

# Miles

Miles feels a sense of liberation when he's with Felix, which draws him further away from the weight of his responsibilities and the looming hospital visit. As they journey through the woods together, accompanied by their dog, Sandro, Miles reflects deeply on Felix's impact on him. Initially, he's confused by Felix's subtle glances and friendly compliments, wondering whether Felix might be interested in him. This uncertainty leads him to question his own feelings, but as their conversation continues, the warmth of their shared moments becomes undeniable. Felix, speaking passionately about his culinary adventures and experiences in Paradise Springs, captures Miles's attention completely. There's an undeniable connection between them, as Felix's enthusiasm and carefree attitude contrast with his more somber moments, leaving Miles to wonder about the complexities of his new companion's past.

Felix's openness about his travels, including his role as a sauté cook at Miles's mother's restaurant, brings another wave of curiosity for Miles. This revelation not only connects their personal histories but also sparks an emotional response in Miles, who begins to view Felix in a new light. The two are bonded by a shared moment, with Felix's casual nature making it easier for Miles to open up about his own family struggles. Miles starts to think about the emotional and physical connection he feels is growing between them. Their friendship becomes more profound as they continue to share personal stories and experiences, with Felix's charm and easy demeanor helping to draw Miles out of his shell. Miles finds himself caught between excitement and anxiety about this newfound connection, unsure of where it will lead but deeply intrigued by what lies ahead.

As Felix pursues a rabbit in a playful attempt to lighten the mood, Miles is filled with laughter, a rare and much-needed relief from his internal struggles. The two of them, lying together on the ground in the serenity of nature, share a moment that feels

intimate and personal, one that neither of them had anticipated. This simple joy starkly contrasts with the weight Miles carries from his unresolved family issues. As they lay there, enveloped by the peaceful surroundings, Miles can't help but consider the possibility of building something meaningful with Felix. The ease of their connection and the freedom of the moment stir feelings within him that he's never allowed himself to explore. Felix's genuine nature and carefree attitude make Miles believe that this relationship could bring him the emotional clarity he has long been seeking.

As the evening unfolds, Miles opens up about the troubled dynamics within his family, particularly his strained relationship with his brother, Wynton, who had taken the fall for an incident that led him to jail. Their conversation turns lighthearted as they joke about legal terms, helping to lift some of the weight Miles feels about his family's problems. Felix, in his usual candid manner, shares his own story, revealing his bisexuality and discussing a past relationship with a girlfriend. Though Felix clarifies that he is currently unavailable, Miles feels both a sense of disappointment and understanding, yet the connection between them remains strong. This exchange brings clarity to Miles's feelings, allowing him to accept Felix's past while still fostering a budding connection with him.

Things become more complicated when Miles discovers that Felix had traveled with a girl named Cassidy, someone who also holds a special place in Miles's heart. The news stirs a mix of emotions in him, from excitement to jealousy, as he processes how his feelings for Felix might affect his relationship with Cassidy. Despite these conflicting emotions, Miles decides to focus on the task at hand—finding Cassidy and awakening his brother from his coma. The idea of going on a road trip with Felix and Sandro becomes a beacon of hope for Miles, offering the promise of adventure and new possibilities. As they continue on their journey, Miles becomes more determined to embrace the changes happening in his life, seeking out emotional resolution and growth while navigating the complexities of relationships and self-discovery. With each passing moment, their connection strengthens, and Miles begins to feel more hopeful about the future, filled with potential and personal evolution.