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The family goes camping

‘We’re here. Welcome to Yoho National Park,’ says Joe’s mother Sarah. She stops the car under a tree on a campsite. It is July. They are in Yoho National Park in the Rocky Mountains, in Canada. It is a beautiful place, with tall mountains and tall trees. The campsite is beside Kicking Horse River. Joe and his mother love camping in the Rockies. Joe is fourteen years old. He loves fishing, hiking and canoeing. They come to Yoho National Park every year.

‘Isn’t it beautiful, darling?’ says Sarah. She smiles at the man beside her. His name is Ethan.

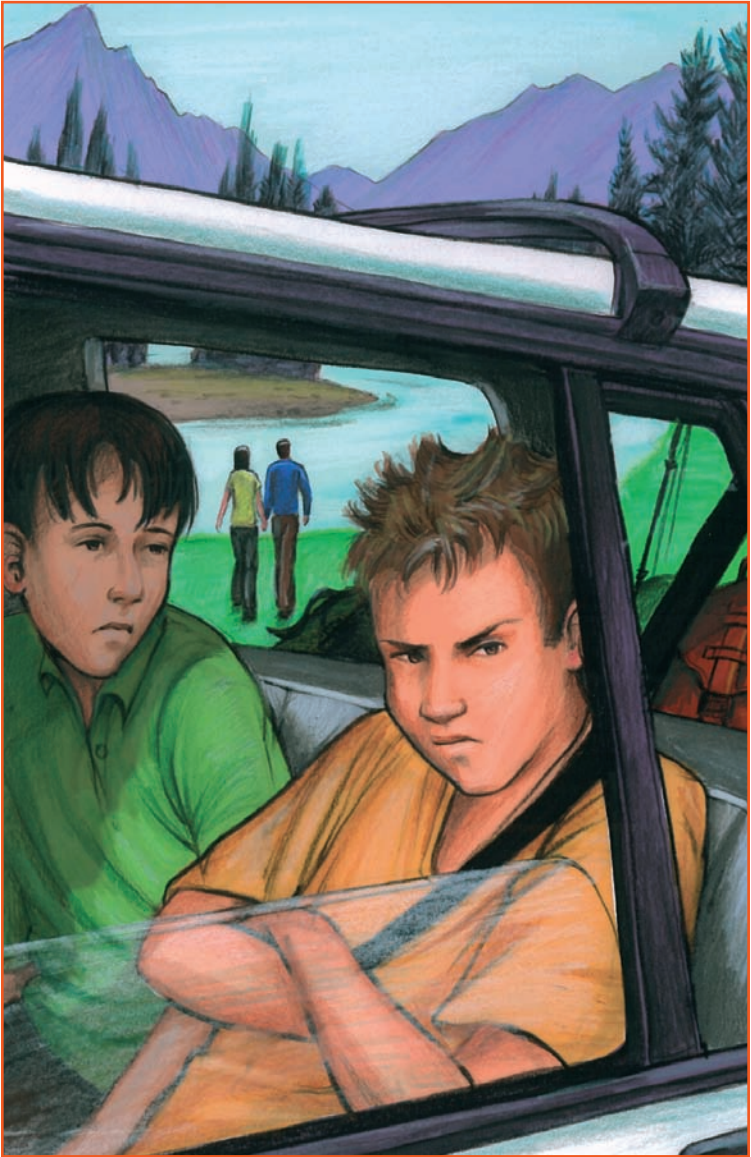
‘Yes, it is beautiful, darling,’ Ethan says to Sarah. ‘We’re going to have a good time here.’

Joe is sitting in the back of the car with Randall. Randall is Ethan’s son. Joe isn’t happy to be at Yoho National Park this year. He isn’t happy to be here with Ethan and Randall.

Randall is fourteen too. Randall and Ethan are from South Africa. Randall’s mother lives in South Africa, but Randall lives with his father in Canada. Joe’s father is dead, and now Sarah and Ethan are married. Sarah, Ethan, Randall and Joe live in a big house in Vancouver. They are one family now – a new family. But Joe doesn’t like that. He doesn’t want a new father, and he doesn’t want a brother.

Sarah and Ethan get out of the car. They smile and hold hands. Joe and Randall sit in the car.

‘Yes, it is beautiful, darling,’ says Joe, but he doesn’t smile. He isn’t happy.



Randall doesn't speak.

'Come on, boys, get out of the car,' says Ethan. 'It's time to put up the tents.'

'But that's *our* family's tent!' Joe says to Sarah. Sarah and Ethan are putting up an old tent.

'Ethan and I are going to sleep in this tent,' Sarah says. 'You and Randall can sleep in the new tent, Joe. It's a good tent.'

'I'll help you boys put up your tent,' says Ethan.

'I don't need your help,' says Joe. 'I can put up a tent.'

'I can help,' says Randall.

'No, I don't want your help,' says Joe.

'Okay,' says Randall. 'I'm going to read my book.' He goes and sits in the car.

Joe puts up the tent, but he isn't happy. Sarah sees this and says, 'Okay, the tents are up. Now we can go fishing. Come on, Randall.' She gives Joe a hug and says to Ethan and Randall, 'Joe is good at fishing.'

'Good,' says Ethan, and he smiles at Joe. 'Randall and I never go fishing. You can be our teacher, Joe, okay?'

Joe doesn't answer him.

They all walk down to the river. Sarah and Ethan smile and hold hands. The boys walk behind them. They don't smile.

'A fish! A fish!' says Randall. He has a fish in his hand. It's jumping.

'Wow!' says Sarah. 'That's a big fish. We can eat it for dinner.'

Randall is happy. Joe isn't happy – he has no fish.

That night, Sarah and Ethan cook Randall's fish on the campfire. They all sit and eat.

'Do you like the fish, Randall?' says Sarah.

'Yes,' Randall says. 'My fish is very nice. I like camping.'
They hear a noise in the night.

'What's that noise?' says Randall. He stands up.

'Oh, that? That's a grizzly bear,' says Joe.



'A grizzly bear?' Randall says, and he runs to the car.

'Ha, ha,' says Joe.

Sarah says, 'Joe, be nice, please.' She runs after Randall. She stops him and she gives him a hug. 'No, it's not a grizzly bear, Randall. There are no bears near the campsite. Bears never come near here. Don't be scared. Come and sit by the fire again.'

Sarah and Randall sit by the fire again.

They all hear the noise again.

'What is that noise?' says Ethan. 'It's coming from the boys' tent.'

Sarah and Ethan go to the tent and look in.

'Look! What is it?' says Ethan.

'It's a skunk!' says Sarah.

Randall looks at Joe. 'A skunk! I'm not going to sleep in a tent with a skunk. You can sleep there,' he says to Joe. 'I'm going to sleep in the car.'