Survivors Include

by

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Cast of Characters

Kevin Reynolds, 15 – devastated by the death of his adored older brother.

Mike Dobson, 15 – Kevin’s best friend, at a loss but standing by.

For Nick
The Best Brother Ever
Survivors Include


At rise: A single candle flickers L. We may or may not be able to make out KEVIN REYNOLDS, 15, sitting in its glow.

A shaft of light from off R and a metallic whine suggest a trapdoor being opened from below. KEVIN extinguishes the candle immediately. We hear footsteps on creaking stairs and then the whine of the trap being closed. After a brief return to darkness, a switch is thrown and a single overhead bulb casts a dim glow across the space.

S.L. we see KEVIN sitting with his arms around his knees, facing off L. He is wearing a t-shirt and jeans and is barefoot.

MIKE DOBSON, also 15, enters from R. He is wearing a jacket over a sweatshirt and jeans and has his hands in his pockets for warmth. He is not at all surprised to find KEVIN.

KEVIN hears him approach, but does not turn back.

MIKE

Hey.

KEVIN

Hey.

For a moment MIKE is at a loss. Then he steels himself, crosses to KEVIN and crouches down near him.

MIKE

Your dad told me you were up here.

KEVIN nods.

MIKE

All the times I’ve been in your house, I’ve never been up here.

KEVIN doesn’t respond.

MIKE stands and looks around the attic.
MIKE
‘You think there’s some kind of law that people have to store Christmas decorations and empty luggage in the attic?

KEVIN (raising his head, but still not turning to look at MIKE)
That’s gonna really suck from now on.

MIKE
Christmas?

KEVIN nods.

MIKE
I’m sorry …

KEVIN (after a beat)
And Fourth of July, and my birthday and his …. God damn it!

MIKE
I’m sorry.

KEVIN
Would you stop saying that!!!

MIKE
I’m … I wish there was something else to say.

KEVIN
I didn’t think you’d … it’s like a game … What’s it gonna take to make Kevin cry?

MIKE
No. That’s the last thing …

KEVIN

MIKE
Mrs. Cilinski was here already?

KEVIN
Wanted it in her permanent record I guess.

MIKE smiles.
KEVIN
They have all been trying to get me to “let it out.” Like anyone could afford a ticket for that ride.

MIKE (after a beat)
Any teachers?

KEVIN
Just Principal C. so far. Unless someone came by after I came up here. Mayor Grevengood was here seconds after the Army guys left.

MIKE
Grevengood?

KEVIN
To see if he might say a few words at the circus.

MIKE
Service?

KEVIN
Just wait. We should wear red noses.

MIKE
Say the word.

KEVIN stares at him for a long, long beat.

KEVIN
Cool. What’s the crowd like downstairs?

MIKE
Just your Dad and Mary Ellen.

KEVIN
That’s the first time since the two Army guys got here.

MIKE
Mary Ellen didn’t look so good.

KEVIN
Mary Ellen is always a mess.

MIKE nods.
MIKE

I didn't see your mom.

KEVIN shrugs. A beat.

KEVIN

She hasn’t been out of her bedroom …

MIKE nods.

MIKE

Is Karen …

KEVIN

Tomorrow. I think she’s coming tomorrow.

MIKE

Oh.

KEVIN

That’s what everyone says. Just that way. “Oh”

MIKE

It just seems strange that she wouldn’t come right down …

Why?

KEVIN

To be with Rob’s …

Kevin stiffens at the mention of the name.

MIKE

To be with you guys.

KEVIN

Why? We’re not her family.

MIKE

You would have been.

KEVIN

But now we’re not going to be.
MIKE
Insert the thing you don’t want me to say here.

KEVIN
I never really liked her.

MIKE (after a beat)
He was a really good guy.

KEVIN
Like I didn’t know?

MIKE nods.

MIKE
Aren’t you cold?

KEVIN
Nah.

MIKE
We could go back down.

KEVIN shakes his head.

MIKE
Don’t make me feel like a wuss for being cold.

KEVIN
I’m not going back down there.

MIKE
Okay. (a beat) You want to come over to my house?

KEVIN
They’d have a fit.

MIKE
Listen.

KEVIN
What?

MIKE
It’s like minus 40 degrees up here, right?
KEVIN
I guess.

MIKE
I got a lighter. We could make a fire with fake tree and some luggage.

KEVIN
You are like Christina’s World lame.

MIKE
Plan B. I can go downstairs and get you a sweater and maybe some shoes and socks.

KEVIN
What?

MIKE
I’ve been in your room before. It’s not like anyone would try to stop me.

KEVIN
That’s for sure.

MIKE
Can I?

KEVIN shrugs.

MIKE
All right, I’ll be right back.

MIKE crosses R. As we hear the whine of the trap being lowered, a bit of light spills from R.

KEVIN faces the light for a moment. He struggles for a decision that doesn’t come. He finally sprawls on his back in despair.

We hear the whine of the trap being raised and the light from R. dims. MIKE enters carrying a heavy woolen sweater, rag socks and hiking boots.

KEVIN
It wasn’t supposed to happen.

MIKE waits.

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KEVIN
He already served a full tour. He was there a year and made it back. He was only saving money for school. He wasn’t supposed to go back again.

MIKE waits.

KEVIN
Two weeks to the day. He was back there two weeks to the day. What the hell?

MIKE shrugs
It’s never gonna make sense.

KEVIN
I appreciate your insight.

MIKE
Here. Be warm and miserable instead of cold and miserable.

As KEVIN takes the clothing and puts it on, MIKE begins rifling through the items in the attic.

KEVIN
Ummmm ....

MIKE
Yeah?

KEVIN
What are you doing?

MIKE
Looking for the rifle.

KEVIN
What?

MIKE
Where’s the rifle? Behind a box? In a suitcase?

KEVIN
What are you talking about?

MIKE
Rob’s rifle. It’s not under his bed. Don’t jack with me. Where is it?
KEVIN
What were you doing under Rob’s bed?

MIKE
Looking for a shoe that matched. Don’t change the subject.

KEVIN
I don’t know what you’re talkin’ about.

MIKE
You’re not talkin’ to your dad or mom ... or Mary Ellen ... you’re talkin’ to someone who actually knows you. Where’s the rifle?

KEVIN
What are making a big deal about?

MIKE
If you thought I was going to … would you just let me?

KEVIN
You don’t know what it’s like. You never had a brother.

MIKE
No. (dryly) My parents got it right the first time and stopped.

KEVIN
Mine got it right the first time and then had Mary Ellen and me anyway.

MIKE
Very sad. (returning to his search) Where’s the rifle?

KEVIN
Let it go.

MIKE (still searching)
No. Where’s the rifle?

KEVIN
I won’t ...

MIKE
I’ll believe that when I have the rifle.

KEVIN
Man, you are part pit bull.
MIKE
Look. I live with Jack Daniels and the St. Pauli Girl. You're the only family I've got, period. I'm not protecting you. I'm protecting myself. Otherwise there will be a chain reaction, Rob-you-me-god knows who else. We never see the one who's going to be next, do we? Where's the rifle?

KEVIN
Wait.

MIKE
Where's the rifle?

KEVIN
Wait!! ... Please. Wait.

MIKE
I'm waiting for ...

KEVIN
It's not here.

MIKE
Please.

KEVIN
It's not. It's out in the garden shed.

MIKE
What?

KEVIN
I don't hate them enough to do it in the house. I moved it to the shed so I could take it down to the creek after dark. I was going to try wait until after the funeral.

MIKE
Then let's go.

KEVIN
Where?

MIKE
Don't be an idiot.

KEVIN
Now?
MIKE
Duh-huh.

KEVIN
Someone might see us.

MIKE
You’re giving me something to remember him by.

KEVIN
No one would believe I’d give away his rifle.

MIKE
Then I’m taking it so you won’t shoot yourself in the head.

KEVIN
Right.

MIKE
I don’t care what you say. I don’t care what anyone thinks. I’m not leaving without the rifle.

There is a long stare-down between the boys. Finally:

KEVIN
Wow ...

MIKE
What?

KEVIN
One of the things ... It’s weird... I feel ... protected ... again.

MIKE
Lame as your ass is, someone has to protect you from yourself. Come on.

MIKE puts his arm around KEVIN’s shoulder and leads him off R. We hear the creaking of the trap and the light pours into the attic from R. The light dims a bit as Mike shuts off the attic light. As the boys reach the bottom of the ladder, we hear the creaking of the trap and the rest of the light fades out, plunging the attic into darkness.

End of Survivors Include.