

At the end of the river

Kamil Bartczak bartczak.kamil@gmail.com

1-5 players, 1-2 hours

It happened, Mom has passed away yesterday at 2 am. She didn't suffer as she didn't regain consciousness in her last 3 days. She took last kisses to closed eyes and went on journey to meet Dad, who was waiting for her long enough. Mom loved travelling and liked to be prepared. She still managed to surprise us couple weeks ago, with a request to dress her to the coffin as she would be going for one more trip. So here we are now, in our late parents house, looking for a things Mom needs.

Trousers. Choosing this outfit Mom wanted us to remember her from the moments of our family trips. Those frequent in our childhood and way to rare in later years.

Trekking boots. "Prepare well for adventure". She used to say that when she was putting baby shoes on us before first strolls to the river.

Couple candies. She had them always in her pocket to cheer us when we were tired. Didn't stop packing them when we turned 30.

Pack of cigarettes. She never really quit smoking for good, though she was trying for years. There were couple difficult moments when she was starting again.

Glasses. Mom didn't had a great sight. Did we helped her enough?

Warm shirt, still smelling of our parents house. The cared for us, didn't they?

Wallet with an image of cute animal. She never get rid of it. It once fell into water, but we managed to save it.

Adhesive plaster. In case we were hurt. Should we pack it, as she will be travelling alone?

Dad's compass. Was getting us lost as often as it helped. But saved us from real trouble couple times.

Empty notebook and a pen. She was taking it on longer journeys. There should be a lot of inspiring beauty at the end of the river.

and some bag to pack it all and take to the morgue.

How to run it

Prepare the props. Above list is semi-exemplary, you may choose different objects which will trigger the story. If you don't want / don't have time to prepare physical items use paper strips with objects' names as symbols. You may print and cut above page in this order. You may change the gender of recently deceased parent.

Players' characters are siblings. Let them choose names and order from youngest to oldest. Let them read list of all items before the play.

Action takes place in the room of late Mom and Dad's house. During the play, participants are reviewing gathered objects, packing them and telling stories tied to them. In this way past of Mom, Dad, and all siblings unravels. Players are free to create memories related with their parents and each other. Play ends when participants will pack chosen items to the bag and decide to leave the room.