

In the following scene, Pony and Turner are asleep in their sleeping bags inside the tent. It is late at night, but their parents, thinking that the children will remain asleep, decide to slip out and take a midnight walk. Shortly after they go, Pony wakes up from a bad dream, and finds that her parents are gone!

Terrified, she wakes Turner up and the two keep each other company while they wait for their parents to return.

1 Girl and 1 Boy
Pony (age 9) and Turner (age 12)

A long silence, then SPOOKY SOUNDS start up. WINGS FLAP, a baby cries and cries, an albino bat gives birth to kittens. PONY moans in her sleep. A LION roars close by.

Pony *(Wakes up like a shot.)* What was that? *(Silence. Then all the sounds combine into a terrifying cacophony.)*

Pony *(In a whisper)* Mommy? *(They get louder.)* Mommy...?! *(And louder.)* It's bears! *(Dead silence.)* MOOOOOOMMYYYYYYYY???!

Turner: *(Wakes instantly)* What's happening?

Pony It's bears! Big black bears!

(Silence)

Turner I don't hear anything.

(The lion roars again.)

Turner *(Whispering)* Dad...?

Pony *(Whispering)* Mommy...?

Turner ...is that you?



Pony ...can I get in with you?

Turner It's so dark in here.

Pony *(Creeping out of her sleeping bag.)* Where are you?

Turner *(Likewise)* Who has the flashlight?

Pony Mommy...?

Turner *(Running into her)* Dad...?

Pony No, it's me, Pony.

Turner Pony...?

Pony What?

Turner Oh no!

Pony Turner...?

Turner Where are they?

(Silence)

Turner Dad...? Daddy?

(Silence)

Pony *The bears got them, the bears got them!*

Turner Will you shut up?

Pony I want Mommy, I want Mommy!

Turner Come on, quiet down, or they'll get us, too!

(An instant silence)

Pony *(Jumping)* What was that?

Pony
Mommy?...Mooomyy???

Turner What was what?

Pony That!?

Turner I didn't hear anything.

Pony It sounded like snakes!

Turner Will you stop it!

Pony It's snakes, it's snakes!

Turner Wait a minute, let me get my circus light. *(He turns on one those little fiber optic flashlights they sell at circuses and starts waving it, drawing liquid circles in the air.)*

Pony Oh neat! Let me try!

Turner Use your own.

Pony I don't know where it is.

Turner Look in your sleeping bag. *(He keeps waving it.)*

Pony Hey, I found it, I found it! *(She turns it on and copies Turner.)* This is fun.

Turner I wish we had sparklers.

Pony Oh, sparklers would be great! *(They wave away until the tent starts to glow.)* Hey, why don't you play your guitar?

Turner Now?

Pony It would be neat.

Turner Yeah?

Pony Yeah, we'll have a sound and light show. I'll do them both and you play that really beautiful piece...



Turner *(With enthusiasm)* Okaay! *(He hands her his light and starts taking his guitar out of its case.)*

Pony Are you scared of seeing Livvie?

Turner Why should I be scared?

Pony Because she's dying of cancer.

Turner So?

Pony She'll look all strange. Her teeth will be black and she'll be wearing a wig.

Turner How do you know?

Pony I heard Mommy and Daddy talking.

(Turner starts playing Bach's suite No. 1 in G major. Pony listens for several measures, then resumes waving the lights as Turner plays.)

Pony What if she dies in front of us? What if she turns blue and starts gasping for air...? *(She makes lurid strangling sounds.)* What if she wants to be alone with one of us? What if we're locked in the room with her and she comes after us...? What if she falls and dies right on top of us...? *(There is a sudden awful noise outside.)* IT'S HER, IT'S HER...SHE'S COMING TO GET US! *(Turner continues playing.)*

Pony HELP...HELP...!

Turner *(Stops playing)* Jeez, Pony!

Pony She's coming to get us, she's coming to get us!

Turner She lives over 2,000 miles away!

Pony Mommy, Mommy...!

Turner *(Rising)* I'm getting out of here, you're crazy!

- Pony** Hey, where are you going?
- Turner** *(Heading for the door of the tent.)* I want to see what's going on.
- Pony** You can't go out there.
- Turner** Who says?
- Pony** The bears will get you! *(In a frantic whisper)* Turner...?!
- Turner** *(Pulls back the tent flap and steps outside.)* Ohhh, look at all those stars! *(Moonlight pours through the door.)*
- Pony** Turner, get back in here!
- Turner** The sky's full of shooting stars. Quick, Pony, you've got to see this!
- Pony** *(Whimpering)* I want Mommy, I want Mommy...
- Turner** *(Returning for her)* They're amazing. Come on, give me your hand.
- Pony** Where are we going?
- Turner** Just follow me.
- (He leads her to a clearing outside the tent. The sky is ablaze with shooting stars. He puts his arm around her shoulder.)*
- Turner** Well, what do you think?
- Pony** Ohhhh, look!
- Turner** Isn't it incredible?
- Pony** Look at all those stars!
- Turner** *(Pointing)* Oh, one's falling, one's falling!



- Pony** There are millions of them...
- Turner** Did you see that?
- Pony** ...billions and zillions of them!
- Turner** Come on, let's get closer.
- Pony** Ohh, they're so bright!
- (Arm around each other, they walk out into the starlit night.)*
- Turner** Hold on tight now. I don't want to lose you.