

LIVING

BY BECCA EVANS

SYNOPSIS

Lana is a failing young standup comedian who, shortly after being fired from her mediocre main gig, receives a call from her apathetic mother informing her that her estranged father has passed away. When Lana, her mother, and her man-child brother Brian meet with the family lawyer to read the will, the lawyer reveals that Lana's father wants his ashes spread in a specific place called Brady's Mill, which none of them have heard of. Lana's mother balks at the request, offering instead to have his urn thrown in a storage locker. Lana, upset by this, inadvertently volunteers to travel to her father's hometown, Durst, to seek out Brady's Mill. Lana's least favorite thing about the town is their creepily strong pride in the fact that Bob Seger owns a house there. She arrives at her father's house and discovers that it has been invaded by a vagrant cat that refuses to leave. She makes begrudging peace with its presence and attempts to search the Internet for Grady's Mill, which yields no results. Lana falls asleep drunkenly watching Jeopardy on her dead father's couch. She is awoken in the morning to breaking in sounds. She investigates, using her father's urn as a weapon, but the intruder turns out to be a young antiques dealer named Ben, sent by Lana's mother to appraise the estate. Lana offers him every piece of value in her father's house if he helps her find Brady's Mill. He agrees, and they begin to interview family members, starting with Lana's elderly, deaf, and unhelpful Uncle Earl. After Earl they move on to Lana's Aunt Norma, who hasn't heard of Grady's Mill but gives Lana and Ben a box of photos and journals she salvaged from Lana's father's house during a flood years earlier. Despite Lana's protests, Ben insists that he must return to work and drops Lana off at home, suggesting she make friends in the neighborhood. Lana immediately resolves to befriend none of them and soon gets bored and visits Ben at work. She explores his antique shop and the two of them start delving through her father's old journals, looking for clues. They are interrupted by the entrance of a young woman who obviously has a crush on Ben, asking for antiques help. After she leaves, Lana asks Ben why he isn't hitting that. The two of them go for pie, where Ben is hit on by the waitress, and he explains that he got rejected by his dream girl in high school and hasn't given romance a chance since, instead choosing to focus on running the store. After pie, the two return to Lana's father's house, where Lana is enraged to find that the cat has intruded into her home just to die on her rug. It comes to life, shocking her, and Ben hypothesizes that it's her father's cat, pointing to a photo of the two of them. Ben takes Lana to the pet store to buy food and a brush for the cat, where Lana is attacked by a toddler. On the drive home she thoroughly explains her fear of small children, and Ben admits that he himself has a fear of horses. The two of them watch Price Is Right and Lana falls asleep on Ben. The next morning the two of them continue looking through the box and Ben finds a song that Lana's father wrote for her and starts playing it on a piano in the store. They are interrupted as yet another

young woman comes in seeking Ben's attention in the guise of a coin collection. Lana, somewhat frustrated, decides to go home, to Ben's disappointment. The next morning Ben calls Lana, having spent all night researching, and tells her that he found a restaurant called The Old Mill that was owned by now-deceased Thomas "Beanbags" Grady. Beanbags' son takes them on a tour but reveals that the mill is fictitious, and doesn't physically exist. Lana is disheartened, until she has a new thought. Looking through the photos again, she remembers that one of them has her father's friend, Brady, in it, in front of a windmill. She calls the lawyer up and finds that he made a mistake and the location is not Grady's Mill but Brady's Mill. Ben leaps into action using his connections in the "antiques underground" to try and track down Brady's estate. He and Lana almost kiss when Ben is called back: Brady's estate is now owned by Bob Seger. The two of them meet Seger's attorney, who flat refuses to let them spread ashes on Seger's property, bringing the quest to a screeching halt. Lana realizes that she's reached the point of inevitable failure, which angers a Ben that is still willing to try. Ben leaves her in her self-pity. Lana goes to Norma for guidance, and Lana realizes that her MO is quitting when things get hard rather than commit. She comes up with a new plan and goes to see Ben. The two of them don heist outfits and prepare to break into Seger's estate. They do so successfully and make it to the mill. Lana scatters the ashes and all seems well, until Ben and Lana hear gunshots; Ben Seger has opened fire on the intruders. As they run Ben slows down; Lana examines him and finds a snake bite,. Now in desperate need of escape, they come upon a horse stable and Ben is forced to ride. They arrive at the hospital, worried about Ben's fate, until the doctor comes and tells them that Ben's wound is, in fact, a turtle bite. As they leave the hospital Lana apologizes and they kiss. As they approach the car, Lana reveals that she has a surprise for Ben; she has tracked down the girl that turned Ben down in high school and is taking him to her house to confront his past and self-actualize. Ben is incredibly reluctant but Lana makes him do it anyway. When they get there, Ben asks the incredibly confused woman if she will go to the dance with him, and Lana makes her say yes "for closure." The two high five and Lana tells Ben she's thinking about staying in the area for a while.