

Finding Mason

by

Amy Leland

Amy Leland  
Amy@amyleland.net

INT. RICHARDS HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT (SPRING 1981)

MARY RICHARDS, a woman in her 30's, hangs up a wall phone. She holds onto the edge of the kitchen counter and closes her eyes. She takes a deep breath, opens her eyes, looks out of the kitchen window for a moment, then straightens up. She walks down the hall.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mary opens the door to a bedroom, slowly and quietly.

MARY  
(Whispers)  
Sam... Wake up.

INT. CHILD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A young girl, SAM, 10 years old, lies asleep in bed. Her arm wraps around a large black Lab, CINCO, who is lying next to Sam with her head resting on the girl's stomach.

MARY  
C'mon Sam...wake up.

Sam moans sleepily and turns over.

MARY  
(She shakes Sam's  
shoulder gently)  
Come on. We have to go get Mason.  
(The girl opens her eyes  
Slightly.)

SAM  
Where this time?

MARY  
(sighs)  
Norman.

SAM  
What time is it?

MARY  
It's 2 AM.

SAM

(sits up, suddenly awake)  
Mooooom, I have school tomorrow! ...  
Today!

MARY

I know. I'll call the school.

SAM

Nooo. Leave me here. I'll catch the  
bus.

MARY

No. We have to go. Come on, get up.

SAM

It's not fair!

MARY

(Sighs. As she walks  
out...)  
I know.

Sam crawls out of bed very slowly. Cinco jumps down after her. Sam puts on a jacket over her pajamas and slips on some sneakers, then grabs her pillow and a blanket.

OPENING CREDITS - MONTAGE OF TEXAS/OKLAHOMA DRIVING

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Sam and Cinco sit next to a desk in a police station. A police officer pets Cinco while Sam stares off in the distance, sulking.

After a little while, Mary walks out from the back. MASON, a 14 year old boy, who looks both scruffy and innocent, trails behind her. His clothing is dirty, and he needs a shower badly. As they approach, Sam looks up. Mary walks out with fast, angry strides, looking straight ahead. Sam scrambles up and follows them with Cinco.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Mary drives down the dark, empty highway, seething. Mason

slouches quietly in the passenger seat, leaning against the door, staring out the window. Sam lies sleeping in the backseat, with Cinco as her pillow.

Mason reaches for Mary's travel mug and takes a sip. Mary scowls, but says nothing. Mason wrinkles his nose at the ice cold coffee. He rolls down his window, removes the lid from the cup, and pours out the remaining coffee. As he does so, the car hits a bump in the road, and he drops the mug.

MASON  
(Sheepishly)  
Uh...Mom?

MARY  
(Seething)  
What???

MASON  
I dropped your mug.

Mary slams on the brakes as she swerves into the shoulder. She then slams the car into reverse, stamps on the gas, and squeals backward, then slams on the brakes again. This wakes up Sam. After a long pause.

MARY  
Well? Get it.

MASON  
I...can't.

MARY  
Why not???

MASON  
Uh...because you ran over it.

Mary stares at him in angry disbelief for a moment, while he sits quietly, trying to keep his face as neutral as possible. Sam leans up on her elbow to see what will happen. For a moment, Mary continues to seethe with anger.

But then the corners of her mouth start to twitch. Mason sees this, and his expression changes just a little, to one of exaggerated innocence. Mary resists as long as she can, but eventually bursts out laughing. Mason laughs with her, relaxing back into his seat as Mary pulls back onto the highway.

SAM flops back onto the backseat, clenching her blanket around her, a look of annoyance on her face. Cinco rests her head on Sam's arm, and lets out a sigh. The car continues on as the sun begins to peek over the horizon.