

EXT. MCALLISTER HOME - VEGETABLE GARDEN - LATER

Henry digs at the vegetables, glancing every so often through a nearby window at J.H. Cordyce, who is asleep in a chair in the living room.

He watches as Violet comes across J.H. Cordyce, humming. She stops humming when she sees the man sleeping. She carefully puts a cushion under his feet, then turns away.

Violet doesn't notice J.H. Cordyce opening one eye to watch her walk away. But Henry does.

HENRY

Where have I seen that man before?
Why is he so familiar with us? If
he's never met us before... it
doesn't make sense... "my boy," he
called Benny "my boy," why do I
recognize that...?

Henry gasps.

EXT. STADIUM - TRACK - DAY - FLASHBACK

Henry has just won the race. The crowd is cheering.

J.H. Cordyce walks out into the field with the winged trophy cup. He extends his hand to Henry.

J.H. CORDYCE

I like your spirit, my boy. I like
your running, too. But it's your
spirit that I like best. Don't ever
lose it.

EXT. MCALLISTER HOME - VEGETABLE GARDEN - THE SAME

HENRY

It's the man from the race! The
same man exactly!

Henry drops his gardening tools and bolts into the house.

INT. MCALLISTER HOME - OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Dr. McAllister is at his desk, reading and taking notes.

Henry runs in.

HENRY

Do you know who presented the prizes on Field Day? Know what his name was?

Dr. McAllister doesn't look up, nor turn around.

DR. MCALLISTER

James Cordyce, of the Steel Mills.
J.H. Cordyce--over in Greenfield.

Henry's eyes go wide. He backs away from the door.

HENRY

No... no, he can't be...

Henry runs away.

INT. MCALLISTER HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Henry reaches the top of the stairs.

HENRY

No!

He runs into Jess's room.

INT. MCALLISTER HOME - JESS'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jess is fast asleep in the bed.

Henry grabs a throw pillow off the armchair and throws it as hard as he can.

HENRY

No!

He looks at Jess, still asleep, with tears in his eyes.

HENRY (CONT'D)

No...

He kneels at her bedside, head in hands, and cries.

HENRY (CONT'D)

No, no no...

INT. MCALLISTER HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Dr. McAllister has come up the stairs behind him. He stares after the young Henry Cordyce.

EXT. MCALLISTER HOME - CHERRY ORCHARD - SUNSET

J.H. Cordyce is reading under the shade of a tree.

Henry walks towards him. His eyes are dark, but they never leave his grandfather's silhouette.

Henry approaches him.

HENRY

Are you James Henry Cordyce of Greenfield?

J.H. Cordyce looks up from his book.

J.H. CORDYCE

I am, my boy.

Henry does his best not to react.

J.H. CORDYCE (CONT'D)

Does that question of yours mean that you know that I know that you are Henry James Cordyce?

HENRY

Yes.

J.H. Cordyce's eyes fill with tears. He reaches for Henry's hand, but Henry backs away.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Don't you touch me.

J.H. CORDYCE

What's wrong?

HENRY

What's wrong? Do you know what you did to my family? You knew, I know you knew, and you sat by and did nothing! You left us with four dollars to our name!

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)

If you had cared enough, the world
would've accepted us, but, instead,
you were the first one to run us
out of town!

J.H. CORDYCE

Listen, my boy--

A GRANDFATHER'S LAMENT

HENRY

SAY MY NAME!
HENRY JAMES!
WE ARE FLESH AND BLOOD,
YET YOU GAVE US PAIN!
ARE YOU INSANE?!
YOU'RE THE ONE TO BLAME!

(spoken)

Your son is dead, by the way. By
the bottle. Do you care? Probably
not.

(sung)

IT'S TRUE,
HE'S BEEN DEAD THIRTEEN YEARS TO
YOU.

Henry turns to leave.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(spoken)

Don't worry. We'll be out of your
hair as soon as Jess is better.

He leaves J.H. Cordyce alone. He slowly closes his book; his
eyes never leave Henry.

INT. MCALLISTER HOME - JESS'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jess is still asleep in the bed. She's alone in the dark
room.

J.H. Cordyce slowly opens the door, tiptoes in, and shuts it
softly behind him. He stares with empty eyes at Jess.

He kneels at her bed, much like Henry had earlier.

Jess stirs. Her eyes slowly open to see her grandfather, tears in his eyes, leaning over her. She gasps in recognition.

JESS
Grandfather?

J.H. Cordyce kisses her hand, now clasped in his.

J.H. CORDYCE
How did you know?

JESS
I saw you once, years ago. Father and I were in Greenfield to run errands; it was Field Day and you were there.

J.H. CORDYCE
Your... your father was there?

JESS
You didn't see us.

J.H. CORDYCE
I wish I had. Maybe things would've been different.

JESS
I thought you would be old now, with grey hair and wrinkles, all stern.

J.H. Cordyce laughs.

J.H. CORDYCE
I am, unfortunately, impatient at times. But stern and old? Soon, perhaps, but not yet.

J.H. Cordyce takes a deep breath.

J.H. CORDYCE (CONT'D)
Tell me, what happened to your parents?

JESS
They're dead.

J.H. CORDYCE
I know that. You won't be here if they weren't.

JESS
I'm not certain that's true.

A beat.

J.H. CORDYCE
You've had a hard life.

JESS
Yes, I have. We all have. Henry especially.

J.H. CORDYCE
Yes, Henry... he blames me, you know. Maybe he should.

JESS
I blame you, too. Mostly. You could've stopped it. You could've saved us.

J.H. CORDYCE
I know. And, for that, I won't even try to apologize.

JESS
What happens now? Will you make us live with you?

J.H. CORDYCE
Make you? No. I would like that very much. But I won't impose.

He swallows, close to breaking.

J.H. CORDYCE (CONT'D)
If this has taught me anything, it's that I can't force my will. No matter how much I want to. Henry will never come with me. He's made that quite clear.

JESS
That doesn't surprise me.

J.H. CORDYCE

And, what about you? Will you come
with me?

Jess breaks from his gaze, unsure of her answer.

EXT. MCALLISTER HOME - CHERRY ORCHARD - DAY

Henry sits alone under a cherry tree, tossing a pebble up and
down.

Jess arrives on the scene. A blanket covers her shoulders.

She clears her throat. Henry looks up. His eyes brighten. He
jumps up.

HENRY

Jess!

He embraces her. Though winded, she smiles, hugging him back.

Henry pulls back and takes a look at her.

HENRY (CONT'D)

What are you doing out of bed?

JESS

I felt so cooped up in there. I
felt good enough to walk.

She purses her lips.

JESS (CONT'D)

Violet told me you've been avoiding
everyone these past few days. She's
worried sick.

Henry looks at the ground.

HENRY

Is it that obvious?

JESS

Well, yes.

She puts a hand on his shoulder.

JESS (CONT'D)

Is it about Grandfather?

Henry's shocked.

HENRY
How did you...?

JESS
He came to visit me. I recognized
him.

Henry rolls his pebble back and forth with the bottom of his
foot.

HENRY
Are you well enough to get going?

JESS
What do you mean?

HENRY
To the boxcar.

JESS
Henry... I'm not going back there.

HENRY
What?

JESS
I almost died there. Besides, we
can't keep running. Not forever.

HENRY
Jess, it's only a matter of time
before Grandfather forces us to go
with him!

JESS
Would that be so bad? Living in a
mansion, rich and powerful?

HENRY
He's gotten to you, hasn't he?
Well, I don't care how you spin it.
I'm not going, and I'm not going to
let you or Violet or Benny make the
biggest mistake of your life.

For the first time, Jess gets angry. Properly, truly, angry.

THE CONFRONTATION