

WILL

EXT. EARTH - THE ENDLESS WOODS - NIGHT

Amidst the glowing forest, Dana's eyes wander to the stars, when she hears a low voice:

WILL (O.S.)
Pretty cool, huh?



**Start
scene 1**

Startled, she whirls, reverie replaced by embarrassment as she sees him returning through the psychedelic trees.

Takes her a moment to react to the fact that he's carrying a cone fastened out of large leaves and filled with water.

DANA
You went to the river?

WILL
Figured it was worth losing a
finger or two. Here.

He moves the cone to her lips. She takes a tentative sip.

WILL (CONT'D)
You call that a sip?

She smiles. Old habits. She drinks again, deeply this time, letting it run down her face and neck. When she's done, she has to look away, vibrating from all of it, forcing herself to refocus on the glowing trees...

WILL (CONT'D)
You think it means we're all gonna
grow two heads?

Dana LAUGHS slightly.

WILL (CONT'D)
What do you know? She can laugh.

She gives him a look, then picks a neon leaf. Incredibly, it dims as if being unplugged.

DANA
Oh, now that's cool.

There's that bright-eyed girl again. Will clearly likes this side of her.

DANA (CONT'D)

I'll have to run some tests, but, right now, my operating theory is that bioluminescence is an adaptation. Sort of a twist on photosynthesis. That's --

WILL

Plants using sunlight to turn bad air into good air.

She's impressed. He shrugs...

WILL (CONT'D)

Woke up that day in science class. Come here. You have to see this.

With that, he strides back through the trees. She follows, trying to shake her hormonal response to this guy.

He stops in a particularly surreal spot, squatting to point out something on the ground. WE SEE THEM AS SHE DOES:

Strange tracks in the dirt. Hard to tell, but they could be simian. A widely separated big toe is clear in some of them.

She kneels, curious. He points...

WILL (CONT'D)

That's a toe. Plus, near as I can tell, whatever it is, it's walking on two feet. My guess... monkeys.

Dana LAUGHS at him. He gives her a look.

DANA

Sorry. It's just... According to everything I've read, there were no bipedal animals anywhere near here, certainly not monkeys.

WILL

Really? You read anything about glow-in-the-dark forests or man-eating snakes?

She meets his stare, sees his point: anything is possible.

She SMACKS him playfully, LAUGHING again beneath the magical trees. New world. New possibilities.

END

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT


WAR DRUMS, distant but getting louder, closer. An army on the march.

Fear shoots through every face. Will sees this and knows his people need bolstering. Realizes that this is his job now.

WILL

Everyone, listen up. I know you're afraid. But how you choose to handle that fear is up to you. You can let it break you down, or you can use it to make you stronger.

**Start
scene 2**



Members of the crowd exchange looks -- *Can we do this?*

WILL (OVER THE RADIO) (CONT'D)

Are we just a bunch of fools who weren't strong enough to survive? Is that how our story ends? Because if we lose today, if we let fear win, that's what they'll say about us.

(then)

I say screw fear. I'm telling my own damn story. What do you say?

The radio goes silent. The DRUMS do not. After a moment, CHEERS RING OUT. He's won them over.

Off Will, relief flooding over him...

END

INT. LAB - DAY

Dirty, sweaty, and now frustrated, Lily walks into the lab, where Will is tooling with the ANTENNA TRANSMITTER.

WILL
Hey. I'm changing the tone frequency to four hundred hertz. It'll increase the radiated modulation depth.

LILY
Atmospheric noise will screw us.

WILL
So the signal's fainter. At least they'll know we're out here.
(off her expression)
What's wrong?

LILY
The current's not getting high enough. We might as well be shouting into the wind.

WILL
Put an insulator between the mast and the capacity top hat.

LILY
Already tried that. Not working.

WILL
Then you're doing it wrong.

LILY
Will --

But Will's done talking. And he's done being stuck inside. Done being ordered around, too.

WILL
Don't worry. I'll fix it.
(under his breath)
I always do.

With that, he storms out, frustrated...

END

**Start
scene 3** ←