

INT. TREEHOUSE - AFTERNOON

Jackie and Jill have just reunited for the first time since they were 11 years old. Jill has returned home with no warning, and neither of them should be outside their homes.

JILL

How about this? I'll follow your lead. You always wanted to be a reporter, right? Let's make a deal. You ask me a question, I'll answer. Then I'll ask you a question, and you answer.

Jackie shakes her head.

JACKIE

What? What do you get out of asking me questions?

JILL

You're looking for answers, and I'm looking for a friend. That's all.

JACKIE

...Fine. Deal.

She sits down, serious.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Why the hell are you here?

Jill takes a moment before answering.

JILL

For safety. Chicago's a hotbed of Pale Fever patients. Lots of people get sick really quick. I came back to Montana because it was safer, more spread out. Could go outside and not risk immediately dying.

JACKIE

What about your dad--

Jill cuts her off:

JILL

I'm really glad to be back, honestly. It feels more like a fun little vacation. Fresh air. Trees. My mom.

JACKIE

That doesn't make sense. How did you get special dispensation? What happened--

JILL

Geez, so intense. Hm. Do you still actually want to be a reporter? I sorta just assumed earlier.

JACKIE

Don't change the subject--

JILL

(firm)

It's my turn, Jackie.

Jackie is quiet, but concedes. She'll get to this later.

JACKIE

...Yeah. I do.

JILL

I'm glad. It fits. It's a perfect job for you.

At this, Jackie deflates a little.

JACKIE

Not exactly. Reporters are on the scene. They go out and see the world and report back to the people who can't. I'm stuck here. Until...
(catching herself)
...God knows when. I'm useless.

JILL

Exactly. Who knows how long? You gotta plan for better, you know? If you act like you'll never get a chance, when it does come along, you won't be ready. So you just gotta plan.

Jackie is quiet. Never thought about it that way.

JACKIE

...Yeah. Sure. Look, it's my turn. And I have a lot of questions, got it?