

I.

I told her I'd meet her in the woods, above the north shore of the lake. It was November, and the stars were out early, and I didn't expect her to actually show.

From my high point on the cliff, I saw her before she saw me. She was meticulously weaving through the deer-trails amongst the briar. And I had taken her for an indoor cat.

"You really came out. To the woods. To meet with a strange girl you've never once spent time with outside of school? Let me ask you this now, are you crazy?" I'm laughing and kind of meaning it too.

She raises her head to see me. Her blue eyes are bright.

"As crazy as I have to be to agree to this sort of thing. I told my mom I was going to my friend's house. If we don't make it out, no one will think to check the woods, because I have never lied to my parents like that before."

Her careful stepping through the thorns on her way up to me only heightened my sense of how deer-like she was. All forward thinking.

She is an elegant she-doe.

I didn't take her for an outdoorsperson. I knew she liked reading books. So seeing her navigating the wilderness, a deer in the woods instead of a human in a school, was thrilling and captivating.

If a deer and a woman is a doe. Then she is a doe.

A girl lying to her parents makes her bad in a good way. She wants to be good, but she can't help but be herself. And who she is— is not the girl her parents know. She's a little worse than that.

She bad doe!! lol

She'll need the flashlight on her phone later. But she seems the type who might actually stay out late, so I won't light up my lantern on the first night.