

Section 1:

#1: "The sun began to rise, smiling gently down on me, and the soft breeze tickled my skin, just like every normal spring day. I ambled slowly along the path through the thick, evergreen trees, forming an archway above me. It seemed as if nothing wrong could happen today, but unknowingly, I was wrong."

Strengths:

- Your vivid imagery creates a pleasant opening scene with sensory details
- Your use of foreshadowing in the last sentence builds suspense effectively

Weakness: Limited emotional depth → Your opening lacks personal connection to the protagonist. You mention it's "every normal spring day" but don't show what this means to Amber specifically. The descriptions feel generalised rather than personal to your character's perspective.

"As the sun began its gentle ascent, bathing me in familiar warmth that reminded me of countless mornings spent exploring these woods with my parents, I meandered along the well-worn path beneath the evergreen canopy."

#2: "Dear Amber, You probably don't know this, but your family and I have been searching for you for years, and by now everyone has realized that you were kidnapped and had amnesia. Will you come back with me. Love, Mum," it read. My jaw dropped and my eyes grew x100 larger. This whole time, I had been with a fake family! I was livid."

Strengths:

- Your plot twist creates genuine surprise and intrigue
- Your character's emotional reaction feels authentic and relatable

Weakness: Underdeveloped revelation → The letter reveals extremely significant information too abruptly. You introduce kidnapping, amnesia, and a "fake family" without giving readers time to process this enormous revelation or providing sufficient background details.

"Dear Amber, You may not remember, but your real family has been searching for you since you disappeared five years ago. The doctors believe your amnesia was caused by trauma during the kidnapping. I've brought photographs and your favourite childhood teddy to help you remember. Would you consider coming home? With all my love, Mum."

#3: "And as I walked slowly through the exit of the bush trail with my mother, the sun finally curled up into its bed."

Strengths:

- Your poetic imagery of the sun creates a circular structure with the opening
- Your brief ending leaves room for readers to imagine Amber's future

Weakness: Rushed resolution → Your ending resolves a life-changing revelation too quickly. You don't show Amber's thought process or emotional journey in deciding to leave with this stranger. The reader doesn't see how she verifies the woman's claims or processes her conflicted feelings.

"As I walked hesitantly beside the woman claiming to be my mother, clutching the childhood photographs that stirred faint memories, the setting sun painted the sky crimson. Part of me mourned the life I was leaving behind, while another part trembled with curiosity about the life I'd forgotten."

■ Your short story introduces an intriguing premise about identity and lost memory, but needs more development to reach its full potential. The revelation about Amber's kidnapping happens too suddenly without giving readers time to understand the emotional weight of this discovery. You could improve your piece by slowing down key moments and showing Amber's internal conflict. Additionally, consider developing more tension by having Amber initially doubt or question the stranger's claims. The "fake family" aspect deserves exploration—were they deliberately deceiving her or victims themselves? You might also strengthen your protagonist's character by showing specific memories or personality traits that make her unique. Try expanding the middle section where Amber must decide whether to trust this revelation. Show her examining evidence, experiencing conflicting emotions, or having flashbacks that confirm the stranger's story.

Overall score: 38/50

Section 2:

The sun began to rise, smiling gently down on me, and the soft breeze tickled my skin, just like every normal spring day. I ambled slowly along the path through the thick, evergreen trees, forming an archway above me. It seemed as if nothing wrong could happen today, but unknowingly, I was wrong. #1

"Amber Beswick?" ~~Questioned~~ [Asked] a tall, plump woman. "I'm sorry, were you talking to me, because my name is Amber, but not Amber Beswick," I grumbled uncertainly. Who was this stranger? But more importantly, why was she speaking to me? "Do you know your last name?" She asked inquisitively. "Not really," I replied. The woman gave a "just what I thought" look. Strangely, she handed me a letter, and of course I read it.

"Dear Amber, You probably don't know this, but your family and I have been searching for you for years, and by now everyone has realiz[s]ed that you were kidnapped and had amnesia. Will you come back with me [?] Love, Mum," it read. My jaw dropped and my eyes grew x100 larger. This whole time, I had been with a fake family! I was livid. #2

But the answer to the question was so obvious I didn't even need to say anything.

And as I walked slowly through the exit of the bush trail with my mother, the sun finally curled up into it's [its] bed. #3