

INT. THE BEGINNING

We hear the sound of a grasshopper, but it's making more noise than it should. We hear the thump, thump as it hops across the stage. We hear the sound of a microphone stand being adjusted and the thump as someone taps on the microphone.

DANIEL

Hello! I'm Daniel. What's your name?

(beat)

Ah. Well, it is wonderful to make your acquaintance. If you've got some time, I'd like tell you a story that happened not so long ago. Are you ready? Good. Let's begin.

SFX: Transition sound

INT. CROFT HOME

DANIEL (V.O.)

Chapter 1. Meet The Crofts. "In my dream, the angel shrugged and said if we fail this time, it will be a failure of imagination. And then she placed the world gently in the palm of my hand." -Story People

(beat)

Once upon a time... No, wait. You're an adult. That's not catchy enough for you. One moment... It was a dark and stormy n- No, no. That won't do either. Just a second... Colin Croft wasn't the type of man you'd see behind bars. Neither was his wife, Nia. In fact, the Crofts were not the type of people anyone would ever accuse of wrongful parenting. Regardless, that's exactly what the charge was against them. It was a very serious charge, punishable by - well, let's not get ahead of ourselves. We'll start at the beginning...

INT. SUV

COLIN

Is that what you're learning in school?

ALLIE

No. They don't teach us about that type of stuff in school. We just memorize and regurgitate facts that we'll never use again in our life.

ETHAN

They should though. It's way more interesting.

COLIN

Hey regurgitate is a big word. Bet you learned it in school.

ALLIE

Totally missing the point, Dad.

COLIN

I know, I know. Well, look as long as your independent research doesn't interfere with your homework you keep doing what you're doing.

DANIEL

Allie pulled out her cell phone and put in her headphones, the tell tale sign that a teenager had had enough of parental wisdom. Ethan had long since stuck his nose into his copy of Yes! magazine. He was twelve, four years younger than his sister, and unlike Allie, had given up trying to convince his parents that their world view was incredibly limited. Adults thought they knew everything – or at the very least more than their kids. Ethan was of the opinion that while that was true in some cases, something happened to adults that sucked out their imaginations. It was like the adult rite of passage to stop believing in the fantastical once they reached a certain age. Ethan was determined that neither he nor his sister would ever get like that when they grew up.

(beat)

Did you make that promise to yourself as a child?

(beat)

Did you keep it?