

HALE

I don't know. He asked me to come by.

NATHAN

Ted.

Nathan motions Hale inside.

151 INT. REDFIELD HOUSE - DEN - DAY

151

He hands Hale a drink.

HALE

What'd you want to talk about?

NATHAN

Not much, really. I just wanted to talk to you about Belinda.

HALE

Belinda! What about Belinda?

NATHAN

Nothing about her directly. I just wanted to tell you something that you might not have known something I just found out myself.

HALE

What?

NATHAN

It's about Warren Perry.

Hale looks sharply at Nathan.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Perry's been hanging around the house. He drives by; I don't know if he thinks we can't recognize an old green Rambler, but the funny thing is he only comes by when Belinda's here. Like he's keeping an eye on her or something.

HALE

(disturbed)
Well, that's not much...

NATHAN

It's not much, you're right. But it's not all either.

(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

Sometimes in the evening, we see him down by that little stream. I'm not gonna prosecute him for trespassing or anything like that, I just thought you'd like to know, keep an eye on him and everything. You know how much we all think of Belinda, especially Daddy, we couldn't go on if anything happened to her like the way it happened to poor Margaret Larkin.

HALE

(solemnly nods)
Anything else?

Nathan looks to the portrait of his grand-daddy.

NATHAN

No... actually, just one other thing. Somebody broke in the house--

HALE

What?!

NATHAN

--and took the sword that was hanging beneath my great-great-granddaddy's picture.

HALE

Somebody broke in! When? Why didn't you tell me before?

NATHAN

We don't know when it happened. Last night, Ben noticed that the sword was gone. I don't think it had been gone long, but we just cain't be sure 'cause we don't go looking at it every day.

HALE

What else is gone?

NATHAN

That's what was funny about it. Nothing else was gone that we can think of.

(MORE)

NATHAN (CONT'D)

I didn't want to report this because I didn't want to get Daddy upset by telling him that there had been a robber in the house, and to tell you the truth, I don't care much whether I see it again or not.

Hale finishes his drink in one gulp.

HALE

Don't say anything about this to anybody. There's probably nothing to it-

NATHAN

Probably not--

HALE

-we don't want to go starting trouble for Warren, but I guarantee you that I'll keep an eye on him.

152 EXT. LARKIN FARMHOUSE - DAY 152

The sun drifts behind a bank of clouds. BOY SCOUTS, CUB SCOUTS, and THE BROWNIES OF BABYLON meander about.

153 EXT. LARKIN FARMHOUSE - PORCH - DAY 153

A small group of Boy Scouts KNOCK on the door, peek through the windows, turn, see two mischievous Brownies, MANDY and NADINE, mounting their bicycles.

BOY SCOUT #1
Hey! Don't touch that.

BOY SCOUT #2
Get off my bike!

MANDY

Run!

The Boy Scouts charge the Brownies. Mandy drops the bike, grabs Nadine by the wrist, pulls her into the berry patch.

154 EXT. BLUEBERRY PATCH - DAY 154

They dart through rows of bushes, stop twenty yards in, giggle and catch their breath.

MANDY

You want to see where she died?