

INT. HOUSE - BASEMENT ROOM - NIGHT

Orange and green lights reflect in May's fascinated eyes.

MAY
Holy smokes...

Olive stands warily in the corner.

May steps closer to the glowing lights.

MAY
This is incredible.

OLIVE
I think that's where Ven went.

MAY
Did you try going in?

OLIVE
What? No, of course not.

MAY
Why not?

OLIVE
I don't know what's in there! What if there's something dangerous? For all I know, it may not even lead to anything. I don't know which is worse, to be honest.

May takes a couple of steps back and tilts her head, analyzing. Her eyes widen with a new realization.

MAY
Wait a second...

She hastily digs in her backpack and pulls out the map. She holds it in front of her, staring at the circles and X's.

She then lowers the map and the oval portal takes the place of one of the circles on the paper.

MAY
They're portals.

OLIVE
What?

MAY

THEY'RE PORTALS! Look! See all these circles? It looks just like the portal. There must be more and they must all be connected somehow. That's what the map is for! My grandpa was exploring these portals!

OLIVE

I don't mean to burst your bubble, but isn't that kind of a reach? I mean, they're just circles.

MAY

We have to go in there.

May grabs her backpack and marches to the portal but Olive gets in her way.

OLIVE

Wait, stop! I can't -- I don't want you to -- We should just think about this for a second.

MAY

What's there to think about? That's where Ven went, so let's go.

OLIVE

Well, we don't know what's in there. I think we should tell someone. Like an actual adult who can deal with this in the right way and no one gets hurt.

MAY

We don't have time to tell anyone. We're here, we know what to do, so let's go.

OLIVE

But I --

MAY

Do you know what will happen if we tell an adult? They'll tell the authorities. Do you know what the authorities will do? They will take you away from this house. They will take everything that belonged to my grandpa. They will take the portal and

(MORE)

MAY (CONT'D)

they will never let you see it again. Then they will cover it up and act like nothing ever happened and make you act like nothing ever happened and you will never see Ven again. Then you will have to spend the rest of your life regretting the opportunity that you let slip so easily from your hands. So why don't you put away this whole righteous goody-two-shoes attitude, and come in the portal with me?

Olive stays silent for a second.

OLIVE

Do you think Ven's in there?

MAY

Only one way to find out.

OLIVE

Okay. Fine. But we do this my way. We can't just go barging in there blindly. We need to be smart about it.

MAY

Fine. What do you suggest?

Olive looks at May. She's got a plan.

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LATER

Olive is tying a rope around May's waist.

OLIVE

So, you'll take one step in just to see what's around. If it's safe, we can prepare accordingly and go in. If anything goes wrong, yank on the rope, and I'll pull you back out.

MAY

What if a giant monster grabs and runs away with me before you can pull me back?

May still doesn't seem to understand Olive doesn't share her

sense of humor.

MAY

Okay, jeez. Just trying to lighten the mood.

OLIVE

(done tying the rope)

Okay, there. Are you ready?

MAY

I've been ready since I was born.

Olive stands back gripping the rope tightly as May walks up to the portal.

MAY

Here we go...

She tries to step inside but the light is too dense. She pushes against it and struggles a bit, but the portal won't let her through.

OLIVE

What's happening?

MAY

Nothing. I think I just need a running start is all.

May backs up to the other end of the room and gets set.

MAY

See ya on the other side!

She sprints at the portal but smashes her face flat against it and falls on the floor.