

*They realized this was the best decision. They all stared at each other for a long minute. The time needed to let the commitment find solid ground. Three, would never see the other three, again ... ever.*

*No words were spoken. There wasn't anything more to be said. Courage would be betrayed by tears, so eye contact was avoided. There was a last bit of fumbling and shifting of bags and straps.*

*They started toward the paths.*