

When They Fell

Luke Terry

WHEN THEY FELL

INT. THE HOME - DAY

KATIE

Mummy, when's daddy going to get home? I need to show him my paintings I did in school!

ANNE

He shouldn't be too long Katie, he finished work almost an hour ago.

KATIE

Your hair looks nicer today.

ANNE

Hey, are you saying it didn't look nice yesterday?

KATIE

No...no I didn't mean that! It just looked a bit messy when you and Auntie Sue picked me up from school.

ANNE

Well, we had a busy day...

KATIE

All done!

SOUND: CLINKING OF KNIFE AND FORK BEING PUT DOWN ON AN EMPTY PLATE

ANNE

Well done, you're such a good little eater, go and choose a yogurt from the fridge. I'm going to go and have a lay down upstairs, I have a headache again, could you watch your television quietly?

KATIE

Yes mummy, do you want a glass of water?

ANNE

I can get that myself, but thanks Katie, I'll see you in a bit.

KATIE

Hope you feel better.

ANNE

Thanks dear, kiss?

SOUND: SOUND: KATIE KISSES HER MUM. WATER IS POURED INTO A CUP, THEN FOOTSTEPS GO UPSTAIRS. A TELEVISION IS TURNED ON AND PLAYS QUIETLY.

INT. THE HOME - NIGHT

SOUND: A DOOR UNLOCKS, ONE PERSONS FOOTSTEPS ON WOODEN FLOOR

KATIE

Daddy!!

ROBERT

Hello hun, how was school?

KATIE

It was fun, can I show you my paintings? I did one of all of us!

ROBERT

Yeah let me see them.

KATIE

Look, there's you and mummy, the little one there is me!

ROBERT

Ahh I love it, we're all very happy.

KATIE

Yes, it's us at Christmas. That's why I'm so happy because I have presents!

ROBERT

(LAUGHING)

Must have been on Santa's good list! Where's mum?

KATIE

Upstairs, she had a headache so she's taking a nap.

ROBERT

I'd better see if she's okay. I'll be back in a bit, Katie.

FOOTSTEPS MOVE UPSTAIRS AND A DOOR OPENS

ROBERT

Sorry I'm home a bit late, the traffic was horrible and all the trains have stopped running apparently.

ANNE

It's okay, you'll just have to heat your dinner in the microwave.

ROBERT

How was your d...

(CONTINUED)

HE IS INTERRUPTED BY NUMEROUS MUFFLED SHOUTS AND THE RING OF MANY CAR ALARMS. AFTER ROUGHLY FIFTEEN SECONDS OF THIS NOISE, THERE IS A DISTANT EXPLOSION. MULTIPLE SIRENS BEGIN TO WAIL, POLICE CARS AND A BOMB SIREN.

KATIE

The TV isn't working! DAD, MUM WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

SHE PUSHES THE TV BUTTONS THEN TURNS OFF THE WALL SWITCH BEFORE SIGHING LOUDLY. SHE PACES AROUND THE ROOM.

KATIE

MUM? DAD?

ROBERT

(SHOUTING FROM UPSTAIRS)
One second hun.

AGAIN KATIE SIGHS, SECONDS LATER, THE SOUND OF RUSHED FOOTSTEPS DOWN THE STAIRS

KATIE

Daddy, what's happening?
The TV went black and outside there's noise and you're still in your working clothes? Are you crying?

SHE BEGINS TO SOB GENTLY

ROBERT

No, look, Katie you need to try and be brave for me, okay? We're going out to the special building in the back of the garden to stay for a while, bring Jacky bear with you.

KATIE

He'll help me be brave.

EXT. THE GARDEN - NIGHT

TWO PAIRS OF FOOTSTEPS QUICKLY MOVE ACROSS WOODEN FLOOR, A DOOR OPENS AND THE OUTSIDE SOUNDS OF SHOUTS AND RIOT GROW LOUDER. IT BECOMES BACKGROUND NOISE WHEN THE CHARACTERS SPEAK LOUDLY OVER IT.

ROBERT

You're doing well darling, just keep looking at the end of the garden.
(HE PAUSES)
Hold up, I need you to go down there and wait for me, but don't turn around. Daddy just needs to sort something out.

ONLY ONE PAIR OF FOOTSTEPS RUNS, WITH THE SOUND FADING OUT SLIGHTLY

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT

Excuse me mate, this is private property.
I know all Hell seems to be breaking out but I need you
to leave my garden.

RUSTLING OF TWIGS AND LEAVES

ROBERT

(TO HIMSELF)
Wait, you're just a kid.
(TO THE CHILD)
Are you alone out here?

THE CHILD MAKES A SNIFFLING SOUND

ROBERT

Look, come with us into the shelter then we can try to
help you when everything calms down, you'll be safer
than out here.

TWO PAIRS OF FOOTSTEPS CROSS THE GRASS, A HEAVY, METALLIC
DOOR IS OPENED

ROBERT

Get in, speedy, come on!

KATIE

It's dark though, and shouldn't we wait for mummy?

ROBERT

Mummy is busy, honey, come on it's safer in there.

THREE PEOPLE STEP ONTO A HARDER FLOOR, AND THEN A LONG CREAK
BEFORE A METAL CLASH AS THE LARGE VAULT DOOR IS CLOSED,
SILENCING ALL OF THE LOUD CHAOS OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD

INT. THE SHELTER (PART ONE) - NIGHT

ROBERT

(QUIETLY)
Suprised we have a use for this, I'd rather we didn't
though.
(OUT LOUD)
Right, it's late so you two should try to get some
sleep okay? There's two camper beds there. I'll be
right here if you need me.

SMALL DRIPS OF WATER, TICKING NOISES AND COUGHS SYMBOLISE A
PASSING OF TIME

(CONTINUED)

KATIE

My bed wasn't very comfortable at all daddy, I didn't sleep long last night. Jacky said that he could hardly sleep either.

ROBERT

I'm sure you'll get used to it, it'll be easier tonight when you are more tired.

KATIE

I don't want to get used to it, I wanna be back in my own bed now!

ROBERT

It won't be too long hun, we just need to stay put for a few days, just to let things outside settle down a bit.

KATIE

What is happening outside?

ROBERT

I think some bad people might be trying to hurt everyone. But in here we're safe, look how strong these walls are.

HE HITS THE WALL, MAKING A DEEP METAL PANG

KATIE

It's like being inside a strong robot!

ROBERT

It'll protect us from anything.

KATIE

What's protecting mummy?

ROBERT

Mummy's safe, okay babe? And most importantly she's happy.

KATIE

But how do you know that?

ROBERT

I just know, the last time I spoke to her she was happy.
Hey, did you manage to sleep okay?

THE BOY SNIFFLES AND THEN SEEMS TO QUIETLY CRY

ROBERT

You don't need to be scared now, we're here for you mate. I'm Robert, and this is my daughter, Katie.

BED SPRING SOUND, A MOVEMENT OF CLOTHES AS THE BOY TURNS AWAY FROM THE FATHER AND DAUGHTER

KATIE

He's a bit rude, we're helping him!

ROBERT

KATIE. Stop it, he'll speak when he's comfortable.
(WHISPERED)
You wouldn't like to be alone with all of this happening.

KATIE

I'm sorry, I guesss.

INT. THE SHELTER (PART TWO) - DAY

TICKING SOUND EFFECTS AND A SLOW ACOUSTIC GUITAR SUGGEST MORE TIME PASSING

KATIE

Daddy, I'm starving!

ROBERT

Yeah you should eat, though it'll have to be beans.

KATIE

Oh but you know I hate beans! I never, ever eat them.

ROBERT

I know you don't like them, but we have to ration food and eat the food that will go rotten sooner.

You need to eat Katie...

TIN OPENING AND THE SOUND OF A FORK CLINKING INSIDE IT

ROBERT

Here, just a bit to keep you going for the rest of the day, we won't be in here too much longer.

KATIE

They're cold as well! It just keeps getting worser doesn't it?!

ROBERT

'Worser' isn't a word, the beans might make you smarter as well, give 'em a try, hun. When they're done you can start on the nicer food.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE

Okay...

SLOW MOVEMENT OF THE FORK AND QUIET CHEWING

ROBERT

Katie, I know you didn't take any there. I've got an idea, imagine that they're something else, like chocolate!

KATIE

Daddy, I can pretend that they are anything but it won't stop them smelling like farts.

THE BOY BURSTS OUT IN A FIT OF LAUGHTER, FOLLOWED BY A GASP BY KATIE

KATIE

(GIGGLING)

See, even he knows that it's true.

ROBERT

Here you go, mate. You should show her how it's done.

ANOTHER TIN OPENS AND IS THEN PUT DOWN ON A HARD SURFACE, THE FORK CLINKS ON THE SIDE OF THE TIN NUMEROUS QUICK TIMES

ROBERT

Sorry I didn't offer you some sooner, must have lost track of time in here.

KATIE

I wish you hadn't offered me any...

ROBERT

I think you'll find that you asked for it, young lady.

KATIE

When mummy gets here she won't make me eat those beans.

ROBERT

(STUTTERING)

I think that mum would rather you be healthy, you need to eat up for her.

KATIE

She won't even know though.

ROBERT

She might.

(CONTINUED)

KATIE

I'm sick of being in this horrible metal robot. There's no noise out there Daddy, it's safe now!

ROBERT

It's nearly night time, we should all get some sleep and we'll decide what we do tomorrow, okay?

KATIE

I want to see the sky again, and our house and the green grass in the garden. I want to walk by the river with you and mummy again.

ROBERT

Okay, try to get some sleep and you might be able to do some of that soon...

KATIE

Night daddy, love you.

ROBERT

Love you too Katie. You try to get some sleep too mate, we might have a busy day tomorrow.

SOUND: THE BOY SEEMS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS BY SNIFFING AND COUGHING FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF BED SPRINGS AND THE SOUND OF BLANKETS SHUFFLING

INT. THE SHELTER (PART THREE) - DAY

KATIE

(WHISPERING)
Daddy, wake up.
(SHOUTING)
Daddy, come on!

ROBERT

(DISORIENTATED)
Huh? Oh hun, what is it?
(PANICKING)
Is everything okay?

SOUND: HE HAS JUMPED UP AND IS PACING AROUND THE ROOM, A SWITCH FLICKS ON AND THE BOY SEEMS TO GROAN.

ROBERT

Katie?

KATIE

Me and Jacky just wanted you awake, I couldn't sleep knowing that we're leaving today.

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT

Look, I was thinking maybe we should stay in here a little...
(INTERRUPTED)

KATIE AND THE BOY

(LOUD)
NO!

KATIE

(GASPS)
You spoke! We know you can talk now, you need to tell us your name, please! I want another friend, daddy and Jacky are getting boring!

MICHAEL

Please, can we just leave?

ROBERT

Wake up more first, I doubt the suns even up. We should at least eat something to prepare ourselves. What's your name?

MICHAEL

Okay, can I have more beans? I'm called Michael.
(STILL SNIFFLING)
Sorry I've been 'rude'.

KATIE

I didn't mean it when I said that.

MICHAEL

No it's true, I've been stupid, but I have no one.

ROBERT

That's not true, you have us here with you.

KATIE

Yep. Me, daddy and Jacky are all here.

MICHAEL

But I don't know you really, and that stupid bear doesn't count for much. I was just in your garden then this all happened.

KATIE

Hey he's not stupid! He's braver than you.

ROBERT

He was just joking, Katie, let him speak. You were in our garden before the sirens began?

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

Kinda, I'd been living on the streets.

ROBERT

But why?

MICHAEL

My family had problems, I don't know. My mum was always drinking or speaking about how we didn't have money, said she couldn't afford to have me there, so I left.

KATIE

That's so sad.

MICHAEL

I didn't want to leave. I had a plan.

(ON THE VERGE OF CRYING)

Your street was full of rich people, I wanted to find some money and go back to my mum. Now she probably won't even need money after all the war going on outside.

KATIE

War? I didn't think it was war?

MICHAEL

I saw some newspapers in the last weeks, it's a war, trust me.

ROBERT

Michael, we can forgive you, the past is in the past. Try being positive; you've got a fresh start. No one knows exactly why this happened, or what's happening out there. Both of you need to calm down a bit.

KATIE

Can I have some beans daddy?

SOUND: A TIN OPENING AND BEING PLACED IN FRONT OF HER, THE FORK MOVES AT A REGULAR PACE AND IS THE ONLY SOUND FOR A FEW SECONDS.

MICHAEL

I bet there's nothing left out there.

(SNIFFLES)

Just ashes, dust and skeletons like some scary film.

ROBERT

(SHOUTING)

Stop!

(RETAINS NORMAL VOLUME OF SPEECH)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT (cont'd)

Are you just trying to scare her? You've survived this, just try for one minute to not be scared, okay? We're all in the same boat right now.

MICHAEL

I'm just saying how I feel, I'm frightened.

ROBERT

It's understandable, we all are. But we can't change what's happened. Lets just try to make the best of it.

MICHAEL

I just want everything back to normal. Please can we just go outside just to check what it looks like?

ROBERT

We can go outside, but neither of you can leave my sight. Also I've got something else you'll need to use, give me a minute.

SOUND: A KEY OPENS UP A SMALL METAL LOCKER AND SOMETHING IS PULLED OUT THEN PUT ON A TABLE.

KATIE

Daddy they're really creepy!

MICHAEL

Woah, I saw pictures of these masks back in school from the last war.

ROBERT

Yeah, they're to protect you from any bad chemicals in the air. It's just to keep us out of any possible radiation.

Both of you put one on and tighten it up. You should both tie up a blanket too just to keep warm.

MICHAEL

We can come back if it's not safe, right?

ROBERT

Don't worry, we can always come back inside if that's the case.

SOUND: ZIPS ARE DONE UP AND BUCKLES TIGHTENED. A RUFFLE OF BLANKETS AND CLOTHES CAN BE HEARD AS THE CHARACTERS PREPARE TO VENTURE OUTSIDE.

ROBERT

Ready?

KATIE AND MICHAEL
Ready.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SHELTER - DAY

THE HEAVY DOOR IS OPENED WITH A LONG, SLOW METAL CREAKING SOUND. A LOUD WIND BLOWS THROUGH THE AIR AND FIRES CRACKLE IN THE DISTANCE. KATIE GASPS AND THEN BEGINS TO CRY. ROBERT SIGHS GENTLY, BUT QUICKLY CONTAINS HIS SHOCK.

ROBERT
Stay calm, we're all still here. It's not over for us yet.

MICHAEL
I knew it. There's nothing left for us.

KATIE
Is mummy somewhere out there?

MICHAEL
It doesn't look like anything is out there.

ROBERT
It looks like everything has just been lifted up and taken away.

MICHAEL
Surely you weren't the only people with a bomb shelter?

ROBERT
I'm not sure, it was here when we moved in. Though you're right that some other people might have had some form of safe room. We'll need to look around if you're both feeling up to it?

MICHAEL
I'd rather look around for a bit rather than stay in that shelter doing nothing for hours on end.

KATIE
We can look for people while Jacky guards our special robot house.

ROBERT
I need to tell you something first though Katie, I should have told you before.

KATIE
I'm ready Dad.

ROBERT

It's about mummy. She's in heaven now.

KATIE

She's...she's dead?

ROBERT

She was very ill, that was why she had headaches so often. The doctors gave her a few months to live, she quit her job to spend more time with you, but she was too weak the night that this all happened.

KATIE

But now she's gone?!

ROBERT

Katie, I'm sorry I should have told you earlier. Come here, please.

KATIE

(SHOUTING)
You lied Dad.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS AS SHE RUNS AWAY

ROBERT

No, Katie we need to stay together, stop!

SOUND: TWO PAIRS OF FOOTSTEPS AS DAVID AND MICHAEL RUN AFTER HER

MICHAEL

Look, she's gone down there into where the Brayford used to run. Where could all the water have even gone?

ROBERT

Those bombs must have dried it out. If we climb down here we should be able to catch her up.

SOUND: HANDS GRASPING ONTO METAL AS THE PAIR CLIMB DOWN A LADDER, THEN A THUD AS EACH OF THEM JUMPS ONTO THE SURFACE.

EXT. THE DRIED OUT RIVER - DAY

MICHAEL

She can't have gotten that far, surely?

ROBERT

I don't know, she's good at getting lost. Can you see that, behind the rubble?

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

It looks like an opening of some kind. Help me push this.

SOUND: STONES CRUMBLING AND BEING MOVED THEN THE SOUND OF THEM CLIMBING OVER AND IT, FOLLOWED BY FOOTSTEPS

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

ROBERT

It's dark, stay close, Mike.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry about your wife, I...

ROBERT

Thanks, but lets just find Katie and get back to the shelter.

MICHAEL

I think I can hear something, if we keep following this tunnel we might find something, hopefully Katie.

SOUND: CONTINUING FOOTSTEPS ECHO THROUGH THIS TUNNEL TOWARDS THE SOUND OF A GIRL MURMURING AND THE CRACKLE OF A FIRE GROWS LOUDER

ROBERT

(WHISPERING)

Keep quiet, don't want them to make any sudden moves. There's two men, but they haven't done anything violent yet, it just looks like they're holding her hostage.

MICHAEL

(WHISPERING)

I'm gonna throw a rock, to distract them.

ROBERT

(WHISPERING)

No, wait...

SOUND: HE SPEAKS TOO LATE AS MICHAEL HAS THROWN A STONE. ONE OF THE MEN SAYS SOMETHING AND FOOTSTEPS ARE HEARD. ANOTHER PAIR OF FOOTSTEPS IS HEARD

MICHAEL

Katie, quick get over to your dad, I'm gonna get rid of this fire.

KATIE

Be quick, those men will be back soon. They're hunting for food.

SOUND: QUICK STOMPS END THE CRACKLING OF THE FIRE

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

They won't see us, quick, that way, follow that crack of light.

SOUND: QUICK FOOTSTEPS ECHO THROUGH THE CAVE AND THE MEN SHOUT FROM THE DISTANCE. THE SOUND OF ROCKS BEING QUICKLY MOVED AS THE THREE CHARACTERS TRY TO COVER THE ENTRANCE TO THE TUNNEL.

EXT. THE DRIED OUT RIVER - DAY

ROBERT

I'm glad you're okay Katie. I'm sorry I just didn't think you were ready. You can't run off like that though.
You're lucky that Michael was so brave, otherwise you might have still been down there with those men.

KATIE

(THROUGH TEARS)

I shouldn't have done that Daddy, I'm so silly. Thank you Michael!

ROBERT

Come on, let's head back.

SOUND: THE THREE CAN BE HEARD WALKING BACK ACROSS THE GRAVEL FLOOR

MICHAEL

I should be the one saying thank you.

ROBERT

What for?

MICHAEL

You took me in and saved my life.

ROBERT

Don't mention it, mate.

KATIE

You're not alone Mike.

SOUND: A LOUD WIND BLOWS, AND THEN FADES OUT, SIGNALLING THE END OF THE PLAY.