

A machete in a sheath hangs on the wall. Everything is covered in spider webs.

He doesn't see any spiders. Much like this place, their day has long past. Still though, it's a bit creepy, so he closes the door.

EXT. GARZA FARM - BEHIND BARN - LATER

Ethan stands at the fence-line of the Garza property. There is a gate here that separates the Garza Farm from the short path down to Antelope Creek. The path is covered with blackberry vines and brush effectively blocking it.

The barn is behind him as he looks over the chain link fence gate into a tangle of blackberry vines and trees.

He hears running water from the creek beyond the vines. The fence gate is very tangled in the blackberry vines and he can't see a way to open it.

He pulls at the gate - it barely budes because of the tangle of vines. He looks at it again. He picks up a stick and tries to force the vines back but they are really tangled tightly.

He stands again listening to the creek.

He gives up and goes back to the barn.

INT. GARZA FARM - BARN

Ethan walks into the barn again. At the front of the barn, just inside the front gate, he sees a wooden ladder that goes up into the hayloft. He tests it - it seems safe enough so he climbs up.

INT. GARZA FARM - BARN - HAYLOFT

He looks around the hayloft. It takes up the entire top of the barn.

There are about a dozen old bales of hay in the loft at the back of the loft. The hay is very old, dry and dead looking. There are old spider webs covering the bales.

The front of the loft is open from the loft floor to the loft roof.

Ethan sits down on the loft floor at the front. He lets his feet hang out over the barn front gate below.

From how he's sitting he is facing the Garza house. There's a rustic utility shed nearby.

From where he sits, the layout of the property is as follows:

North is the house.

South - behind where he's sitting - is Antelope Creek. The creek runs from East (upstream) to West (downstream).

West is the neighbor's grass hay field, Hayes' Field. There is a fence next to an irrigation ditch that separates the Hayes and Garza properties.

East and far off in the distance is Mt. McLoughlin. The sky is very clear and the view is stunning.

Ethan is enjoying the solitude when it's broken by a buzzing sound. Just above his head, stuck in an old spiderweb is a paper wasp. The wasp is fighting to get loose and it's winning the fight.

Ethan quickly slides away from the wasp and toward the ladder. He sees another wasp flying near him. Then he sees a large paper wasp nest built into the loft roof with what looks like a dozen wasps flying in and out of it. To him, it might as well be a swarm.

He quickly climbs down the wooden ladder and out of the loft.

EXT. GARZA FARM - BARN

Ethan exits the barn and closes the gate. He keeps looking up and behind him to see if wasps are following him as he quickly walks to the house.

INT. GARZA HOME - ETHAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

There are empty boxes stacked up in front of Ethan's closet.

There's a desk in his room that was behind the boxes earlier and is now visible.

On the desk is a desktop computer and monitor. The computer is on and the screen displays a web article on paper wasps. There's an obvious note on the screen that indicates paper wasps aren't terribly aggressive and their sting should be treated much like a bee sting.

There is a narrow shelf unit between Ethan's desk and bed. The unit has one empty shelf on it with knick-knacks and toys on the other shelves.

The bed is situated under the window in his room. The window looks out toward the barn.

Ethan is emptying the last box of a few books. He pulls out a mix of fantasy and science fiction books. They are a curious combination of dusty and new - well-meaning gifts that were never read and exist purely as decorations. One title is noticeable on the end - a pulp fantasy book called "Fahring Tales, Book I: Rain of the Sorcerer" and the cover shows a lone spell-caster in a typical mage-type robe standing in rain with arms outstretched, but the rain looks like fire coming down instead of water.

Ethan wipes the dust off the cover of Fehring Tales with his hand after he puts the group of books on the open shelf.

EXT. GARZA HOME - BACK PORCH - DAY

Ethan is sitting on the back porch steps that face the direction of the barn. It's early in the day and the weather is nice.

He seems bored again, then he seems to get an idea.

He looks up toward the barn, but more specifically toward the fence-line behind the barn.

INT. GARZA FARM - BARN - LATER

Ethan is looking in the barn utility room again. He pulls out the shovel handle, the one with no shovel blade on it.

He closes the utility room and walks past the hayloft ladder and out the barn gate. He is heading to the back of the barn.

EXT. GARZA FARM - BEHIND BARN - LATER

Ethan is once again at the gate that separates the Garza Farm from the short path down to Antelope Creek.

He uses the shovel handle to beat at the blackberry vines to separate them from the fence.

He keeps working on it until he has parted the vines enough to climb over the fence gate. It's not hard to get over the gate since it's mostly sunken down and partially collapsed over time.

There is a path here on the other side of the gate, but it's overgrown with weeds and vines.

He wriggles and pushes his way to part the vines. He's got a few blackberry vine thorn cuts on his arms to show for his work, but otherwise, it's just sweaty, not dangerous.

Suddenly he finds that he has pushed his way through to the end of the path that leads from the barn to:

EXT. ANTELOPE CREEK - GARZA-SIDE BANK

Ethan steps out from the vines and branches and finds himself next to a quiet, flowing creek.

It's a small creek, not deep during the summer, but to a suburban kid who's never been out in the woods except for the occasional forced camping trip with his parents, this is untamed wilderness. It's majestic.

He's sweaty and exhausted from hacking through the vines to get here, but it was worth it.

He kneels down to touch the water. It's moving slowly, but it's cool. He sees some small fish in the water.

He stands up. A bright red dragonfly flits near him. He holds out the shovel handle toward the dragonfly. The dragonfly flies around it for a bit, then lands on the end of the handle.

He watches it. It doesn't move.

ALEJANDRA GARZA (O.S.)

Ethan!

Ethan starts. The dragonfly flies off.

ETHAN

I'm down here!

He heads back toward the tangle of vines and home.

INT. GARZA HOME - DINING ROOM/KITCHEN - EVENING

Ethan sits at the small dining room table eating dinner. Ethan's father, MIGUEL GARZA, is asking about Ethan's experience. Miguel speaks with a more pronounced Mexican accent.

MIGUEL GARZA (O.S.)

You were able to get down to the creek?

ETHAN

Yeah.

MIGUEL GARZA (O.S.)

I should have you clear those blackberry vines so we can all get down there.

ETHAN

Sure.

ALEJANDRA GARZA (O.S.)

Ethan, I spoke with our neighbors down the road, the Millers.

Ethan keeps eating and doesn't respond.

ALEJANDRA GARZA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 They have a son who is your age, I  
 think he's 12 and he might be in  
 your grade in the fall. Be sure to  
 say 'hi' when you can, OK?

ETHAN  
 OK.

ALEJANDRA GARZA (O.S.)  
 Be nice to make some new friends.

Ethan has a minimal defeated reaction to that.

MIGUEL GARZA (O.S.)  
 Maybe you can make friends and get  
 him to help you clear those  
 blackberries. Get all the neighbor  
 kids working on that!

He jokes.

Ethan smiles, but he isn't interested in getting anyone to  
 help him.

INT. GARZA HOME - ETHAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ethan is in his bed sleeping.

He wakes up to a dog barking in the distance.

He sits up and looks out his window. The moon lights the barn  
 in the distance.

He gets up out of bed.

He puts on his shoes.

EXT. GARZA HOME - BACK PORCH - LATER

Ethan is wearing a robe over what he was sleeping in. He  
 quietly closes the back door.

EXT. GARZA FARM - NEAR BARN

Ethan moves up the small rise toward the barn.

He hears the dog barking. Then it becomes more than one dog  
 barking. And they are intermittently howling between barks.

He can now hear them more clearly. They seem to be getting closer. There must be four or five of them.

From the sound of them, they seem to be upstream and on the other side of the creek.

He slowly moves past the barn to the fence.

EXT. GARZA FARM - BEHIND BARN

Ethan walks up to the chain link gate. He hears the dogs more clearly as they seem to approach.

He looks more concerned. Are they chasing something? Are they looking for something?

The barking becomes kind of an excited yapping, then suddenly he hears splashing that must be in the creek just upstream. It's close.

He takes several steps backward from the gate.

The dogs keep barking and he hears wild splashing.

Ethan looks like he's poised to run off, but he notices the dog barks and splashing are heading downstream, away from the Garza-side bank toward Hayes' property.

He keeps listening, but the dog barks are clearly moving away. They are still excited, but much less noticeable now.

He shivers then turns to go back home.

EXT. ANTELOPE CREEK - PATH OPENING - GARZA PROPERTY - DAY

Ethan is back at it, clearing the vines with the shovel handle. He has the creek to his back now and he faces the direction of the gate.

He can't quite see the barn because he's down the bank which is a gradual slope down from the chain link gate. He can just make out the gate. If he clears more vines, maybe he'll see the barn.

He takes a plastic bag out of his pocket. There's a cookie inside. As he works the cookie carefully out of the bag so as not to touch it with his dirty hands, he accidentally drops it on the ground.

The cookie lands where ants and other bugs frequent - they will appreciate the crumbs.