

Max makes eye contact with Alexander, who is the only one who is scared, like Max, about what just happened. Judith bursts out in a quick nervous laugh, then controls herself.

Max walks off alone into a deeper area of the fort. Carol watches him closely, concerned.

In an adjoining part of the fort, Max climbs onto a low ledge and curls up. He's shocked and ashamed and wants to be alone. He turns his back to the Wild Things, lays down, wide-eyed.

-----END OF SECOND ACT-----

INT. FORT - NIGHT (LATER)

Max wakes up on the ledge and sees all of the Wild Things have curled up and are sleeping on the floor around him. Carol's head is resting lightly on Max's leg. Someone has placed his crown next to him. As Max gets up he notices Douglas is there, too, lying among everyone, content, his head resting on Carol's belly. A patch of cloth covers Douglas's armless shoulder.

Max leaves his crown and walks through the sleeping Wild Things and toward the entrance of the fort.

Alexander is there, sitting alone, sad and contemplative and staring out at the night. Max stops when he realizes who it is. He stands awkwardly behind him.

Alexander looks over his shoulder and sees Max. A long silence follows.

Finally Max sits down next to Alexander, tentatively, apologetically.

ALEXANDER

(softly)

Hey Max.

MAX

Hi.

Neither of them speak for a moment. Max sees a nasty wound on Alexander's back. The conversation is in a soft whisper so as not to wake anyone.

MAX (CONT'D)

Did I do that?

ALEXANDER

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

Max stares at the wound for a moment, then kneels down next to Alexander. Max licks his tail and uses it to clean Alexander's wound. Alexander softens a bit at this gesture.

MAX

Does it hurt?

ALEXANDER

(with a shrug, not convincingly, with a wince)

No, not really.

Max is burdened with guilt.

MAX

I have to leave the island and go somewhere else.

ALEXANDER

Why?

MAX

I ruined this place, too. I... I didn't want Douglas' arm to... to get...

Max can't say it.

ALEXANDER

(blase, covering)

You didn't rip it off. Carol did.

MAX

(confused)

But I yelled about the fort being bad.

ALEXANDER

(with disbelief)

You really think you ruined this island?

MAX

Yeah...

ALEXANDER

You think you're that powerful?  
That you're the reason that everyone is happy or sad?

Max ponders this, and realizes it doesn't add up.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

But everyone seems so unhappy.

ALEXANDER

Yeah...

Alexander and Max watch the Wild Things sleeping. In their slumber, they are infant-like, almost cute, and at the same time, pathetic, tragic.

ALEXANDER (CONT'D)

Sometimes they're not... I don't think it has much to do with you or me.

Beat. Max and Alexander study the sleeping faces of the Wild Things.

ALEXANDER (CONT'D)

(arriving at a new conclusion)

Maybe... it's hard being them.

Max digests this idea. He nods slowly. Soon this realization leads to another.

MAX

I think I should go home.

INT. FORT - DAWN

Max wakes up. He's tucked against the inside wall of the fort, near the entrance -- not far from where he was talking to Alexander. He looks around groggily. Everyone is gone except K.W., who sits nearby, eating a rock. She's watching him intensely.

K.W.

You hungry?

MAX

No.

Pause. Max gets up and goes and sits with her.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'm going home.

K.W.

(sweetly and not taking his words too seriously)

I knew you were going to say that.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

K.W. (CONT'D)

I'm sorry that I said that thing to Carol. I don't know why I did. I didn't mean to.

MAX

(still bothered by that but not mad at her.)

It's okay.

K.W. sees that Max hasn't changed his mind.

K.W.

But you really shouldn't. I'll really lose it if you go. You have to stay. I know it's weird right now but it'll blow over.

MAX

No. I should go back.

K.W.

(her smile fades, quietly)  
You're so selfish.

MAX

What?

K.W.

(laughing lightly)  
Nothing. Come here.

Max takes a step toward her and she grabs him and holds him close.

K.W. (CONT'D)

Oh Max!

She hugs him, overwhelmed. Max is emotional, too. This isn't easy for either one of them.

K.W. (CONT'D)

(lovingly, hugging him more)  
Don't go! I'll eat you up I love you so!

Max smiles sadly.

MAX

(quietly)  
I love you, too.

They hug for another moment. Max is ready to stop hugging, but she doesn't let go of their tight embrace. He starts to get uncomfortable.

(CONTINUED)