

Fifteen year old Sonya was walking in the forest behind her house down the dirt paths with her headphones on, trying to escape the reality of her parents fighting. She continued walking for a few moments until she reaches the tall stocky tree she hangs out on, she slips her hand into the rough holes into the tree dodging the twisting branches on her way to the top, she reaches for the thick log near the top, it usually has a few books, and a blanket being held up by 4 weak wooden planks moments away from crumbling, but today there was something else there. As her head popped up to the platform she almost fell when she saw a girl there, not much younger than her, possibly 14? Wearing a pink, blue, and white baby doll style dress, she was holding a small knife carving something in the side of the tree. "Who are you? What are you doing in my tree?" Sonya barked at her. The girl stumbles and drops the knife to the wood planks. In a startled voice she says "oh! I'm so sorry I did not know this was anyone's!" Sonya takes off her headphones to hear her "you think that this is naturally occurring?" Sonya says in a sarcastic tone. The girl looks around seeing the books and blankets. "Yeah I guess you're right." She giggles as she says it "would it be okay if we share? I know it's yours but we could become friends!" She says as she tilts her head to one side trying to convince Sonya "yeah whatever but what are you doing?" Sonya questions the girl and she turns her head in view of the side of the trunk seeing a carving of a bird skeleton in the bark "oh sorry for that, I should have asked for permission." The girl says "no it's okay, it's beautiful." Sonya studies it for a few seconds. The girl did it perfectly, every bone is in the perfect place. She didn't even know it was possible to make a piece of bark seem so life-like. It was beautiful, yet haunting, how it made it seem like it was a real bird skeleton. "What was your name?" Sonya asked "it's Delilah, yours?" The girl said "Sonya."

