

Chapter 2

OUT OF THE DARK

Jason ran down behind him, leaping down the stairs and almost made it when.

"Hold it right there young man!"

His mother didn't know what was going on but she knew something was up. "Why did Jonathon just go whizzing out my front door in his underwear and why are you after him like a dog chasing a cat?"

"Oh mom!" Jason jumped her arms and began to squall.

"There there my boy, it can't be all that bad. Now tell me what's wrong so we can fix it."

So he told her everything - well almost everything! He told her how Jon had left his mom's after the way they treated him and how Jon's aunt was out for the night so he came there to stay.

"He asked me why they don't love him and I said something stupid and it hurt him more! I have to hurry and find him mom! I just have to fix it!"

Mrs. Van Mason stroked her young son's hair. "Shh, calm down first love. You'll not do any good going to him in a panic." she wiped away his tears with one hand and held his chin with the other. "There, now that's better. You're right, you do need to fix this. It's not a hard thing, just tell him what you meant. He may not hear you out today but Jonathon will come around." She smiled and kissed his forehead. "Now, do you want me to drive you dear or do you want to do this on your own?"

On his own? She had never let him handle things like this on his own before. Could it be she knew how he felt about Jon or was it she realized he was growing up? It didn't matter at the moment though! Nothing was more important than finding Jon and explaining what he meant! "I'll go on foot, I need to do this on my own."

He turned for the door but...

"Change out of your sleep clothes before you leave son and I'll be here if you decide you need me." Jason made the quickest wardrobe change of his life and ran out the door. He fought back the feelings of hopelessness as he ran faster than he ever had before. He wasn't sure how he knew where Jon had gone.

He didn't even think about it really, just let his feet take him where they wanted to go as if they knew the way.

He was coming up on the Creek where the old bridge was. Finally he stopped to breathe, completely out of breath. He didn't see Jonathon but somehow felt he was near. When he had caught his breath he just started talking as if he were looking Jon in the eye. "Jon... Jonathon, I know you're angry with me right now.

I didn't mean to hurt you. Please let me finish explaining my feelings. If you don't want to talk to me anymore after that, I'll understand but please let me explain."

Jason leaned his crossed arms onto the railing and pressed up against them as if hugging himself. "What I meant to say was I love you because you're beautiful. Not just beautiful on the outside but on the inside too!"

Jon still hadn't come out of hiding but Jason kept talking. "You're fun to be with, you're kind to everyone!

When you walk in a room everyone lights up because you make people happy just by being there!

No one can help but love you! Your parents are just too dumb to know how great and wonderful you are.

I know how wonderful, how beautiful you are because I can't stop thinking of you." He closed his eyes with a sigh and put his hand in his pockets. "I really care about you Jonathon McCollough! I will never, can never stop loving you!"

As he turned to leave he felt a hard embrace around his belly from behind. "I love you too Jason." Jason turned around and took Jon in his arms. They stood there hugging each other tight for what seemed like forever. It didn't seem to matter that the world around them was beginning to wake up. People coming outside to greet the day with a morning jog or leaving for work.

"About time you two!" Fabian chuckled as he came out from behind a large tree.

"Don't tease them too much Fabi! We don't want them to go back to hiding their feelings!"

Niklas said following behind.

"How long have you guys been there?" Jason asked as he turned to their friends, still leaving one around Jon's shoulder.

"Oh long enough! Don't worry, all you did was say what the rest of us already knew!" Niklas said walking over and placing a reassuring hand on Jason's right shoulder and Jon's left. "We were coming to get you when you ran out of your house. We called to you but you kept running. We knew something was wrong when you wouldn't answer us so we followed."

Jason looked at his friends then back at Jonathon.

"Ah... yeah, I kinda had tunnel vision!"

He pulled Jonathon close for another hug.

"Come on, we'll need to let your aunt know where you were last night." He said as he pulled Jonathon in the direction of home. Jonathon and Jason held hands the whole way to Jonathon's house. Fabian and Niklas following on either side of them.