

Sarah's Hike

It's a warm summer afternoon. The mountain trails are popular among local youth as they offer a reprieve from the warmer temps with shaded paths and frequent breezes not afforded by the town in the valley.

Shannon, a popular 'influencer' is out today with a guy who eagerly agreed to be her cameraman. They spent all morning getting to the top of the hill as the winding path didn't make for a straight path.

"Make sure you get my good side" Shannon chides as Jared continues to adjust settings on his fancy camera.



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Shannon, a 'local celebrity' if you count social media as a measure of fame. Shannon is one of those people that believes every follower she gets is another person adding to her path out of this small town and onto the big world. She spends most of her weekends taking pictures to upload to her many fans... often bringing along someone who does most of the work for her.



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Jared, a local... local, is a guy who has known Shannon growing up. More quiet and reserved, he jumps at the chance to go with her on one of her shoots because at least he gets to break from the regular minutia in his life and enjoy some time outside with a beautiful girl.



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Shannon, in a rare moment where she broke her cool, looked past Jared at what was coming toward them...



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Sarah, a girl who mostly kept to herself growing up, had moved away for college. She had not really kept in touch with anyone back home and in the years since graduating had only recently taken an interest in returning. She was out for a hike, alone, thinking about the spots she used to enjoy as a kid, but having some trouble as she didn't recognize the landscape as easily as before and was having trouble pinpointing a particular location.



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Watching as the tall blonde quickly rose up the path they spent the morning navigating, Shannon's face broke into a panicked expression as the seemingly oblivious girl was looking at her cellphone and quickly approaching the pair. "Shannon, what is the matter?" Jared asked, noticing her expression. Following her eyes he turned around...



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Unable to speak as the orange tread entered his vision, Jared began to stumpled backward, his reaction entirely instinctual as he moved his body backwards looking to avoid the colossal boot.



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The boot came crashing down right where Jared was standing not a moment ago. Sarah, hearing the frantic action below, broke from the trance her phone held on her to realize she had been too engrossed in her guidance app, and nearly hurt someone.

"Oh Gosh! Are you ok? I didn't even see you there!" Sarah said, embarrassed by how clumsy she had been.



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Shannon however had her moment of disbelief. That quickly faded into annoyance as someone other than her was now getting the attention.

"And just who do you think you are? You could have hurt me with those big, clumsy last season boots!" Shannon explained, with no consideration to the size of the fellow hiker.



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Sarah felt terrible about the photographers recent scare and quickly bent down to help him up. Ignoring the calls for attention from the 'famous' girl, she quickly swept her away and out of their immediate attention. Jared, mesmerized by the large beauty, didn't seem to notice the nonchalant handling of the social media star.



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"I've been out here all morning and I am pretty sure I am close... but I have not been able to find the old campground I used to go to as a Kid." Sarah stated, showing her phone to Jared in an attempt to narrow down her search.

"Oh, they closed that down years ago. It's not really on the map anymore but if you go just west of here, you should see some of the old firepits and structures they had set up." Jared stated.



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Sarah, pleased with his help, was most appreciative. "I just got back into town, but if you ever want to go for another hike out here, I'd love to have someone who knows their way around join me. My name's Sarah" she said, admiring the handsome local.



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Before Jared could put a few words together, Sarah began to rise above him. He was quickly reminded this was not just another traveler on the hiking trail he had met. "Jared..." was all he could muster as her form rose to her full height.



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Shannon, stunned, came over to Jared, actively complaining about... something. He couldn't hear a word she said as he quickly adjusted the focus on his camera to get the best picture of the afternoon.

"See you around, Jared!" Sarah said over her shoulder, "hiking" off into the distance.



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