

Land of the Lost and Found

By Roxanne Wells

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EMMA – FOURTEEN

MOLLY – FOURTEEN IN BODY, TEN IN SOUL

JACK- FOURTEEN IN BODY, TWELVE IN SOUL

1. *A train.*

Complete darkness.

The sound of a train clattering down tracks.

The train clattering gets louder and faster. Then the horn sounds loud and long before the screeching of wheels on metal and an almighty crash.

Silence.

The beep beep of a life support machine starts quietly, in the background – and never stops.

The train slowly, creaks back to life, but different. The sound is of an old fashioned steam train.

TRAIN ANNOUNCEMENT (*crackly with static*)

We will shortly be reaching your not quite
final destination. All passengers please alight.

2. *Limbo.*

Lights up. EMMA (14) is sitting, confused

TRAIN ANNOUNCEMENT

That means you Emma Greenwood. You've arrived.

Surprised, EMMA stands. A dark and gloomy station platform is revealed. There is a white station sign – blank.

EMMA Weird. Where am I? (*frustrated*)

A tune begins to play. A recorder playing 'Lord of the Dance'. MOLLY (14 in body but acts younger) enters. She is grey. She's playing the recorder and tied around her wrist she has a 'Welcome' helium balloon. She approaches EMMA and finishes the tune shyly in front of her.

MOLLY Hi, I'm Molly. This is for you. (*shyly hands over the balloon*) Oh, and this. (*produces a chocolate bar from her pocket and hands it to Emma eagerly*) It's chocolate. Creamy milk chocolate. You must be starving. You've come such a long way.

EMMA What? I was on my way home from Nans. I was on the train and...well... I must've fallen asleep I guess. But I don't remember feeling tired.

MOLLY Oh...

EMMA I must have got off at the wrong stop. What's this place called? Am I near Nottingham?

MOLLY Not really...Did you like the tune?

EMMA *(unsure)* Erm...Yeah/

MOLLY Then I'll play it again for you. *(Begins to play again)*

Over the recorder comes the sound of a boy band. JACK (14 in body but acts younger) enters carrying a portable cd player, 3 helium balloons (1 It's a girl, 1 It's a Boy and 1 Happy birthday) and a delicious looking cake. He is grey and only has one arm. In the place of his missing arm he has made a pretend arm, like a scarecrows, by stuffing his jumper sleeve with straw and sewing on a glove.

JACK D' ya like Bad Boys Rock?

EMMA Bad Boys Rock? No not really.

JACK Oh. A thought all girls liked Bad Boys Rock?

EMMA Yeah, maybe three years ago.

JACK *(shrugs)* Ma sister likes em. She likes all that kind o rubbish. 'ere, *(he thrusts the cake at Emma)* 'av a cake. *(He looks at the writing on his balloons and thrusts the 'It's a Girl' one at her)* An 'ere, look a got ya a balloon. Sorry, *someone (looks at Molly)* took the last 'Welcome' one.

MOLLY Jack! What are you doing here? It's my turn!

JACK S'not.

MOLLY Yes it is – she's the same age as me.

JACK Yeah well she's the same age as me an all.

MOLLY No she isn't.

JACK She is – it's me birthday today. Look, this is me balloon – from mesen to me. And it sez "appy birthday ." Can't ya read? I thought you was a swot Molly twoshoes?

MOLLY Don't call me that!

JACK Molly twoshoes, Molly twoshoes.

MOLLY Jack!

EMMA It's fine. I don't want the balloon. And you can keep the cake too.

MOLLY Oh no, we can't eat that. We've been here too long.

JACK Ssshhh!

EMMA Well, I don't want it. I just want to get home. Mum's meeting me at the station and she'll freak when I'm not on the train. When's the next one?

Jack and Molly pretend not to hear.

EMMA Hello?

JACK Sorry what?

EMMA When does the next train to Nottingham leave?

JACK The next what?

EMMA The next train.

JACK Trains dunt leave 'ere.

MOLLY Trains only arrive.

EMMA *(turns to look at the train she arrived on -*
confused) Eh? So, where did the train I came
in on go?

MOLLY *(shrugs)* Why don't you eat your chocolate? I
got it for you specially *(looking at the*
chocolate bar longingly)

EMMA Look, I really don't want the chocolate bar, or
the cake, or the balloons. I just want to go
home.

MOLLY I'm sorry Emma but/

JACK But, it's a bit of a trek. Ya see you 'ave to go to
other train station, on other side o' town.
That's where t' trains leave from. It's far. It
teks ages.

MOLLY But Jack/

JACK Dunt worry, you dunt 'ave to come Molly.
You can stop 'ere.

EMMA You mean, you'll show me the way?

JACK Yep. I'll tek ya. Me and you. You and me.
Come on then. 'urry up. I teld ya it's far, we'd
best get goin'.

Jack takes Emma's arm and hurries her along.

MOLLY Wait! I'm coming too.

Jack scowls as Molly runs after them.

3. *Dirt track road*

The landscape gets darker, bleaker, shadowier.

Emma is trying to get a mobile phone signal. Jack and

Molly are squabbling.

MOLLY It was so my turn Jack. I can't believe you are stealing my turn. I've waited ages for someone my age. What's the point having a system if certain people aren't going to stick to it?

JACK A teld ya – it's my turn. So FWI it is you what is actually stealing my turn off of me, Molly two shoes.

MOLLY I am not! And don't call me that.

JACK Are. Molly two shoes.

MOLLY Am not!

Jack pulls a piece of paper from his pocket.

JACK Are! Look. The rota for 14 year olds. My name at top. Ha!

MOLLY Jack! It's obvious you've rubbed my name out and wrote yours over the top!

JACK Prove it.

MOLLY I can see my name – you've not rubbed it out properly. Look M – L – Y.

JACK M-L-Y? Emmelle- Why? That int your name though, is it? An' I ant even got a rubber.

Molly dives at his pockets and pulls out a big eraser.

JACK Snot mine.

MOLLY I know it's not! It's mine! Thief!

JACK Am not!

MOLLY Are!

EMMA Do you two ever stop arguing? Why can't I get a signal? I need to phone my Mum to let

her know I'm alright or I'm gonna be grounded for months. Do either of you have a mobile?

JACK A mobile what?

EMMA A mobile phone.

JACK Oh so that's what that is. (*Goes over and examines it, fascinated*) I thought it wa' a calculator. It's small innit!

EMMA Not really. Why what've you got?

JACK What what?

EMMA What mobile?

JACK Oh. I ant got one of them.

EMMA You've not got a mobile?

JACK We dunt have much use for em here.

EMMA Why? Cos of the bad signal?

JACK Um. Yeah. Bad signal.

EMMA So no texting, no facebook, no games? That's rubbish. How do you keep in touch with your mates?

JACK Not easily.

EMMA Harsh. *(contemplates not having a mobile for a few seconds. Jack pulls an 'eek' grimace at Molly who scowls at him.)*

EMMA What did you mean before anyway? Your turn? Your turn for what?

MOLLY *(sweetly)* To welcome you.

Jack glares at her.

EMMA But you didn't know I was coming.

JACK But we knew a train was coming. A train aint gonna just come with no-one on it, is it?

EMMA I suppose not, but/Oh wow! What is that??

They have reached a stream of multicoloured, luminous water. Molly and Jack freeze. Molly especially is afraid.

MOLLY Don't go near it, Emma! Don't touch it.

EMMA Why not? I've never seen anything like it! Is it water?

JACK Yeah but dunt touch it.

EMMA Don't be silly, if it's water then/

MOLLY Just tell her Jack! Don't let her touch it!

JACK It's...It's polluted. Badly polluted – it's toxic, nasty. I mean seriously gross. Like yer hand'll melt off gross.

EMMA *(eyes Jacks strange arm. He tries to hide it shyly.)* Oh. Right.

MOLLY We can't cross it Jack. What if one of us falls in? I'm not going near it and if Emma fell in/

JACK Sssh! Chillax. Ya dunt have to cross it, ok? We can cut through woods. Me and Emma'll just go 'av a look. Check we can get through. You wait 'ere. We'll come back for ya.

MOLLY No Jack, I think I'd rather come with you, thanks.

JACK But it's dark in woods. Dead dark. Ya wint be able to see right well. What if stream runs though t'woods too? What if ya fall in? What if we all fell in? If you stay 'ere we can shout ya for help if we need to, and you defo wint be the one who falls in.

EMMA I don't think I want to fall either! Why don't I wait with Molly and you go look? On your own.

JACK Oh right. Then I can fall in and noone know 'bout it? I dunt think so. Nah, you come wi' me and Molly stop 'ere. Or do ya wanna miss yer train?

EMMA No.

JACK Well then.

EMMA Fine.

MOLLY Fine.

JACK *(sickly sweet smile)* Dunt worry Mol, we wint be long. Promise.

Jack and Emma leave a fearful Molly waiting a cautious distance from the stream.

4. *The Woods*

Dark, shadowy, claustrophobic. Jack has led Emma deep into the woods. Darkness is falling.

EMMA It's getting really dark. I don't think it was a good idea to come this way. We should go back to Molly before we get lost.

JACK Oh yeah, yeah. Wi should. (*He looks around, puzzled*). Which way did we come?

Emma looks around confused.

EMMA I don't know. It's the trees, they all look the same. They look weird, you know, the branches – they look strange in the dark. Like...arms or something.

Jack clutches his fake arm.

JACK We should keep walking. It'll bring us art somewhere brighter soon. We can go back for Molly once wi know where wi are.

EMMA I guess we don't have much choice.

JACK Not really.

EMMA This place is weird.

JACK Umm.

EMMA I mean, where am I anyway? Am I even
anywhere near Nottingham?

JACK Erm... I wunt say 'near' exactly.

EMMA Derby?

JACK I dunt think so.

EMMA Well how come I ended up here then? I
definitely got on the right train.

JACK Well, erm, I...wait...what's that noise?

*A crackling of branches gets louder, someone is getting
closer.*

EMMA What if it's a bear or something? We'll be
killed!

JACK Yeah, I wunt worry so much 'bout that. I
mean, we dunt really get bears 'ere.

EMMA Well what then? A wolf? A murderer?

 Nothing that would be rustling in the bushes

 in a dark wood really appeals that much to

 be honest!

Molly enters.

EMMA Molly!

MOLLY I knew it, Jack! I knew you were going to

 leave me. Do you really think I'd trust you?

 Do you really think I'm so stupid that I'd

 stand by that stream just waiting and waiting

 for you to come back? You know I hate water

 Jack but you left me all on my own.

EMMA We just got a bit lost that's all, Molly. We

 were gonna come back for ya.

MOLLY Jack's not lost, Emma. He knows exactly

 where he's going, don't you Jack.

JACK No. Wi got lost.

MOLLY Liar. I don't trust him and neither should you.

EMMA What do you mean by that?

MOLLY I mean, why don't you ask him where he's
going? Where he's taking you really?

JACK Shurrup Molly.

MOLLY No I won't shut up.

JACK Shurrup before I mek ya shurrup.

MOLLY Oh yeah and how are you going to do that?
I've got two arms remember, you've only got
one.

JACK Shurrup, shurrup, shurrup!

*Jack pushes Molly hard. She bangs into a tree trunk and
from above falls a grey, severed human arm. Emma begins
to scream. Molly rushes to her side to comfort her.*

MOLLY Oh Emma, It's ok, don't be scared.

EMMA Don't be scared! It's an arm! An arm just fell
from the tree!

*Emma looks up and realises that the branches of the tree
are in fact severed limbs.*

EMMA Look! It's the branches! They are all
 arms...and legs! That is so gross! What's
 going on? What is this place?

MOLLY We have to tell her Jack. It's not fair.

JACK Oh, but then they get all upset and start to
 bawl. It's mega uncool.

MOLLY And I suppose you didn't cry did you, when
 you were told?

JACK No. Course I dint. Think am a girl or summat?

EMMA Told what? Just tell me!

JACK *(big sigh)* Alright, alright. If you must know
 Emma you're/
 You're quite far from home.

MOLLY You're quite far from home.

EMMA How far is quite far?

JACK Trust us – it's far.

MOLLY Too far for a train to take you back I'm afraid.

EMMA But I don't understand. I came here on a
 train.

JACK I dint see no train.

EMMA Of course there was a train. I just got off at the wrong station that's all. And the stupid sign was blank. What's this place called anyway? I'll googlemap it when I get a signal.

MOLLY Well that's the thing. It doesn't really have a name.

EMMA No name? So we're really in the middle of nowhere? I guess that make's sense. My aunt lives in the middle of nowhere in Scotland and she can't get a mobile signal there either. But the area must be called something?! The town? What do you call it?

MOLLY Me?

EMMA Yeah. Like if someone asks you where you're from, what would you tell them?

MOLLY *(unsure)* I... I'd say I was from a place that was like a lost and found.

EMMA A lost and found?

MOLLY Yes. You know. Like where are the lost things are. Where they wait to be collected. If they're ever collected.

JACK So what she means is less of the found and more of the lost.

MOLLY *(sadly)* I guess I do.

EMMA What are you two talking about? You're not umbrellas or keys or a mobile someone's left on the bus! You're not lost property! That's the strangest thing I ever heard anyone say – ever! You're not making any sense.

JACK Does this place look like it meks sense to you? Come on Emma, look round? That tree has arms instead of branches.

EMMA Well that's obviously not real. I mean it can't be. This must be some kind of dream. Yeah, that's it. I'm on the train, fast asleep, dreaming of two weirdo's and a tree with arms in the land of the lost and found (*laughs and starts pinching herself*).

JACK Who you callin' a weirdo?

EMMA Come on Emma, wake up!

MOLLY We're not weirdos Emma.

EMMA Wake up! Wake up!

MOLLY We're your friends.

Emma sinks to the ground in frustration.

EMMA I don't want to be your friend. You're freaks.

Why don't you just leave me alone!

MOLLY You don't mean that.

EMMA I do! I'm going to find someone who isn't
weird, or crazy, or...an umberella! – who can
help me get out of this place.

*Emma gets up to leave – Molly and Jack look at each other
in a panic.*

JACK Oh nice one Molly, great. Now we're gonna
lose 'er.

MOLLY Emma wait! We can still help you get home.

EMMA You can?

5. *Deeper into the woods.*

Darker, gloomier. Thorny 'finger' bushes scratch at them as they fight through the claustrophobic wood.

EMMA Ow! This place is horrible. Why are there bits of people everywhere?

MOLLY Sometimes people don't arrive here in one piece and the pieces kind of follow them – become part of the place.

Jack puts his hands over his ears.

JACK *(Sings)* Hit the road, Jack, and dontya come back, No more, No more, No more, No more...

MOLLY Some people find it easier to accept then others.

EMMA What do you mean?

MOLLY (*whispers*) Look at his left arm.

JACK What you sayin' bout me?

MOLLY If you didn't have your hands – I mean hand -
over your ears you'd know.

JACK You're not perfect yersen Molly.

MOLLY He's quite sensitive about it Emma, but he's
'armless really (*giggles*).

JACK Take that back.

MOLLY What? Just saying – you don't mean no 'arm
(*giggles*).

JACK Funny is it? Would it be funny if I smack you
on the back of yer head?

MOLLY Don't you dare!

EMMA Why? What would happen?

JACK Molly 's waterlogged. She's full of the stuff. A tap on the back of her head means the pressure sends her eye's flying out and water pours out of the holes. It's dead funny. She has to find em and then put em back in like plugs.

EMMA You tell some really gross stories Jack.

JACK It's true. I'll prove it.

MOLLY No! No, Jack.

Jack starts to chase Molly around.

EMMA I don't want to see.

JACK But I thought it wa' funny. Come on Molly
lets 'ave a good old laugh at you.

MOLLY No! No!

*Jack continues to chase, laughing hysterically. Molly runs
offstage.*

JACK Am comin' to get ya Molly two shoes! You'd
better hide! Am coming to pop out those
peepers. Open the floodgates!

EMMA Don't! Molly, come back!

JACK Oh, leave 'er. She's bein daft.

EMMA No she isn't. She's scared. You're being mean.

JACK Like she was to me ya mean?

EMMA I'm going after her.

JACK No! You can't go after 'er. You've got to come
wi' me.

EMMA I'm not leaving her in the woods on her own.

JACK Nothing bad can happen to 'er. Apart from...

EMMA Apart from what?

JACK Nowt. She'll be right. Do you wanna get
home or not?

EMMA Yes, but/

JACK Well wi 'ave to 'urry. We...I mean you, ant got
much time.

EMMA What do you mean?

JACK I mean wiv gotta get goin'. We'll be quicker
wi'art Molly anyway – she's well slow.

EMMA Why do we have to hurry?

JACK Wi just do, that's all.

EMMA Why? If you don't tell me, Jack, I'm not
coming with you.

JACK Wi just do.

EMMA Fine. (*Goes to follow Molly*) MOLLY. MOLLY.
I'M COMING WITH YOU.

JACK Okay, okay. Wi 'ave to hurry cos you're fadin'.

EMMA Fading?

JACK Yeah, fadin'. Yer colours. In here (*presses his hand against Molly heart*). They're your link to home. When people first get here they still have em. Glowin' an shinin'. But they soon run out of ya. Like a leaky felt tip pen.

EMMA Like the colours in the stream you mean?

JACK Yep. They run away like water. Form streams like runny rainbows. And at the other side of this wood, where the trees clear – is a lake. A humungous multicoloured pool. Big as, like, the ocean or summat. That's where they collect – the colours. That's why you mustn't touch the water 'ere – it'll tek yer colours and you'll be left grey like the rest of us. Grey and stuck 'ere. It's too late for us but you still 'ave time.

EMMA (*Short pause as Emma stares at him before bursting into laughter.*) OMG, that has to be the funniest thing I ever heard. This dream

just gets weirder and weirder. What did I eat earlier?

JACK Yer not dreamin' Emma. N we need to get a shift on. Yer lights could go art anytime. So are ya comin' wi' me or not?

EMMA Well I'm not gonna sit and have a picnic am I?

JACK 'allelujah!

6. *Flower head field*

Jack and Emma come to a clearing. A vast field. Great big sunflower stalks with human heads instead of sunflower heads. Jack enters first then rushes back to Emma and puts his hands over her eyes.

EMMA Jack! What are you doing?

JACK Erm...nothin'...

EMMA Well get off me then!

JACK It's just, ya might wanna keep yer eyes closed for this bit.

EMMA Why? What is it?

JACK Nothin', nothin'.

EMMA Well it must be something. What can be worst then a severed arm falling from a tree and practically landing on my (*she pushes him off and he knocks one of the stalks. A head falls down to the ground beside him. Emma screams*) head!

JACK Sssshhhh!

EMMA Jack, it's heads on stalks!

JACK I know, it's pretty weird, but you have to be
quiet round here.

EMMA Why?

JACK You ask a lotta questions dunt ya? Why dunt
ya make yersen useful and help me get this
'ead back on it's stalk.

EMMA I'm not touching that thing! It's a head.

JACK Not no more its not. It's a flower.

EMMA Some flower.

JACK Things are just a bit different here that's all.
You'll get used to it.

EMMA No I won't. Cos anytime soon I'm going to
wake up, get off the train, go home with Mum
and watch X Factor.

JACK If you say so.

Jack tries to put the head back on the stalk but it drops to the ground again – splattering him with blood.

JACK Great.

Emma giggles.

JACK Funny is it? See how you like it.

Jack picks up the head and throws it at Emma. Blood splatters her and she screams.

JACK SSSHHH!

A low growl is heard nearby.

EMMA What's that?

JACK Oh no! I told ya to be quiet. Quick we need to hide.

He glances around desperately for a hiding place. The growl is getting louder, closer.

EMMA I don't need to hide from anything in my dream. It can't hurt me. Nothing can.

Jack pinches her arm hard.

EMMA Ow!

JACK Did that hurt?

EMMA Yes!

JACK Good – now hide cos what’s comin’ can hurt
ya a lot more than that!

EMMA Where?

JACK There int nowhere! Oh no, oh no, oh no – it’s
comin’! What we gonna do, Emma? What we
gonna do?!

Molly runs in.

MOLLY Quick! The beast is coming. We need to hide.

JACK Ya think I dunt know that? There int
nowhere!

*A roaring is heard, close now. Molly runs to a stalk, pulls
off a head and stands behind the stalk, her own head in its
place.*

MOLLY Quickly!

Jack copies her.

EMMA I can’t pull off its head!

MOLLY It's not a person Emma, it's just a flower.
Imagine you're popping off a daisy head –
just hurry!

Emma squeamishly does as she's told. All three of them are pretending to be flowers. The roaring gets closer and closer. They are scared. A great shadow looms – a beast with ten heads, ten arms and ten legs. A hotchpotch of limbs sewn together. It sniffs the air like a dog and growls loudly, suspiciously, before leaving.

MOLLY It's gone.

EMMA What was that?

MOLLY The beast. Well, that's what we call it. Noone knows what, or who it was when it came here. It might have been here forever. Some people say it's desperate to be whole again, normal again, others think it's a monster. I think it's probably both. All we know is that it collects body parts and if he gets hold of you you're losing something.

JACK I wont scared.

MOLLY Yeah right. If I hadn't heard it and saved you
you wouldn't even have one arm, Jack.
'Ooooh, what shall we doooo Emma! What
shall we dooooooo!?'

JACK Shurrup.

MOLLY You shut up. Always ditching me, trying to
lose me in the woods. I should have left you
to get pulled apart.

JACK 'ere she goes again – lil miss molly two
shoes! Dunt pretend you were saving me. It's
'er you want (*pointing at Emma*). Making out
you're lil miss perfect.

MOLLY I'm not. I just don't ditch my friends like you
do.

JACK Friends?

MOLLY People I know. Whatever. Let's just get
moving, before he comes back.

EMMA Good idea. When I wake I'd like to still have
all my body parts in tact (*laughs*)!

Emma sets off –leaves stage. Molly and Jack glance at each other.

MOLLY I feel awful doing this to Emma. It feels so mean.

JACK Dunt go gettin' all mushy. You wanna see yer family dunt ya?

MOLLY More than anything.

JACK Well then wi need 'er.

MOLLY I know. I just wish there was another way.

JACK You know there int another way. This is the way it is. It's the way it's always bin. When me and you got here someone did it to us. So we're doing it to her. She'll do it to someone else an all, when she realises that she aint goin nowhere.

MOLLY I guess so. I just feel so bad.

JACK Well dunt do it then Mol. But dunt go ruining it for me. I've waited ages for my turn to

come round again. I aint letting noone spoil
it.

Suddenly there's a loud roar and a scream off stage.

MOLLY/JACK Emma!

Run off stage.

7. *Woods.*

Jack and Molly run on. There is no sign of Emma.

MOLLY Oh no!

JACK The beast got 'er!

MOLLY Oh poor Emma!

JACK Poor Emma? Poor us! We've brought 'er all this way, wasted all this time and all for what? Nothin' that's what. A big fat nothin'. She'll be in pieces by nar. *(big sigh)* I'll 'ave to wait till me turn comes round again – god know when that'll be. Unless there's some big disaster and we get loadsa people on one train. That'd be good.

MOLLY Jack! Don't say things like that. And we can't just leave Emma. We have to go find her.

JACK What's point? She'll be part of the beast by now. And I'm not risking losing...anything *(looks at his good arm protectively)*.

MOLLY She might not be. We have to at least try.

JACK Molly, give it up. She's gone. You'll just 'ave to wait a bit longer.

MOLLY That's not the only reason I want to help her, Jack. I like her.

JACK *(laughs)* You like 'er? And do ya think she's gonna like you when she finds out where we're takin' 'er and why? What do ya think she'll say Molly? Oh it dunt matter. I dunt mind. Forget me family. Forget home. I'll stay here and we can be lost together forever? Little lost bezzies! Get real.

MOLLY She'll be upset but/

JACK But what? When she finds out wiv tricked er? That wiv bin stringing her along because we want to use her? What then? She's gonna 'ate you Molly. So why risk yoursen for someone that's gonna 'ate ya?

MOLLY I can't just leave her. We brought her into the woods. I'm going to find her. If you're not coming then I'll go on my own.

JACK Dunt be stupid. The beast'll be wearing both of yer
 heads like earrings.

MOLLY Oh, what do you care?

*Molly exits. Jack dithers before angrily sighing and going
after her.*

8. *The beasts cave.*

Emma is in the beasts ice cave. Huge icicles hang from the dark roof and the walls are sheets of black ice. Emma is unconscious on the floor. Her sleeve is ripped and her arm cut and bleeding. Her colours are reflected around the cave by the ice creating a beautiful light effect. Low snores are coming from the sleeping beast (offstage). Molly enters. On seeing the colours she becomes mesmerised – spinning and dancing blissfully. Jack enters.

JACK *(whispers)* Molly! There's no time for that. We 'ave to get Emma an ger art.

MOLLY But it's so lovely. *(pirouettes gleefully)*

JACK *(grabs her and gives her a shake)* 'ave ya gone mad? The beast is asleep just over there!

MOLLY I don't care. I can feel it – can you? They're close. *(She closes her eyes)*. Mum is at the shops. She's buying cakes. Mmm chocolate cakes. I can smell them. I can almost, almost taste them.

JACK Molly, stop it. Stop it nar. We 'ave to go before he
weks up and we're all done for!

Molly continues to dance in her own world – ignoring him.

Jack goes to Emma and tries to wake her.

JACK Emma! Emma! Wek up Emma, wek up.

*He goes to an icicle and holds his hand on it – then puts his
hand over Emma's face. The cold shock wakes her.*

EMMA Jack? Where am I? What happened? Ow!

She clutches her arm in surprise, noticing the blood.

JACK Sssshhh.

EMMA But I'm bleeding. My arm hurts.

JACK You're lucky it's still attached.

EMMA But it really hurts. Not like a dream hurt. Like a
real... This isn't a dream is it? I'm really here?
Really lost... like an umberella...

*In shock, Emma stands whoosily. The cold hits her and she
starts to shiver as she takes in her surroundings, the light.*

EMMA Is that light coming from me? Are they the...the
 colours?

JACK We need to get out of 'ere. Just be quiet.

EMMA This can't be happening. *(becoming hysterical)* It's
 too weird. I can't be lost. I can't be...

JACK Emma, ssh!

EMMA Mum! Mum, wake me up! Wake me up!

*Emmas' shouts wake Molly from her trance and the beast
gives out a loud roar.*

JACK Molly, Emma, run!

9. *The woods.*

Molly and Emma run on and collapse exhausted.

MOLLY Jack! We have to go back for him!

EMMA We can't! The beast!

Molly starts to cry.

EMMA Oh Molly don't cry.

MOLLY I can't help it. The beast'll be ripping him to pieces.
Oh poor Jack.

EMMA I'm so sorry. It's all my fault.

MOLLY It's not your fault Emma.

EMMA It is! I woke the beast! I brought you here! Jack was
trying to help me get home. You both were. Even
when I didn't believe in you, you didn't ditch me.
You still tried to help me and look at what's
happened. I bet you wished you hadn't bothered.

MOLLY It's our own fault Emma, not yours.

EMMA Your fault for being nice? For helping me through
this weird place and keeping me safe? For helping

me to get home to my Mum even though you can't get home to your own? You and Jack have been real friends to me and all I've done is get you into trouble.

MOLLY Friends?

EMMA Yeah. Brilliant friends.

MOLLY Oh Emma, don't...

EMMA You are! I'll miss you when I'm back home.

MOLLY Don't...

EMMA I wish you could come with me.

MOLLY Just stop it! Things aren't always what they seem you know. People aren't always/

She's interrupted by Jack running in. He is missing his fake arm.

MOLLY/EMMA Jack!

They run and embrace him. He momentarily enjoys the hug before shrugging them off, embarrassed.

JACK Alright, alright. Ger off me.

EMMA Jack, you're alright! What happened?

JACK I fought the beast and I won, obviously.

MOLLY You fought the beast!?

JACK Yeah. He was no match for me.

MOLLY But he's got ten arms and you've got...

They notice that Jack's arm is missing.

MOLLY Jack? Your arm is missing.

JACK *(sighs)* I threw it to 'im ok. Threw it to him, he chased it and I legged it.

MOLLY Oh Jack.

JACK 'ave you bin crying?

MOLLY No. Of course not.

JACK Well yer eye's are wet?

MOLLY Are they? *(Wipes them hastily)* I must be leaking a bit.

JACK *(dubious)* Oh right. Well wid best get goin – before the beast comes looking for us.

EMMA No.

JACK What?

EMMA I don't want to get you two into any more trouble. I think you should go home and I'll make my own way from here.

JACK 'ome?

MOLLY We can't go home Emma.

JACK But wi can 'elp you.

EMMA You've helped me enough already.

MOLLY Don't be silly, Emma. You don't know where you're going, or even what to do when you get there.

EMMA Well you can tell me, can't you?

JACK No, wi can't. We 'ave to go wi' ya.

MOLLY It's difficult to explain. You need us there Emma.

JACK Yeah, or it just wint work.

EMMA But I don't want to put you in any more danger.

JACK But we wanna come wi' ya.

MOLLY We're not going to leave you in the woods all alone.

JACK No. We're a team.

MOLLY Yeah. A team. We're your friends, remember?

EMMA Yes, but/

JACK Well enough o' bein' stupid then. Wi can't 'ang
round 'ere all day. Unless you want me to lose me
good arm an all?

EMMA No, course not.

JACK Right then. Let's go.

*Molly smiles and offers Emma her hand, before glancing
behind uneasily at Jack.*

10. *The woods.*

The undergrowth is getting thicker and the three are struggling through a thick finger bush. They fight their way through, helping each other, and then collapse exhausted and the other side.

EMMA I'm shattered.

MOLLY Oh no, we're forgetting that you still get tired.

EMMA Don't you?

MOLLY No. We don't get tired and we don't sleep.

JACK Time can kinda drag 'ere.

MOLLY Lets stop for a little rest.

EMMA But my colours?

JACK They're getting weaker Molly, you can see that.
Come on Emma.

MOLLY I think we can let Emma have five minutes Jack,
can't we?

JACK S'pose.

MOLLY Good.

Molly climbs back into the bush and pulls off thin twigs.

JACK What ya doin'?

MOLLY I'm making you a new arm.

JACK Oh. Thanks.

*Molly binds twigs into an arm shape and puts them up
Jacks empty sleeve.*

EMMA Here. Use my glove.

*She passes Molly her glove and Molly plucks five fingers
from the bush to fill it, then attaches it to the bottom of the
sleeve – concealing the twigs.*

MOLLY There look. Good as new.

JACK Thanks.

*Unexpectedly, he gives her an awkward kiss. She is shy but
pleased.*

MOLLY You're welcome.

JACK Ok, well, erm, come on Emma, wi need to get goin'.

EMMA Ok. Is it much further?

JACK Look.

A signpost appears. One way points to "THE LAKE". In that direction there is an inviting multicoloured glow. The other points to "THE HOUSE". That direction is dark and eerie.

EMMA The lake. Wow, doesn't it look pretty? Though I suppose it's like you said Molly – 'things aren't always how they look'.

JACK She sed what?

EMMA That things aren't always how they look. Like the lake.

JACK (*directed at Molly*) You're right Emma. It looks so pretty. Seems so nice. But it's not. It's all a lie. It just wants to take yer colours for 'erself. I mean itself. Come on, we're goin' this way.

EMMA But it's so dark.

JACK Fine, stay 'ere then.

EMMA No, I'm coming.

JACK You comin' Molly? Or have ya changed yer mind?

MOLLY I'm coming.

11. *A dark passageway flanked on each side by trees studded with eyeballs.*

EMMA Urgh! It's raining!

MOLLY It's not raining Emma, it's them.

EMMA *(notices the eyes)* Urgh!! Eyes?

MOLLY Yep.

EMMA Are they crying?

MOLLY Looks like it.

JACK So what if they are? Always slow you two. Getting us into trouble.

EMMA But why are they crying? They look so sad. So lost.

JACK Wunt you be? Eyes like being in peoples heads. Not funny little berries on stupid trees.

He bangs his fist into a tree trunk and an eyeball falls to the ground.

EMMA Jack! Be careful!

Emma goes to the eyeball and picks it up.

EMMA It's staring at me.

JACK Well it is an eye, whadda ya wan' it to do?
Cartwheels?

EMMA It's like it wants to tell me something.

JACK (*mutters to Molly*) I think it's not the only one.

MOLLY What do you mean?

Jack pulls her out of Emma's earshot.

JACK Things not what they seem? Are you tryin' to give
the game away? Can I not leave ya alone with 'er
for five minutes without yer stupid conscience
nearly ruining everything for both of us?

MOLLY I'm sorry ok. I was just upset because you were
gone and she kept going on and on about what
good friends we'd been and I just couldn't listen to
it anymore.

JACK Yer what?

MOLLY I couldn't listen to it anymore.

JACK No, The first bit. You said you were upset cos I was gone.

MOLLY Well I was a bit. I mean, you saved us. It was the nicest, bravest thing you've ever done.

JACK (*embarrassed*) I wanted to save Emma cos - well, yer know why. You just 'appened to be there. And now I'm thinkin' maybe I missed a trick. Maybe I should've took Emma and left you to the beast, if yer gonna keep shooting yer mouth off.

MOLLY I'm not.

JACK Good. Cos just remember Molly, one tap on the back of yer head and yer eyes are baubles decorating t'trees, gorrit?

MOLLY (*upset*) Jack! Why are you being so horrible?

JACK Because that's what I am, ok? I am 'orrible. Am not a friend to Emma an am not a friend to you so stop expecting me to act like one. Do you want me to prove how horrible I can be? (*sings*) Jeepers, Creepers, where did you get those peepers...

He goes to hit her on the back of the head.

MOLLY No, stop it.

EMMA Jack! What are you doing? Leave Molly alone!

JACK Oh yeah cos it's all me int it. I forgot she's lil miss
perfect.

Jack storms off while Emma comforts Molly.

He arrives first at the doorway of a run down little house.

*In front of the smeared window is a windowbox growing
arms. An arm has written – 'Run, Emma, Run' on the
window in mud. Jack notices and quickly rubs it out. The
arm tries to stop him so JACK pulls it out of the box and
throws it to the ground where it withers and dies.*

JACK A found it! A found the 'ouse!

Molly and Emma run to join him.

MOLLY We're here! We're really here!

EMMA And I can go home? Oh thank goodness! Thanks so
much you two for getting me here. For helping me.
You're awesome. The best friends ever!

She pulls them into an awkward hug.

12. *The House*

Inside is a replica of Emma's bedroom at home. On the walls are many mirrors, covered with black cloths.

EMMA It's...It's my room? That's my duvet cover. My pillow. My alarm clock. What's going on? What is this?

JACK Wi sed wi could 'elp ya get 'ome.

EMMA But this isn't my home. Home to my Mum. This isn't what I meant.

MOLLY Try not to be too disappointed Emma. You said yourself we're the best friends you've ever had. You can live here, with us. It'll be great, I promise.

EMMA You promised you could help me get home.

JACK Wi never promised.

EMMA You did! I don't want to stay here with you in this horrible, strange, dark place. I want my Mum.

JACK Well ya can't 'ave her. You just 'ave to get used to it like the rest of us.

EMMA So I'll never see her again?

JACK I dint say that. There's a way you can see 'er – but she wont see you. You're 'ere now. You're lost to the world, to everyone back there. Ya can't go back.

EMMA But that can't be...

JACK Well it is be. Get used to it. We've 'ad to.

MOLLY Jack...

JACK Well, the way she goes on like she's summat special. I want me Mum too Emma. Molly wants 'er Mum. More than anythin'. Why else do ya think we brought ya 'ere?

Molly clamps her hand over his mouth.

MOLLY You'll be fine here with us Emma honest. We'll play games and have fun. We'll be like sisters. The three of us like family. You've lost your Mum Emma but you've found us. Try to think of it that way.

EMMA Wait. You two said it was my colours. That they
 were a link to home and while they were still
 strong...

MOLLY I'm so sorry Emma. We can't help you.

EMMA Then I'll go find someone who will.

Emma go's to leave. Jack blocks her path.

MOLLY You can't go! Jack don't let her go.

Jack stands in her way.

JACK Ya can't leave Emma.

EMMA Get out of my way.

MOLLY It's dark out there. You don't know where you 're
 going.

JACK Noone can help ya get 'ome. Do you think if there
 was a way wid still be 'ere? Do ya?

Emma collapses to the ground in tears.

EMMA There must be a way. There must be.

Jack and Molly comfort her.

MOLLY You're so tired Emma. Why don't you get in your bed? Have a little sleep?

EMMA I don't want sleep. I want my Mum.

MOLLY I know. But look at your bed. Just like home.

Molly goes to the bed and strokes it.

The duvet is so soft and warm and cosy. It even smells like home. Come see.

Emma crosses to the bed and touches and smells it, inhaling deeply. She climbs in.

MOLLY That's it. There, there. You have a little rest now. You're so tired. So so tired.

Emma closes her eyes to sleep.

JACK Ready?

MOLLY I don't know Jack. I feel so bad. It feels wrong.

JACK We're not 'urting 'er. Wiv 'elped 'er. If it wont for us shid be wanderin' round alone. Prob'ly eaten by the beast. She should help us in return. S'ony fair.

MOLLY I suppose.

JACK Come on then.

Molly and Jack go around the room removing the black cloths from the mirrors. Emma's colours reflect around the room, multiplied and magnified, creating a beautiful light effect while she sleeps.

MOLLY Wow. They're so beautiful.

JACK Beautiful.

They stand back to back in the middle of the lights and close their eyes.

IN UNISON

MOLLY/JACK I can see Mum/I can see Mum

MOLLY/JACK She's baking/She's at work

MOLLY/JACK It smells so good/She's so clever

MOLLY/JACK She's smiling/She's laughing

MOLLY/JACK She looks so pretty

MOLLY/JACK I can reach her (*arms outstretched*)

MOLLY/JACK I can touch her

MOLLY No. Don't be sad.

JACK Dunt cry Mam. Please dunt cry.

Women crying can be heard. Emma is tossing and turning. The beep beep of the life support machine gets louder. Emma wakes with a gasp.

EMMA What is that? What is that sound?

She throws back the duvet and goes to the bedside cabinet.

EMMA It's coming from in here.

She opens the cabinet door to reveal a life support machine.

EMMA What is this?

She notices something under the bed. She pulls out an oxygen mask, wires with heart rate clips etc.

EMMA What is all this stuff?

Jack notices and runs over to her, closes the door and starts pushing the medical equipment back under the bed.

JACK Oh nothin', nothin'. You don't wanna worry 'bout all that rubbish.

EMMA Is that my stuff? Is that my Mum I can hear
 crying? Mum? Mum?

MOLLY She's not here Emma. She can't hear you.

EMMA No she's not here. She's at home, waiting for
 me. I don't belong here. I can't stay.

Emma pushes past Jack and Molly and runs out.

They run after her.

MOLLY/JACK Emma wait!

13. *The Lake*

Emma is standing on the edge on the lake. Shimmering colours dance at her feet.

Molly and Jack enter.

MOLLY Emma, come away from there!

EMMA Why? So that you can use me as your little window to home?

MOLLY No! It's dangerous. You might fall in.

EMMA I thought you were my friend Molly. I'd expect nasty tricks from Jack but not from you.

JACK Thanks a lot.

MOLLY I'm sorry Emma. We're sorry. But you don't know what it's like. I've been stuck here for two years. I miss my Mum so much. If I can see her for just a few minutes/

EMMA Then you don't care who you hurt?

JACK We ant 'urt ya.

EMMA Oh no, not much. Letting me think I could go home?
Letting me think you were helping me? That you
were my friends when all the time you were
leading me here to use me in your little game.

JACK Game? It's not a game. Wiv waited months for our
turn at a chance to see home. Waitin' and waitin' in
this place. We'll be waiting forever in this dark,
'orrible place. Waitin' for a few nicked minutes of
light when we can see the one's we love an miss.
Light nicked from fresh souls like you. Souls wiv
one foot here an one foot still there. Havin to trick
em and torment em to get what we want. Does that
sound like a game to you? Cos if it's a game it's one
you'll be playing before long, just like the rest of us.
We're not monsters or spooks or ghouls, Emma.
We're ony human.

EMMA But you're not though are you?

JACK We are! Dunt you say that!

MOLLY We didn't mean you any harm Emma, honest. I'm
sorry if we've hurt you.

EMMA It's not just me you've hurt. Don't you see? Every time you open that door, you're making the people you love feel sad over and over again. While you're still clinging on to them, they can't let go. You're not letting them. They're stuck in limbo just like you. They're lost too.

MOLLY No! Don't say that!

EMMA Why not? It's the truth. You should say goodbye. Let them go. Then maybe you wouldn't be lost anymore. Maybe you could move on.

MOLLY *(upset)* I don't want to move on. I don't want to go even further away.

Emma looks down into the lake.

MOLLY What are you doing? Come away! You'll be lost!

EMMA I'm already lost remember? This is the land of the lost and found – but not so much of the found. That's what you said. I don't belong here. Clinging onto home when home is too far away to reach. And my mum shouldn't be waiting for me when I

can never get back to her. Stuck in sadness. Maybe
we can both move on?

MOLLY/JACK Emma no!

Emma steps into the lake and is lost. Molly runs after her.

JACK Molly dunt!

MOLLY I have to help her!

Molly jumps into the lake.

JACK Molly!

Jack goes after her.

14. *Hospital Corridor*

Emma is standing in a hospital corridor, outside a door.

The beep beep of the life support and a woman softly crying can be heard.

Emma puts her hand on the door to open it when Molly and Jack appear.

JACK Emma, wait!

MOLLY Don't go Emma, don't leave us. We're sorry. We're really sorry aren't we Jack?

JACK Yeah, sorry.

EMMA I have to go say goodbye.

JACK You know if ya do that you cant stay there.

MOLLY And you can't come back here.

JACK Ya wint be stuck no more.

MOLLY No. You'll move on somewhere else. And you don't know what it'll be like.

EMMA Well, it can't be worse than trees with arms and giant beasts. I don't want to be lost in limbo.

JACK Like us you mean.

EMMA Come with me if you want. (TO MOLLY) I bet we'll go on somewhere nice. I bet you can eat as much chocolate as you like and (TO JACK) I bet you'll get your arm back. I bet it won't be scary, or lonely.

MOLLY Maybe I won't be so lonely anymore (*she glances shyly at Jack*).

JACK We av to go nar Molly. Wi shunt be 'ere.

MOLLY But...

EMMA It's okay Molly. I have to go now too.

Emma turns to face the door. She puts her hand up to it to push it open, then wavers and pulls her hand away.

JACK What's wrong?

MOLLY What is it Emma? Is something the matter?

EMMA I don't know if I can do it. I'm scared.

Molly looks at Jack.

JACK Molly, we 'ave to go. We're too close as it is.

Molly lets go of Jack's hand and runs over to Emma to hug her.

JACK Molly! *(Sighs and reluctantly follows)*

MOLLY You can do it Emma. It's easy. All you have to do is just push the door and your Mum will be waiting on the other side.

JACK Molly's right Emma. Just push the door. Just push.

Emma smiles at her friends. Turns and pushes open the door. Bright white light.

The End.