

# ***Soil, Air, Sky***

*by*

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Cast of Characters

JANET:

Late 20's

JEREMY:

Late 20's

Place

Porch

Time

Early Afternoon

Setting: Janet and Jeremy lounge on a wooden bench on a front porch.

At Rise: Janet caresses Jerem'y hair while he rests his head in her lap.

*Janet caresses Jeremy's hair while they rest on a wooden bench on a porch somewhere in middle America.*

**JANET:** What are you thinking about?

**JEREMY:** I don't think you really want to know.

**JANET:** Try me.

**JEREMY:** More of the same old...wishing we didn't have to go back up north. Not looking forward to returning to the cold, the madness.

**JANET:** Well, it's where our life is, Jerry.

**JEREMY:** I know it is...(sitting up) was kinda hoping our visit down here would sort of kickstart things in your mind.

**JANET:** Kickstart what?

**JEREMY:** Wishful thinking, I guess.

**JANET:** You know that's impossible.

**JEREMY:** Is it? I mean, don't you ever just want to say fuck it all?

**JANET:** All the time.

**JEREMY:** So, why not make a change?

**JANET:** Change? What kind of change? You expect me to leave school after all this time? We both owe so much money and in another year we have to start working back our debt and it's---we need to stay where we are if we are ever going to have a chance.

*Jeremy stands.*

**JEREMY:** It's really weighing heavy on me, Janet.

**JANET:** Me too but we have to be strong.

**JEREMY:** I am strong...I feel trapped, imprisoned by my own ambition and I'm in so deep, I hate not having the freedom to change my mind.

**JANET:** Why would you want to change your mind? Don't you want this?

**JEREMY:** I do want this but it's like I have a gun aimed at my own damn head.

**JANET:** We have to finish school.

**JEREMY:** Don't you like it out here?

**JANET:** It doesn't matter if I do or not.

**JEREMY:** Can't you just answer my question?

**JANET:** ...Your eyes haven't stopped shining bright since we first got here. Your mouth hasn't stopped smiling...I've never seen you so happy before. I see the way you look out at the landscape and it's so obvious to me that you're complete.

You ask me if I like it down here, well, I love it. I actually love it because I love you and I see how enthusiastic you are about everything. I mean, I've never seen you with so much energy before...you haven't missed a morning making me breakfast...showing me the rivers and the long walks we've had in the meadow, it's unlike anything I've ever been used to. It almost feels like we're in some kind of fantasy, I've been so happy these past couple of weeks.

I'm willing to experience this fantasy but is it really real? It can only be temporary...we need to get back to school, we need to pay off our debt, we need to live in the real world.

**JEREMY:** For me this is the real world, Janet. Why can't we move here when we graduate?

**JANET:** I like New York!

**JEREMY:** Don't give me that. You just said so yourself. You love it down here.

**JANET:** It's not real.

**JEREMY:** Why can't we make it real? We can build our very own practice in town and surround ourselves with everything that makes us both happy...together.

**JANET:** This is not what I planned Jeremy and you know it.

**JEREMY:** Let's change our plans.

**JANET:** Why are you putting me in this position?

**JEREMY:** What position is that?

**JANET:** To choose.

**JEREMY:** Is it really that hard of a decision?

**JANET:** It is. We will be paying off our loans for all eternity if we lived down here.

**JEREMY:** It shouldn't be just about money. That's all everybody thinks about anymore is money, money, money. What about simplifying things and living within our means?

**JANET:** It's not as simple as that.

**JEREMY:** Why can't it be?

**JANET:** Because it's not!

(pause.)

**JEREMY:** I see him, I get visitations...random images pop up in my mind all the time. The latest one of him walking along a road on a hot bright day somewhere in Nevada, wearing a classic white t-shirt with grease smeared on it in patches. Blue jeans, boots carried with his calm yet confident swagger. Always deep in thought, right? Friendly exterior...flowing by. (beat) Connected. He was always connected to the soil, wasn't he? The soil, the air, the sky...a man of the land and the vocabulary to share it with you, if you cared to listen.

**JANET:** Why haven't you told me?

*Jeremy shrugs his shoulders.*

**JEREMY:** I miss him.

**JANET:** Oh baby, I know you do.

**JEREMY:** Being down here has been a big deal for me...my brother is everywhere I look...not in a bad way...it's good cause his memory reminds me of how much all this is home. (beat) You're right. I do feel complete when I'm down here...but not without you, only *with* you...here.

These past two weeks, I feel like the world's been mine. This is home for me...it's always been home for me and I would love for you to be part of my home and for us to build a life together down here.

We'd make it work.

**JANET:** This isn't some quick decision for me.

**JEREMY:** I know.

**JANET:** We need to let it ride.

**JEREMY:** Being down here with you makes me certain and I only want you to know how I truly feel.

**JANET:** Nothing can be decided now.

**JEREMY:** I understand.

**JANET:** Don't pressure me.

**JEREMY:** I won't.

**JANET:** ...And if I said no?

**JEREMY:** ...I never want to leave your side.

**END OF PLAY**