

JOURNEY OF THE SEEDS - DAY ONE:

YOU SHOULD BE HERE

By

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INT. SCHUSTER HOME - NIGHT

DINING ROOM

Same as every night. JAN'S DAD (46), tubby and balding, holds court at the head of the scuffed table. He bellows at JAN'S GRANDMOTHER (78), frail, wrapped up like she's out in the snow.

A fire crackles in the fireplace. The wind rattles the windows.

JAN'S MUM (43), worn-out, picks unenthusiastically at her dinner. So does JAN (19), a lanky boy with sandy hair.

All dialogue is in German with English subtitles.

JAN'S DAD
-because if I came into your house-

JAN'S MUM
This *is* her house, Tobias.

JAN'S DAD
You know what I meant-

JAN'S GRANDMOTHER
May I speak now?

There is a mobile message tone, and Jan checks his phone.

Message is from MAREIKE. It reads:
YOU SHOULD BE HERE ;) ;) ;)

He grins.

JAN
Dad?

JAN'S DAD
No you may not.

JAN'S MUM
Leave her. She's cold.

JAN'S DAD
It's like being in a furnace!

JAN
Dad?

All three sets of eyes turn to Jan.

(CONTINUED)

JAN
I'm not well. Can I go to my room?

JAN'S DAD
(to Jan's Grandmother)
You hear that? He's dehydrating-

JAN'S GRANDMOTHER
More like freezing to death!

Jan slips out as the argument resumes. No one notices.

JAN'S ROOM

An orchard of wires and gaming consoles blossoms from the small CRT TV on the dresser against the wall.

The rest of the room is a jumble of clothes and bedsheets. Walls draped in posters, swords and shield replicas from Jan's favorite RPGs.

He finds a thick jacket in a pile and throws it on then climbs out of the window onto the roof.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT

SCHUSTER HOME

The roof is covered in snow. Jan slides down and drops to the ground, taking off down the street.

STREET

He travels on the asphalt; the sidewalks covered in snow. His breath hangs heavy in the air.

From behind there is a deep, deep rumbling. He turns to see what looks like a ball of flame tearing across the sky.

Its roar triggers alarms and causes windows to burst out. Jan can't help but let out a cheer at the magnificence of it all.

It starts to snow as he jogs on. After a moment he realizes that the snow is a deep, crimson red. He pauses to hold out a gloved hand and where the snow hits, it bursts into a cloud of red vapor. That ain't good.

He covers his mouth with his hand and accelerates to a run.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

As smaller meteorites light up the sky, a MASS OF TEENAGERS dance and cheer on a blanket of the red snow. It crushes beneath their feet and forms a thick red haze.

Jan arrives, but hangs back to avoid the fog.

JAN
(calling)
Mareike?

Bursting forth from the crowd, a goofy punk, MATHIAS, pulls him in for a hug.

MATHIAS
Jan! I'm so glad you made it.

The hug stretches on uncomfortably.

JAN
Nice to see you too. What's with this snow?

MATHIAS
Don't you feel it Jan? We all feel it! You should be here!

Mathias breaks the hug and hooks his arm around Jan's. He attempts to lead him into the fray. Jan resists.

JAN
Matty? How high are you guys?

MATHIAS
Not at all. It's just-

Another meteorite screams by overhead. Another wave of snow. The teenagers cheer.

MATHIAS
-you don't feel that?! It's the best feeling in the fuckin' world!

JAN
Listen, buddy, I have to find Mareike-

Mathias stumbles off into the red cloud to keep dancing without another word.

Exasperated, Jan edges around the group in the street, covering his mouth, and enters the house.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

LIVING ROOM

The house is mostly empty.

Sitting on the floor in the middle of the room is a lazy circle of stoned-out-of-their-minds teens passing around a gas-mask with a bong attached to the breathing apparatus.

STONER GUY #1
(as Jan enters)
You should join us. Man.

JAN
Where is everyone?

STONER GIRL #1
They all fuckin' went out for the-

She trails off, and just points upwards to indicate "the meteor shower".

Jan is distracted. He watches outside:

-- BACKYARD - JAN'S POV

A bunch of kids splash about in the heated pool. In the cold night air, the hot water creates a thick cloud of steam, turned red by the snow. Spirits are high.

Yet as he watches, a lone MALE TEENAGER swims over to where a young couple are making out against the side of the pool and, calm as day, pushes the YOUNG MAN under the water.

The male teenager maintains eye contact with the hysterical YOUNG WOMAN the entire time he is drowning her date.

It escalates. A GROUP OF FOUR drag the screaming young woman out of the water and disappear with her into the thick of the garden. Fighting breaks out in pockets.

Something is wrong.

-- END POV

JAN
Where's Mareike?

STONER GUY #1
She's down stairs.

Jan's not listening. He snatches the gas-mask-bong from the circle and hands back just the bong section to a chorus of booes and groans.

(CONTINUED)

Then he hurries to:

STAIRWELL

The door to the basement stairwell opens, and a trio of teenagers appears, led by MAREIKE. She grins and throws her arms around Jan's neck; leaning in for a kiss. He pushes her back.

JAN
Don't kiss me.

MAREIKE
What?

JAN
Get inside-

The sound of a commotion moving inside and towards them makes him anxious. He starts to physically push her and her friends back through the door.

MAREIKE
What are you doing?

JAN
Just get down there-

They disappear into the basement. Jan locks the door behind him.

BASEMENT

Jan hands Mareike the gas mask. No one else down here pays him much attention.

JAN
Put that on.

MAREIKE
What's going on?

From up the stairs they can hear something is amiss; thudding, scratching, screaming. Like animals fighting.

Now that got everyone's attention.

JAN
Just put it on.

MAREIKE
It smells like pot.

(CONTINUED)

JAN
I know, just-

He assists her in sliding it onto her head.

JAN
(to everyone else)
You guys go outside for the meteor
shower?

They shake their heads, or mumble "no". The noises upstairs
grow in intensity.

JAN
I don't have any answers but
something fucking strange is
happening up there. There's a bunch
of red mist, and they're all acting
like they're on some bad acid trip.

A couple of the kids push past him to make their way
upstairs.

JAN
I wouldn't.

As if to punctuate his warning, there comes a series of
bangs and blood curdling screams ending in a wet gurgling.

The other kids stop.

MATHIAS (O.S)
Jan? Buddy! I know you're down
there. You should be here man.
You'll know what I mean; you'll
start feeling it soon, trust me.

The other kids in the basement shoot Jan a worried look. He
turns to Mareike.

JAN
Keep that on.

Mathias bangs on the door to the basement.

MATHIAS (O.S)
If you could see what I see- We're
all in for a real wild time.

THE END