

2. Jodie

In the wake of her mother's departure, Kya watches as her family disintegrates, with her siblings abandoning their marsh home to escape their abusive father. Kya, left only with her brother Jodie, clings to their moments together, like sharing simple breakfasts and exploring the marshlands. However, the peace is short-lived; their father's volatile presence looms large, prompting Jodie to leave as well, fearing for his own safety. His departure marks a significant shift in Kya's life, leaving her to fend for herself amid the desolation and neglect.

Forced into solitude, Kya navigates her new reality with resilience. Her days are punctuated by the eerie silence of an empty home and the harsh realities of survival, from preparing sparse meals to confronting her father's destructive outbursts. A significant turning point occurs when he ignites a bonfire, destroying remnants of their mother, symbolizing a final break from the past.

Kya's isolation propels her into a new routine of self-reliance, seeking solace in the nature of the marsh and developing a cautious coexistence with her father's sporadic presence. Her forays into the village for supplies are fraught with challenges, from navigating the judgment of the townspeople to managing her meager budget. Despite these trials, Kya's encounters in Barkley Cove, like a tense moment evading reckless boys led by Chase Andrews, underscore her status as an outsider and fortify her resolve to survive on her own terms.

As Kya adapts to her solitary existence, she embodies the resilience and resourcefulness required to face a world that views her as 'marsh trash'. The marsh itself becomes a refuge and a teacher, guiding Kya through the complexities of loneliness, survival, and the pursuit of a semblance of family and belonging that has been cruelly stripped away.