

In 2030, when Katniss Everdeen was 10 years old, she started visiting a lakeside cabin in the woods with her father. Her father had been intermittently visiting this deserted cabin for approximately 5 years before he brought Katniss with him. Her father used to leave his hunting equipment in the cabin between hunts in the woods. He would also stay at the cabin periodically overnight – lighting fires and sleeping on the single mattress on the floor. He had put a lock on the cabin door so he (and later Katniss) were the only people who could use the cabin.

When Katniss was 15 years old, her father was killed in a mining accident. She still went to the cabin after his death and continued using it in the same way that her father had, leaving her bow and arrows in the cabin and staying there on occasion – even sometimes bringing her hunting partner Gale. Some of the neighboring cabins were occupied year-round, but many were used only during the hunting season. Neither Katniss nor her father expended much time or energy making improvements to the cabin, but they would fix obvious problems, such as a leaking roof or broken window.

This particular cabin was actually owned by Mike, whose family had owned the property for 100 years. Mike only had negative memories of the cabin because his sister had disappeared while playing in the woods in 2025. During that time he dove into a deep depression and was even institutionalized for about 5 years, until 2030.

It is now 2037 and Mike hasn't visited the cabin since 2025, however he still considers it his property. Mike has since married Lizbeth and wants to sell the cabin and the associated property in order to buy a new house for he and his wife. He went up to visit the cabin recently and found the door locked. He was enraged. Katniss walked up to the cabin and said, "Hey, get away from my cabin." "Your cabin," screamed Mike, "This is my cabin."

Katniss wants to gain title to the property under the doctrine of adverse possession.

You're a new associate at the law firm of Mocking Jay & Associates and the partner has asked you to analyze whether Katniss's adverse possession claim is likely to be successful. Another associate has been assigned to analyze whether Mike's mental state impacts Katniss's claim, so you can ignore that issue.

Do the analysis.