Debby’s Favourite Passage

Each morning since we’d arrived, my father had cut notches in Die Hütte’s door frame; but when he got to sixteen he decided to stop.

‘’We’re not going to live by somebody else’s rules of hours and minutes anymore,” he said. “When to get up, when to go to church, when to go to work.”

I couldn’t remember my father ever going to church, or even to work.

“Dates only make us aware of how numbered our days are, how much closer to death we are for each one we cross off. From now on, Punzel, we’re going to live by the sun and the seasons.” He picked me up and spun me around laughing. “Our days will be endless”.

With my father’s final notch, time stopped for us on the twentieth of August, 1976.

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Erik’s Favourite Passage

For a long time I didn’t understand. I pivoted round to check I hadn’t become disorientated and was looking back at the way I had come, but even after I had turned several times the land beyond the ridge was still there. I threw a stone into it, expecting ripples, as if it were a pool reflecting my world back to me, but the stone bounced down the rocks and into the undergrowth. My father had been mistaken. The Great Divide wasn’t an infinite blackness but a mirror image of our world. I put down one foot, the way I used to test the ice on the boggy shore near the river in winter. The ground remained firm and I didn’t sink. One final time I looked over my shoulder for smoke, a sign of Reuben, but there was nothing ….. so I went into the new land.

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Kevin’s Favourite Passage

In Die Hütte, my father was chopping the carrots I had picked and washed that morning. On the floor beside the table was his blanket.

“Did you find any?” I asked.

“A few. Enough,” he said, still chopping.

“Are you sure that’s what they are?”

“Of course I am. I thought we would have them for breakfast. One final dinner tonight,” my father said, smiling. “Stew and acorn dumplings, baked potatoes and honey cake. Nice?” He sounded so sane.

“Will it hurt?”

Oh Punzel. I wouldn’t ever let anything hurt you. No I think we’ll just fall asleep and not wake up.” He put the knife down and stroked my hair. “You know this is right.” It wasn’t a question, but I nodded.

After dinner we went straight to bed. For once, my father didn’t talk; I supposed there was nothing left to say. I heard him crying, but I didn’t have the energy for reassurance. A while later, he got out of his bed and came across to mine.

“Ute, let me in,” he whispered, and tugged at the fur cover.

I pretended to be asleep.

“Ute, please,” he whined.

I pinned down the cover down with my knees and gripped it with my hands.

“It’s our last night,” he said and pulled the covers so that they came free from under my body and he was able to get into bed next to me.

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Junona’s Favourite Passage

I …… sat at the piano, singing the music under my breath in the fading light. The next moment I heard a roar, as if a bear were standing on its hind legs behind me, its claws ready to fight.

“Punzel.” The bear shouted.

I trembled on the stool, waiting for the bloody slash of a claw across my back.

“What the hell are you doing?”

The candle went out.

“Candles are for emergencies,” he yelled. “What is it that you don’t understand about living here? “Once this candle has gone, there are no more! No more. Do you understand?”

The smoke from the dead candle made my eyes water.

“Do you understand?”

I nodded. “I’m sorry Papa” I said. “I was practising my music on the piano. I didn’t think about it.” I started crying and tears ran down my cheeks.

“That’s your trouble…..you never bloody well think.” He stormed out of the room, making it even smaller. “I knew I shouldn’t have brought you with me. You’re too much of a liability. I should have let you die like the rest of them.”

I took the corner of the front cover and closed the music, a pain in my chest when he reminded me we had survived unlike everybody else.

“You don’t deserve to be here, wasting things without thinking. If there was only the two of us, it should have been me and Ute.”

I couldn’t bear to look at his purple face. “Yes just go! Get out of my sight. Don’t come back until you’ve thought about wasting things for your own gratification

222

Match each extract (1-4) with the time (a-d) it takes place. Justify your answer by quoting the text.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1/ Kevin’s extract | a) A few weeks after Peggy and papa first arrive in Die Hütte. |  |
| 2/ Debby’s extract | b) Just after papa’s death when Peggy manages to escape from Die Hütte. |  |
| 3/ Junona’s extract | c) Just before papa’s death when he tries to convince her to commit suicide with him. |  |
| 4/ Erik’s extract | d) Probably a few months or years after being in the forest together |  |

Debby’s Extract

1/ What exactly does Peggy’s father decide to do?

2/ Explain in your own words this decision.

3/ How does Peggy react to her father’s decision?

4/ What does this passage show about the relationship between father and daughter?

5/ Why do you think Debby chose this extract?

6/ When you watch her video does she use any interesting ‘props’?

Erik’s Extract

1/ Where is Peggy standing?

2/ How does she feel?

3/ What does she do with a stone? Why does she do this?

4/ What does she realize for the first time?

5/ What is the Great Divide?

6/ Why do you think Eric chose this extract?

7/ When you watch his video does he use any interesting ‘props’?

Junona’s extract

1/ Where is Peggy sitting and what is she doing?

2/ Who suddenly appears?

3/ What is his mood?

4/ What does he accuse her of?

5/ How does she react?

6/ Why does he start talking about Ute?

7/ What does he tell her to do?

8/ Why do you think Junona chose this extract?

9/ When you watch his video does he use any interesting ‘props’?

Kevin’s extract

1/ Explain what Peggy asks her father.

2/ When does papa want the two of them to eat what he has just picked?

3/ How are Peggy and her father going to spend their last evening?

4/ Why does papa need to reassure Peggy?

5/ Explain in your own words ‘He sounded so sane’

6/ What does papa want to do after supper?

7/ How does Peggy react?

8/ Why do you think Kevin chose this extract?

9/ When you watch his video does he use any interesting ‘props’?