The Lost Colony

written by Lanie Jones EXT. COVENTRY UNITED KINGDOM - TOWN SQUARE, IN FRONT OF CHURCH - DAY - 1583 CLOSE TO THE NEW YEAR

RALEIGH LANGLEY, a 24 year old, fair skin, lightly freckled, & long platinum blonde hair. Crystal blue light eyes that always seem to catch the light are the most distinguishable about her entire character. Raleigh walks into the busy town square to see others standing by the church as the newspaper boy is hanging the latest Queens announcements.

THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND is requesting that 100 volunteers are deployed to start the new colony in the New Land.

Raleigh on her toes, eyes wide open, eagerly pushes through the crowd to get to the front. As she's moving through the sea of people, a boy with shaggy brown hair & a tall lean body collides into her, they stop & acknowledge one another & continue their way foward.

The newspaper boy finishes posting the paper, collects his things, & walks away, leaving only the Queens announcement & another paper containing a small sign up sheet for 7 volunteers from Coventry.

Murmurs from the crowd can be heard & talk about the outrageous request. Everyone had been aware of the rumors but were unsure if the Queen was going to go through with it.

Posted on the board included details of the voyage & what was in store for those who were brave enough to volunteer, such as being aware that upon agreeing to this adventure, there would be no return home.

RALEIGH

I'm so surprised that the Queen has finally decided to move forward with our voyages West!

Raleigh turns to the boy with the shaggy brown hair.

SHAGGY BOY

As am I. What better time than the new year for us to expand our land. Are you going to volunteer?

Raleigh returns looks with this boy, almost puzzled with his question, as if she had just assumed he thought she was.

RALEIGH

Well of course! Why would one not? Life has presented itself with a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore & experience new adventures. I'm assuming you're going to go, yes?

Raleigh nearly jumps towards the quill & begins to sign her name on the old brown paper.

SHAGGY BOY

Well I mean...

He speaks with hesitation & seems nervous.

SHAGGY BOY (CONT'D)
Doesn't it seem kind of...
dangerous? How could you be so sure
that this foreign place is so
great?

RALEIGH

Are you saying you're scared? Because I'm certainly not; I've been waiting my whole life for an adventure like this to show itself, & my dream is about to come true.

Raleigh handed him the quill & smiled. She was pleased with her response. She turned & began to make her way back through the crowd.

EXT. PLYMOUTH UNITED KINGDOM - BOAT HARBOR - EARLY DAY - 1584

Boats are departing, families & loved ones hugging & chatting. Wind blowing, big white sails flapping in the wind & buoy bells chiming. A brown poster with a roster of 100 names, hangs on a post nearby.

RALEIGH

Mother please, we already talked about this & I'm not changing my mind. My stuff is already packed & is being taken on the ship right now. A year & a half is not a long time & then we'll all be together again.

Raleighs Mom grabs her arms, with her handkerchief in one hand. Tears have made her face wet, but she's smiling.

## RALEIGHS MOM

I know darling, but it's just going to be hard to see you go that's all. You'll have such a wonderful time and we'll write to you all the time after you've arrived. Your father & I are so proud of the woman that you have become.

Raleigh & her mom hug, then Raleigh goes to her dad. He gives her a hug & a quick kiss on the forehead.

## RALEIGHS DAD

I love you so much & we'll be here waiting for your letters. I can't wait to hear all about our new home.

The ships captain stands on the edge of the wooden boat & begins to make the last calls.

A boy, NICHOLAS, carrying a filled wooden crate bumps into Raleigh.

He swings his body around & they catch each others eyes for a moment. He nods to her & then keeps walking towards the boat.

Raleigh looks back to her parents, give them each one last hug, grabs her bag & turns to make her way towards the ship.

EXT. BOAT - MORNING - ABOUT A MONTH INTO THEIR VOYAGE

Raleigh leaves her bedroom & walks to the top level of the boat. She greets other passengers as she makes her way to the bow of the boat to get breakfast.

A male in his mid 20's walks over to Raleigh. He stands at 6'2, he has chocolate colored hair that barely hangs over his ears & his green eyes stand out from his sun kissed skin. His name, NICHOLAS RAULF.

#### NICHOLAS

Oh, hello, how are you doing? My name is Nicholas Raulf, I've seen you a lot since we've been traveling but I've been so busy working with the ship crew that I haven't had time to properly introduce myself.

## RALEIGH

Oh its so nice to meet you! My name is Raleigh Langley.

NICHOLAS

Great to meet you as well.

They shake hands. Raleigh begins spooning a soupy substance into a mug.

RALEIGH

So where are you coming from?

NICHOLAS

I'm from Colchester. It's right outside of London & close to Cambridge. What about yourself?

RALEIGH

I'm from Coventry. My entire family is from there I'm the 5th generation.

NICHOLAS

Oh, how interesting. Are you traveling alone?

RALEIGH

I am. When I first heard the Queen was looking for volunteers to go to the New Land I was so ecstatic & I knew I wanted to go. My family will be on the second voyage over next spring.

Nicholas fills a mug as well & then follows Raleigh to the railing of the boat. The wind blows through the sails & crew members shout out directions.

NICHOLAS

I'm traveling alone too. I was ready to start a new chapter in my life; an adventure.

Raleigh looks over the boat & stirs her soup. She looks back at Nicholas, her eyes lock with his. The wind picks up & blows her hair from her face. She tucks it behind her ear. Nicholas looks down at her & sips from his mug. They lock eyes again & he smiles at her. She quickly turns her head back to the ocean & smiles to herself.

INT. RALEIGHS ROOM - NIGHT

Raleigh is laying in her bed, her roommate is asleep on the other side. The port hole is open & the moon light is shining onto her face. She twirls her hair in her fingers.

The boat rocks steadily as it continues its voyage. Crew members are walking above her room & their words are muffled through the floorboards.

Raleigh gets up & walks over to a desk. She pulls out a leather journal with worn out, crumpled papers sticking out from every direction. She retrieves her quill & ink & then opens the book.

She dips the quill in the ink & then quickly begins to jot down her thoughts onto the paper.

RALEIGH V.O. AS SHE WRITES "August 5th, 1584. Today was a quiet day. I woke up, tidied my bed, then headed to breakfast. However, I did meet this boy, Nicholas. He says he always sees me around but has never talked to me because he has been busy with helping the ship crew. Something about him really stuck out to me though. Im unsure of what it is & I can't seem to stop thinking about him."

She pauses, sets her quill down. She looks over to the port hole & closes her eyes. She takes a deep breath & lets it out. She grabs the quill, dips it & continues.

"I remember thinking to myself that his eyes were like green gems sitting in his head. When I look at him it's like I've known him my whole life. I don't know how I've never noticed him before yet he's seen me. I'm glad to have met someone looking for adventure like me though. Tomorrow I look forward to seeing him again."

She sets her quill back down & closes the ink. She blows on her paper for a minute to let the ink dry. She leans back in her chair & looks back down at her journal.

Raleigh closes it & sets it back on her book shelf. She picks up a painting of her home from Coventry & sits on her bed.

Her hand brushes over the painting & her eyes well with tear; however, no tears fall over.

She lays down, still holding the painting to her chest. She falls asleep.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

The boat is furiously gliding through the water. Waves hit against the boat but has little effect to it.

Raleigh is sitting on the deck under the sails at the bow. In her hand is a hard cover book with parchment paper on top. She has oil paints with her & is painting what she believes the New World will look like. Beside her on the floor is a mug of soup.

Raleigh paints a forest with a beach in the back ground. A hand touches her shoulder & she jumps in her seat.

NICHOLAS

Mind if I join you?

RALEIGH

No, not at all.

She wipes her hands in a rag & returns her paint brush to its make shift case. She places the painting on the floor in front of her feet & picks up her soup.

NICHOLAS

What is that you're painting there? You're very good.

He picks up the canvas & examines it thoroughly.

RALEIGH

Oh, it's nothing really, thank you though. I'm just trying to imagine what our new home will be like.

NICHOLAS

I do that sometimes too. I feel like it will not resemble much of England as some might think.

He still holds the canvas.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

How did you make the trees look so real?

RALEIGH

Here, let me show you.

Raleigh sets down her mug, & scoots closer to Nicholas. She picks up her brushes & paint.

She touches his hand, & puts the brush in it. She wraps her hand around his & begins to stroke the canvas.

Nicholas, not even paying attention to her showing him how to paint, looks at her face as she focuses.

The sun catches her eyes, the blue becomes crystal clear. His eyes widen in awe.

Raleigh turns her face towards him. Their noses almost touching. Nicholas starts to lean in for a kiss when a young man walks up towards them.

CHRISTOPHER MORGAN, a 20 year old quirky boy, yet is charming & funny in a special way. He is very intelligent. He has round gold wire frame glasses & pale skin. His hair is short yet curly & dirty blonde. His clothes hug tightly to his awkward posture.

#### CHRISTOPHER

Hello, I'm really sorry to bother you both, but I'm working with the kitchen crew & I've seen you working around here before, uh..

NICHOLAS

Nicholas, sorry. My name is Nicholas, & this is Raleigh.

### CHRISTOPHER

Nice to meet you both. Well we were looking for others to help out in the kitchen. The head chef has been sick lately. It would be greatly appreciated.

Raleigh looks at Nicholas who is looking up at Christopher. His hands are behind his back & his feet are together. His glasses slide down his face & he quickly reaches to push them back up, his face slightly blushes.

**NICHOLAS** 

We would be more than happy to help. When should we be down?

Christophers face breaks with a smile.

CHRISTOPHER

Well it seems to be about-

Christopher looks up to the sky. The sun is slightly ahead of them but is lower than the middle of the sky. CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)

3 or 4 o' clock. So maybe in an hour or so. Whenever the sun is straight ahead of the bowsprit.

RALEIGH

The what?

CHRISTOPHER

The bowsprit. It's the extended part off the boat that hangs above the water.

Raleigh nods her head in confirmation & then sips her soup again. Nicholas looks up to the sky then back to Christopher.

**NICHOLAS** 

That sounds good then. We'll meet you right outside the cooking quarters.

Christopher smiles & his face blushes slightly. He nods, pushes his glasses up, runs his hand through his hair & then turns & walks away.

Nicholas looks back to Raleigh who is sipping her soup. She sets it down & smiles at Nicholas.

RALEIGH

So do you think we're going to cook? Because I don't know how well thats going to be with the food we have here. I honestly don't know what all we have here.

NICHOLAS

Well it shouldn't be so bad. This week was pretty decent considering we've only had the same soup.

Raleigh laughs.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Also, if I've been counting right & if the captains estimations are right we should only have a few weeks left on this bloody boat.

RALEIGH

Really! I honestly think I'm a week or two off. I would always miss one or two days every now & then.

Raleigh sighs in relief & then smiles at Nicholas. He smiles back at her.

Raleigh grabs her painting & her brushes & begins to continue where she left off.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Raleigh & Nicholas stand behind a makeshift bar. Christopher walks by & meets them at the end of the line. He's holding two aprons.

CHRISTOPHER

Hello Nicholas. Raleigh.

He nods his head in her direction, she smiles back at him.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)

So today, we're just going to prepare the bread & if we have time before the dinner crew comes in, maybe start prepping for their shift.

NICHOLAS

Sounds easy enough. Except I've never made bread.

Raleigh & Christopher laugh.

RALEIGH

I've made bread when I was younger. But not recently.

Christopher pulls a piece of folded paper from his apron pocket. He hands it to Nicholas.

He unfolds it. The receipe for making bread is scribbled on it. Raleigh leans over his shoulder to read it.

RALEIGH (CONT'D)

I think we got this, er, at least I do.

Nicholas looks at her, with a "bring it on face". Christopher laughs.

CHRISTOPHER

Okay guys, I'm going to go help Mira & Grace get the soup prepared. If you need anything we'll be just around the corner. Raleigh smiles & waves at Christopher, he smiles back, & walks out.

Nicholas reads over the paper one more time & then starts pulling ingredients from the shelves.

Nicholas is scanning the shelves for the sack of flour.

NICHOLAS

Hey Raleigh, have you seen th-

Before he could finish his sentence, Raleigh threw a handful of flour at him.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

-flour.. Well that answers that.

Raleigh bursts out in laughter, & is quickly cut off by flour being thrown in return.

She gasps & wipes it from her face.

Nicholas laughs.

RALEIGH

Oh, so that's how it's going to be. Well let me tell you Nicholas, you're going to be real sorry you started this war. Because I'm going to finish it.

Flour clouds the entire room. Laughter & squeals of joy from Raleigh can be heard as more flour is thrown.

EXT. BOAT - DAY - 2 & A HALF WEEKS LATER - APPROACHING LAND

Raleigh & the other passengers are all gathered around the railings. She stands close in front of Nicholas.

The wind picks up as they get closer to land. Fog hangs over the bay. In the distance there are tall shadows slightly showing through the fog.

Christopher sees Raleigh & Nicholas & pushes through the wall of people to stand with them.

CHRISTOPHER

The first bird that the look out saw, was probably the most exciting moment in my whole entire life.

Raleigh turned around & smiled at him.

# NICHOLAS Everyone look!

Raleigh & Christopher followed his finger pointing in the direction of land. The shore was becoming more clear, with tall pine trees & rocky cliffs emerging before their very eyes.

Raleigh eyes grow wide, she gets on her tip toes & gasps at its beauty.