

(Nature sounds play)

<http://meditationroom.org/free-nature-sounds/forest-walk-audio/>

(Ella sits on stool, as nature sounds play. 4 beats and others come in to stand next to her. Kadence goes to Ella's left. Sophia and Bree to Ella's right.)

S: Hey, (standing beside her- looking around) it's nice out here isn't it?

E: Beautiful.

S: Whatcha thinking about?

E: I'm thinking about how grateful I am for all of this.

S: Hmm.

B: What do you love about nature?

B: I love the sound of water.

E: I love the smell of rain.

K: I love puffins, I saw them at the zoo once.
They are so cute.

S: I love beaches and the ocean.

E: Sigh.

S: What's wrong?

E: I'm worried about our future with, ... all of this.

S: You mean like, climate change and stuff?

E: Ya.

S: I try not to think about climate change. It's too scary.

E: It makes me sad.

B: It makes me mad. Like why are we in this mess anyway!?

K: Yeah, and how are we going to get out of this mess!?

E: And Are we even going to be able to get out of this mess at all!?

B: I don't want to think about it.

(Pause- one deep breath)

K: It's overwhelming isn't it?

(Nodding and Pause)

S: Did you know the amount of waste produced each year in North America is like back to back garbage trucks going around the world seven times. It's so much we don't even know what to do with it.

B: And then there's the waste we can't see – like the tons of carbon dioxide we put into the atmosphere each year.

K: Radiation, chemicals and agricultural waste are causing huge amounts of fish and animals to die at the same time

E: We watched a show about how permafrost, ground that has been frozen for thousands of years, is melting into rivers and streams. Old diseases are waking up from the ice, and lots of carbon is coming out into the atmosphere, making global warming happen even faster.

B: (shakes her head because it makes no sense to her) We seem to think that producing more is the answer to everything, but it's just using up more of our earth's resources and creating more waste. (Pause) We're wrecking everything.

K: We are living out of balance with the earth.

(Silentce, heads nodding - looking down)

S: What can we do?

(Everyone, move around a bit in your spot, thinking)

E: (Feeling defeated, but slowly powered up with all her many emotions- pause to gather strength- then stand up off of stool- said with a lot of power and determination)
We're going to feel mad.
We're going to feel sad.
And we're going to feel scared.

B: How's that gonna help?

E: Well, we're going to look at this mess we're in- like, look at it straight in the face.
(Make a mean axing face) No denying. We're going to look at the scientific facts and we're going to really feel what we feel.

B: Can you explain a bit more..?

E: There is a lot of energy and power in our feelings. And we are gonna let the energy of our feelings get us up off our butts and moving into action.

K: Ignoring our feelings obviously isn't helping. When we ignore our feelings, we feel kind of dead and powerless. It's like being a zombie.

(two of you walk towards the other like scary goofy zombies, make zombie sounds - two beats)

K: Okay, no zombies.

B: And we each have our own gifts we can use to..(searching for the words) .., you know... make things better for everyone.

E: Yes, Working for the *common* good!

K: Yeah but I'm just one person.

S: One person can totally make a difference.
But things do move faster and further if we all work together.

E: Ya, just like geese!

B: Say what now?

E: Ya. You know when you see geese flying in a V shape in the sky? —It's because when each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird that comes after it. By flying in the V together they can fly 70% further than flying on their own. And the reason they honk is to encourage each other to keep on going!

B: Honk, honk, honk, you can do it buddy. Keep on movin!

E: Exactly.

S: We have to encourage one another and work together.

B: (Feeling defeated) It seems too hard to change the way things are.

K: Well, we could think of it like a gang of merry bandits going on an adventure! ... like Scooby Doo!

S: Like Robin Hood & his Merry Men.

K: Or like Harry Potter and Hermione And Ed!!

E: Or Frodo and the Fellowship of the Rings!

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B: A fellowship working together

K: working *with* the animals,

B: working with the trees,

K: working with the oceans,

B: working with one another

S: It's like they say in church, we are all parts of one creation, each part affecting the other. We are all connected like one body. When one part is sick, the whole is sick. We work together and try to create healing.

B: What if we try and change the way things are going and it doesn't work?

E: Even we only had a very small chance wouldn't you still want to try rather than do nothing?

S: listen.... (nature sounds)

E: (Serious pause. energy rises and fills us with purpose)

Let's go – we have work to do. (Start to leave off out of sanctuary- then stop) Just a sec guys (walk back, a few steps toward centre). Will you join us? (Look around at the whole congregation) We'll need all the help we can get.

B: (Calmly) Come on Ella (voices trailing off and becoming quieter)

Nature sounds continue...

End.