

MY ABANDONMENT

Written by

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Based on the novel
My Abandonment by Peter Rock

BLUE REVISED SCRIPT

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1 EXT. SALVAGE LOT - AFTERNOON 1

WILL, 40s, sorts through piles of industrial hardware and cable. When he finds several pieces of rebar, he sets them aside. His daughter, CAROLINE, young teens, works with him.

WILL

We only need one more.

She hands him one she's found. *

2 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENTRANCE - AFTERNOON 2

Caroline and Will enter a dense park by scrambling up a gully, avoiding the public entrance. *

They're in Forest Park, a temperate rain forest abutting the city of Portland, Oregon. *

3 EXT. FOREST PARK - LATE AFTERNOON 3

Not using an established path, they walk over fallen trees and bushes.

Caroline stops. She holds back some brambles. On the ground is a deer. She picks up a stick and examines the body.

WILL

How many organs can you identify?

Caroline peers through under growth to see the deer's body.

CAROLINE

That's his liver. Lungs. Heart.

WILL

Good.

CAROLINE

(pointing with the stick)
I'm not sure what that is.

WILL

Spleen.

CAROLINE

What happened?

WILL

Fella came too close to town.
Someone probably hit him with their
car, or he could have fallen down
here and hurt himself. Even
animals fall down sometimes.

They walk away into the woods.

4

EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - AFTERNOON

4

*

They arrive at a spot where they toss down their packs.
They're home. Will lights a lantern which emits a low light.

He pulls back some large branches which they've used to
obscure their dwelling, constructed with a tent and tarps.
In front of it, they've set up a small cooking area. A
camping stove is perched on a flat rock and two tree stump
stools are arranged around a small table fashioned from a
board. Will lights the stove and heats a can of soup in a
pot. Caroline, reading by the lamp light, is writing in a
notebook, talking out one of the problems.

CAROLINE

A rectangular plot of land is 100
feet by $1/20$ of a mile. What is
its area?

She tries to visualize the space.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

That would be enough for a garden,
a tent, us, and a goat.

WILL

Maybe so, but what's the answer to
the question?

She comes up with the answer and shows Will. He looks at her
computation.

WILL (CONT'D)

Correct. Good. We can go onto the
next chapter.

Caroline flips ahead in the work book.

CAROLINE

Why do I have to know this?

WILL

If you're going to build a tree house, you've got to know how to figure the measurements out.

Will serves the soup.

5 INT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

5

Wearing long johns, they each unroll a sleeping bag and get in them. Will gives Caroline a kiss on the forehead, and they turn their separate ways.

CAROLINE

What's your favorite color?

WILL

What's yours?

CAROLINE

Yellow.

WILL

Why?

CAROLINE

The way it makes me feel. It's bright and not still.

WILL

Exactly. It draws attention. I like green.

CAROLINE

You would. And what was my mother's favorite color?

WILL

Yellow. Just like yours.

CAROLINE

Maybe she taught me that, for it to be my favorite.

WILL

Probably in some way. You're very much like her. Let's get some sleep; it's late.

CAROLINE

I wish I could remember her.

WILL

She would've wished that, too. Good night, Yellow.

CAROLINE
Good night, Green.

6 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY 6

Caroline walks along a fallen tree to a small garden covered by a transparent plastic tarp. She pulls back the tarp and weeds.

As she works, she gets distracted by pill bugs and centipedes under a log. She uses a magnifier to look closely at the centipede. With the knife on her belt, she cuts deeper into the log and reveals more bugs.

7 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY 7

Caroline forages in the forest for edible plants. She uses a small pair of field glasses to identify a bird she hears.

She pokes around a fallen tree and discovers the yellow tip of a chanterelle mushroom hidden underneath.

CAROLINE
Yes!

She investigates further and finds a small patch of the mushrooms and begins snapping them off at the base. In the distance, she can hear her father make a bird sound.

Caroline answers him with an owl sound.

She gathers the mushrooms, puts them in the pocket of her hoodie and heads back to camp.

8 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY 8

She cuts through some low brush to get to Will. He's immersed in building a solar cooker, using the scrap metal they collected as a base. *

CAROLINE
Look what I found.

He glances up to look at the mushrooms, but he's absorbed in what he's constructing.

WILL
Excellent. Good haul. Give me a hand here?

She holds pieces of foil while Will tacks them in place over the frame of an umbrella.

CAROLINE

I'm hungry. Can we finish this later?

WILL

Yes.

He smiles at her.

9 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

9 *

Will, in his city clothes, conservative neutral colored garments, combs his beard. *

Caroline, also in clothes for town, brushes her teeth. She notices a long pine needle in his clothing and picks it off. *

WILL

Clean your nails.

He passes her the knife.

10 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY

10

Caroline and Will walk parallel to each other through the trees. At one point, Will stops, crouches down, and looks back from where they've come to see if their path can be detected.

WILL

We should take another route soon.

They continue on.

CAROLINE

It's only Tuesday. Why are we going to town today?

WILL

Schedules and routines are fine, but you don't want to be predictable. That's when you get caught, by being overconfident.

(pause)

Anyway, we're low on food -- milk powder, oatmeal. Your appetite is growing.

CAROLINE

I'm growing!

WILL

I know.

She smiles at him.

11 EXT. FOREST PARK, PUBLIC PATH - DAY 11

As they approach the boundary of where the park meets paved streets, Caroline and Will exit using one of the public paths and stairs, looking like any other folk leaving the park. Caroline spots a necklace on the ground. She picks it up, looks at it, and puts it back on the ground.

CAROLINE
If it's still here when we get
back, can I take it?

WILL
Yep. That's fair.

12 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY 12

At the exit, Will takes out two small bags of garbage from his pack and puts it in separate park trash cans.

13 EXT. ST. JOHN'S BRIDGE - DAY 13

They walk across the St. John's Bridge to get into town.

14 INT. AIR TRAM - DAY 14

Caroline looks at the city; Will looks at the enormous medical complex looming in front of them. There are a few other passengers. TWO MEDICAL WORKERS in white coats are in the mix. As they approach, The VA hospital takes up the whole view.

15 INT. VA MEDICAL CENTER - DAY 15 *

Caroline is in the waiting room reading. Her book obscures her face. She glances up at the glass passageways of this labyrinth. *

16 INT. VA MEDICAL CENTER - DAY 16 *

Will meets back up with Caroline. He stows the meds package that he's been given at the clinic into his back pack.

17 EXT. GROCERY STORE, ATM - DAY 17

Will withdraws money from an ATM.

18 INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

18

They shop efficiently for the essentials. Will puts a chocolate bar in the cart, and Caroline is surprised.

CAROLINE

Is that a want or a need?

WILL

Both.

She seems pleased.

19 EXT. FOREST PARK, MEN'S CAMP - DAY

19

Caroline and Will approach an encampment in a different section of the park, comprised of several tents. One has an American flag hanging off the front and a wheelchair beside it.

One of the men living in the camp, LARRY, a vet who knows Will from the VA, greets them. Larry opens the package of pill bottles, tearing off the warning labels that are affixed to the bottles and the suicide literature that the VA packs in every bundle. Two of the bottles are smaller than the others.

LARRY

They've changed the cocktail again.

Larry checks the label on the small bottles.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Less Roxi's, less bars. Figures, they're cuttin' back on the ones that have any value to us.

He checks the big bottles.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Looks like someone's tryin' to unload the sleep meds -- Seroquel, it really has no value to me. I'd have to find someone who wants to sleep all day and gain 70 pounds.

(rifling through the bag)

Prazosin - when's the last time that stopped a nightmare? They must be gettin' a deal on these.

Will nods. Larry takes all the bottles and pays Will.

WILL

They're harder to get. More tests, more paperwork.

LARRY

First, they give 'em out like
candy, and now they're yankin' the
leash back.

Will makes a small parting gesture.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Whatever they're givin' you, I'll
take 'em off your hands.

He looks over at Caroline.

WILL

Let's go.

20

EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY

20

Caroline and Will walk away from the men's camp into the
trees.

CAROLINE

It's weird, going there.

WILL

If you're going to say something,
be specific.

CAROLINE

It makes me feel sad to be there.

WILL

I can understand that.

CAROLINE

Then why do we go?

WILL

We don't need the pills, but we can
use the money.

21

EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

21

Will sets up the solar cooker. Caroline presses a plant
specimen into her journal. *

He sprinkles a drop of water onto the pan suspended over the
reflective surface of the cooker and it hisses. He's excited
that it's working.

WILL

Where are those mushrooms?

She brings them over.

WILL (CONT'D)

Toss them in.

The mushrooms sizzle. After a moment, he pops a test mushroom in his mouth and gives Caroline one. She gives him the thumbs up sign and playfully thrusts her bowl next to the cooker. Will spoons out the mushrooms, dividing them between her bowl and his.

CAROLINE

These are so good.

She takes another bite.

WILL

They're one of the world's great mysteries.

She smiles at her father.

22 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY

22

Caroline ventures into a part of the forest that is far from their camp and closer to the public hiking paths. In the trees she can see the orange vests of a WORK CREW pulling out vines. AN OFFICER walks back and forth supervising. Caroline spies from behind the trees. She moves closer, staying in the shadows. *

The man closest to her stops to rest, turning off his tool, wiping his face with his sleeve. He sees Caroline through the branches and stares. They lock eyes for a minute.

Caroline steps back and hurries away.

23 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

23

Will attempts to cook an egg on the solar cooker. Nothing's happening.

CAROLINE

When it's cloudy, can we just use propane?

WILL

There's radiant energy even when you can't see the sun.

CAROLINE

Dad, I can't wait 2 weeks for my egg. I'm really hungry.

She looks at the book he's using to learn about solar cooking.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
"The Complete Guide to Solar
Cuisine"
(opening the book)
Dad? This is written by someone who
lives in Arizona?

She turns on the propane camp stove, cracks the eggs, and they fry quickly.

Will now hears the sound of the power tools from the work crew in the distance.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I saw them earlier, it's OK, it's a
work crew. They're way down by the
pathways.

WILL
Good time to practice, anyway.

She pops the last of her egg into her mouth. He shuts down the stove, moving quickly fueled by adrenalin.

24 EXT. FOREST PARK, FERN GROVE - DAY

24

He hustles Caroline along to their emergency hiding area. Will watches her hide in the foliage of a large fern. He checks from all angles to see if she's truly covered, but she's slightly visible.

WILL
The pattern of the face is the
first thing someone can recognize.

She pulls herself deeper into the fern.

CAROLINE
Dad, I know how to do this.

WILL
I know you do, but I want you to be
good at it.

He covers himself in the foliage in a way that makes him imperceptible.

25 EXT. FOREST PARK, HIDING SPOT - DAY

25

Caroline relaxes in her hiding spot, which she uses as a look-out. She's reading the section on sea horses in the encyclopedia. *

From below, the sound of cracking sticks can be heard, and soon the huffing and puffing of a man. An off-trail RUNNER comes into the clearing. He stops and puts his hands on his knees, spitting on the ground.

As Caroline scoots farther back on the hiding spot to be out of his sight, she knocks a book off. The runner doesn't see the book fall, but hears it and turns around, craning his neck to see if he can spot someone. Caroline contracts into a small ball.

RUNNER

Hello? Somebody up there?

He steps back a few paces trying to see more, catching a glimpse of her.

RUNNER (CONT'D)

Hello?

Caroline holds her breath. She remains utterly still waiting until she can hear him resume his run and leave the area.

She peers over the edge to confirm that he's gone.

26 EXT. FOREST PARK, HIDING SPOT - DAY

26

Caroline, back on the ground moves quietly in the direction where the runner took off to check that he's no longer in sight. It hits her that an outsider has seen her. She sits for a moment to collect herself.

At the base of the log she's sitting on, she finds an odd looking mushroom, which she picks and heads home.

27 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

27

As Caroline approaches their camp, she finds Will looking at the Forest Park map. She sits near him, still shaken from the runner encounter. When he looks up, she hands him the weird mushroom to examine.

Caroline looks through the Wild Edible Mushroom Guide and tries to match it to one of the photos.

CAROLINE

Fairy ring mushroom --no
ink cap, hexagonal-pored polypore,
common puffball, Avenging Angel...

She stops on the next page and double checks the mushroom against the photo.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I think I found it. The Prince!

WILL

Double check that it has no deadly-
poisonous lookalikes.

CAROLINE

I did.

Caroline sketches the mushroom in her mushroom and fungi notebook and writes the number 21 on it, using the pen she found on the path.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

We're up to 21.

28

INT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

28

Caroline is awakened by Will, who is having a nightmare. She gently nudges her father.

CAROLINE

Wake up. You were having a dream.

WILL

Whoa.

CAROLINE

Was it the helicopters?

Will takes a deep breath.

WILL

Let's try to get back to sleep.

After a moment, they hear the sound of snapping branches as some dogs run through the brush and through their camp. One dog stops to sniff around their tent. Will switches on a flashlight and they can see the outline of its snout protruding through the shelter wall. Will reaches for a pan and bangs it with a spoon, which sends the dog away.

CAROLINE

I named the head dog Layla.

WILL

If she's such a good friend of yours, you could tell her that we're trying to get some sleep around here.

CAROLINE

I don't speak dog.

Will smiles. He settles in attempting to fall asleep again, but is wide awake.

29 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

29

Caroline sets up a chess board.

WILL

Always try to control the 4 squares
in front of your King and Queen.

(he moves her king's pawn
up two squares forward)

A lot of people think it looks
dangerous to move the pawn in front
of the King, but as long as you
Castle, it will be safe for a
while.

It's Caroline's move. They both hear unfamiliar distant
sounds.

Will listens intently, detecting the muffled sounds of a
walkie-talkie. Will and Caroline look at each other. The
sound gets louder. As Caroline starts to sweep the chess
pieces back in their box, Will grabs her arm and they run
through the trees.

30 EXT. FOREST PARK, FERN GROVE - DAY

30

Caroline scrambles into hiding. Will, a couple feet away,
also disappears.

Then everything grows quiet.

31 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - SAME

31

A K-9 OFFICER looks through their camp and picks up one of
Caroline's garments to let the dog register her scent.

32 EXT. FOREST PARK, FERN GROVE - DAY

32

A POLICE OFFICER scans the area.

Peering out from her hiding spot, Caroline can see a boot
crushing ferns around her.

The K-9 officer arrives and lets the dog off the leash.

After a moment, the dog discovers Will.

POLICE

Stand up.

Will gets to his feet.

POLICE (CONT'D)

Hands behind your head.

The officer pats him down and removes Will's knife.

POLICE (CONT'D)
Do you have any ID?

WILL
Not on me. My ID from the VA - it's
in my pack.

POLICE
Why were you running?

WILL
I didn't know who you were.

POLICE
Are you alone?

Pause. Will has to make a decision. The K-9 officer feeds the dog snacks from a pouch.

WILL
My daughter's with me. Caroline,
come out.

Caroline stands up and the officials turn to see her. She throws her small camping knife to the ground.

POLICE
(to Caroline)
Come on over here.

Caroline looks to her father. He nods that she should do what's asked.

JEAN, a social worker, is lead in by the RANGER. Will backs away slightly. *

POLICE (CONT'D)
Sir, we need you to stay where you
are. Please stop moving around. I
don't wanna have to cuff you.

Caroline grabs her dad's arm.

POLICE (CONT'D)
(trying to use a softer
tone with Caroline)
Please, step aside.

WILL
(to the cop)
I'm not a threat -- you don't have
to act this way in front of her.

POLICE

We don't know who you are or what
the situation is here.

James gently inserts herself between Caroline and Will as the *
police officer leads Will away, with the ranger following. *
Caroline looks past Jean to keep Will in her sight. *

CAROLINE

Dad!

Will stops walking and the police have to tug at him. *
Caroline tries to get around Jean to follow her father. Jean *
gently stops her, but she pushes against her. *

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

PLEASE! I want to go where my dad
goes.

JEAN

We'll figure this out. We're gonna
make sure you're OK. *

CAROLINE

We're OK!

JEAN

We're here to help. *

CAROLINE

We don't need help.

JEAN

Hey, I'm Jean. What is your name? *

CAROLINE

Caroline. Why did you chase us? *

JEAN

We need to know what's going on
here. *

CAROLINE

You needed a dog to figure that
out?

JEAN

We couldn't have found you
otherwise. *

They walk off in the direction of the encampment.

33

EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

33

Caroline and Jean approach the camp where Will is standing, *
facing away. *

Caroline sees the runner waiting with the ranger. The runner glances in her direction, trying to see who she is.

The K-9 officer has entered their living quarters.

WILL

I have some library books and some other things I'd like to take, if we're leaving. My pack is the green one at the back.

Will hears one of the book crates topple over, followed by a dish crashing.

WILL (CONT'D)

We're not hiding anything from you.

Jean leads Caroline to sit down on a log. Caroline keeps her eyes on her dad as the officer speaks to him. *

JEAN *

You don't have to worry. He'll be all right. We're going to focus on you. *

The ranger checks out the camp, snapping photos. Jean takes her own notes. *

JEAN (CONT'D) *

You guys are pretty well set up. How long have you been here? *

CAROLINE

A long time.

JEAN *

Can you tell me who you live with? *

CAROLINE

My dad.

JEAN *

It's only the two of you? *

CAROLINE

Yes.

JEAN *

Can you show me where you sleep? *

Caroline brings him to the entrance of the shelter and shows her. *

CAROLINE

My sleeping bag here. Dad's there.

Sir!

POLICE

Simon Max Hill

Caroline and Jean look up to see that Will has walked up to them. Both cops hold him back. *

WILL
Can I say something to my daughter,
please?

The officers look at Jean, who nods OK to them. They release Will a little, and he approaches Caroline. He leans in and speaks softly. *

WILL (CONT'D)
We've got nothing to hide. It's
very important that I cooperate
with them and you too.

Caroline pushes forward and puts her arms around her father.

WILL (CONT'D)
We'll be back together soon, I
promise.

He bends down to be on her eye level.

WILL (CONT'D)
I love you so much.

The cop, carrying Will's pack, and the K-9 unit lead Will away. The ranger and runner follow. Will turns back and smiles at Caroline, who uses her sleeve to wipe her eyes.

34 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

34

Jean waits for Caroline. She gathers her journal, some books, and clothes, stuffing them into her pack. *

CAROLINE
When am I coming back?

JEAN
I don't think you will be. *

CAROLINE
Will somebody bring my
encyclopedias?

JEAN
We'll see if we can have somebody
come back for those. *

Jean realizes what she's just said and how untrue it is. *

JEAN (CONT'D)
Actually, pick two letters, take
your two favorite letters for now. *

Caroline emerges from their dwelling with her pack and two volumes of the encyclopedia.

JEAN (CONT'D) *

Does your dad have any weapons here? Anything that could hurt someone? *

Caroline nods no. *

JEAN (CONT'D) *

Or places where you've seen him hide things? *

Caroline tries to decipher what Jean is asking. *

CAROLINE

He has tools.

JAMES

What kind?

CAROLINE

Knives, saws, a shovel.

JAMES

OK. Does your dad ever drink or take pills that make him act strange?

She shakes her head no. Jean puts her note pad away. *

Caroline arranges branches to camouflage the entrance.

CAROLINE

People will see your tracks and they'll take all our pots and plates, our stove, and our sleeping bags.

Jean lets her finish covering the entrance with branches. They head away from the camp. Caroline is nimble in this terrain. Jean lags behind. *

35 EXT. FOREST PARK, TURNOUT - DAY

35

They exit Forest Park to where the Social Services van is parked. Caroline looks around for Will. Jean opens the back door and gestures for Caroline to get in. She doesn't. *

CAROLINE

Where's my dad? *

JEAN *

He's on his way to our office to answer some questions.

(MORE)

JEAN (CONT'D)

And we need to ask you some too.
You'll see him soon, but you're
going to have to be a little
patient. I know this is hard.

Simon Max Hill

Jean gestures again for her to get in. She does. She closes her door and gets into the driver's seat. *

36 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, MEDICAL OFFICE - DAY

36

Caroline, in a paper gown, is being examined by a female DOCTOR. The doctor takes off a blood pressure cuff and puts the otoscope away. She enters data on Caroline as she preforms the child wellness exam. She swipes her tablet.

DOCTOR

We're getting you into the system here -- Caroline. Is that your preferred name and how you'd like us to refer to you?

CAROLINE

Yes.

DOCTOR

I'm required by the state to ask: "How do you identify? Female? Male? Or Other?"

Caroline finds this funny and shoots the doctor a look.

CAROLINE

Female.

The doctor scrolls through more of the intake.

She looks in Caroline's ears with an otoscope. Checks eyes with a medical eye pen, puts a blood pressure cuff on her arm.

DOCTOR

You are very healthy. Everything looks good.

CAROLINE

Where are my things?

DOCTOR

We'll give you back your clothes very soon. We're washing them and putting them in the bug oven.

CAROLINE

Bug oven?

DOCTOR

That's a way of heating clothes to kill any body lice that may be in your clothing.

CAROLINE
I don't have bugs living in my
clothing.

DOCTOR
We do this for everyone who stays
here. It's a precaution.

37 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, DORMITORY - NIGHT

37

Caroline walks into a room with two bunk beds, a sagging couch, and a TV. Two girls sit on the couch staring at the TV. When Caroline walks in, they turn around.

CAROLINE
Hi.

The bolder looking girl, VALERIE, 15, looks Caroline over. The other girl, TIFFANY, 16, acknowledges her.

TIFFANY
Hey.

CAROLINE
Where are we?

VALERIE
Locked the fuck up. Where you
think?

TIFFANY
Hi, I'm Tiffany.

Caroline walks closer to them.

CAROLINE
Why are you here?

VALERIE
Why are you asking dumbass
questions? *

CAROLINE
I'm waiting for my dad.

Valerie scoffs.

VALERIE
Your dad? What is she talking
about?

Caroline stands there as if she expects the conversation to continue. Valerie turns back to the TV.

Caroline wanders over to the bunk beds. Valerie keeps tabs on her, stealing looks at Caroline while watching the show.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

That one's ours. Don't touch it -

Caroline looks out the one window, which faces a brick wall.

The voices from the TV are loud and ridiculous. With nowhere to go, she walks in circles around the room. Tiffany tracks Caroline with her eyes. Valerie walks out of the room at a commercial break.

CAROLINE

Does that turn off?

Tiffany nods and mutes the TV. She offers Caroline some of the potato chips she's eating.

TIFFANY

D'you want some?

Caroline walks over and puts her hand in the bag, quickly checking that Valerie is still out of sight. She takes a few chips and walks back to her position at the window.

CAROLINE

Thanks.

Tiffany checks that Valerie is not near the door.

TIFFANY

She goes off easy. Don't get into it with her.

She brings several magazines to Caroline.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

You wanna borrow one?

CAROLINE

Thank you.

Caroline looks at images depicting life-styles very different from how she's been living. Valerie comes back in.

VALERIE

Who turned it off?

TIFFANY

Me.

CAROLINE

I asked her to.

VALERIE

What, are you both retarded?

38 OMIT 38 *

39 OMIT 39 *

40 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, JEAN'S OFFICE - DAY 40 *

Caroline, in fresh clothes, works quickly filling out bubbles
on an exam form. She finishes. *

CAROLINE *

I'm finished.

JEAN

Already?

CAROLINE

Yes.

Jean leafs through the pages of the test booklet, nodding.
Surprised.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

It's like homework only easier.

JEAN

Who gave you homework?

CAROLINE

My dad.

JEAN

Who taught you to read? We have no record of you going to school.

CAROLINE

My dad teaches me. You said I passed your test, so we should be able to go back home.

JEAN

Yes, you're actually quite a bit ahead of where you need to be, but school is about social skills too, not only intellectual ones.

CAROLINE

Is my dad taking tests like this?

JEAN

Yes, they're asking him a lot of questions.

Jean reels it back, sensing Caroline's concern.

JEAN (CONT'D)

I want you to understand what's happening, Caroline.

CAROLINE

OK.

JEAN

An off-trail runner reported seeing a person in Forest Park, in a part of the park where no one goes, who he thought was a minor -- hiding there, or maybe in need of help. We had to check out the report to make sure you were not in danger.

CAROLINE

But you can see now that I'm all right, and that I was with my father.

Jean nods yes.

JEAN

Do you feel safe living with your dad?

CAROLINE

Yes.

JEAN

I understand that the two of you share a tent. Has this ever made you uncomfortable?

CAROLINE

No. Body heat is important at night.

JEAN

Has anyone ever touched your body without your permission?

CAROLINE

No. My dad protects me. He would never let anything bad happen to me.

Jean processes this, searching for her next question.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

We didn't need to be rescued.

JEAN

That's what we're trying to understand.

CAROLINE

What is it you want to understand? That we could live differently from how you're used to it being and still be fine?

Caroline stares at Jean.

41 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

41

Will is seated in front of a computer. James arranges a key board in front of Will.

James reads from the test instruction booklet.

JAMES

Respond "true" or "false" to each statement. There are 435 items. If you can't answer, wait til the next question. Complete as many as you can. (beat) Are we good?

He brings the computer keyboard closer to Will.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I'm gonna leave you to it.

James pushes the start key and leaves.

TEST GIVER'S VOICE
Welcome. The test will begin in 3
seconds:

TEST GIVER'S VOICE *
I wake up rested and peaceful most
mornings

WILL
True.

TEST GIVER'S VOICE
I like to read articles on crime

WILL
False.

TEST GIVER'S VOICE
My day to day life is full of
things that keep me interested

WILL
True.

TEST GIVER'S VOICE *
My sleep is fitful and troubled.

Beep. Will exceeds the limit and the computer presses on. *

TEST GIVER'S VOICE (CONT'D)

I think about things that are too bad to talk about.

WILL

Once in a while.

Beep. Beep. Failing to pick True or False, the computer initiates the beeping sound. Will gives up. He waits out the beeps indicating that he is no longer participating. Hearing the questions repeating and the beeping, James pokes his head in and enters. *

JAMES

I know it's a lot of questions, but you're only allowed 35 "cannot say" responses before the test is considered invalid. Let's try it a different way.

The test makes noise, and James shuts it down. He finds the place in the test booklet and reads the questions.

JAMES (CONT'D)

"I had to take orders from someone who did not know as much as I did."

WILL

True.

JAMES

"I feel a lump in my throat much of the time."

WILL

Sometimes.

JAMES

"I have nightmares or troubling dreams every few nights."

Will chooses his words.

WILL

They're not every few nights, depends where I am.

JAMES

"There are periods of days, weeks, or months when it's been hard to 'get going'."

WILL

I have routines, responsibilities, chores. I keep myself going.

JAMES

"I am liked by most people who know me."

WILL

Not too many people know me.

JAMES

"I am a strong team player."

WILL

I was.

JAMES

"I experience a knot in the pit of my stomach every few days or more."

Will swallows, deciding how to answer.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I really need a true/false on this one.

42

INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, JEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

42

Jean pulls out some flash cards.

JEAN

For each picture I want you to make up a story.

Caroline nods. Jean lays out four cards with symbolic drawings onto the table.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Pick one.

Caroline selects a card and studies it.

CAROLINE

How do you read my answers? You think they're going to mean a certain thing?

JEAN

They might be able tell us a little more about you.

CAROLINE
You could just ask.

JEAN
Yes. But you may not be able to say
it.

CAROLINE
So you go at it in a crooked way.
Somehow I'll say what I can't say?

Caroline writes in the test booklet.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Can I see my dad, now? Just for
five minutes? I know it'll make
him feel better.

JEAN
You've been very patient. We're
almost there.

Jean glances at her check list.

JEAN (CONT'D)
Would you say you've had a happy
childhood?

CAROLINE
Yes.

JEAN
Does your father get angry if you
don't agree with him?

CAROLINE
No.

JEAN
What does happen when you do
something that your dad does not
agree with?

CAROLINE
We discuss it.

JEAN
I wish I could have followed you
around for a day, just to see how
you guys operated.

CAROLINE

You wouldn't have been able to. I'd lose you in five minutes. The park has 5,100 acres.

JEAN

It sounds to me like you really loved it there. But Caroline, you understand that you can't live in the park anymore?

Caroline looks down, averting Jean's gaze.

JEAN (CONT'D)

It's not a crime to be unhoused -- many people are. But it is illegal to live in the park.

Caroline swallows hard, staring at the poster on the wall behind Jean. She doesn't notice Jean's concern.

43 OMIT

43 *

44 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, DORMITORY - DAY

44

Tiffany demonstrates how to apply henna. She puts the finishing touches on a small design on Caroline's hand.

TIFFANY

Blow on it.

Caroline blows on the henna.

CUT TO: Caroline starts a design on Tiffany's hand, concentrating on the details.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

So was it creepy at night?

CAROLINE

No, it's peaceful -- all the animals move quietly in the dark, except for frogs and crickets. But you get used to them. The only ones I didn't like were the leeches.

TIFFANY

Leeches!!

CAROLINE

They were really small. Not the kind you're probably thinking of.

TIFFANY

That sounds crazy. Were there
snakes?

Simon Max Hill

Valerie comes bursting into the room, upset. She glares at Tiffany and Caroline. She puts on the TV and flops down on the sofa. Tiffany takes her hand back and puts the cap on the henna tube.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
(quietly to Caroline)
Talk later.

To keep the peace, Tiffany joins Valerie on the sofa.

Caroline paces near the window and tries to open it. She tries jiggling the latch to see if she can force it open. Valerie hears the noise, looks over and notices that Caroline is in her bare feet.

VALERIE
Gross. Quit putting your dirty feet
all over everything.

CAROLINE
My feet are clean.

VALERIE
You act like you better than
everyone.

CAROLINE
That's not true.

VALERIE
So what's your problem?

Valerie's full attention is now in the argument. *

CAROLINE
My problem is that my dad's been
taken away from me. And now I'm
trapped in here where you're trying
to argue with me.

VALERIE
It's a free country, I can say
whatever I want. I bet you don't
got any friends.

TIFFANY
Stop it! Leave her alone. *

45 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, JEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

45 *

Jean and James are meeting with Will for his exit evaluation.

JEAN

In finding a placement for you and Caroline, we've considered what kind of support will be helpful to you two.

James stares at Will's VA file, overwhelmed.

JAMES

We want to help you meet the legal and social expectations of being a family. We don't want you in the "system" How can we help you stay out?

WILL

I'd like to go back to how we were living, which is a way of life that was working for us.

JAMES

Is it fair to say that your primary way of dealing with your PTSD symptoms is by isolating?

WILL

I'm not harming her by raising her differently. She has the rest of her life to conform.

JEAN

We're not accusing you of harming Caroline. We're just not sure it's the best thing for her.

Tense silence.

WILL

I don't want the little light to go out in her.

Jean and James exchange a look, jot a note.

WILL (CONT'D)

I provide for my daughter, and we
bother no one. *

JAMES

Not surprisingly, you scored high
on the social introversion scale,
but that does not make you a
dangerous person. But it is clear
to me that being a father keeps you
anchored. We feel that the symptoms
of PTSD that you manage, do not
preclude you from staying together
as a family.

Will takes a deep breath. James and Jean give Will an
affirming smile.

46 OMIT 46 *

47 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, JEAN'S OFFICE - DAY 47 *

Caroline sees that her belongings have been brought from the
dorm. Caroline looks into her backpack and sees that her
journal is not where she usually keeps it.

CAROLINE

Did you read my journal?

Jean looks uncomfortable.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Have you been looking through it?

JEAN

Yes, I did. I'm sorry. With
underage people there's a conflict
between your privacy and what we
need to know about you -- to ensure
your well being.

Caroline withdraws, upset. Jean changes the subject.

JEAN (CONT'D)

I liked your notes about mushrooms.

CAROLINE

That doesn't make it okay.

JEAN

You're right. I should have asked you, and we could have looked at it together.

Jean moves on, tries to re-engage Caroline.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Caroline, we want to try something we haven't done before. Usually, we'd put you up in a motel until we found some housing, but we found something that will be better.

CAROLINE

How can you say what's good for us?

JEAN

We don't have a lot of options, and this seemed like the best one. We found a place outside the city where you and your dad can stay until we can get you into permanent housing. I'll be checking in with you regularly to see how you guys are doing.

She cuts to the chase.

JEAN (CONT'D)

What do you think about going to a regular school?

CAROLINE

My dad can teach me.

JEAN

But you can have friends your own age. Wouldn't you like that?

CAROLINE

Sometimes I think I would, and other times I don't think so.

JEAN

Do you have any questions you'd like to ask me?

CAROLINE

What's going to happen to Tiffany?

JEAN

We're in the process of finding her a foster placement.

48 EXT. SOCIAL SERVICES - DAY 48
 (might be interior foyer, depending on location) Will waits, beard trimmed, wearing stiff new jeans and a bright colored new coat. He doesn't see Caroline approach at first, but turns when he hears the sound of her footsteps. She is accompanied by Jean. He hugs Caroline tightly.

49 INT. CAR - DAY 49
 Caroline and Will are in the back seat as they drive through town.

50 INT. CAR, SOUTH OF CITY - DAY 50
 They drive through the Christmas tree farms south of Portland. Will looks out the window.

51 INT. CAR, HORSE FARM - DAY 51
 The car turns onto a private road where they see rows of Christmas trees and a house on a hill. *

52 EXT. MR. WALTERS' HOUSE - DAY 52 *
 The car pulls up and parks in a driveway where the owner, MR. WALTERS, 50's, greets them, and they get out of the car. *

A52 EXT. HORSE FARM, COTTAGE - DAY A52 *
 Caroline, Will, Jean and Mr. Walter's enter the cottage. *

53 INT. COTTAGE - DAY 53
 Caroline and Will look through their new home, escorted by Mr. Walters and Jean.

JEAN
 We hope this will work for you.

WILL
 Thank you.

JEAN
 Mr. Walters is a generous man.

Will nods.

MR. WALTERS

I'm excited we can do this. I read
about you in the newspaper when
they found you in the park.

Jean opens the cupboards and refrigerator to show that some
basic supplies have been purchased.

Simon Max Hill

JEAN

A few groceries to get you started.
Do you like it?

CAROLINE

It's nice.

They stand at the doorway to Caroline's new room. Neatly stacked on the bed are brand new brightly colored school clothes and supplies.

JEAN

We thought you could use some new clothes for school.

The tour done, they file out the front door.

54 EXT. HORSE FARM, COTTAGE - DAY

54

The group stands in front of the house saying their good byes. Mr. Walters takes a few photos on his phone.

MR. WALTERS

Tomorrow'll be a full day. I'll leave you two to get settled in.

Mr. Walters walks back to his house. Jean gets into her car. Taking stock of their new circumstances, Will is distracted by the satellite dish off to the side of the cottage.

55 INT. COTTAGE, KITCHEN - DAY

55

CAROLINE

It feels good to be by ourselves again.

Will opens a window and exhales out. Caroline sits at the table.

WILL

I wish they could've just dropped us on the road and let us be.

She brings him back to the here and now.

CAROLINE

They made me take a lot of tests. What about you?

WILL

Yes, they asked me a lot of questions.

CAROLINE

Like what?

WILL
About my dreams, the marines, you.
435 questions.

CAROLINE
What did you say?

WILL
The truth.
(pause)
It was hard not knowing how you
were. Did they treat you all right?

She nods.

WILL (CONT'D)
Let's try to put it behind us.

Caroline looks around the new surroundings. Will joins her at the table.

CAROLINE
Everything's different now.

WILL
What's different is that we're in a
kind of house that most people are
comfortable with us living in.

He catches her eyes.

WILL (CONT'D)
But we can still think our own
thoughts.

He smiles at her. Will lifts the foil off a casserole that was left for them, and then covers it back up.

CAROLINE
I'll try it.

56 INT. COTTAGE, WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

56

Caroline leans against the door of her dad's room. She taps a little rhythm on the door jam to see if he's awake.

WILL
You can come in.

Caroline enters the room and sits on the edge of the bed.

CAROLINE
I can't sleep.

WILL

I haven't been able to sleep much since we left the park.

CAROLINE

The sound of the wind in the trees used to help me fall asleep.

WILL

Me too.

Caroline puts her face against the window, looking out.

WILL (CONT'D)

There's been something on my mind.

CAROLINE

What is it?

WILL

They told me a person saw you, and that's how they found our camp - is that true?

CAROLINE

I saw a man, but I didn't think he saw me.

WILL

Why didn't you tell me?

CAROLINE

I was afraid to. I didn't want to leave our camp - it was such a good one.

WILL

It's my fault. We stayed there too long. I liked it, too.

She hears a heavy sigh from Will.

CAROLINE

Do you think you'll be OK here?

WILL

I'm going to try to make the best of it.

57 INT. COTTAGE, KITCHEN - MORNING

57

When Caroline comes into the kitchen, she finds Will peering out the window through the curtain.

CAROLINE

Morning.

(pause)

What are you looking at?

WILL

I'm just looking. Good morning.

They eat cereal and orange juice. Caroline eats hungrily.
Will looks anxious.

CAROLINE

What's the matter?

WILL

"To keep bright the Devil's
doorknobs and scour his tubs.
Better not to keep a house."

Caroline sighs.

CAROLINE

Thoreau slept inside.

There's a knock at the door. Will gets up to open the door.

MR. WALTERS

Good morning. Don't mean to
interrupt your breakfast.

Will nods hello.

MR. WALTERS (CONT'D)

I know that you have particular
ways.

Will shifts his weight, trying to hide his exasperation with
Mr. Walters.

MR. WALTERS (CONT'D)

And I don't want to disrupt.

WILL

What do you have planned for us
today?

MR. WALTERS

I was hoping you could help with
the tree work. Take the tractor and
get stumps out of the south field.

WILL

I'd rather not operate heavy
machinery. Is there any work with
the horses that I could do? Down in
the stables?

MR. WALTERS

Yes, but I'd rather you not work down there yet. Working with horses requires training. And that can happen, but for now, I need help elsewhere.

Will nods, complying.

MR. WALTERS (CONT'D)

Do you not know how? Or is it something else?

There's silence for a moment.

MR. WALTERS (CONT'D)

Listen, the work that really needs doing is clearing that field. That's how I make my money.

WILL

Okay. Tractors, trucks, saws, armored vehicles -- whatever. I can operate them all.

58 EXT. HORSE FARM - DAY 58

(Footage of Will's labor to be used throughout his stay at Walters'.)

Will is given his tools in the garage. *

Will is working a long row of evergreens. He uses a tool to shape and cut the trees evenly. *

The land adjacent to Walters' has recently been logged. In the distance, Will can hear saws. He can hear the sound of a helicopter overhead and looks up. (helicopter is sfx only) *

59 INT./EXT. HORSE ARENA - DAY 59

Caroline watches an EXPERIENCED TEEN RIDER practicing a routine on her horse. She is drawn in by the horse's force and grace and the rider's intensity.

After the routine, KRYSS, the trainer, shows her student how to massage the horse after exertion. Caroline can overhear pieces of Kryss' instruction.

60 INT. COTTAGE, WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT 60

Caroline walks in to check on Will, who she can hear is having a nightmare.

He has sat up on the edge of the bed, his head in his hands as he tries to re-stabilize. Caroline sits down beside him.

Simon Max Hill

She provides a gentle distraction.

CAROLINE
If you could be any animal, what
would you be?

WILL
Anything that can fly. An owl maybe-

CAROLINE
Let's look at the stars like we
used to do.

61 EXT. COTTAGE, PORCH - NIGHT 61

Caroline and Will lie in blankets under the night's sky,
jammed with stars. The leaves rustle. Will exhales.

62 INT. MR. WALTERS' HOUSE, LAUNDRY RM - DAY 62

Caroline stands next to the washing machine dropping clothes
in. *

MR. WALTERS
Different than doing laundry at
your special place in the stream, I
bet. Do you know how to use the
machine?

CAROLINE
We went to the laundromat
sometimes, like when it was
raining.

Caroline cuts off tags from the new bright clothes with her
pocket knife and adds them to the load. One pair of jeans has
fancy, glittery pockets, which she takes a moment to examine.
The way Mr. Walters is observing her makes Caroline think
she's supposed to narrate what she's doing.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
These are school clothes. I'm just
getting ready.

MR. WALTERS
You'll finally get to spend some
time with kids your own age.
That'll change you.

Caroline pours some detergent into the machine. Mr. Walters
hands Caroline a small bag.

MR. WALTERS (CONT'D)
I gathered from the newspaper that
you used to have a garden.

Caroline looks inside the bag to find several packets of seeds.

CAROLINE

Thank you.

Caroline, interested in the article, wants to know more.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Why did they want to write about us?

MR. WALTERS

A lot of people like to imagine themselves living like you guys were, but not many actually do it.

*
*

He fans through a pile of magazines and papers to find the article and passes it to her. She looks it over and passes the article back to him.

MR. WALTERS (CONT'D)

No, keep it. Your dad may want to read it.

CAROLINE

I don't think so.

Mr. Walters shrugs.

63

EXT. HORSE FARM, COTTAGE - DAY

63

*

Mr. Walters stands nearby as Caroline plants the seeds. She sets the worms carefully aside and breaks up the clods with a trowel.

Overhead, she hears a helicopter.

CAROLINE

What's the helicopter doing?

MR. WALTERS

Forestry mapping. Deciding where to cut next.

Caroline gets back to work putting the seeds in the soil.

MR. WALTERS (CONT'D)

This life here must seem pretty easy. Hope it's not too boring for you.

CAROLINE

It's a person's own fault if they get bored.

She works in a very focused way, finishing the row.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Okay. These turnips are all
planted.

MR. WALTERS
I'm interested in how you were
living before. Your father doesn't
seem to want to talk about it.

CAROLINE
What would you like to know?

MR. WALTERS
I guess I'm just curious how you
managed to make do with so little.
What would you have done if they
hadn't found you? Were you going
to just keep living there?

CAROLINE
Yes. I think so. I have a
question for you.

MR. WALTERS
Shoot.

CAROLINE
How come you're all alone?

MR. WALTERS
I like the solitude, I guess.

CAROLINE
You and my dad aren't so different
then.

MR. WALTERS
That could be.

CAROLINE
Except no one bothers you about it.

MR. WALTERS
That's true.

64 EXT. HORSE FARM, SIDE ROAD - DAY

64

Caroline walks along the edge of the farm following the fence
that stretches along the property.

65 EXT. ISAIAH'S HOUSE - DAY

65

A rabbit scampers on the edge of a yard as Caroline is walking by. She hears a boy's voice calling out, "Chainsaw." *

ISAIAH, late teens, walks from a small half-built shed-like structure in his yard.

ISAIAH
Hey, can you stop her!

Caroline blocks the rabbit from going further and picks it up. *

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Thanks.

CAROLINE
You're welcome.

Isaiah has a tool in his hand that Caroline doesn't recognize.

ISAIAH
When she sees these clippers, she takes off.

He sits down on the platform, positions the rabbit like a baby in his arms and attempts to clips its nails. The rabbit squirms and wriggles.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Can you give me a hand -- hold her feet? Like this.

He shows her. Caroline helps restrain the rabbit.

CAROLINE
Why do you cut its nails?

ISAIAH
So they look nice. The judges look at the nails.

CAROLINE
What judges?

ISAIAH
For the FFA show.

Caroline can not figure out what he's talking about. He can tell.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Future Farmers of America. It's a club for people who are interested in raising animals. It's like 4-H.

They continue clipping.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Some kids make fun of FFA, but it's
one of the best parts of school for
me.

CAROLINE
So you're gonna be a farmer in the
future?

ISAIAH
I don't know yet.

He's curious about her.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
You go to school around here?

CAROLINE
I will soon.

She wonders about the half-built structure they're sitting
in.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
What are you building?

He puts down the rabbit on its mat and starts swiping through
images until he finds the one he's looking for and shows her.

ISAIAH
I'd like to do something like that.

He puts down the phone and physically sketches out his idea.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Sleeping loft for me. Place for
her. Kitchen here. Even in a small
space like this, you can have
everything you need. You don't
gotta be rich to have a tiny house.

CAROLINE
Where're you gonna put it?

ISAIAH
Maybe Colorado.

66 INT. ISAIAH'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

66

Isaiah makes chocolate milk for them. Caroline holds the
rabbit. She looks at the fridge door which has a collection
of photos of rabbits and kids with their chickens and goats.
She steals a look at Isaiah stirring. He offers her a glass
of the frothy milk and points to one of the photos.

ISAIAH
This is Chainsaw's mother.

67 INT. ISAIAH'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

67

They sit on the couch drinking the milk with the rabbit between them.

ISAIAH
If you like rabbits, you should come to one of our meetings sometime, if you want.

He muses.

ISAIAH (CONT'D)
Good rabbits, good kids.

She notices that it's gotten late.

CAROLINE
I gotta go. My dad's not going to know where I am.

He hands her his phone. She doesn't take it.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
He doesn't have one.

ISAIAH
The meetings are Wednesdays right down this road, left on Rte 119. The first place on the left.

68 EXT. HORSE FARM, COTTAGE - DUSK

68

Caroline walks briskly away, cutting across the property to get to the cottage, talking softly to herself.

CAROLINE
Wednesdays, Rte 119, Wednedays...

Caroline can see Will inside the cottage looking out. She takes a deep breath.

69 INT. COTTAGE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

69

WILL
Where've you been?

CAROLINE
I met a kid who lives down the road, and we were talking about rabbits.

WILL

Why didn't you tell me where you were?

CAROLINE

There was no time to tell you. It was just happening.

Will walks to the window and looks out into the darkness.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for making you worry about me.

WILL

I was scared.

CAROLINE

If we had a phone, I could've called you.

WILL

We've always been able to communicate without all that.

Caroline lets out a sigh and tries to be comforting.

CAROLINE

I think we have to be able to adapt.

She can see Will's reflection in the window.

WILL

There's no place on this farm where we can't be seen except for in this house. I feel like I'm being watched.

Will takes a seat at the table. Caroline opens the fridge.

CAROLINE

It's impossible for them to be watching us all the time.

Checking to see if he's listening to her, she looks over at him. He touches his beard and nods. Her own anxiety slips in.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

What if the kids at school think I'm strange?

Beat. Will wonders what's on her mind.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Because of the way we were living?

WILL

How important are their judgements?
If nothing else, I hope that I've
taught you to think for yourself.

70 EXT. HORSE FARM, COTTAGE - DAY

70

Jean unloads the van, putting a few boxes and two bicycles
near the door of the cottage. She's showing Caroline the
bikes when Will walks up.

*
*

WILL

What's all this about?

JEAN

These are things that got donated
to our agency.

WILL

We don't need more things.

JEAN

Maybe you'll find something you
can really use. What about the
bikes?

*

Jean looks at Caroline.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Do you know how to ride?

Caroline shakes her head no.

JEAN (CONT'D)

I'm sure your father can teach you.

Will nods, picks up one of the boxes, and walks it into the
house.

JEAN (CONT'D)

How are you feeling about this
place?

CAROLINE

Good.

JEAN

I'm happy to see that you're
adjusting. Caroline, take a look at
these.

Jean opens the flap of one of the boxes. Inside the books are
packed tight.

JEAN (CONT'D)
Encyclopedias. Every single letter.

CAROLINE
World Book. Mine were Brittanica.
Thank you.

Will hefts another box.

WILL
Thank you for bringing these -
we'll sort through them.

JEAN
Ok, great.

She hands Will a paper-clipped packet of papers.

JEAN (CONT'D)
This is the paperwork to enroll
Caroline in school. Here's the
statute so you can read it and
understand it.

Will takes a deep breath, managing the overload of rules and
requirements.

JEAN (CONT'D)
Next visit, we can tackle the DMV.

Will has tensed up.

WILL
So soon?

JEAN
That's one of the easier ones.

Will forces a smile.

JEAN (CONT'D)
I'll see you guys in a couple of
weeks.

Jean turns toward her car. Caroline and Will watch her go.

71 EXT. 4-H CLUB MEETING - DAY

71

Caroline is frozen for a moment, shy about walking into a
group of kids she's never met. She takes a deep breath and
heads over to the gathering.

Isaiah introduces Caroline to the members of the group.

*

The 4-H COACH wrangles the teens.

COACH
Let's get started.

She leads the group in a health check on the rabbits. Ears, fur, feet are checked. Caroline stands next to Isaiah. He passes the rabbit to her. He leans in to show her what to do.

Caroline follows along. Her fingers burrow into the soft fur. Standing there, she looks like a new member of their group.

72

INT. CHURCH - DAY

72

Caroline and Will, both in church clothes, sit in a pew. The MINISTER begins his sermon in a soothing tone.

DEVOTIONAL DANCERS with silk flags perform interpretive movement to accompany him.

MINISTER
We're all born with a void. And we do a lot of things to fill that void. Some of us fill it with drugs and alcohol, some of us with work and good deeds, but we all have a void. That's why we're here -- to be with each other and God. Otherwise, it is too lonely.

Curious, Caroline steals looks at a few people in her pew. Mr. Walters is in front of them.

MINISTER (CONT'D)
Let me ask you this. What would you do if you had a hundred sheep and one of them wandered off? Wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go look for the one that had wandered away? I'm sure that finding him would make you happier than having the ninety-nine that never wandered off. That's how it is with the almighty, your Father in heaven. He doesn't want any of his sheep to stray from the flock. Matthew 18: 12-14,

A collection plate is passed down their row. Will hands Caroline two singles to donate.

73 INT. CHURCH - DAY

73 *

After the service is over, Will follows the custom of greeting and shaking hands with church members. Caroline does the same. Mr. Walters greets them warmly, looking very pleased to have Caroline and Will present. *

As they near the exit, Caroline takes brochures and literature from the membership table.

74 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

74

Caroline and Will ride their bikes home from church. The wind therapy is invigorating. Will lets out a yelp as he flies past Caroline.

75 INT. COTTAGE, KITCHEN - DAY

75

Will is making sandwiches at the counter while Caroline looks through the brochures she collected from the church. She opens one and reads it to her father.

CAROLINE

"There are many ways to be involved -music, devotional dance, carpentry, camp, prayer group, rock 'n roll, social media.

She looks at the next brochure.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

"Considering membership? Have you read the Doctrinal Statement and Core Values documents, and are you willing to live by these principles?"

She steals a look at Will, curious how he responds to these questions.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

"Have you read the Bylaws and are you submissive to the word of the almighty as addressed in the By-laws?"

He turns to face her.

WILL

Some people get comfort from church and some people don't, and it's always been that way. When I was your age, I had to sit through a lot of church.

He chooses his words carefully.

WILL (CONT'D)
Some worthwhile things do get said,
though I never liked the sheep
part.

He brings the sandwiches to the table and sits down.

CAROLINE
So that's why we went?

WILL
Walters asked us to go.
Appearances count. If we dress up
and show up there on Sunday, people
believe certain things about us.

CAROLINE
Like what?

WILL
That we're more like them and that
they understand us. And then they
don't ask too many questions.

CAROLINE
Why'd you shake hands with people?

WILL
It's the custom.

CAROLINE
But maybe you could make a friend
with someone there?

WILL
Could be, but Church is probably
not the first place I'd look for a
friend.

CAROLINE
I feel like I could make a real
friend at 4-H.

She studies him. Will bites into his sandwich. *

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Are you growing your beard?

He touches his beard and nods. Caroline peels an orange.
Will stirs his tea, and the clinking sound from his spoon is
the only sound in the room.

Will peels another orange in such a way that the skin comes off in one long coil. She makes a different shape out of his orange peel.

76 EXT. HORSE FARM, COTTAGE - DAY

76

Will and Jean are in the doorway of the cottage. Will passes a cell phone back to Jean.

JEAN
OK, we can wait on that.

Caroline approaches.

JEAN (CONT'D)
Here's the date for the appointment
with housing.

Jean passes Will another packet of papers, he glances at them. Jean diverts her attention to Caroline, and Will retreats into the cottage.

Jean is happy to see Caroline.

JEAN (CONT'D)
Hey there! I've heard you've been
busy.

Caroline nods. Jean smiles.

CAROLINE
Why's my dad upset?

JEAN
He's struggling with some of the
things he agreed to.

Jean sighs.

JEAN (CONT'D)
But he needs to follow through for
this to work and for you guys to
stay independent.

Wishing Jean could back off a little, Caroline bites her tongue. She sees her father walk away from the cottage.

77 INT. BARN - DAY

77

Will walks past a row of horses enclosed in stalls, stroking their foreheads through the bars. A HORSE OWNER, in English wear, enters the barn. Will, knowing that he's not supposed to be there, hides himself in the next stall, waiting to slip out.

Through the bars he sees the owner trying to get a bit into the horse's mouth and thread the reins through the loop of the bridle. The horse is bridle shy, doesn't want to go on the bit, and swings his head away.

The rider tethers the horse and steps out to get more gear. Will is face to face with the horse whose mouth metal and head gear clank against the bars. Will strokes his forehead quickly and slips out.

78 INT. COTTAGE, WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT 78

Will sits on his bed looking out the window. (*He could also lean against the post of the porch looking out - whatever's easiest for schedule)

A78 INT. COTTAGE, BATHROOM - MORNING A78 *

Will grooms his beard. *

79 INT. COTTAGE, CAROLINE'S ROOM - MORNING 79

Will wakes Caroline up. When she comes to, he puts her back pack on the bed.

WILL
Pack up some of your things.

Caroline is confused about what's going on.

He walks out. She opens her dresser drawers, trying to decide what to take. Will walks back into her room and hands her a head lamp. She throws it into the pack.

WILL (CONT'D)
Don't take anything you don't need.

When Will walks out, Caroline looks through the colorful donated clothes and selects a shirt and hat. She tosses in a few of the school supplies and buries them in the bottom of her pack. *

80 INT. COTTAGE, KITCHEN - MORNING 80 *

At the front door, Will puts on his old coat, leaving the bright new coat he was given at social services on the hook. He hands Caroline her old coat. She puts her boots on, leaving the sneakers. Will switches the lights on. *

81 EXT. HORSE FARM, COTTAGE - MORNING

81

Leaving the cottage, both in their old coats, they pass the bicycles leaning up against the side of the house. She reaches for her bike.

WILL

No. We leave those here. They're not ours.

Simon Max Hill

They hurry along the road off Mr. Walter's property.

82 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENTRANCE - DAY 82

Caroline and Will slip into the park from the road.

83 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY 83

They arrive at what remains of their old camp. Their site has been ransacked. Will looks at the desolation marked off with yellow "No Trespassing" tape.

Caroline touches one of the encyclopedias strewn about, wet and bloated.

84 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY 84

A distance from their old site, Will reaches up into a hollow and takes out a pocket knife. He extends the small scissors that fold out of the knife.

WILL

We need to cut your hair short.

CAROLINE

Why?

WILL

So you'll look different. I don't know who might look for us.

CAROLINE

Can we wait til we get some real scissors?

WILL

Fine, but keep wearing your hat.

CAROLINE

When are we going back?

WILL

We're not.

CAROLINE

I liked it there. Did you really give it a try?

WILL

I did.

She looks at him, knowing it's true.

WILL (CONT'D)

Our choices about how we want to live were being taken away one by one.

He takes a moment.

WILL (CONT'D)

They would have separated us eventually, if I didn't follow their rules.

Hearing her dad say this makes her feel sad. She drops the conversation.

Will takes out some sandwiches from his backpack and they eat. He's got the map of Forest Park laid out in front of them.

CAROLINE

Won't he notice that we're gone?

WILL

With luck, not til tomorrow.

CAROLINE

Where are we going?

WILL

I'm trying to figure that out.

Caroline studies the map with him.

CAROLINE

If we find a good place really deep in, do you think they'll find us again?

WILL

I don't know.

He's really not sure what to do. He picks up his pack, heaves it onto his back, and they walk on.

85

EXT. FOREST PARK, MEN'S CAMP - DAY

85

Will and Caroline approach the men's camp, which is deserted too. There's intermittent dozer sound through the trees. They walk a little further and see Larry.

LARRY

You can't stay here with her. Now, no one can. It's been hot since they picked you up. Services lit a fire under the rangers asses. And they've finally caught up with me.

Larry looks at the dozer.

WILL
What about on the other side of the
ravine?

Larry shakes his head, no good.

LARRY
They're patrolling everywhere.
There's no place they don't look
for you.

The bull dozer sound escalates with the crushing of Larry's belongings. Will and Caroline look at what Larry is watching: the dozer shoves his structure down.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(shouting over the dozer)
That's all I've got.

Caroline looks at the shelter collapsing then back at Larry's face.

LARRY (CONT'D)
I've gotta find a forest where they
can't find me.

86 EXT. PORTLAND STREET - DAY 86

Caroline and Will walk in an industrial zone, under a bridge with the freeway towering above them.

87 EXT. TRAIN YARD - DAY 87

Looking through a chain link fence at the train yard, Caroline glances at a "No Trespassing" sign, anxious that they're going where they shouldn't.

CAROLINE
What're we doing here?

WILL
I'm looking for a train that can
take us out of town.

CAROLINE
Have you ever done this before?

WILL
I've seen people do it.

He heads to a break in the fence. Caroline reluctantly follows him.

On the tracks are more signs: Do Not Enter, Authorized personnel only, Danger. She notices how nervous Will appears, as he constantly looks around.

88 INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

88

They move back in the car and sit crouched with their packs against the back wall. They hear the trains around them moving on different tracks. Caroline's hand grazes over some glass shards on the floor. She winces and wraps her finger in her sweatshirt. Will sees what's happened.

WILL

Let me see it.

He looks at her hand, roots through his bag, and pulls out a tuft of moss from Forest Park from his pack.

WILL (CONT'D)

This is the most sterile thing we have right now.

He wraps the moss around the fingers that are bleeding.

The sound of wheels squeaking on the neighboring track is piercing. Their car hasn't moved yet.

CAROLINE

Why're we doing this?

WILL

To save our money for food. I don't want to run short.

The yard is quiet for a moment. Exhausted, they wait. A cop siren and bull horn break the silence. It's an announcement directed at unauthorized people spotted on the tracks.

CAROLINE

Please, Dad, let's go.

WILL

You're right. This is an unlucky train.

89 EXT. BUS STATION - DAY

89

Caroline stands in an outdoor waiting area at the entrance of the bus station. *

Will comes over to Caroline and gives her a ticket, and reminds her of the drill.

WILL
Gate 7. Wait 20 minutes. Get in
line. We'll board separately.

Will looks around.

CAROLINE
When you look around like that, you
look nervous.

He acknowledges this and heads back toward the waiting area. *

Caroline gets a book out of her pack. She moves back into
the covered portico that stretches along the front of the
station. She sits on a bench next to a WOMAN PASSENGER, old *
enough to be her mother, who's reading from a tablet while
waiting.

Some bus departures are announced. *

90 EXT. BUS STATION - DAY

90

From across the street, Valerie, the girl from social services spots Caroline and heads over. They're both surprised. Valerie gives Caroline a hug. *

VALERIE
You guys aren't on that ranch anymore? *

Caroline is caught out as to what to say. Valerie senses she's nervous. *

VALERIE (CONT'D)
I swear I'm not gonna tell anyone. *

Valerie looks around for Will. *

VALERIE (CONT'D)
Are you still with your dad? *

CAROLINE
Yeah. *

VALERIE
Are you guys gonna hide out in the woods again? *

CAROLINE
I don't know. *

VALERIE
I wish I could go with you. *

Caroline is caught off guard and doesn't know what to say. The bus is called. Valerie gives her another hug. *

Caroline heads over to the bus. *

91 INT. BUS - DAY

91

Caroline sticks close to the woman from the station and sits next to her on the bus. Will sits in the back. *

A TEEN GIRL, 14, with an oversized roller heads down the aisle and takes a seat a couple of rows in front of Caroline. *

Caroline glances at the man across the aisle whose phone is making noise. *

A plain clothes DETECTIVE, 30s, approaches the girl. Caroline leans a little closer to the woman. The detective moves in on the teen traveler. *

DETECTIVE *
Hey, how's it going? *

He pulls a badge hanging around his neck from under his *
shirt. The girl looks nervous. *

DETECTIVE (CONT'D) *
You traveling alone? *

Caroline doesn't dare look up and turns a little more toward *
the woman next to her. *

TEEN GIRL TRAVELER *
Yes. I'm 18. *

DETECTIVE *
Do you have some ID? *

TEEN GIRL TRAVELER *
Not on me. *

DETECTIVE *
Is there someone who can verify *
your age? *

The girl looks around quickly trying to think of some way *
out. *

DETECTIVE (CONT'D) *
You gotta come with me so we can *
look into your situation. *

The detective leads her away. Caroline steals a look as they *
walk away. *

The bus pulls backwards. *

Caroline's attention turns back to the man swiping through
numerous photos. He takes selfies. Will notices all the photo
action. *
*
*

92 INT. BUS - DAY

92 *

When the woman is asleep, Caroline gets up and heads back to
where Will is sitting. *
*

Caroline sits down next to her father.

WILL
What're you doing? It's better if
we appear to be travelling
separately.

CAROLINE
I missed you. No one's looking at
us right now.

The Tiffany encounter weighs heavy on her.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Outside the station, I ran into the
girl I met at services -- the
friendly one. She swore she
wouldn't say anything about seeing
us.

Hearing this, Will is anxious, but tries to rein it in.

93 INT. BUS - DAY

93

Caroline has fallen asleep on his shoulder. He puts his arm
around her.

94 INT./EXT. BUS - NIGHT 94
The bus pulls into a stop, and there's an announcement on the bus PA system: "Be back on the bus in 10 minutes."

95 OMIT 95 *

96 INT. TRUCK STOP, MARKET PLACE - NIGHT 96 *

In the snack lounge, Caroline waits for Will near a **blinking lottery vending machine.** *

Anxious that they'll miss the bus, she looks out the glass door. *

She speaks through the bathroom door to Will. *

CAROLINE *

Dad, the bus is gonna leave. *

She sees the bus pull away. *

Will comes out of the bathroom.

WILL

We're not getting back on. I don't want the police to be waiting for us somewhere down the line.

He tries to drop it, but can't.

WILL (CONT'D)

What did the woman on the bus ask you?

CAROLINE

Nothing. She barely noticed me. She was doing things with her phone.

WILL

What about the girl at the station - did she know what bus we were on?

Caroline looks down, nods no, avoiding him.

CAROLINE

This isn't the way we used to be.

WILL

I know.

Will swallows hard.

WILL (CONT'D)

I just don't want to take any
chances.

Simon Max Hill

97 EXT. TRUCK STOP, PARKING AREA - NIGHT

97

Caroline hangs back on the curb of the lot. From where she stands amid the din of CB radio, police scanner static, and engine noise, she can see a SECURITY GUARD doing his rounds, listening into an earbud. Will approaches an 18 wheeler where the DRIVER is standing outside of his cab.

WILL

Any chance you could give us a lift
-- me and my daughter?

The driver glances over at Caroline, noting her age.

DRIVER 1

(O.S.)

I don't get involved with this
stuff.

Will quickly moves away.

98 EXT. TRUCK STOP, PARKING AREA - NIGHT

98

Will approaches another truck where the DRIVER is climbing back into his cab.

WILL

Hi there.

TRUCK DRIVER 2

What can I do for you?

WILL

My daughter and I broke down. Any
chance you could take us up the
road a bit?

The driver quickly takes stock of Will. He leans in, coming closer to Caroline to address her directly.

TRUCK DRIVER 2

Everything OK here?

Caroline nods.

TRUCK DRIVER 2 (CONT'D)

Let me talk to the kid a minute.

Will takes a step back.

The driver leans so that their backs are to Will.

TRUCK DRIVER 2 (CONT'D)

If you're in trouble here -

She spells it out in the most sincere way she can.

CAROLINE
My dad and I just really need a
ride.

The driver takes a hard look at Caroline, who shows no signs
of distress.

TRUCK DRIVER 2
I just wanna know that I'm doin'
the right thing. Hop in.

WILL
Thanks, man.

99 INT. TRUCK, PARKED - NIGHT 99

The truck is neatly organized. The driver's sleeping area is
comfortable and decorated with a nature scene painted on
velvet. On the driver's bed is a little dog. *

TRUCK DRIVER 2
The kid can ride back there. Willie
Nelson's really friendly - ain't
you, Willie?

Caroline crawls to the sleeping cabin. Will settles in
shotgun.

The driver puts on some music. Caroline pets the dog who's
rested its head on her. The truck pulls out. *

[insert shot of night road for passage of time]

100 INT. TRUCK - DAY 100

The truck has left the highway and is climbing up a two lane
road in the mountains. The driver listens to the news on the
radio.

Caroline has fallen asleep. Will looks out the window.

They pass a clear cut area and imposing power line towers.
The driver shakes his head slightly at the news.

TRUCK DRIVER 2
Seeing you and your daughter
reminds me of me and my daughter. I
used to take her camping up here.
We used to have a little place back
in there. Not no more.

101 INT. TRUCK - DAY 101

The first sign of open Wilderness is visible from the window.

TRUCK DRIVER 2
We just crossed into Washington.

Will registers this.

TRUCK DRIVER 2 (CONT'D)
Where'd you say you were headed?

WILL
Not too far from here.

After a few more curves ahead, Will sees an old logging road.

WILL (CONT'D)
We're up near that next bend.
Anywhere you're able to pull over.

He's concerned.

DRIVER
You sure? Here?

Will nods. The driver looks for a spot to pull the truck over.

Will turns around to talk to Caroline.

WILL
Sweetie, we're here. We've gotta get out.

102 EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

102

They get out of the truck.

WILL
Thanks, much.

The driver toots the horn and pulls away.

Caroline and Will put their packs on.

CAROLINE
It feels a lot colder.

WILL
It's the altitude.

Will tries to orient himself with the map.

WILL (CONT'D)
There's some resort towns not too far from here.

103 EXT. FOREST, LOGGING PATH - DAY

103

Will leads the way along the path. Caroline is lagging behind, tired. He checks on her.

WILL

It's important to keep up the pace,
or we'll get even colder.

CAROLINE

I'm trying! My feet are really
stinging.

He roots through his pack and gets out dry socks. *

WILL

My feet are stinging, too.

They sit down on a log to change socks. He guides Caroline's feet under his shirt to warm them up.

They put on the dry socks. Will wraps plastic bags around her feet. She struggles to get her boots back on.

They look around trying to get their bearings as to what direction to choose, but it all looks the same.

Caroline fixes on some power lines.

CAROLINE

The lines must lead somewhere.
Wouldn't they be connected to
houses?

WILL

They could, or they might just go
up and over the mountain.

Caroline looks around for any other signs of where to go.

CAROLINE

What do you think we should do?

WILL

I think your idea of following the
lines is good.

104 EXT. FOREST - DAY

104

They resume walking.

CAROLINE

How long til hypothermia sets in?

WILL

It can happen quickly. That's why we've got to keep moving.

He puts out his hand to tug her along.

He hands the last of their water to her. She takes a few sips and passes the bottle back to him.

WILL (CONT'D)

You need it. It's important to drink. Finish the rest.

She takes a few more sips.

In the distance, they see that the power lines just keep going and won't lead them anywhere.

CAROLINE

Dad, my legs are stiff. I can't go anymore.

She looks to him for help.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

What are we looking for? Have you ever been here?

WILL

Not to this exact place.

The fact that he had no specific plan hits her.

CAROLINE

There's no cabin?

105

EXT. FOREST, SURVIVAL SHELTER - AFTERNOON

105

Will sets down his pack. He's panicking. He looks behind them and into the void ahead, trying to decide how to gamble.

CAROLINE

I can't feel my feet.

He follows his gut about which choice gives them a better chance of surviving.

WILL

Collect branches.

Caroline, so stiff that she can only move slowly, collects branches and boughs. Will drags over a large fallen branch.

Will props one end of the branch against a stump, creating a spine for a structure. He then starts leaning branches and sticks against the spine.

WILL (CONT'D)
Keep adding to this.

He drags another bough from a fallen tree, breaking off pieces with his foot. He shows Caroline how to layer the boughs over the sticks to create the debris shelter.

Will kneels in front of the shelter as Caroline continues to build out the walls. He tries to light some kindling. He's lost dexterity. It takes three tries to hold the match without it falling from his stiff fingers. He puts his hands in his armpits to try to warm them.

He tries again to build a tinder bundle. Nothing catches.

WILL (CONT'D)
It's not dry enough.

They get back to building the structure.

WILL (CONT'D)
Line the bottom. We can't let the moisture reach us.

She's adding pine needles. He tosses her some cedar. She doesn't take it.

WILL (CONT'D)
Use cedar for that.

CAROLINE
What does it matter?

WILL
It matters. Cedar keeps back the moisture.

They change into dry pants, adding whatever layers they can. He starts to stuff debris into his coat -- his sleeves, his hat. He puts some in her hat and passes a bundle for the inside of her coat.

She climbs into the structure. Will uses his knife to strip the bark from a vine nearby. He puts the stripped end of the vine into their empty water bottle and lets it drip.

He climbs into the shelter. From inside, they cover the opening with boughs and sticks.

106 INT. SURVIVAL SHELTER - NIGHT

106

WILL
Are you feeling any warmer?

CAROLINE

Yes, but my toes are still stinging.

Once again, he puts her feet on his chest under his shirts to alleviate the throbbing cold. His head lamp sheds light on the branches and debris of their structure as he grabs the shirt he was using under his head and tries to wrap it around Caroline's feet. All movements risk disturbing the fragile structure.

WILL

In the morning, we'll have water.

Will can hear that Caroline is crying.

WILL (CONT'D)

Tomorrow, we'll have light, we'll find our place.

CAROLINE

Are we going to freeze in our sleep?

WILL

No, you'll wake up if you get too cold. We'll get through this.

107 EXT. FOREST, SURVIVAL SHELTER - MORNING 107

The shelter is illuminated by the light of morning. It is utterly still in the forest.

WILL

(O.S.)

Are you still here?

CAROLINE

(O.S.)

Yes.

108 EXT. FOREST, SURVIVAL SHELTER - DAY 108

Nearby, Will takes the vine out of the bottle and sees that some water has accumulated. He hands the bottle to Caroline who drinks thirstily. They set off from the debris shelter, trudging stiffly.

109 EXT. FOREST, CABIN - DAY 109

Caroline is the first to spot a structure up ahead. A hundred feet closer, and they can see that it's a small rustic cabin. Will mutters words of thanks to himself.

Caroline picks up the pace. The remaining adrenalin in her body kicks in, and she makes it to the door first.

Will tries the door. He twists the knob and leans in until the jamb cracks and the door swings open.

110 INT. CABIN, DAY

110

The cabin is bare bones. Wood walls, simple furniture, bedding neatly folded. Caroline sees some children's books and games on a shelf near a small couch.

Will switches several breakers to the "ON" position.

Caroline investigates a photo on the fridge of the family who owns the cabin.

He turns on the faucets. No water comes out.

111 INT. CABIN - DAY

111

They are wrapped in blankets. Once Caroline is in one blanket, Will wraps a second one around her. She's so tightly wrapped that she lets Will carry her to the kitchen.

Caroline, in her blanket roll, presses her feet against the baseboard heater as it comes to life.

WILL

How're your feet feeling now?

CAROLINE

Tingling, throbbing.

Will nods.

WILL

That's what happens when they warm back up.

CAROLINE

What about you?

WILL

Mine are mostly OK.

112 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

112

He takes out the three cans of soup in the kitchen cabinet and heats one up.

Caroline can see that he's limping a little. Will draws the curtains and lights a few candles.

They sit at the table eating the soup. While Will looks at a map, Caroline puts her hand over the flame until it's too hot to keep there. Will gets up to check the map that's on the wall.

WILL

I think I can cut across this ridge here, and if not, I'll hitch from the road.

CAROLINE

I wish we could just stay here for a while.

WILL

I think we can, once we have provisions.

CAROLINE

This is kind of perfect.

Will nods, appreciating the remote, cosy tranquility.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Maybe we can build ourselves a place like this.

WILL

We'd need to own a little land.

CAROLINE

What about a small house that's in a tree? We wouldn't need land for that. We'd just need one tree.

Will smiles at the rare moment when he is amused by her kid logic. He keeps the optimistic planning going.

WILL

In the Spring we can find a place where nobody will notice us. For now, let's just make sure we've got some food.

Will double checks the cabinets to see if they've missed any food supply. He reaches to the back of a cabinet turning up only condiments.

CAROLINE

Do you miss the things we had back at the farm?

WILL

Those were never really our things.

113 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

113

Will looks over and sees that Caroline has already fallen asleep. He finally looks relieved. He sits on the bed across from hers. Even though he knows she can't hear him, he whispers to her.

WILL
Sleep well, Yellow.

He blows out the candle.

114 INT. CABIN - MORNING

114

The two remaining cans of soup are on the counter.

WILL
Which one do you want first?

CAROLINE
Minestrone.

WILL
That's what I was hoping you'd pick.

They make a shopping list together.

WILL (CONT'D)
I've got the staples on here. What am I missing?

He passes the list to her, and she writes down a few items using her favorite pen from the park.

CAROLINE
Beans. Noodles.

She draws a big mushroom on the list. He smiles.

WILL
If I see one, I'll get it.

Caroline brings over a wool sweater for Will to layer under his coat. He bundles up to leave. She hands him some socks.

Caroline gives him a hug.

CAROLINE
Dad, you're sure I shouldn't come with you?

He puts the socks in his pocket.

WILL

No, it's important for you to let your feet recover.

CAROLINE

What about yours?

WILL

Mine aren't as affected.

CAROLINE

But you're still limping.

WILL

A bad blister can do that.

She looks at him, wondering if he's leveling with her.

WILL (CONT'D)

I'm good - I'm dry, I've got extra socks. I'm rested.

Will hands Caroline a debit card.

WILL (CONT'D)

I want us both to have one. Do you remember the code?

CAROLINE

Yes.

From the window, Caroline can see Will walk away from the cabin.

115 INT. CABIN - DUSK 115

Caroline spends a lonely night in the cabin. She opens the last can of soup, and cooks half of it. The wind rattles the cabin. She looks out the window.

116 INT. CABIN - NIGHT 116

Caroline draws the curtains, lights a candle, and settles in to wait for her dad.

She gets up and opens the curtains. She looks at the map on the wall of the cabin, seeing in detail the ridges and passes. She sits back in the chair. Waiting.

117 INT. CABIN - DAY 117

Caroline cooks the second half of the can of soup. She cleans her blistered toes, wrapping them in gauze. She puts on two pairs of socks and her shoes.

*

*

She ties a rope to a small metal pot on one end and a colorful patterned table cloth on the other.

118 EXT. FOREST, CABIN - DAY

118

Caroline surveys the land around the cabin, trying to see which direction Will might be coming from. She decides on a tree that stands alone from the others and attempts to throw the metal pot over a branch so it will catch the tablecloth in the tree. After two attempts, the object flies high enough for the cloth to get snagged in the tree.

She stands back wondering how far away the colorful, waving fabric can be seen. She shifts from foot to foot trying to keep warm. Branches creak, the wind stirs, no sign of Will.

She heads back to the cabin.

*

119 INT. CABIN - DAY

119

With no soup left, Caroline stands on the counter and looks into the very back of the highest cabinet shelves to see if they might have missed something. She finds nothing edible.

She opens the lower cabinets. On her hands and knees she almost crawls inside. From the way back, she pulls out a box of pancake mix. There's only a little in the box, and she taps out every drop and adds water. When she pours it into the skillet, it makes one large pancake.

She eats the pancake slowly, while craning her neck to look out the windows.

120 INT. CABIN - DAY

120

Caroline stuffs her clothes into her pack.

She walks over to a pile of Will's belongings, things he'd removed from his pack when he set off across the ridge.

She is hesitant to touch an envelope that is filled with documents, but peers in, decides it is important.

From the things he left behind, she takes the pouch of documents, his notebook, a well worn map of Forest Park.

When she looks again inside the pouch, she finds a snap shot of Will, her mother, and herself as a baby. There's another photo of a soldier in a hospital, one of a soldier in dress uniform, and a newspaper article.

She finds a couple of her drawings, along with poems and passages that he's torn out from books and folded into his sketch book. She opens a folded page taken from the Iliad.

CAROLINE

(reading the page)

Achilles went on grieving for his friend, whom he could not banish from his mind. Sleep refused to visit him. He tossed to one side and the other, thinking always of his loss...As memories crowded in on him, the warm tears poured down his cheeks.

She finds a little plastic capsule with some small teeth inside. A folded paper has been inserted with the teeth.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

(reading the note)

Caroline's baby teeth.

She looks at the objects, holding back tears.

Caroline lights every candle in the cabin.

121 EXT. FOREST, CABIN - NIGHT 121

On the front railing of the porch, she drips wax and lines the candles up. She yells as loudly as she can.

CAROLINE

DAD!

She waits. She hears the wind in the trees and the spitting of the candle flames.

She goes back inside and stands at the window, looking out.

122 INT. CABIN - DAY 122

Caroline tidies up the cabin, leaving it in good shape. She bundles back up, putting on layers.

123 EXT. FOREST, ACCIDENT SITE - DAY 123

Caroline walks deep into the woods, looking for tracks. Periodically, she stops to listen for sounds.

In the distance, she hears an engine sound and quickens her pace in that direction. As she nears the edge of a ravine, a spot of color catches her eye. She sees her father at the bottom. She scrambles down the ravine to where he lies.

*
*
*

CAROLINE

Dad?

No answer. She swallows hard, looks around.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Dad?

Finally, she spots him. She runs over to him. She shakes him gently. He's slightly responsive, not fully conscious, but still breathing. She runs her fingers across his forehead, which is scraped and smeared with dried blood. *

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Oh, Dad.

She puts her hands on his face, trying to warm him.

She hears the engines again, but they stop before she can figure out what direction they're coming from.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Someone's in these woods. I heard engines before.

Caroline opens her pack and layers the remaining garments over her father. She puts water to his lips. She stows the water bottle inside his sweater. She opens her father's pack and sees that he had gotten their provisions. *

She holds her father tight.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I'm getting us some help.

Will nods. She walks away, backing up, afraid to turn her back on him.

Caroline turns to concentrate on where she should be heading, but she finally breaks down. She leans against a tree wiping stinging tears from her chapped cheeks.

She doesn't know which way to walk. She turns 360, waiting for the sound again.

The engines resume; she moves as fast as she can. She can hear human voices, music, and the engines.

124 EXT. FOREST, ATV SITE - DAY

124

As she gets closer to the sound, she sees that it's coming from two TEENAGERS, who are horsing around on ATVs. At first, no one notices her.

Caroline runs into their path to get their attention. One of the drivers, COLIN, 18, notices her. He's surprised to see someone just appear, stops immediately, and cuts his engine.

CAROLINE
I need some help.

COLIN
What's wrong?

CAROLINE
My dad's hurt. I need help carrying him.

Colin nods for her to get on the ATV.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I came from that direction.

Caroline points the way.

COLIN
You gotta hold on.

She puts her arms around him. They drive into the woods and Colin's friend follows.

125 EXT. FOREST, ACCIDENT SITE - DAY

125

It's not clear if Will is still alive. The two teens are suddenly scared.

Caroline approaches Will, whispering softly.

CAROLINE
Dad, we're going.

Will nods slightly.

The two boys help Caroline roll the stump off of Will and load him onto the ATV. They tie Will to Colin so he won't fall off.

126 EXT. FOREST - DAY

126

Caroline holds Will in place on the ATV. Colin drives carefully.

127 EXT. DALE'S CABIN - DAY

127

The teens pull into a gravel driveway which leads up to a cabin. The lights are on inside.

COLIN

This is the only place anywhere
near here.

Caroline knocks. The door is answered by DALE, a middle-age woman in Carharts.

CAROLINE

I need some help.

Dale looks over to Colin, who she recognizes as a local kid.

DALE

They friends of yours?

Colin shrugs and shakes his head. Dale gestures for them to bring Will in.

128

INT. DALE'S CABIN - DAY

128

The cabin's insides are worn and dated, but cosy. Will is laid onto a couch. Colin and his friend back their way to the door. Caroline barely notices.

DALE

Tell me what happened.

CAROLINE

His leg's hurt. He was lost for
three days. He fell somehow.

Dale cuts open Will's pant leg.

DALE

He's gotta get to a hospital.

Dale picks up her phone, poised to dial.

CAROLINE

Can anyone from here help?

DALE

They'll treat him even if you don't
have money.

CAROLINE

He doesn't like people to ask lots
of questions.

DALE

His leg is messed up bad. What
kind of trouble are you in?

CAROLINE

We're not in trouble. Can we just
take care of it ourselves?

Dale steps out of view, dials, and talks to someone. Caroline can't hear what's she's saying.

Dale gestures for Caroline to follow her into the kitchen.

DALE

C'mon.

129 INT. DALE'S CABIN, KITCHEN/LR - DAY

129

Dale ladles some broth into cups, handing one to Caroline and carrying the other back out to where Will lies. Dale pulls over a chair so Caroline can be next to him.

DALE

Feed him some of this.

Caroline drains her cup and patiently spoons a small amount of soup into Will's mouth. He sips.

BLANE, 40s, a former marine corpsman, enters the cabin with his dog, HECTOR.

DALE (CONT'D)

Thanks for coming over.

Blane acknowledges Caroline. He gestures for Dale to take Caroline out of the room, so he can get to work.

When Blane lays his hands on Will to examine the injury, the touch jolts Will into awareness. He catches Blane's eyes, but quickly turns away.

BLANE

Let me help you, brother.

Will nods slightly. Blane does a procedure to check Will's head injury, using a light to look into his eyes.

130 INT. DALE'S CABIN, KITCHEN - DAY

130

DALE

What happened out there?

CAROLINE

We got lost.

Dale's not sure what that means.

DALE

Where were you guys headed?

CAROLINE

I don't think we knew where we were going.

DALE
Where is your home?

CAROLINE
With my dad.

Dale wants to follow up with more questions, but she's interrupted by Blane who comes into the kitchen to update them.

BLANE
He's splinted and taped up. It's gonna knit back, but it'll take time. He might've lost some function in his toes, but everything's clean.

Caroline steals a look at Dale to see how she's taking it all in.

BLANE (CONT'D)
He's drowsy from what I gave him. But try to get more food in him, when you can.

Blane looks to Caroline, and then hands Dale some pills.

BLANE (CONT'D)
For pain.

Dale gives him a hug. He smiles at Caroline.

BLANE (CONT'D)
I'll come back and check on him.

CAROLINE
Thank you.

Blane leaves.

131 INT. DALE'S CABIN - NIGHT

131

Dale is wrestling with a rolling cot. Caroline helps her pull it into the main room.

DALE
I trust you, but there's other people here that might not. If your Dad's in some kinda trouble, I need you to tell me 'cuz folks here are not lookin' to get mixed up in somethin'.

Dale looks Caroline in the eye. Caroline shakes her head no.

132 INT. DALE'S CABIN - NIGHT 132

Dale and Caroline cover Will. Caroline squeezes Will's hand.

They unfold the cot so it's next to the sofa where Will lies. They make the bed.

Caroline gets into her cot. Will shifts position and becomes aware of her next to him. He speaks softly; the words are stuck in his throat.

WILL
I'm so sorry.

She can hear that he's choked up. He tries to say more. She spares them the agony of vocalizing his regret.

CAROLINE
I know you are.

They lie silently, neither knowing what to say.

133 EXT. DALE'S PROPERTY - MORNING 133

She looks around the property to get a sense of where they've landed. She sees several RVs set up in a long-term way -- little yards, clothes line, chimes. One RV has colored crates stacked off to the side.

134 OMIT 134 *

135 INT. DALE'S CABIN - A WEEK LATER 135 *

Caroline checks on Will, who is awake. She smiles at him, passes him a glass of water, and sits next to him on the edge of the couch.

They can hear the radio in Dale's office. Will starts to drift off. A small robotic vacuum rolls out from under a piece of furniture. Its motor noise is low, but unfamiliar, and Will stirs. Caroline watches it roll around the room and bump up against the furniture, making its rounds. Dale's phone rings. Will rolls over on his side.

The doorbell rings. Dale crosses the room to talk to the neighbor at the front door. She moves onto the stoop to not disturb Will.

Caroline assists Will in getting up. She helps bring his leg forward, and then helps him stand up, so he can hobble on the crutch.

As Caroline escorts Will back to the couch, Dale comes back in from the porch. There's an awkward moment where Will, Caroline and Dale pass each other. Dale's friendly, Caroline responds, and Will looks down, not wanting to be seen.

DALE

Good morning.

Caroline smiles. She gets her dad back to the couch, helping to arrange the pillows for his comfort.

136 EXT. REMOTE RV - DAY

136

As Dale and Caroline approach the remote RV, Dale double checks that Caroline prefers the remote RV over the others.

DALE

I've got the other RVs up the hill,
one has a little yard --

CAROLINE

No, this is good. My dad will like
this one.

DALE

He's gonna need a while to recover.

CAROLINE

We won't be in your way here.

Dale looks Caroline in the eye, trying to figure out who these two travelers are. Caroline returns her gaze calmly and honestly. Behind them, a small Bobcat dozer, driven by ANDY, Dale's partner, bobs down the hill transporting a mattress.

137 OMIT

137 *

138 INT. REMOTE RV - DAY

138

There are two small rooms -- a general living space and a small bedroom in the back. They set Will up in the back, propping up his leg on a pillow. Will steals a look at Dale.

DALE
(to Caroline)
You know where to find me.

WILL
We won't be here long, just till I
can get around. Thank you.

DALE
It's not a problem.

Dale smiles at them as she leaves.

Caroline sits on the edge of Will's bed. From the RV's
window, she observes a bird working on its nest.

139

EXT. PORTER'S DWELLING - DAY

139

Caroline ventures over to the stacked colored crates. She
watches PORTER, the man she had noticed before.

CAROLINE
What are you doing?

PORTER
Do you know what these are?

Caroline shakes her head.

PORTER (CONT'D)
Bee hives.

Caroline stays trained on what he's doing -- using a smoking
can to spread smoke around one of the crates.

CAROLINE
Can I look inside?

He hands her a veil to put over her head. Porter opens one of
the hives so she can look inside. He adds more smoke so they
can inspect the colony.

PORTER
First important thing to know --
bees don't get aggressive unless
they think their hive is being
invaded.

Porter allows the bees to land on him.

PORTER (CONT'D)
They're just waking up. This queen
I've got now, this is her third
year, and she's going strong.

CAROLINE
Can I help?

Porter hands her the smoker.

140 OMIT 140 *

141 INT. REMOTE RV, WILL'S ROOM - DAY 141 *

Caroline checks on Will who's looking out the window. She enters his room with two cups of tea and the jar of honey. She hands a cup to Will. *

CAROLINE
Dad, there's some interesting things in this place.

WILL
Like what, for example?

CAROLINE
There's a beekeeper who lives here.

She catches his eye. She lifts the jar of honey.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
This is from the bees, from right here. When you can walk, I wanna show you.

Will manages to lift his leg a little. After a second, he puts it down.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
It'll take a little while, Dad.

Will sighs. His mind races ahead.

WILL
What have you told these folks about us?

CAROLINE
Not a lot. They haven't asked me much.

WILL
What have they asked you?

CAROLINE
Dale asked me if we're in trouble. I said no. We're not, right?

Will uses his arms to try again to lift his leg.

WILL
Do you think they called anyone?

CAROLINE
Called who?

WILL
People who will try to move us
somewhere.

CAROLINE
I don't think they'd do that here.

WILL
What makes you say that?

CAROLINE
It's a feeling I get.

Sitting on the edge of her father's bed, she lifts the honey jar off the window sill and adds a spoonful to her tea. She dips the spoon again and turns to Will.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Want to try it?

WILL
Yes.

She drizzles a long strand of honey into his cup.

142 EXT. DALE'S CABIN - DAY

142

Caroline heads over toward Dale's. Blane is in the yard with his dog, Hector. They greet Caroline warmly.

BLANE
How's he doing?

CAROLINE
He's trying to get up on the
crutches.

BLANE
Takes time.

Caroline seizes the opportunity to talk about her dad to someone who she senses won't use it against them.

CAROLINE
He wants to leave.

Blane nods, understanding. He runs his hand over Hector's head and brings him closer.

BLANE

This is Hector. He's helped me a lot.

Caroline reaches out to the dog, who lets her pet him.

BLANE (CONT'D)

You wanna take him for a couple of days?

Blane puts his arms out and Hector balances on his hind legs so Blane can hug him. He lets Hector jump back to all fours.

BLANE (CONT'D)

I think your dad might like having him around. Let him sleep in your dad's room.

Caroline looks at him curiously.

BLANE (CONT'D)

Hector can nudge him so he can come out of the dream. He does that for me.

Hector buries his snout in Blane's hand.

143 INT. REMOTE RV - DAY

143

Caroline brings the dog inside the RV. She lets Hector pad his way into Will's room.

CAROLINE

Dad, that's Hector. Blane asked if we could watch him for a few days.

Hector has rested his snout on Will's bed, looking at Will with raised eyebrows. Will can not resist looking into the dog's eyes. He puts his hand out, and Hector licks it.

Caroline steals a glance at her dad relating to the dog and smiles, feeling relieved for the first time in a long while.

She puts food in Hector's bowl and heads out.

144 OMIT

144

*

145 EXT. DALE'S CABIN - DAY

145

*

Caroline and Dale are at the trunk of Dale's car unloading groceries. Caroline carries one of the bags to the porch.

Caroline has something she wants to say to Dale. Finally, she just blurts it out as she pulls some folded cash from her pocket.

CAROLINE

This is what I've got left. We want to stay.

She shows Dale the money in her hand. Dale pushes the money back to Caroline.

DALE

You're welcome to stay down there til your dad gets better. If you guys were to be here for a long time, it costs something to stay on -- for propane, water, things like that.

CAROLINE

So is this enough?

DALE

I don't need to take your money right now.

CAROLINE

We want to stay a long time.

Caroline tries again. Dale takes a symbolic few bills.

DALE

I can take this as a deposit.

(assuring her)

I'm not gonna rent the place out from under you. Take a deep breath. You can stay.

Caroline leans into the trunk to get another grocery bag. Dale is stuffing some of the cans she bought into a canvas bag. When the bag is full, she ties it shut and rolls it into a forest patterned tarp.

CAROLINE

What's that for?

DALE

I leave this out for someone who lives up in the peninsula. I haven't seen him in years, but I know he gets the food. When I come back to check, the bag's always empty. I know he appreciates it.

146 EXT. DALE'S PROPERTY - DAY

146

Caroline watches as Dale stands on a stump and wedges the bag into the branches of the tree.

DALE

It's been the same spot for years.

She pats the tree.

147 INT. REMOTE RV - DAY

147

Caroline takes mushrooms out of a grocery bag and then out of their shrink wrapped plastic container. While they cook, she looks in on her father, who's got their map laid out on his bed.

CAROLINE

Are you hungry?

WILL

I am.

Will comes out of his room on the crutches. Caroline is surprised to see him up.

CAROLINE

You're up!

WILL

I've been practicing.

He swings his leg around to sit at the table.

Caroline serves them each a plate of mushrooms. Will digs in, and smiles at her, relishing the mushrooms. Caroline is preoccupied.

CAROLINE

I want to tell you something.

WILL

Please do.

CAROLINE

I paid for this place, so we can stay here.

WILL

That was the right thing to do -- pay them something for letting us be here.

CAROLINE

I rented this place. So we can live here.

Will nods and keeps eating.

148 OMIT 148 *

149 INT. REMOTE RV, WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT 149 *

Hector is lying next to Will on the bed. Will pets his head. *

150 EXT. REMOTE RV - DAY 150

Caroline and Will are headed out of their RV. Will tries a few steps off his crutches, gingerly putting weight on his leg, trying to walk normally.

Blane sees them from a distance and waves. He comes toward them. Hector bounds over to Blane.

BLANE

It's Dale's birthday. C'mon up.

Caroline looks toward Dale's and sees several neighbors carrying chairs over to her place. Caroline glances up the hill again.

CAROLINE

Can we?

WILL

You can. I'll keep walking --
strengthen my leg.

CAROLINE

C'mon.

She stares at him, imploring. Will feels a tug and he obliges.

151 OMIT 151 *

*

152 EXT. DALE'S CABIN - DAY 152 *

A few neighbors from the park are gathered. Several are at the grill. *

Will manages to get his thanks out to Blane. *

WILL *

I've seen how you look out for her. *

Thank you. *

Blane puts his hand on Will's shoulder, acknowledging Will's gratitude. *

Two people start playing music. Will is observing -- he can see that Caroline is comfortable, and that Dale is warm towards her. *

While one of the neighbors is singing, Will quietly slips away. *

153 EXT. PORTER'S DWELLING - DAY 153 *

Will moves quickly, despite the weakened leg. He doesn't know that Caroline has followed him.

CAROLINE

Dad, wait up.

He stops and waits for her.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Can I show you something?

Caroline beckons Will over to her hive.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Have you ever seen inside of a
hive?

Caroline approaches the hive with the smoker. The music from the gathering has changed, and a different song wafts over the yard.

WILL
No, I haven't.

CAROLINE
Come closer.

She adds a few puffs of smoke before she opens the hive. Will comes closer to get a look.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Close your eyes.

Will does.

Caroline lets the bees collect on her arm.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Open.

She shows her dad the arm up close. Will takes in how comfortable she is. The bees cover Caroline's arm like a long glove. She is very alive, feeling everything.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
It's OK, even if they get upset. A
person can withstand 500 stings.

She locks eyes with Will.

WILL
You've learned a lot.

She smiles because it feels good to hear this from her father.

WILL (CONT'D)
I'm going for a walk.

She moves to transfer the bees back to the hive.

CAROLINE
OK.

Caroline has returned to the gathering. They've built a fire. Someone in the group is singing.

155 EXT. REMOTE RV - NIGHT

155

Will is on the front stairs of the RV listening to the distant music from the gathering, but he reacts to all sounds nearby. He gets up to check around the RV, then sits back down. Hector moves closer to Will and puts his head on Will's knee.

WILL
(to Hector)
She knows what she's doing.

Caroline approaches the RV humming a line from the song at the shindig. She joins her dad. Caroline puts her arms around him. Together, they are 50% agony; 50% hope.

CAROLINE
I know that you have some things in
your mind that I can't understand.

The Pacific Tree frogs start up their chorus and they listen together.

156 INT. REMOTE RV - MORNING

156

When Caroline looks in Will's room, she stops in her tracks. His few items of clothing are on the bed, along with the map, and some food.

CAROLINE
What're you doing? Your leg isn't
even healed all the way.

He finishes rolling a blanket.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
It won't heal right. I don't want
to leave.

Will looks down, search for word to explain.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Last time you almost died-

He raises his eyes to look at her.

WILL
I know.

CAROLINE
And you would have if I hadn't
found you.

WILL
I know.
(pause)
(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

I've gone over and over it in my mind, and I won't let that happen to us again.

She wants him to understand; she tries again.

CAROLINE

The people here aren't very different from us. Don't you see that?

WILL

Yes. They've been very good to us, but I want to go back to our own way of life.

CAROLINE

Why can't you stay?

Will shuts his eyes, wishing he had words for it. He packs food. Caroline is frustrated. She watches him pack the few last things.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Are you just going to leave?

WILL

No, I want you to come with me. Your home is with me. And mine is with you.

Her tears well up.

WILL (CONT'D)

At least that's the way it's always been.

CAROLINE

The same thing that's wrong with you is not wrong with me.

She's scared that she just said that.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I don't want to pack up and leave again that way. I'm good here. I really want to stay.

She hears the door of the RV click. She won't turn around to look.

157 EXT. REMOTE RV - DAY

157

Will paces around the back of RV, Hector trails him. He can't leave.

Caroline exits the front of the RV.

She sits up by the bee crates. She can see Will who's still near the RV. She watches him. He seems lost. He starts walking towards the woods.

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A157 INT. REMOTE RV - DAY

A157

*

Caroline grabs her pack.

*

158 EXT. WOODS NEAR DALE'S - DAY

158

Caroline can see Will in the distance. He can't move as quickly as he once did. Caroline soon overtakes him. She squeezes his hand.

159 EXT. WOODS NEAR DALE'S - DAY

159

They've been hiking for a while. Will stops to rest.

They sit in silence. He looks up at a big tree above them, lost in thought.

WILL

We'll find a good spot.

Will passes Caroline some of the bread he packed. He's brought her jar of honey, with the label that she's decorated. She takes the jar, but doesn't open it. Will reaches for the jar and drizzles some honey on the bread.

She looks out into the expanse of woods. She knows why her dad loves being in the forest.

A gust of wind rustles the branches. A wild hare forages, unafraid. The trees sway. He stands up ready to continue the search for their new place.

160 EXT. WOODS NEAR DALE'S - LATER

160

Will stops to look at the map and get his bearings. Caroline blurts out what's on her mind.

CAROLINE

I really want to help with the bees.

Will is looking down, but listening.

WILL

I promise we can keep bees at our next place.

He hefts his bundle.

Simon Max Hill

WILL (CONT'D)

We can find a good spot like we had in Forest Park. Don't you want that?

CAROLINE

We're not going to find that again.

He starts to walk. Fighting heavy resistance, Caroline follows her father. She lags behind him. He looks back at her. Caroline is distant and upset. [wildlife image]. He slows down until she catches up. The leaves rustle loudly. She looks at him.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Dad -

In the silence it becomes clear what she's about to say.

WILL

Can you find your way back?

CAROLINE

Yes.

Will's eyes well up.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

You taught me.

WILL

Tell them I'll be gone for a while. Tell them I'll check on you, that we'll be in touch.

CAROLINE

Will you check on me?

WILL

Yes.

CAROLINE

I know you would stay if you could.

Will nods. Caroline buries her tears in his shoulder and hugs him.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I love you, Green.

WILL

I love you, Yellow.

He hugs her tightly.

CAROLINE

You know where to find me.

Will finds it hard to let go. A thought occurs to Caroline. She pulls the sea horse amulet from around her neck.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

You're gonna need this.

She hands it to him, and he puts it over his head. They stand in arm's reach, neither able to make the first move. Will nods that it's OK. Caroline begins walking backwards, watching her dad walk away. She watches until her dad becomes small in the distance. When she can no longer see him, she turns forward and heads back in the direction of Dale's.

161

EXT. WOODS NEAR DALE'S - DAY

161

Halfway back to Dale's, Hector meets her on the path.

CAROLINE

He had to go.

Hector looks in the direction of Will. Caroline faces forward.

*

END