

Search Sisters: The Quest for Grandma

By Delaney Quasebarth

A girl stepped quietly out of her house. She was about twelve years old and had red, wispy hair that fell down her pale face. Her eyes were such a dark brown, they seemed black. And in the streetlight, you could see she was wearing cut-off jeans with a white t-shirt. She had a plaid jacket over her shirt and was running barefoot toward a forest. She had a locket on. The locket was leaf-shaped and had her name engraved onto it, "Autumn Search." "Why?" Autumn whispered. There were no sounds just her breathing. "Why?" she whispered again. Then there was a pounding of paws, a flash of lightning, and Autumn was gone. All that was left was her locket lying in the dead leaves.

Two hours passed, and it was now 4:57 a.m. This was when Autumn's twin sister, Summer, realized that she was gone. Summer was wearing a pink tank top and blue pajama pants. She was getting up for a drink of water and saw Autumn's bed was empty. She knew her sister liked to run outside, but why now? They had just heard about grandma's disappearance. Autumn should be fine but, what if she went to the forest? No, she couldn't have. The forest was dangerous, but could she, would she, go to the forest? Would she try to find their grandmother? Summer ran to the window in her room. Out in the fog, she saw a cat and beside the cat was her sister's locket. Her sister was leaving. She was going to find their grandmother. Could she do it alone? Nope, it's not a choice. Twins are twins, they do stuff together. Summer grabbed her locket off her desk and unlocked the window, pushed it open, and jumped out. She was falling to the ground fast. Air rushed past her face. She saw the ground grow closer and closer. Then right before she hit the dirt, there was a rumble of thunder, a scratching of claws, and poof! Magically on the ground was not a girl, but a gray and brown, Norwegian forest cat. Summer was a cat, and around her now feline neck was her locket.

Summer pawed across her backyard. She was heading toward the forest. Her sister had to be nearby. Summer could feel her locket pulling her to her sister. Then there was a high-pitched, "Meow!" Summer's locket glowed and pulled her straight through a large bush. And there, clawing and biting her locket, was her sister. She was a black and orange Calico cat. She had little white paws and one white spot on her ear. "What are you doing?" Summer cried! "Um...I was just trying...um...to...um," Summer stared at her sister. "What?" Autumn looked to the ground. "I was trying to turn the tracker off so you wouldn't find me." Summer looked at Autumn. "Why would you do that Autumn, we're twins!" Autumn looked Summer in the eyes. "I don't want you to get lost in the woods too." Summer shook her head, "Oh Autumn, that's why we're supposed to stay home!" Autumn started to purr with laughter. Being with her sister made her feel braver and happier no matter what situation they were in. "Summer, we should probably leave a note for Mom." Summer's eyes widened, "I can't believe I forgot to do that!" Autumn smiled, "Well, you are kind of known to forget things." Summer swatted playfully at her sister, "I am not!" Autumn rolled her eyes. "Whatever you say," she said in response. Summer ignored her sister's last comment. "Let's scratch a message on a tree," Summer said. Autumn stared at her sister. Sometimes Summer had the craziest ideas. "We should probably just turn

back into people and write a note,” Autumn grumbled. Summer turned to Autumn and was about to respond when a loud snap filled the clearing.

The two cats froze. Who was out there? Autumn's fur started to hackle up in fear. She unsheathed her claws and started to creep carefully toward the sound. Summer had her fur raised also and was tiptoeing behind Autumn. There was a rustle in the bushes and Autumn bared her sharp teeth and hissed in warning. Suddenly an old, orange tabby cat appeared out of the bush. She stepped calmly toward them. Autumn and Summer both stared in surprise. This cat was their mother. “Girls, you both know you're not supposed to be in the forest,” she said sternly. Summer stepped toward her mom, “Yes, but we know where Grandma is.” Their mothers' eyes clouded, “No one knows where grandma is,” she growled. Summer stepped back toward Autumn. “But I can feel her, Mom.” Their mother walked up to them and hissed in their faces, “You will be coming back home now.” The twins looked at each other. “Well, I don't think we want to,” declared Autumn defiantly. Then both the girls bolted out of the bushes and ran into the forest.

Their mother, who had been a professional runner, had no problem going after them. “You know you can't outrun me!” she shrieked angrily. The twins were starting to panic. They would never outrun their mother. So, instead, they ran deeper into the forest. They didn't know where they were going but, they had to lose their mom. Then, the twins stopped dead in their tracks. They couldn't believe their eyes. There, glimmering in the new morning light was a cottage. It had a big door with little planets carved intricately onto its surface. The door also had a smaller door hinged onto the bottom of it. The windows were shaped like stars and had curtains covering the inside. The house was made of pine and had lots of ornate decorations. The railing on the steps was spiraled with crescent moons carved on it. There were about five steps up to the door. Autumn and Summer needed a place to hide. The twins quickly ran up the steps and looked for a way to get in. They saw the smaller door and nosed it open. It was like a pet door but fancier than anything they'd ever seen. Once they got inside, they looked for a spot to hide. They found a room with two beds. It had the Sun painted on one and a tree on the other. Summer was the first to speak, “This is grandma's house, isn't it?” Autumn looked at the beds, “Yes, I think it is.” Summer stared at a picture on the wall, “Is that us?” she questioned. “I think so,” replied Autumn, looking at the picture closely. Summer stared at the door, “Um, Autumn, I think Mom found us.”

Autumn followed Summer's eyes to the human-shaped silhouette in the door. “Uh-oh,” they thought. Autumn and Summer stared at each other in panic. “Hide!” they said in unison. They both ran to two different spots and hid. Autumn had jumped into a laundry hamper and Summer hid behind a pillow. They couldn't see anything. All they could do was listen. There was a creak of the door opening and loud footsteps. But this was not their mother. For one, this person had loud feet, and this person had a deeper voice. Autumn peeked from her hiding spot and found a boy instead of their mother. He was probably her age, maybe a little older, and he was very tall. Autumn looked to where her sister was hiding and saw her face pop up from behind the pillow. She heard Summer gasp and had to muffle a laugh. Autumn and Summer both walked out and slowly morphed back into teenage girls. The boy who just noticed their presence looked at them and said, “Um...I wasn't... it's not what it looks like...” Both girls turned to each other and

laughed. Then they both got serious and walked up to him. "Do you know where our grandmother is?" Autumn asked. The boy looked at the girls strangely. "There was an older lady who went out on that ancient trail in the garden two days ago," he said. "Did she have a gray robe on?" Summer asked. The boy nodded. "Yes, she did," he said. Autumn and Summer looked at each other "It's Grandma!" they squealed. The boy said, "I can take you to the trail." Autumn and Summer both nodded vigorously. "I'm Autumn and this is Summer," said Autumn gesturing toward Summer. The boy nodded. "Well, I'm Felix," replied the boy. Autumn smiled, "That's a cute name." Felix blushed. Everyone sat in awkward silence for a moment. Summer looked between Felix and Autumn. "Are you going to take us to the trail yet?" she said. Felix blushed even more, "Oh, yeah...sorry forgot," he murmured. Felix walked out the door and pulled his hat down. Autumn walked out after him. Summer looked at her sister and rolled her eyes.

As they headed to the trail, they went through grandma's garden. She had lots of birdfeeders and a very big flower garden. The girls were so intent on looking around that they didn't hear Felix say they were there. "Um, guys...can you hear me?" hollered Felix. Autumn looked back at Felix, "Why are you yelling?" she said. Felix slapped his hand on his forehead and laughed, "Because we're here!" Summer ran back to Felix. "Where's the trail?" she asked. He pointed to a big bush. "That's not a trail." Summer said. Felix raised his eyebrows, "Is it not now?" he said, as he parted the bush. Inside, was a narrow tunnel. It had a dusty floor and a little lamp on the side. Felix grabbed the lamp and headed into the tunnel. Summer headed after him. Autumn stopped at the entrance. "You sure this is safe?" she asked Felix. "Nope," he replied. Autumn hesitated and then ran into the tunnel. She caught up to her sister and said, "I'm scared Summer." Felix overheard this and put his arm over her shoulder. "Don't worry, I'll protect you" he joked. Autumn laughed, "Hopefully because I'm pretty scared," she said. Felix squeezed her shoulder, "Let's just keep going," he said. So, they trudged on. The tunnel was very long and took about an hour to get through. At the end of the tunnel was a cave. It had glowing blue crystals on the ceiling and wall. And there was a little trickle of water leaking through a crevice in the wall. This made the ground wet and muddy. Women's shaped shoe prints showed clearly in the damp mud. They followed the footprints to an opening in the wall. They climbed through and followed the tracks further. Then they saw a camping tent and a fire. Felix pointed to a rock and waved his arms crazily. Autumn and Summer both looked at him oddly. He then walked over and whispered, "Stay behind the rock." The girls nodded. Then Felix picked up a stick from the ground and stepped toward the tent.

Felix was probably about a foot away from the tent when he tripped over a rock and gasped. He got back to his feet and gave the girls a thumbs up. But then, the tent shook, and a voice mumbled. Felix froze as the zipper of the tent began to unzip. An old woman's face peeked out of the tent. "Well, what do we have here?" she said. Autumn and Summer popped up from behind the rock. "Grandma?!!" they cried. "Hello, girls what are you doing here?" their grandma asked. Summer and Autumn looked at each other and chuckled. "We were looking for you!" Autumn said. Summer nodded. Their grandma smiled. "Why?" she asked. Summer shrugged. "Mom said you were missing." Grandma smiled and shook her head. "Your mother can be trouble." The girls nodded. Then Grandma saw Felix. "Is this your boyfriend Summer?" Summer shook her head, "Nope, this one is Autumn's." Autumn and Felix blushed. "We better take you

home,” their grandma said. Autumn and Summer smiled. “Yes, you probably should,” they agreed.