

MY ABANDONMENT

Written by

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Based on the novel
My Abandonment by Peter Rock

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1 EXT. SALVAGE LOT - DUSK 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. Before they leave, he organizes the pile they've just looked through.

WILL (CONT'D)
You leave it neat. That's how we
pay them back for what we're
taking.

They exit through a tear in the chain link fence which surrounds the lot. Once outside, Will arranges the fence so that the opening is not obvious.

2 EXT. FRONTAGE ROAD, EDGE OF FOREST PARK - DUSK 2

Caroline and Will cross the busy road at the end of the bridge. On the other side of the road, they slip into a dense and lush park, avoiding the public entrance.

They disappear into Forest Park, a temperate rain forest abutting the city of Portland, Oregon.

3 EXT. FOREST PARK - DUSK (DAY FOR NIGHT) 3

Not using an established path, they walk over fallen trees and bushes. They both use head lamps in order to see.

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 shines her head lamp onto 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 - EVENING

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 bags 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 - 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.

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.

7 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

7

She cuts through some low brush to get to him. He's immersed in building a solar cooker, using the rebar 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.

8 INT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

8

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

Caroline, also in clothes for town, brushes her teeth. She gestures to Will that his beard is trimmed a little lopsided. He hands her the scissors and she straightens it.

WILL

Clean your nails.

He passes her the knife.

9 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY

9

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.

10 EXT. FOREST PARK, PUBLIC PATH - DAY 10

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 shiny writing pen that's on the path. She picks it up, looks at it closely, 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.

11 EXT. ST. JOHN'S BRIDGE - DAY 11

They walk across the St. John's Bridge into a neighborhood on the outskirts of Portland.

12 EXT. ST. JOHN'S STREET - DAY 12

Will takes a small bag of garbage from his pack and puts it in a city trash can.

13 INT. AIR TRAM, APPROACHING VA HOSPITAL COMPLEX - DAY 13

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.

14 EXT. VA MEDICAL CENTER - DAY 14

Caroline is on the bench in front of the building, reading. Her book obscures her face. She glances up at the glass passageways and wings of this labyrinth.

Cut to: Inside the VA: * STOCK FOOTAGE: Tableaus of waiting rooms and hallways with audio recordings of the Vet crisis hotline underneath.

15 EXT. VA MEDICAL CENTER - DAY 15

Will meets back up with Caroline. He stows the meds package, wrapped in a pharmacy bag, that he's been given at the clinic into his back pack.

16 INT. GROCERY STORE, ENTRANCE - DAY

16

Will withdraws money from an ATM in the store.

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.

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

17

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.

18 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY

18

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.

19 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

19

Will is firing 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.

20 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY

20

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 ivy 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.

21 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

21

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.

22

EXT. FOREST PARK, FERN GROVE - DAY

22

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.

23 EXT. FOREST PARK, TREE PLATFORM - DAY

23

Caroline relaxes in her tree platform, which she uses as a reading spot and look-out.

She's reading the section on forest dwellings 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 platform to be out of his sight, she knocks a small 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 hair.

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.

24 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY

24

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.

25 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

25

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.

26 INT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY (FOR EARLY DAWN) 26

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.

27 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY (MORNING) 27

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.

28 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY 28

Behind them, they hear the rasped breathing of a dog and a walkie. Will reaches back for Caroline.

29 EXT. FOREST PARK, FERN GROVE - DAY 29

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

Then everything grows quiet.

30 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - SAME 30

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

31 EXT. FOREST PARK, FERN GROVE - DAY

31

A RANGER and POLICE OFFICER scan the area.

Peering out from her hiding spot, Caroline can see a boot crushing ferns around her as the two men close in.

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 identification?

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.

JAMES, a clean-cut social worker, 40s, arrives, having just caught up with everyone. 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.

James gently inserts himself between Caroline and Will as the police officer starts to lead Will away. Caroline looks past James to keep Will in her sight.

CAROLINE
 Dad!

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

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
 PLEASE! I want to go where my dad goes.

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

CAROLINE
 We're OK!

JAMES
 We're here to help.

CAROLINE
 We don't need help.

32 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY

32

Caroline walks with James and the cop, following in the direction of her dad.

JAMES
 Hey, I'm James. What is your name?

CAROLINE
 Caroline. Why did you chase us?

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

CAROLINE
 You needed a dog to figure that out?

JAMES
 We couldn't have found you otherwise.

James stays close to Caroline. She quickens her pace, trying to catch up to Will.

33 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

33

Caroline and James approach the camp where Will is standing, facing away. Caroline sees the runner, talking to one of the policemen and blanches. The runner glances over to her, trying to catch a look at her.

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.

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

JAMES
 You don't have to worry. He'll be all right.

The ranger checks out the camp, snapping photos. James takes his own notes.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 You guys are pretty well set up. How long have you been here?

CAROLINE
 A long time.

JAMES
Can you tell me who you live with?

CAROLINE
My dad.

JAMES
It's only the two of you?

CAROLINE
Yes.

JAMES
Can you show me where you sleep?

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

CAROLINE
My sleeping bag here. Dad's there.

POLICE
Sir!

Caroline and James 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 James, 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 police turn Will around and lead him away. He turns back and smiles at Caroline, who uses her sleeve to wipe her eyes.

34 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY

34

James and the ranger wait for Caroline. She gathers her journal, some books, and clothes, stuffing them into her pack.

CAROLINE
When am I coming back?

JAMES
I don't think you will be.

CAROLINE
Will somebody bring my encyclopedias?

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

James realizes what he's just said and how untrue it is.

JAMES (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.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Does your dad have any weapons here? Or places where you've seen him hide things?

Caroline tries to decipher what James 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. James puts his 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.

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

35 EXT. CAR, PARKED AT FOREST PARK EXIT - DAY 35

They exit Forest Park onto a busy road. Cars and trucks
 rattle past. Caroline looks around for Will. James opens the
 back door of a car and gestures for Caroline to get in. She
 doesn't.

CAROLINE
 Where's my dad?

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

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

36 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, MEDICAL INTAKE OFFICE - DAY 36

Caroline, in a paper gown, is being examined by a female
 DOCTOR. The doctor is entering 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.

She goes onto the next part of the exam.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Do you feel safe living with your dad?

CAROLINE
Yes.

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

CAROLINE
No. Body heat is important at night.

DOCTOR
Has anyone ever touched your body with out your permission?

CAROLINE

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

37 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES - DAY

37

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

JAMES

This test is to update the evaluation we have from the VA.

James reads from the test instruction booklet.

JAMES (CONT'D)

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:

I enjoy engineering magazines

WILL

True.

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
Things are turning out like the
prophets said it would.

WILL
What?

Beep. The test moves on.

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 would feel better if almost
all laws were eliminated.

Will pushes the space bar.

-- No one seems to understand me

-- My soul sometimes or frequently
leaves my body

WILL
False.

TEST GIVER'S VOICE
I think about things that are too
bad to talk about.

WILL
Once in a while.

Beep. Beep.

TEST GIVER'S VOICE
I think about things that are too
bad to talk about.

WILL
True, once in a while.

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
How's it going?

WILL
It's not.

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.

38

INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, JEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

38

Caroline is busy working on a standardized test, filling in bubbles. She looks up at JEAN, 40s, the other social worker on the case.

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 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. I don't think he finds this easy, but he's really trying to cooperate.

Jean reels it back, to deal with Caroline gently.

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 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.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

And that 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.

39

INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, DORMITORY - NIGHT

39

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 me 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 easily. 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?

40 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, DORMITORY - NIGHT 40

Caroline is in bed wide awake. She listens to a siren outside and pipes clanking in the dorm. She quietly hums to herself, careful not to let the other girls hear her.

CAROLINE
(whispering to herself)
Good night, Dad. Wherever you are.

41 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, JEAN'S OFFICE - DAY 41

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.

LATER: Caroline and Jean sit opposite one another.

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.

CAROLINE

Can you give him a note from me?

JEAN

Yes, I can do that.

Jean glances at her check list.

JEAN (CONT'D)

Would you say you've had a happy
childhood?

CAROLINE

Yes.

JEAN

What happens 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 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 is lost in thought, staring at the poster on the wall behind Jean. She doesn't notice Jean's concern.

42 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, DORMITORY - DAY

42

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, owls, and crickets. 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?

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 fight, and she wants to have it out. She rises up off the sofa and comes close to Caroline.

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.

Valerie pushes Caroline's shoulder. The girls get into a scuffle.

TIFFANY

Stop it! Leave her alone.

Tiffany tries to pull Valerie off Caroline, but Valerie elbows Tiffany away, the henna on her hand smears. Valerie shoves Caroline trying to bring her down, but Caroline is stronger.

CAROLINE

Stop.

Caroline backs off and Valerie huffs over to the sofa.

43

INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, OFFICE - DAY

43

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

JEAN

In trying to find a placement for you and Caroline, we're considering what kind of support will be helpful to you two.

James stares at Will's VA file, overwhelmed.

JAMES

A lot of members of your battalion have committed suicide.

Will acknowledges this.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Do you have suicidal ideations?

WILL

No.

JAMES

Your VA record shows that you requested therapy. Why did you leave after only a few sessions?

WILL

What I needed was to talk to someone. The therapist was good, but the wait to see him again was months. What I was offered instead was the drugs, and I didn't want to take them.

James gets it. He closes the folder.

JAMES

I get that. What can we do to help you meet the legal and social expectations of being a family?

JEAN

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

We were surrounded by the things that we value. That's a good life. 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 I bother no one.

JAMES

Not surprisingly, you scored high on the social introversion scale, which assesses a person's tendency to withdraw from social contacts and implications. I'm going to highlight in my report, though, that being a father keeps you anchored. We feel that the symptoms of PTSD that affect you, do not preclude you from being a good parent.

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

44 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES, HALLWAY - DAY 44

Jean leads Caroline down a maze of hallways. Finally they arrive at her office, which Jean opens with her ring of keys.

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

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 that did not seem to be a good fit for you guys. We found something that will be better.

CAROLINE

How can you say what's right 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 guys 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.

Jean puts her hand on Caroline's shoulder in a consoling way.

46 EXT. SOCIAL SERVICES - DAY 46

Will stands on the sidewalk, 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.

47 INT. SOCIAL SERVICES CAR - DAY 47

Caroline and Will are in the back seat as they drive through town.

--They drive through the Christmas tree farms south of Portland. Will looks out the window.

--The car turns onto a private road where they see cut fields, horses, and a house on a hill.

48 EXT. HORSE FARM, COTTAGE - DAY 48

The car pulls up and parks at the cottage where the owner, MR. WALTERS, 50's, greets them, and they get out of the car.

49 INT. COTTAGE AT HORSE FARM - DAY 49

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 so 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.

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.

50 EXT. COTTAGE AT HORSE FARM - DAY

50

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

MR. WALTERS

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

Mr. Walters walks back up 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.

51 INT. COTTAGE AT HORSE FARM, KITCHEN - DAY

51

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.

52 INT. COTTAGE AT HORSE FARM, WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

52

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.

53 INT. COTTAGE AT HORSE FARM, KITCHEN - MORNING

53

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.

(MORE)

MR. WALTERS (CONT'D)
 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.

54 EXT. HORSE FARM - DAY 54

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)

Will is working a long row of evergreens. He uses a large tree saw to shape and cut the trees evenly.

55 INT. HORSE ARENA, HORSE FARM - DAY 55

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.

56 INT. COTTAGE, WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT 56

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.

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.

57 EXT. COTTAGE PORCH - NIGHT

57

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

58 EXT. MR. WALTER'S HOUSE, BACK PORCH - DAY

58

Caroline stands next to the washing machine dropping clothes in. Mr. Walters comes out onto the porch.

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 know from the article 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 off the grid, 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.

59

EXT. HORSE FARM, GARDEN PLOT - DAY

59

Mr. Walters stands against the fence 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.

[Images of Will working]

60 EXT. HORSE FARM - DAY

60

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

61 EXT. ROAD/YARD - DAY

61

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.

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 clip 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'll 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 will you put it?

ISAIAH
Maybe Colorado.

62 INT. ISAIAH'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

62

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.

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

63

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 people.

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.

64 EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

64

Isaiah and Caroline walk along the road. Isaiah is using a big flashlight to make it easier to see.

When they get in sight of Mr. Walter's property, Caroline stops.

CAROLINE
Thank you.

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

Caroline smiles and walks briskly away, cutting across the property to get to the cottage, repeating "Wednesdays, Rte 119" to herself.

65 EXT. COTTAGE AT HORSE FARM - NIGHT

65

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

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.

67 EXT. COTTAGE AT HORSE FARM - DAY

67

Jean unloads the van, putting a few boxes and two bicycles
 near the door of the cottage. Will walks up to Jean.

WILL
 What's all this about?

JEAN
 These are things that got donated
 to our agency.

WILL
 We don't need more things.

Caroline watches as the man unloads a few more boxes.

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.

68 EXT. 4-H CLUB MEETING - DAY

68

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. RILEY, one of the teens, is showing his new tattoo to the group. It's a large portrait of his rabbit, Lorna, etched over his heart.

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.

69 INT. CHURCH - DAY

69

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.

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 am sure that finding it 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.

(MORE)

MINISTER (CONT'D)

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.

70 INT. CHURCH - DAY

70

After the service is over, Will follows the custom of
greeting and shaking hands with the church members sitting
near him. 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.

71 EXT. ROAD - DAY

71

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

72 INT. COTTAGE, KITCHEN - DAY

72

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, noticing that he's stopped shaving. 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.

[IMAGES OF WILL AT WORK - using loud machinery, observing various phases of tree maintenance and harvesting at full throttle.]

73

EXT. COTTAGE, HORSE FARM - DAY

73

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.

74 INT. HORSE BARN - DAY

74

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.

75 INT. COTTAGE, WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

75

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)

76 INT. COTTAGE, CAROLINE'S ROOM - EARLY MORNING

76

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. Caroline sees him switch the bright new coat he was given at social services on the hook by the door and put on his old coat. 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. From her doorway, she can see Will shaving.

77 EXT. COTTAGE AT HORSE FARM - EARLY MORNING 77

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.

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

78 EXT. ROAD, PERIPHERY OF FOREST PARK - DAY 78

Caroline and Will slip into the park from the road.

79 EXT. FOREST PARK, ENCAMPMENT - DAY 79

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.

80 EXT. FOREST PARK - DAY 80

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. Why'd we have to
leave?

WILL
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.

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

81

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.

82 EXT. PORTLAND STREET - DAY

82

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

83 EXT. TRAIN YARD - DAY

83

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 looks, as he constantly looks around.

84 INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

84

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.

85 EXT. PORTLAND BUS STATION - DAY

85

Caroline stands in an outdoor waiting area at the entrance of the bus station. A few TEENS are skating in the small parking lot in front of the 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 into the station.

Caroline gets a book out of her pack. She moves back into the covered portico that stretches along the front of the station. She looks through the glass window into the station to check on Will. She stands near a WOMAN PASSENGER, old enough to be her mother, who's reading from a tablet while waiting.

A TEEN GIRL, 16, with an oversized bag heads toward the entrance. A plain clothes DETECTIVE, 30s, approaches the girl. Caroline moves even 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. Some bus departures are announced.

Caroline glances at the teen skaters. Tiffany, the girl from social services spots her and comes over, holding her skate board. They're both surprised. Tiffany gives Caroline a hug.

TIFFANY
You guys aren't on that ranch
anymore?

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

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

Tiffany looks around for Will.

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

CAROLINE
Yeah.

TIFFANY
Are you guys gonna hide out in the
woods again?

CAROLINE
I don't know.

TIFFANY
I wish I could go with you.

Caroline is caught off guard.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
I really need to get outta here.

Caroline doesn't know what to say. The bus is called. Tiffany gives her a hug.

Caroline heads into the station. After a moment, Tiffany looks through the glass to see if she can see Caroline. Tiffany opens the door to the bus station.

86 INT. BUS - NIGHT

86

Caroline finds an open seat next to a YOUNG WOMAN on the bus. Will sits in the back. Caroline makes a small wave from the bus window in case Tiffany can see her. The bus pulls backwards.

Caroline's attention turns to the woman swiping through numerous photos. The woman extends her phone on a selfie stick to get a shot, but she doesn't have enough room.

WOMAN
(politely)
Excuse me. Do you mind taking a
shot of me?

She hands Caroline the phone, which accidentally switches to selfie mode. Caroline pushes the button and sees a startling close image of herself on the phone's screen. She tries again and gets a shot of the woman.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
Thank you!

Caroline smiles, and turns towards the window and rests her head in her hand.

When the woman is asleep, she carefully climbs out of the seat and heads back to where Will is sitting.

87 INT. BUS, BACK SEATS - NIGHT

87

The bus pulls into a desolate rest stop. 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.

LATER

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

The bus pulls into a stop, and there's an announcement on the bus PA system: "Be back on the bus in 10 minutes."

88 INT. TRUCK STOP, MINI-MART - NIGHT 88

Caroline looks at postcards and trinkets on a rack at the front of the store. Will stands at the cash register with a map and some snacks. He steals a look at a panel of surveillance screens that monitor the parking lot. Caroline looks out the glass doors, worried that they'll miss the bus.

89 INT. TRUCK STOP, MINI-MART, BACK OF STORE - NIGHT 89

Caroline waits for Will near the coffee machine. She speaks through the bathroom door to him.

CAROLINE
Dad, the bus is leaving.

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.

90 EXT. TRUCK STOP, PARKING AREA - DAY

90

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
(O.S.)
I don't get involved with this
stuff.

Will quickly moves away.

91 EXT. TRUCK, PARKED AT TRUCK STOP - DAY

91

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.

92 INT. TRUCK, PARKED AT TRUCK STOP - DAY 92

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 big cat.

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 cat who's rested its head on her. The truck pulls out.

93 INT. TRUCK - DAY 93

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 is looking 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.

94 INT. TRUCK - DAY

94

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 up the mountain, 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.

They get out of the truck.

WILL (CONT'D)
Thanks, much.

The driver toots the horn and pulls away.

95 EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

95

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.

96 EXT. FOREST, LOGGING ROAD - DUSK

96

Will leads the way along the path. They're higher up and it's colder. 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.

Will looks down at her wet, muddy sneakers and his own shoes. 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 shoes 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.

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?

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

WILL

We could turn back. It'll take us about three hours to get back down.

CAROLINE

I can't do that. I can't feel my feet.

He hears her panic and 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.

97

EXT. FOREST, SURVIVAL SHELTER - DUSK

97

It's gotten darker. Will puts on his head lamp and gives Caroline hers.

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

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.

98 INT. SURVIVAL SHELTER - NIGHT

98

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.

99 EXT. WOODS, SURVIVAL SHELTER SITE - DAY

99

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

WILL
(O.S.)
Are you still here?

CAROLINE
(O.S.)
Yes.

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.

100 EXT/INT. CABIN - DAY

100

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.

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 opens the circuit box and with his head lamp 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. They sputter. No water comes out.

101 INT. CABIN, BEDROOM - DAY

101

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.

102 INT. CABIN, KITCHEN - DAY

102

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.

103 INT. CABIN, KITCHEN - NIGHT

103

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 Tiny 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.

104 INT. CABIN, BEDROOM - NIGHT

104

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.

105 INT. CABIN - MORNING

105

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.

Will and Caroline make a poncho out of a blanket for Will to layer on top of 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.

106 INT. CABIN - DUSK 106

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.

107 INT. CABIN, KITCHEN - NIGHT 107

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.

108 INT. CABIN - DAY 108

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 borrows some boots from the closet. They're too big on her, but she ties them as tightly as she can.

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

109 EXT. FOREST - DAY 109

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, walking with difficulty in the oversized boots.

110 INT. CABIN - DAY 110

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.

111 INT. CABIN - DAY 111

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, and a small carved figurine of a sea horse, which she puts around her neck.

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.

112 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

112

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.

113 INT. CABIN - DAY

113

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

114 EXT. FOREST - DAY

114

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. Moving as fast as she can, her eye catches sight of her father's pack, toppled over.

CAROLINE

Dad?

No answer. She swallows hard, looks around.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Dad?

Finally, she spots him pinned under a big stump of a fallen tree. 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 takes a fistful of dry oatmeal mixes it with some water and tries to eat it. She finds dried berries and ravenously eats some.

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.

115 EXT. MOUNTAIN CLEARING - DAY 115

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.

116 EXT. WOODS, WILL'S RESTING TREE - DAY 116

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.

117 EXT. WOODS - DAY 117

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

118 EXT. WOODS - DAY 118

When they get to the base of the mountain, Colin stops to check on them, even though he can't really turn around.

COLIN
You still with me?

CAROLINE
Yes.

119 EXT. DALE'S PROPERTY - DAY 119

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.

120 INT. DALE'S CABIN - DAY 120

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.

121 INT. DALE'S CABIN KITCHEN - NIGHT

121

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 medic, 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.

122 INT. DALE'S CABIN, MAIN ROOM - DAY 122

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, shutting his eyes to block out the reality of his helplessness.

123 INT. DALE'S CABIN KITCHEN - DAY 123

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 may'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. Dale and Caroline cover Will. Caroline squeezes Will's hand before leaving the room.

124 INT. DALE'S CABIN - NIGHT

124

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

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'. If someone's lookin' for you guys, you gotta tell me.

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

125 INT. DALE'S CABIN, MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

125

Dale and Caroline 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.

126 EXT. DALE'S PROPERTY - MORNING

126

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.

127 EXT. DALE'S PROPERTY, MORE REMOTE AREA - DAY 127

Caroline walks further down a path and sees an RV off on its own. She tries the door. It still opens and she peers in -- it's dusty but intact.

Walking back, she notices that the MAN who lives in the RV with the crates, has come out and is looking inside them. She's curious.

128 INT. DALE'S CABIN - A WEEK LATER 128

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.

129 EXT. DALE'S PROPERTY - DAY 129

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.

130 INT. REMOTE RV - DAY 130

Caroline and Dale vacuum the place out. They open the windows.

131 EXT/INT. REMOTE RV - DAY 131

Dale and Caroline help Will out of Dale's truck and into the RV, which has two small rooms -- a general living space and a small bedroom in the back. They set Will up in the bed in the small room, 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.

132 EXT. DALE'S PROPERTY - DAY 132

Caroline ventures up to the RV with stacked colored crates. She watches PORTER, 60s, 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.

133 INT. REMOTE RV - DAY

133

Caroline makes a design on the label of a jar of Porter's honey using her pen.

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.

134 EXT. DALE'S PROPERTY - DAY

134

Caroline heads over toward Porter's and Dale's. Blane's 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 friend of mine, Hector, has helped me a lot.

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

BLANE (CONT'D)

I'm wondering if you'd be willing to take care of him for a couple of days?

CAROLINE

Let me ask my dad.

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

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.

135 INT. REMOTE RV - DAY

135

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.

136 EXT. REMOTE RV - DAY

136

Will struggles out the door of the RV. He's determined to be up and about on the crutches. He circles around the RV.

137 EXT. DALE'S PROPERTY - DAY

137

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 out a 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.

138 EXT. TREE, OFF GRAVEL ROAD - DAY 138

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.

139 INT. REMOTE RV - DAY 139

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.

140 INT. REMOTE RV - NIGHT

140

Caroline lifts the table and pulls out her bed. She spreads out a blanket.

141 INT. REMOTE RV, WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

141

Will is tossing the way he does when he has his nightmares. Hector nudges him.

Caroline comes to the door to check on Will. She sees that Hector is lying next to Will on the bed and that Will is awake, but calm. She smiles. It worked.

142 EXT. DALE'S PROPERTY - DAY

142

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.

143 INT./EXT. DALE'S CABIN - DAY

143

A few neighbors from the park are gathered around Dale's table. Several others can be seen standing around the grill in the front yard.

Will sits off to the side on a couch. While Caroline prepares a plate of food for him, she glances over and sees that a WOMAN NEIGHBOR, 40s, who they haven't met before has sat down and is chatting with Will. Though he's nodding politely, Caroline can see that he's antsy, angling to leave. His knee is bouncing a little as it does when he feels cornered.

Caroline intervenes by bringing Will a plate of food.

The woman gets up and heads over to where a small karaoke system has been set up. Caroline sits next to Will, and he leans over to her.

WILL

I'm gonna head out. You should
stay if you're enjoying yourself.

CAROLINE

Just have some dinner.

Will eats. The music starts.

CUT TO:

Dale shows Caroline how to scroll through the karaoke song list on her laptop.

DALE
There are 45,000 songs to choose
from.

Will is observing -- he can see that Caroline is interested, and that Dale is warm towards her.

While one of the neighbors is singing, Will quietly brings his plate to the sink, and makes his way out the door.

In the yard, Blane and Dale are listening to the music. Will manages to get his thanks out.

WILL
I've seen how you look out for her.
Thank you.

Blane puts his hand on Will's shoulder, acknowledging Will's gratitude. Dale heads to the grill. Will slips away.

144 EXT. PORTER'S RV/YARD - DAY

144

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.

145 EXT. DALE'S YARD - DUSK 145

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

146 EXT. REMOTE RV - NIGHT 146

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.

147 INT. RV - MORNING

147

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)

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

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.

148 EXT. REMOTE RV - DAY 148

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.

149 EXT. WOODS - DAY 149

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.

150 EXT. WOODS - DAY 150

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.

151 EXT. WOODS - LATER

151

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.

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.

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

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

He had to go.

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