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SYNOPSIS

This novel tells about twelve-year-old boy named Rob Horton. His mother, Caroline passed away due to cancer. Rob and his father seem very difficult to deal with the death of the woman they love. They decide to go to Lister, Florida in order to forget Caroline. In Lister, they live in the motel named Kentucky Star. Rob brings unresolved problem when they move to Lister. He keeps all of his feeling into a place called "suitcase". He never shares his feeling to anybody, including his father because he assumes that nobody will believe on his feeling especially his father. This tendency called as introvert.

One day, Rob is walking around the motel. He goes to the woods behind the motel. Rob is surprised with his discovery. He discovers a big tiger caged in old gas station building. The Tiger is pacing back and forth. After his discovery, Rob always thinks about the Tiger. He forgets about Caroline for a while. Rob meets a new friend in the school named Sistine Bailey. Rob feels comfort when he stands before Sistine. Everything he keeps in the "suitcase" seems to fall out. Rob believes that Sistine is the person who believes in him, believes in his every secret that another people do not.

Rob has an itch on his leg. One day, the headmaster of the school, Mr. Phelmer, calls Rob to say something. Mr. Phelmer says that many of parents in the school afraid of that the itch is contagious. They afraid that their child will be contracted. Mr. Phelmer decides to let Rob stay at motel. Rob is happy because he does not need to go to the school anymore.

Rob agrees that he will tell Sistine about the Tiger he has discovered. Sistine believes in Rob story. She wants to go to the woods to see the Tiger. Together, they walk through the scrub. Finally, they arrive in the cage, it made out of rusted chainlink fence; there was a wood board that served as a roof, and there was a chainlink door that was locked tight with three padlocks. Inside it, there is a Tiger pacing back and forth. Suddenly, they hear sound of car engine. Rob grab Sistine's hand and run together. He feels familiar with this feeling. It is happiness.

Sistine has a plan to release the Tiger. Yet, Rob disagrees with her plan. Rob afraid that the Tiger will die. Sistine is angry because Rob disagrees with her plan. She leaves Rob and the Tiger, Sistine is crying. Rob sees Sistine is crying, he calms Sistine and promises he will release the Tiger. In the next day, they decide to release the Tiger. After that, the Tiger is running so fast. The Tiger goes leaping through the grass, moving farther and farther away from Rob and Sistine.

Rob's father sees the big Tiger. He thinks that the Tiger will be harmful for Rob and Sistine. He shoots the Tiger. Sees the Tiger on the ground, there is a feeling as big and powerful as the Tiger. He screams out, he is angry, the "suitcase" is finally opened. Everything he buries in the "suitcase" is pulled over. He speaks up to his father about his feeling. His father pulls him and calms him. Rob starts to cry, he has not cried since in the funeral of his mother. Since then, the "suitcase" does not exist anymore.