# The Dream of Tears

The youngest of the siblings wakes in the morning with a start. They have had an unsettling dream of a forgotten, perhaps imagined childhood experience. Adjust the story to fit your characters as needed (see the handout in the References). The important takeaway should be that Stedden was there. Having just met him again after three years might have awoken this memory. Also, Linden was there, and he apparently intervened.

You are being scolded by your father Arden. You cannot remember seeing him this angry. He is shaking you and yelling so hard, he begins to cry. You cannot understand why. You cannot remember what you could have done to make him so upset. Through your own tears, you see a look on his face you barely recognize. He is not just angry, he is afraid. He picks you up and squeezes you in a long embrace. Then, more yelling.

“No one can ever know!”

“I told you not to go in there!”

“How many times?!?”

It is then that you notice Stedden is standing nearby. He must be seven, maybe eight years old. Arden suddenly slaps him across the face. Pow!

“What did you see?!?”

“Nothing! I found <HIM/HER> by the river!”

Stedden cries.

Arden grabs both you and Stedden. As he pushes you forward, you stumble down the street and around the corner, right into Brother Linden.

“What is this?”

Linden smiles, and the dream is abruptly gone.