

STICKY NOTES

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. LARGE EASTERN CITY - DAY

Midday city-center skyline, adjacent ritzy high-rise condos, nearby swank neighborhoods.

A little farther out scattered far apart are upscale suburbia homes, one in particular.

INT. MARTIN'S SUBURB HOME - DAY

LIVING ROOM

A group gathers hastily and sits around a large coffee table: Martin, 48, successful businessman, in control; Sylvia, 42, Martin's wife, smart, opinionated; Marilyn, 45, Martin's single sister, edgy; Marilee, 21, Martin's college daughter, tech-smart, pretty; Steven, 17, Martin's son, high school senior, online gamer; Barry, 55, Martin's attorney.

MARTIN

As you know, we're here to read
dad's will. So...

MARILYN

(interrupting, snidely)
So what's there to will? Dad lived
in a dumpy old trailer in Boron
California, the middle of nowhere.

SYLVIA

Come on Marilyn. Let's just get
this over with, okay?

STEVEN

Yeah, I'm paused in the middle of a
game. And I'm winning.

Barry calms everyone down.

BARRY

This won't take long, please. I'll
read the will. It's very short.
Here goes.

Barry removes a sticky note from a single sheet of paper and reads Andrew's (Martin's dad's) will:

BARRY (CONT'D)

'To all my family and to whomever
it may concern.'

MARILEE

(smiles)

Sounds formal, like grandpa.

(beat)

Sorry.

BARRY

'I hereby give all my possessions,
material and financial, in
perpetuity, to Marilee Stout.'

Marilyn laughs and Marilee gasps, confused.

MARILEE

What?!

BARRY

It's signed by Andrew Stout and
witnesses, has his address, and was
notarized by an attorney in
Lancaster, California. Dated two
years ago.

(beat)

That's it. All legal.

MARTIN

Dad was always to the point.

Everyone looks at Marilee. Marilyn smiles to herself.

MARILEE

I don't understand.

SYLVIA

Everyone knows you were his
favorite grandkid.

MARILYN

(chuckles)

More like cursed. You get his
sleezy trailer and a beat up old
pickup truck. Congrats.

Barry removes a FEDEX pouch from his briefcase.

STEVEN

Can I leave now?

MARTIN

Hang on just a minute.

Barry takes a large envelope from the pouch and reads a
sticky note affixed to it.

BARRY

'Give this envelope to Marilee.'

Barry hands the envelope to Marilee.

She opens it and extracts a single sheet of paper with a sticky note attached. She reads it.

MARILEE

'My ashes are in an urn on the table in my home. Please spread them at the 10 locations listed.'

(examines the paper)

He was cremated? And wants me to spread his ashes all over these places... in California?

(beat)

I've never been there. Spread grandpa's ashes. Sounds awful. I don't know if I can...

Marilee looks up, waves the paper around, still confused.

Steven interrupts.

STEVEN

Can I go to my room now?

MARILYN

Ha! You're the designated stuckee. That's just like dad.

MARTIN

Leaves his kids nothing.

MARILYN

Cuz he has nothing to give.

SYLVIA

But an old trailer and worthless truck.

MARTIN

Where he killed mom.

(beat)

Middle of the desert.

MARILEE

That's not fair. They ran out of gas. Grandpa was walking for gas when a dozing semi driver hit their parked car.

(beat)

Not his fault.

MARTIN

But his priceless confession to me
at Grandma's funeral was, "I
could've got gas sooner."

(beat)

So why didn't he?

MARILYN

We'll never know. But he always did
try to make as few stops as
possible on road trips, like the
one we took with him to...

MARTIN

(interrupts)

Yeah, yeah, we know he was chintzy.
But he didn't have to take that
last retirement road trip.

(beat)

Take Grandma to where they met,
their old stomping grounds. Geez!

Barry raises his hands.

BARRY

Enough, please. Let's wrap this up,
okay?

(beat)

What else is in the envelope?

Marilee extracts a set of keys.

MARTIN

To his house, not even a double-
wide, his old truck, and whatever.
Probably.

And a wad of one hundred dollar bills.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Money for an airline ticket, car
rental, gas, trip food?

MARILEE

So you think I should go?

(beat)

Spread Grandpa's ashes? Now?

MARTIN

Why not? You're on summer break.
You've got a smart phone with GPS.

(beat)

Just go get it over with.

STEVEN
Now are we done?

SYLVIA
Yes, Steve. Go back to your game.

Steven leaves. On the way out, he teases Marilee by grabbing at the wad of money.

MARILEE
Hey!

She pulls back.

STEVEN
Just one hunny, okay?

MARTIN
Leave her alone Steven. She's got a big, expensive trip ahead.

Steven shakes his head, grins, and departs.

MARILYN
Good luck Marilee. You'll need it in that god-forsaken hole-in-the-wall blast furnace.

Merrilee finds one more small envelope in the pouch. She extracts it and reads aloud a sticky note attached to it.

MARILEE
'Do not open this until you arrive at my home.'
(looks in big envelope)
Hmm. That's all.

MARTIN
Geez, just open it now. Dad never explained why he stayed out there anyway, and now in death he's still a riddle. What next?

MARILEE
I won't open it. I'll follow his wishes.
(resolutely)
I'll go. Grandpa was good to me, so the least I can do is this one small thing... for him.
(BEAT)
Even if scattering his ashes doesn't sound very fun.

MARTIN

Whatever. Haven't talked to him in years. So go. Good luck. And be careful.

Sylvia reaches out and pats Marilee on her arm.

SYLVIA

You'll be okay, dear. I'll make flight arrangements and rent a car for you. Shouldn't take more than a week or so. Okay?

Marilee puts everything back in the pouch, rises, and departs to her room.

MARILEE

Thanks Mom. I'll go pack.

The rest remain seated. They stare at each other. Now what?

Marilyn shakes her head and laughs. She gets up and heads to another room.

MARILYN

I think dad lost his marbles.

MARTIN

Maybe so. But his crazy stories were always so special to Marilee. And she looked forward to them.

Barry gets up now, gathers his things to leave.

BARRY

Well, that was... interesting.

EXT. LAX - DAY

A passenger jet lands.

INT. AIRPORT RENTAL CARS - DAY

RENTAL CAR COUNTER

An agent hands Marilee a set of keys. She totes her suitcase away.

RENTAL CARS

She tosses her suitcase on the back seat and gets in a car.

INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY

Marilee turns on her phone and clicks the pre-entered Boron address. She places the phone so she can see it and starts the car. She hits ENTER on her phone's GPS and sees that the trip will take 2 hours.

EXT. CA HIGHWAYS - DAY

Montage: Marilee drives north through busy I-405 traffic, to I-5, exits on CA-14, passes Palmdale and Lancaster, exits on CA-58 at Mojave toward Boron, and takes the Boron Avenue exit.

EXT. MOBILE HOME PARK - DAY

LATE AFTERNOON

The rental car pulls into the Arabian Oasis trailer court and finds the correctly numbered space where a ratty mobile home with a dented old pickup is parked next to it.

Marilee totes a small suitcase with one hand and a ring of keys in the other. She climbs the few steps to the entry. She fumbles through keys at the front door. She's hot, tired, sweaty. Tries several keys. Finds the right one, unlocks the door and enters with her suitcase.

INT. ANDY'S TRAILER - DAY

The oven-like interior stifles her. It's very dim. She tries a light switch. An overhead fluorescent light hums and reveals a room littered with dozens, maybe hundreds of sticky notes stuck all over the room.

MARILEE

What the...?

She closes the door and finds the thermostat. Turns on AC. It's loud. From at single overhead vent, a blast of more hot air stifles her along with a tick-tick sound.

Several sticky notes fly around and float to the floor.

She sits at a cheap table and waits. And sweats. And stares at a brass urn resting in the middle of the table.

She fans herself with an empty envelope she finds on the table. Soon she welcomes a little cool air and picks up and reads a few hand-scrawled sticky notes stuck to the table.

STICKY NOTES

'Bologna - cheese slices - bread'
 and '8 - 58W MM200 +' and 'Buy S
 grad pres' and 'Mutt bath today'

Marilee smiles as a sticky note detaches from the overhead vent and lands on her head. She retrieves it and reads.

STICKY NOTES (CONT'D)

'Fix kitchen vent'

This time she laughs out loud.

A KNOCK at the door.

Marilee is startled. She gets up, goes to a window by the door, peers through a hole in foil taped to the glass, sees only a dog on a leash that stretches to a hand holding it. That's it.

MARILEE

Who's there?

BEN (O.C.)

Ben Adams. Andy's neighbor.

MARILEE

What do you want?

BEN (O.C.)

You must be Marilee, Andy's granddaughter, right?

MARILEE

Well, yes. So?

BEN (O.C.)

Andy wanted me to give you something.

MARILEE

Okay. Hang on.

Marilee cautiously opens the door and sees Ben, 65, scraggly and shy, in a T-shirt and cutoff jeans.

Next to him on the leash is a medium-sized mongrel dog.

The dog immediately pushes into the trailer, stretches the leash to its limit. Ben unhooks the leash.

The dog brushes past Marilee and sniffs and explores.

BEN

Sorry.

(beat)

Meet Mutt. Andy's best friend.

MARILEE

I guess you should come in too.

Mutt wanders and sniffs throughout the trailer while Ben enters and Marilee closes the door.

BEN

(to Mutt)

Andy's not here.

(beat)

Mutt, come.

Mutt slowly approaches Ben and a confused Marilee.

BEN (CONT'D)

Here's what I found. Next to Andy.

Ben hands Marilee a sticky note affixed to a printed list with a hand-written title she reads out loud.

MARILEE

'Instructions if I die.'

(reads the rest to
herself)

You did all this?

BEN

Yes mam.

MARILEE

You mailed that package to my dad?

Mutt, now next to Marilee, sniffs the note, then sniffs Marilee and lies down next to her. Close.

BEN

I did. Found Andy dead on the floor. Mutt lying next to him. The list on the table. Did what it said: Called cops, took care of Mutt, all the other stuff. Even got the urn from the mortuary and put it on the table like he wrote. Then waited. For you.

Marilee is speechless. She looks down at Mutt resting his head on her foot. She looks into Ben's eyes.

What to say or do.

MARILEE

I, I don't know what to say. One big thank you just doesn't seem like enough.

(beat)

Can I help reimburse you for...

She grabs her purse.

BEN

(interrupts)

Not necessary. Andy also left enough money with that note to cover mailing costs, pay bills to keep the utilities on till you got here, even enough to buy food for Mutt. There's still a bag of it in the cupboard over there.

Marilee puts down her purse, exchanges a glance with Mutt, and thanks Ben. Again.

MARILEE

Thank you. For me and for grandpa. You must have been close.

BEN

Not really. He pretty much stayed to himself.

(beat)

And I don't get all these notes plastered everywhere. Maybe he was turning senile or something.

MARILEE

Dad thinks so. And that list of places he wants me to scatter his ashes makes me wonder too.

BEN

Yeah, I saw that and couldn't make heads or tails of a lot of it either.

(beat)

Maybe my daughter Tami can help. She's pretty smart. Been here a while. Teaches school but is off for the summer.

MARILEE

That would be nice, but I don't want to...

BEN

(interrupting)

No problem. She'd probably enjoy it. Better than babysitting her ol' dad in this hell-hole.

MARILEE

Tami lives here too?

BEN

Yes. But I live with her.

(whispers)

She got divorced, took a job at a Boron junior high school last year, rented a trailer, and since I'm alone now, she invited me to stay with her. Two lonely souls lost in the world. Ha! Sounds like a good country song. Pretty sad though.

MARILEE

Pretty kind, I'd say.

BEN

Look, I'll ask her to stop by tomorrow morning. You can put your heads together to figure out where to go and what to do about the ashes. Maybe even these notes plastered all over have something to do with them. But who knows?

MARILEE

Yeah, I also have to clean this place up and get it ready to sell. And all these sticky notes have to come down. But I look forward to meeting Tami.

BEN

Okay then. I'll let her know. Gotta run. My goat needs feeding soon.

Ben turns to leave.

MARILEE

What about Mutt?

BEN

He's yours now. I already fed him today, so, well, good luck. Seems he likes you anyway.

(beat)

Oh.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

There's a bunch of TV dinners in the freezer. Some beverages in the fridge. Another task on Andy's list I took care of.

MARILEE

Again, thank you.

BEN

No biggie. Sleep well. You'll probably hear coyotes, trucks over on the highway, and jets from the base. You'll get used to them if you stay very long.

Ben hangs the leash on a nail by the door as he leaves.

MARILEE

Goodnight.

BEN

Later.

Mutt stands, watches Ben leave and then looks at Marilee. Mutt decides to stay. The door closes. Mutt heads to some blankets piled in a corner and lies down.

Marilee, still hot and sweaty, folds Ben's to-do list and puts it in the empty envelope she found on the table. She opens the freezer, sticks her head in, takes a deep breath, and exits with a TV dinner. Turkey and gravy, her favorite.

MARILEE

Nice. Grandpa remembered.

She puts the tv dinner in a small microwave oven and waits.

The air conditioner tick-ticks on. And on. And on.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - NIGHT

Montage: Night passes quickly. Trailer park lights go out. Semi-trucks motor by on the highway a half-mile away. Coyotes howl. Before sunrise, fighter jets zip overhead from the nearby airbase.

EXT. ANDY'S TRAILER - DAY

The sun is already baking Boron as a woman with a small cooler walks from an adjacent trailer to the front door of Andy's trailer.

INT. ANDY'S TRAILER - DAY

BEDROOM

A noisy rotating fan blows on a sheet-covered Marilee who lies on top of Andy's bed.

She tosses, rolls, and rips the sheet off.

She hears a KNOCK, KNOCK from the other end of the trailer. Marilee sits up. She looks wiped out.

MARILEE

(loudly)

Just a minute! I'm coming.

FRONT DOOR

Marilee, barefoot and dressed in a man's shirt and gym shorts, opens the door.

TAMI

Hello, Marilee? I'm Tami.

MARILEE

Oh, yeah. Hi. Sorry. I'm...

TAMI

I understand. Dad said you might need some help cleaning up, uh, handling, uh, figuring out. Whatever.

(beat)

Andy's stuff.

Marilee is still groggy from the trip, lack of sleep, and the heat.

MARILEE

Right. Well, I'm not...

Tami interrupts.

TAMI

I get it. But I did bring ice tea and a few things for breakfast.

Tami holds up the small cooler.

MARILEE

Sounds nice, but...

TAMI

Okay, while you get ready, I'll look through some of the stuff here. Like, dad said Andy left a list of places to sprinkle his ashes, right?

MARILEE

He did. It's in my suitcase.

TAMI

I can look it over and figure out some kind of route we can take to do that. Deal?

MARILEE

We?

TAMI

Sure. You need help. I'm free. You don't know the area. I do. And I'm happy to do it.

(beat)

Andy was very kind to dad and me. That's the least I can do to pay him back: Like, pay it forward.

MARILEE

Okay, but...

TAMI

Just go get ready for the day. Bring me that list. I'll wait.

Marilee opens the door wider.

MAIN ROOM

MARILEE

Well, wait in here then.

TAMI

Thanks.

Tami enters. Marilee starts toward the bedroom. Mutt comes to Tami.

MARILEE

Have a seat. I'll be back in a minute. Ice tea sounds nice too. Thanks.

TAMI

What's with all these sticky notes?

MARILEE

Beats me. Crazy huh.

TAMI

Wow! You're telling me.

Marilee disappears as Tami sits in a cloud of sticky notes. Mutt licks Tami's hand. She picks up a few sticky notes and examines them.

Marilee returns with the big envelope, extracts the list, puts the envelope on the table, and hands the list to Tami.

TAMI (CONT'D)

Thanks. I'll check it out.

LATER

Marilee and Tami sit at the table, drink ice tea, and eat store-bought muffins. They fiddle with a pile of sticky notes. The list and big envelope are buried under them.

MARILEE

You make sense of any of these sticky notes?

Marilee shakes her head and raises her hands.

TAMI

Sort of. Look.
(shows Marilee some notes)
These are just reminders. To-do stuff. See?

Tami aligns and reads a few notes on the table:

TAMI (CONT'D)

'Water cactus. Buy dog food. Wash sheets.'

(beat)

Others look like notes from a book, like Andy was reading something and wanted to remember the plot. As if he was back in school.

(shows Marilee)

Here, look at these: 'Start with past indiscretions. Mother's first love. What is dog's name? Where's the vacation?'

MARILEE

Should we toss the to-do notes. And keep the others?

TAMI
Definitely.

Marilee drags a garbage can from near the fridge. She chucks in a few sticky notes. Mutt investigates.

TAMI (CONT'D)
A good idea.
(beat)
Here's some more: 'Stop newspaper.
Change oil in truck. Buy present
for Marilee.'
(beat)
Ha! My birthday was two weeks ago.

Tami slips that one in a pocket. She gets up and retrieves more sticky notes from the cabinets and fridge and puts them on the table by Marilee, some by herself.

Marilee goes through them and lifts one that's familiar.

MARILEE
This one's strange. Found it last night. It has a few numbers: '8 - 58W MM200.' And a cross. I wonder what that means.

TAMI
Save it. I bet there's a reason for it. Some kind of code maybe.
(beat)
Here's another: '6 - Rosamond Park'.

MARILEE
Okay, let's stack the numbered ones together.

She places the numbered ones aside.

They continue to gather sticky notes from around the main area. They sort them and sip ice tea. In silence, mostly.

Mutt occasionally comes over and puts his head on Marilee's lap. She pets him and then he goes back to his dog bed. Shortly, he sits by the door and stares at Tami.

TAMI
Uh, I think someone needs to go... out.

She gestures toward Mutt.

TAMI (CONT'D)

There's a leash on a nail by the door.

(beat)

I've walked Mutt for Andy when he was feeling sick and my Dad was, well, wasted. You wanna do it?

Marilee gets up.

MARILEE

Sure. Ben put the leash there last night. I'll handle it.

TAMI

Follow Mutt. He knows where to go.

EXT. ANDY'S TRAILER - DAY

Mid-morning, already hot, Marilee walks Mutt out in the desert by the trailer park. Mutt pulls her along to a spot where she lets him off-leash to do his duty.

She surveys the area's bleakness, wipes her brow, and scans the sky as a few jets from the air base zip by overhead.

Later she reenters the trailer park with Mutt back on-leash and encounters Ben.

BEN

I see you've found the local doggy dump area.

MARILEE

Actually, Mutt led me there. Seems to know where to go. So to speak.

Ben smiles and holds up two lottery tickets. They talk and walk.

BEN

Maybe I'll get lucky and find a way out of this furnace.

MARILEE

Don't blame you. Why does Boron exist? I mean, why would anyone choose to live here.

BEN

Work mainly. And it's cheap.

MARILEE

Work?

BEN

Yeah, besides the air base, the largest borax mine in the world and the largest solar power facility in the world are both near here.

They walk slowly toward their trailers. Mutt sniffs along.

MARILEE

Gee. You'd never know. How did Tami end up here?

BEN

Long story. Short version: My mother-in-law was originally from the area so Debbie, my wife, wanted to reconnect with family. So we moved to Lancaster. But...

Ben pauses, gets morose.

MARILEE

I don't mean to be nosey, but...?

BEN

That's okay. Debbie got cancer and passed just as Tami was in her last year of college.

(beat)

Medical bills were too much. Took my home, retirement, everything. Fortunately after Tami graduated, she got a job here, rented a mobile home, and I moved in with her. End of story.

They approach their mobile homes.

MARILEE

Wow. That's, well, that's so, so...

BEN

Sad? Unfortunate? Pitiful? Pick a word.

MARILEE

No. I mean you're actually blessed to have such a kind daughter.

BEN

I am. But I also learned why Andy was here. His wife was killed by a semi out on the highway. While he was walking back from Boron with gas. He watched it happen.

(beat)

At least I got to say goodbye.

Marilee puts an arm on Ben's shoulder.

MARILEE

And I'm glad you and Tami were here for grandpa. Thank you for all you've done for him.

At Andy's trailer, Mutt tugs at the leash to go inside as Tami opens the door and comes out. She holds a few sticky notes.

TAMI

Welcome back.

Marilee unhooks Mutt's leash. Mutt races inside.

BEN

You guys make any sense of Andy's notes yet?

TAMI

We're sorting through them now. A few are pretty obvious, 'fix fan, buy dog food,' you know, to-do list stuff. But others are strange, hard to decipher.

Ben is puzzled.

BEN

For example?

Tami sorts through a few notes in her hand and pulls one out.

TAMI

How about this:

(reads note)

'8 - 58W MM200.' And a cross. What is that?

MARILEE

Yeah, I saw that one when I first arrived.

Ben smiles.

BEN

That's easy. '58' is highway 58,
Used to run through town. Now it's
divided freeway. Bypasses Boron.
And 58W would be the west-headed
side of the divided highway.

MARILEE

And MM200?

BEN

MM means 'mile marker.' That one is
near here. Boron exit is 199.

TAMI

And the '8' at the beginning.

BEN

Maybe 'eighth.' Are there other
notes with numbers at the
beginning?

TAMI

I think so.

BEN

Well, line them up in order. See
what they might mean.

TAMI

Good idea.

MARILEE

What about the cross at the end?

BEN

I seen crosses along lots of
highways. Especially on old highway
58, the deadliest in the state,
they say.

(beat)

Usually where somebody died.

TAMI

Maybe where Andy's wife died?

BEN

Makes sense. It's near here. But
not old 58. It's not used much
anymore. Probably the new highway.

(beat)

Anything else you guys find.
Besides sticky notes?

MARILEE

Just a pile of unopened mail you put on the counter. But I did turn on his ancient computer last night to see if there were any clues. It looked like he only used it to write... maybe a story or something. But no internet connection.

TAMI

Makes solving our sticky note mystery more difficult.

MARILEE

Sticky notes and a wall calendar were all he used apparently.

(beat)

A baby Boomer's guide to life.

Ben chuckles and heads home.

BEN

I can relate to that. Never did get into computers or smart phones. But I'm smart enough to know that standing out in the sun in the desert ain't a good idea.

(waves goodbye)

So I'm going home. Good luck guys.

Marilee joins Tami in Andy's trailer.

INT. ANDY'S TRAILER - DAY

Marilee and Tami collect sticky notes in grocery sacks they find under the sink.

As they wander throughout the trailer (kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, second bedroom or study, hallway, walls, and wherever notes have fallen), they stuff sticky notes in their sacks.

When they meet up at the table and sit, they both are amazed at how full the sacks are. They can't help but laugh.

They pull sticky notes from their sacks one-by-one and put them in different piles, next to the urn. They talk.

MARILEE

I'm beginning to think dad was right: Grandpa was losing it.

TAMI

Maybe a little. But short-term memory loss is common as you age. My grandpa, dad's father, said after he retired, the only way he could make it through a single day was to set up routines, put things in a certain place, use pill boxes to know what day of the week it was, and so on.

They continue sorting sticky notes.

MARILEE

Sounds like O.C.D. but not a disorder. More like 'obsessive compulsive necessity.'

TAMI

I like that: O.C.N.

MARILEE

Well, all these sticky notes indicate that grandpa definitely had 'O.C.N.' Or 'O.C.D'.

They go through more sticky notes.

TAMI

Or both.

(beat)

Here's another note that begins with the number 7, followed by 'Married.'

MARILEE

So we have a six, seven, and eight. Hmm?

Marilee's face lights up.

TAMI

What is it?

MARILEE

I think I get it.

Marilee rifles through sticky notes on the table, finds the list under them, and holds it up.

TAMI

That's the list of where Andy wants his ashes spread, right?

MARILEE

Correct.

TAMI

I read it last night and it wasn't clear exactly where to spread ashes, just kind of a list of events.

Tami's face lights up as she re-reads the ashes list.

TAMI (CONT'D)

Number six says 'Promised again.'
(picks up a note)
Sticky note number six says
'Rosamond Park.'

MARILEE

See? The sticky notes relate to the places grandpa wants me to spread his ashes.

TAMI

Sixth is where they promised their love to each other.
(beat)
In the Rosamond Park.

MARILEE

Again?

TAMI

Not sure why it says 'again' but it could be where he gave her a ring.

MARILEE

Perhaps. And Andy's wish number seven says, 'Married' and the sticky note says what?

TAMI

'Wayside Chapel Rosamond.'

MARILEE

So those two are in Rosamond.

Tami picks up the number-eight note that Ben explained and reads it.

TAMI

'8 - 58W MM200 +'
(beat)
What's number eight on the ashes list? Can I call it that?

MARILEE

Sure.

(beat)

It says, 'Dotty died.'

TAMI

Ta-dah! I think we've solved one mystery. Numbered notes correspond to numbers on the...

(hesitates)

Ashes list?

MARILEE

That sounds a little disrespectful. Let's just call it 'Andy's Wishes.'

TAMI

I agree.

MARILEE

But I think you're right.

TAMI

Thank you.

MARILEE

Now we need to find all the other numbered sticky notes and link them to the ashes list.

(beat)

I mean, to 'Andy's Wishes.'

TAMI

Much better.

MARILEE

So we can properly distribute grandpa's ashes according to his wishes.

TAMI

I agree.

They search with increased vigilance through their sacks for numbered sticky notes.

MARILEE

(excitedly)

Here's number two! It says, 'Burger King.'

She waves the sticky note around. Tami picks up the wishes list and reads number two.

TAMI

'First Date.' That's kinda lame.
First date at Burger King.

MARILEE

But they were young and broke.

TAMI

That's true. Maybe there's a Burger
King in Rosamond. I know there's
one on base.

MARILEE

Well, set it aside and we'll check.

As they continue their search, Tami bumps the large envelope off the table and the small sealed envelope slides out, partially.

Tami picks up the big envelope and slides the little one back into the big one. She puts it on the table.

They continue to sort through sticky notes.

Suddenly, Marilee remembers something.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Oh my gosh!

TAMI

What?

MARILEE

I need to return the rental car.
They said I could drop it off in
Palmdale I think. Will you...

TAMI

Sure. I'll follow you.

MARILEE

Thanks. Take Andy's truck. If it'll
start.

EXT. RENTAL CAR AGENCY PALMDALE - DAY

Marilee exits the building, past her parked rental car to Andy's parked truck with Tami at the wheel, windows down.

Marilee gets in.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

MARILEE

Thanks for helping me return the rental.

TAMI

No problem. We needed a break anyway.

MARILEE

Do you still want to drive?

TAMI

Sure.

MARILEE

Good, thank you. I've never driven anything this big.

(beat)

Or this old.

TAMI

Now what? Back to Boron?

Marilee pauses, thinks. She lifts a backpack from the floor of the truck. She unzips it to reveal the urn and a folded paper. She pulls out the paper and unfolds it. Four sticky notes are stuck to it.

MARILEE

We talked about this before we left.

TAMI

You mean spreading some of Andy's ashes on the way back? Today?

MARILEE

Why not? We're here in Palmdale and we have this.

Marilee points to the urn.

TAMI

And we have numbers two, six, seven, and eight.

Marilee waves the paper around. A sticky note drops off.

MARILEE

Right here on Andy's wishes list.
(retrieves the stray note)

(MORE)

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Do we have to go in order, I mean wait until we find all ten, then go out to sprinkle ashes, starting with number one?

She sticks the note back on the list.

TAMI

I don't think Andy would mind.

MARILEE

Me neither. So maybe we should just go now. Okay?

A loud fighter jet from the base suddenly roars overhead. They duck, look at each other.

They both shudder and look around somewhat nervous.

TAMI

Uh, was that a...

(beat)

A sign?

MARILEE

Of course not.

(beat)

I think. Maybe. Who knows?

TAMI

Just a coincidence? There is an air base near here.

MARILEE

Right. Or a confirmation to do what we're talking about doing. I'm not sure. What do you think?

TAMI

Right now we have four places we can go. A few are on the way back, especially in Rosamond. You don't have forever to do this, So...

(BEAT)

Let's do a couple of them now. What are they again?

Marilee examines the list and reads.

MARILEE

Rosamond Park, Wayside Chapel
Rosamond, and maybe Burger King, if there's one in Rosamond. And
'Highway 58W Mile Marker 200'.

TAMI

And the associated sticky notes?

MARILEE

Promised again. Married. First date. And Dotty died.

TAMI

Two are in Rosamond, maybe three, and the other along the highway near Boron.

MARILEE

Where did that jet come from?

TAMI

The air force base, east of Rosamond and south of highway 58.
(beat)
Gotta be a sign.

MARILEE

More like a coincidence, but it is a little spooky.

Another jet roars overhead. They duck again, then look at each other, semi-confident, assured.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Okay. We have to do this. Now. What do you think?

TAMI

I agree.
(beat)
One-hundred percent.

EXT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

The pickup starts, pulls from the car rental lot onto the street, and motors down the road.

EXT. ROSAMOND - DAY

The pickup sits at 7-11 gas pumps on Rosamond boulevard. Marilee approaches from the store with a sack as Tami finishes pumping gas.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

They both get in and Tami starts the engine with the AC blowing full blast.

Marilee extracts slices of pizza and two sodas from the sack.

MARILEE

She told me how to get to the chapel. It's not far.

(beat)

And there's no Burger King here. The one we want must be on the base.

They take a bite and a few swigs of soda.

TAMI

We'll have to go on base later. Security is pretty tight, but I have a fellow teacher, a spouse of an officer, who can get us in as guests.

(bite)

I'll call her tomorrow.

MARILEE

And Rosamond Park is back on the other side of highway 14. We can go there on our way over to the highway 58 site near Boron.

EXT. WAYSIDE CHURCH - DAY

Andy's pickup pulls into the church mostly empty parking lot and stops.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Marilee and Tami finish off their pizza and sip sodas.

MARILEE

So how do we do this?

TAMI

You mean the ashes thing?

MARILEE

Yeah. I've never done this before.

TAMI

Me neither.

MARILEE

Lugging around the urn, opening it, and then dumping some of the ashes out somewhere seems a little awkward.

TAMI

And too public. So let's open the urn in here. Put some ashes in a bag or can. Then take the bag out and spread ashes around. Under trees or bushes. Maybe around the building.

MARILEE

Kinda stealthy-like, right?

TAMI

Right. Do we have a bag or can?

MARILEE

The sack we got from 7-11 has our trash in it.

TAMI

And the soda cans have tiny openings and some liquid still inside. Hmm?

They look around inside the truck for something they can use. Glove compartment, behind the seats, door pockets, under the seats.

Marilee finds an old baseball cap squished under her seat.

She retrieves it and reshapes it into a cup-shape and sees 'Best Grandpa' emblazoned across the front.

MARILEE

Ha! I gave this to grandpa for his birthday when I was 12.

(beat)

He still has it.

TAMI

How appropriate. And nice! I'll hold it while you open the urn and dump a few ashes into it. Okay?

Marilee hands the hat to Tami who keeps it upside-down. Then Marilee takes the top off the urn and tips it toward the cap. She pauses.

MARILEE

This is so strange. I'm going to pour grandpa into his own cap that I gave him ten years ago, in front of the church he was married in, in his old pickup truck.

(pause)

Should we say something, a prayer or eulogy or tribute? I mean, this is a kind of solemn occasion? Right?

TAMI

I guess we could. In the truck or when we actually dump the ashes in the spot? And do we say something ten times, each time we do this?

MARILEE

Probably not. Maybe we can do it for numbers one and ten.

TAMI

Or for the first time and the last?

MARILEE

This is the first time. So I'll say something.

TAMI

Now?

MARILEE

No. As we spread the ashes. Okay?

TAMI

Sounds good.

Marilee tips a small amount of ashes into the cap. There's small white dust cloud. Tami coughs, holds her breath.

Marilee replaces the lid on the urn and puts it in her backpack on the floor.

MARILEE

You okay?

TAMI

I've never seen cremated ashes before. Sorta looks like some kind of illegal drug.

MARILEE

I'd say it's more like 'dust to dust.'

(beat)

Whatever. It's Andy. So let's go. I'll come around and open your door.

EXT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Marilee gets out. Comes around and opens Tami's door. She hands the upside-down cap to Marilee and gets out. Marilee gently folds the upside down cap once for easier carrying. She notices dust on Tami's pants.

TAMI

What?

MARILEE

Uh, you've got Andy on your pants.

Tami looks down and vigorously brushes off the dust. Marilee sees dust leak from ventilations holes in the cap. The trickle of dust blows away in the light breeze.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Hurry, let's go to the sidewalk next to the church. To do our thing.

They close the door and quick-step toward the church as a small contrail cloud of dust follows them from the parking lot to the sidewalk to the edge of the church.

When they arrive, they lean up against the structure.

TAMI

Any left?

MARILEE

Yes. Plenty. So here goes.

(announces)

In memory of your marriage, Grandpa. We love you.

As Marilee tips the cap over a small cloud of dust whips around them as ashes fall to the base of the structure.

A final dust cloud dissipates as Marilee taps the hat to make sure it's empty.

VOICE (O.C.)

Hey, what's going on there?

Startled, Marilee looks up and responds to a CHURCH LADY staring at them from near the sidewalk.

MARILEE

Oh, my hat blew away and we chased it. Over here. In the bushes.

Marilee puts the hat on. A little dust puffs onto her brow.

CHURCH LADY

Oh, okay. We've had vandals lurking about lately. Broke a window. Sorry to scare you. Best you be careful. And depart soon.

MARILEE

Thank you. I caught my hat so we can go now.

The church lady heads to her car. So do Marilee and Tami.

CHURCH LADY

God bless you, and stay safe.

MARILEE

You too.

Marilee takes off the hat and slaps it on her thigh. Another dust cloud.

EXT. ROSAMOND PARK - DAY

The pickup pulls into a parking slot at Rosamond park.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Engine still runs, AC is on, bright and hot still.

TAMI

'Promised again' here?

Marilee grimaces.

MARILEE

Ya gotta be kidding me.

TAMI

I really don't get this one.

MARILEE

Looks like there's some kind of picnic area over there.

Marilee points to the left.

MARILEE (CONT'D)
Drive over there.

EXT. ROSAMOND PARK - DAY

The pickup pulls out of the parking lot and around the corner and stops by a few covered picnic pavilions. It stops on the street nearby.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

TAMI
Maybe they had a picnic here.
(beat)
And look. There's some swings on
the playground over there.

MARILEE
I've had a few dates at parks.
Picnics. Swings. Actually they were
pretty fun, almost romantic.

TAMI
Bet they weren't in parks like this
one. Dry, blistering hot, dusty.

MARILEE
No, but maybe they came at night
and watched the sunset.

TAMI
Or the sunrise?

They look at each other with a knowing smile and slight giggle.

MARILEE
Anyway we're here where some kind
of promise was made. Again.
(beat)
And Grandpa wanted some of his
ashes spread here for whatever it
was.

TAMI
You wanna use his hat again?

Tami picks up the hat from the seat between them.

MARILEE

Don't think so. Been there; done that.

(ponders)

There's no one in the park. Let's just carry the urn over by the swings and dump some ashes nearby.

TAMI

Deal.

Marilee retrieves the urn from the floor and gets out. Tami gets out too.

EXT. ROSAMOND PARK - DAY

They trek toward the swings. Marilee totes the urn in both arms.

Half way there a station wagon pulls up behind the truck. It parks and three kids pile out and race toward the swings.

Everybody arrives at the swing set at the same time. The kids mount the swings. The oldest points at Marilee.

OLDEST KID

What's in the can, lady?

Taken aback, Marilee stutters a reply.

MARILEE

Uh, it's... uh... well...

Tami saves her.

TAMI

Special fertilizer. To help the trees and bushes grow.

OLDEST KID

Good idea. This place is dying up. That could help.

The kids start to swing. A voice from the wagon's rolled down window yells out.

MOTHER

Only five minutes. It's way too hot for more.

OLDEST KID

(yells back)
Okay mom.

Tami and Marilee turn toward the picnic tables and trees.

OLDEST KID (CONT'D)
That's nice.

MARILEE
What?

OLDEST KID
Feeding the trees. Good for you..

MARILEE
Thank you. Have fun.
(beat)
Do what your mom says. It is way
hot.

Marilee and Tami traipse off.

They arrive at a picnic table under a big tree and Marilee places the urn on a table. They sit.

Later, they watch the kids get in the wagon.

Then they survey their surroundings. No one else is around.

The wagon drives off. Marilee removes the lid of the urn.

TAMI
Here?

MARILEE
Sure. In the grass over under a
tree.
(gets up)
Kinda nice. Grandpa resting under a
tree near where he promised
something...
(beat)
Again.

TAMI
To someone. Probably.

They leave the lid on the table and saunter over to a nearby tree.

Marilee tips the urn.

TAMI (CONT'D)
Wait! Aren't you going to say
something?

MARILEE

But I just did. At the church.

TAMI

But a promise was made here. That's a pretty important thing.

MARILEE

You're right. I think I'll say something at each place.

TAMI

That would be appropriate.

Marilee pauses, thinks, before spreading ashes.

MARILEE

As you requested, Grandpa, we leave a portion of you in this location because here, you promised...

TAMI

Again.

MARILEE

Right. Again, something that we hope brought you great happiness and joy.

TAMI

Very nice.

Marilee slowly tips the urn. A little dust trickles out at first. She looks at Tami.

MARILEE

Not very much.

TAMI

Go for it.

Marilee tips it more and a large clump falls to the grass. It leaves what looks like a tiny ant hill. She uprights the urn.

MARILEE

Oops.

Marilee looks guilty and spontaneously swishes and spreads the ash pile around with her shoe.

A small dust cloud forms as the pile melds into the grass or blows away and disappears.

MARILEE (CONT'D)
Okay, let's go.

Tami grabs the lid and puts it on the urn held by Marilee. They both march directly to the truck. Each step leaves a puff of dust from Marilee's shoe.

The truck does a U-turn and heads off back toward the main highway.

EXT. HIGHWAY 58 - DAY

Andy's truck barrels east, the sun behind it.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Tami drives. Marilee scans the road as they pass Boron.

MARILEE
This doesn't seem right. A divided highway?

TAMI
When did your grandma die?

MARILEE
About five years ago. I think.

TAMI
Could the accident have occurred on the Old Highway 58?

MARILEE
Maybe. What's up ahead?

TAMI
Kramer Junction. A north-south, east-west gas stop, mainly for truckers.

MARILEE
Let's stop there, ask questions. Then head back.

TAMI
On Highway 58, like dad said.

MARILEE
You got it.

Through the windshield they see in front of them a formation jets climb to the north in the sky.

They glance at each other, smile, and nod.

TAMI
Your Grandpa signals us again.

MARILEE
I don't doubt it. Drive on!

EXT. HIGHWAY 58

The pickup travels east on Highway 58 and takes the US395 Barstow-Bishop Exit 206.

It turns left, travels a bit and steers into a Chevron gas station.

Both Marilee and Tami get out and go inside.

INT. CHEVRON STATION - DAY

They approach a middle-aged man behind the counter.

MARILEE
Excuse me sir.

The man brightens up.

GAS STATION MAN
Sure. What can I do for you?

MARILEE
We're looking for information about an accident that occurred on Highway 58 about 5 years ago.

GAS STATION MAN
That's quite a while ago, but I lived around here then. Lemme see.
(thinks hard)
Only a few accidents have happened on the bypass since it opened in 2000. Old 58 was a deathtrap though. Hmm?
(ponders)
I can only remember one pretty terrible crash.

MARILEE
On the old highway?

GAS STATION MAN

Oh no, no. On the Boron bypass.
Hardly anyone drives the old
highway 58 anymore.

MARILEE

Do you remember anything about that
crash?

GAS STATION MAN

Sure. It made major news in local
papers. But I only learned about it
the next day from the night shift
here. I didn't work that night.
Some trucker apparently fell
asleep, drifted off the road and
hit a parked car that had run out
of gas. The car was a real mess.
Someone was killed, but the truck
driver was only bruised up. He went
to prison for vehicular homicide.

MARILEE

The person killed was my grandma.

GAS STATION MAN

Oh my gosh! I'm so sorry.

MARILEE

Me too. So it occurred on Highway
58, Boron Bypass?

GAS STATION MAN

Yup. Close to Boron.

MARILEE

Thanks. You've cleared up a lot of
information and helped me learn
more about what really happened.

Marilee and Tami start to leave.

GAS STATION MAN

I'm still sorry for your loss. You
guys be safe out there.

MARILEE

We will.

EXT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

The pickup begins to slow near the sign that announces the
Boron exit 199 sign, one mile ahead.

A righthand signal alerts traffic behind it that the pickup truck pulls off the road.

It parks near the sign and mile marker 200. Emergency flashers light up.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Tami and Marilee sit in silence. The pickup engine still runs. The AC cools the two ladies.

The pickup rocks from a blast of wind from a big semi that zips by.

A tear forms in Marilee's eyes and rolls down her cheeks. Tami notices, remains quiet, and puts her arm around Marilee.

MARILEE
Grandma died here.

Tami sniffles. Chokes up. Surveys the bleak desert.

Another semi blows by and the pickup rocks back and forth in a blast of dust.

TAMI
Look. Over there.

She points.

TAMI (CONT'D)
Just beyond this sign next to the next small one.

Through the windshield a small, broken cross sticks out of the desert floor.

MARILEE
We're at the right place.

TAMI
For sure.

Marilee hoists the urn from the floor. She hugs it. Smiles and sobs. Tami pulls her close.

Another semi blows by. The late afternoon sun reflects off the urn.

MARILEE
We need to get this over, okay?

Tami releases Marilee.

TAMI

I agree. I'll drive up by the cross.

Tami slowly navigates up the shoulder next to the smaller sign. She leaves the engine running to keep the truck cool.

They get out.

EXT. HIGHWAY 58 - DAY

Slowly they walk through low brush toward the cross, Marilee with the urn. Tami holds Marilee's arm.

They arrive at the cross and find a few faded fake flowers stuck in the ground nearby, some tipped over, others blown a little ways away.

Tami bends down, straightens the cross, and brushes dust from it. She sees faded but readable lettering: 'Dotty'.

Again, Marilee stifles a sob. Tami gives Marilee another hug.

TAMI

Can you say a few words?

Marilee coughs, clears her throat, and sniffs.

MARILEE

Sure. Here goes.

Tami reaches over and removes the urn's lid.

Marilee pauses again, then speaks with emotion.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Here, where your sweetheart died,
Grandpa, we place a portion of you,
as you requested. We rejoice that
you and Grandma are now reunited in
heaven.

(beat)

God bless your eternal rest with
each other.

This time Marilee kneels in the desert and carefully pours some of Grandpa's ashes around the cross. Another semi blasts by and blows a swirl of dust past them.

It also lifts a small cloud of Andy's white ashes into the sky just beyond the two ladies.

TAMI

Perfect. You're so good.

Marilee rises. Tami wraps her arm around Marilee again.

They stand in silence and stare at the cross and freshly deposited ashes.

As they do, a jet from the base powers overhead into a max-performance climb, straight up until it disappears.

Tami hugs Marilee tightly as they both stare skyward.

TAMI (CONT'D)

Andy's a pretty good choreographer,
wouldn't you say?

MARILEE

The best!

They walk back past the small sign. Tami reads the other side.

TAMI

'DO NOT ENTER - WRONG WAY'

MARILEE

Well, we did enter, but we did it
in the right way.

TAMI

Correct-a-mundo, Marilee.

Both smile as they get back in Andy's truck.

INT. ANDY'S TRAILER - NIGHT

The sun barely has set and it's still light.

Marilee sits alone at the table and eats a TV dinner.

Between bites she sorts sticky notes. She tosses some in the trash bucket next to her. Others she puts in piles.

When she finds a numbered note, she sticks on the Andy's Wishes paper with the others.

Mutt nudges Marilee and puts his head on her lap.

MARILEE

You're pretty bossy, Mutt. Wanna go
out again?

Mutt wags his tail.

MARILEE (CONT'D)
Out? You know that word?

Mutt gives a low woof.

MARILEE (CONT'D)
Okay, let's go.

Marilee gets up, grabs the leash, hooks it on Mutt's collar, and goes out.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - NIGHT

Marilee is silhouetted against a bright red and orange sky next to the doggy-dump field. Mutt sniffs around nearby. A voice startles her.

TAMI
Hello Marilee.

Marilee jerks.

TAMI (CONT'D)
Sorry for sneaking up on you.

Marilee exhales. Responds.

MARILEE
Phew! No problem. It's so quiet and peaceful here. And what a beautiful sunset.

TAMI
Yeah, we have those almost nightly.
(beat)
Along with trucks out on the highway.
(beat)
And don't forget jet noise. Especially when they're doing night training.
(beat)
But why did Andy move here?

Marilee ponders.

MARILEE
From what we've learned so far, he was here because this is where he met grandma. And where she died.

TAMI

Kind of a Mecca for him.

MARILEE

Speaking of which, I found a few more numbers to link to Andy's Wishes.

TAMI

That's great! Which ones?

MARILEE

Well, we already have two, six, seven and eight, and we went to six seven and eight yesterday. Now I have one, three, four and five.

TAMI

Just nine and ten left, right?

MARILEE

Yup. I think the new ones are all on base.

TAMI

So I'll have to call my friend, a fellow teacher whose spouse is a pilot. They live on base and should be able to get us in so we can cover those four new ones you found.

Mutt returns to Marilee and she attaches the leash.

MARILEE

Are they that picky about getting on base?

TAMI

Yeah. Ever since nine-eleven that's the way it's been, just like the security checkpoints for getting on an airplane. I think we're all getting so used to it we forget why it's that way.

MARILEE

I agree. It seems normal now. And I guess military installations are probably even more strict.

(beat)

I was a kid when that awful event occurred. I remember my parents were so upset. Stunned really.

(MORE)

MARILEE (CONT'D)

I was at school. I think my teachers didn't say much for fear of frightening us.

Mutt tugs at the leash.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

I think someone wants to go home.

Mutt tugs harder.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

I'll go through a few more sticky notes tonight. Then... are you free tomorrow?

TAMI

Sure. I'll call my friend, see if she's home and can be our 'escort' tomorrow.

MARILEE

Escort?

TAMI

We'll have to at least stop by and see her. Maybe she can even give us a hint about where we need to go. But I don't think we need to tell her we're spreading ashes around the base.

(beat)

Just visiting Andy's old haunts.

MARILEE

A good way to put it.

Mutt holds the leash in his mouth and tugs again.

TAMI

Good.

They walk toward their homes.

TAMI (CONT'D)

When I come by tomorrow (about nine?), I'll let you know if everything is okay to go on base.

TAMI (CONT'D)

Okay. I'm going to start cleaning and organizing stuff so I can figure out what to do with Grandpa's trailer.

TAMI (CONT'D)

It might be a rental. I'll bring you the info on the trailer court's owner and manager. If it's a rental, all you'll have to do is clean it out and cancel or transfer utilities to the next occupant.

(beat)

Not hard. Just busy work.

They continue their walk back.

MARILEE

Crazy how much is involved in handling affairs after someone dies.

TAMI

Maybe I was lucky to be away at school when mom died. I just came back for her funeral then raced back to school. Dad handled all the details.

MARILEE

Must have been hard.

TAMI

It was. It broke him. Financially. Psychologically. Physically. When I graduated and got a job here, he was at the end of his rope. Lost everything.

MARILEE

And you rescued him. You were his angel.

TAMI

I don't know about that, but we get along. Not sure what's next for either of us. But we're survivors.

A silence between them. They walk on and arrive near their trailers in the dusk. They hug and bid good night. Each goes to their trailers and close doors on the evening.

INT. ANDY'S TRAILER - DAY

The microwave beeps and Marilee takes out a breakfast sandwich and heads to the table.

A knock at the door. Marilee puts down her breakfast, answers the door, and invites Tami in.

TAMI

Good morning.

MARILEE

Hi, come in. Want me to heat up one of these frozen sandwiches for you?

TAMI

No thanks. But I brought this.

Tami hold up a bottle of apple juice.

MARILEE

Looks good. I'll get glasses.

Marilee checks cupboards and finds a few unmatched cups, takes them to the table.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Please sit down. What did you find out? Can we get on base today?

Tami sits. Marilee pours juice.

TAMI

Yes, Louise, my friend, can get us on base, but she's packing up for a vacation and leaves around lunch time. So we need to be at the main gate no later than eleven or so.

MARILEE

Does she have to be with us the whole time?

TAMI

No. Once we're on base, we're pretty much on our own. But we do need to stop by her house so she can legitimately say we visited her as guests. Even for a few minutes.

MARILEE

Honest dishonesty, sort of.

TAMI

Not really. I told her what we were doing, that your grandpa had died and I was showing you around to places that were special to him.

MARILEE

And that's the truth.

(beat)

Very good. And here are the four I found.

TAMI

Oh good.

Marilee munches her sandwich. They both drink juice.

MARILEE

Number one on the Andy's Wishes list is 'First met.' Sticky note number one says, 'Base chapel.'

TAMI

So Andy met your grandma at the base chapel.

(beat)

I know my way around the base a little bit but we can get a map at the visitors' center. To guide us around to wherever we need to go.

They continue eating.

MARILEE

Number two we already know is 'Burger King' and 'First date.' And it wasn't in Rosamond.

TAMI

I asked dad. He knows for sure there's still a Burger King on base. He's been there before with a retired buddy who lives here in Boron and uses the base hospital for medications. Dad accompanied him once to buy over-the-counter meds at the base exchange.

MARILEE

Base exchange?

TAMI

It's like a mid-sized-Super-Walmart for military people living on-base or nearby.

(beat)

So we need to go to the base chapel and the on-base Burger King. What's number three?

MARILEE
It's 'Engagement.'

TAMI
That's sweet. Where?

MARILEE
It says 'B-52.'

TAMI
What?

MARILEE
Capital 'B' and 'fifty-two.' What's that?

TAMI
Well, a B-52 is a bomber.

MARILEE
Getting engaged in a bomber?

TAMI
Probably not a B-52 bomber on the flightline. That's a very restricted area.
(beat)
Maybe at the museum? I know there's a museum on base right after the main entrance on Rosemond Boulevard. Maybe there's a B-52 there.

MARILEE
Well, that's kind of weird. But okay. Grandpa was strange at times.

Marilee munches her sandwich. Drinks more apple juice too.

TAMI
And the next one, four, right?

MARILEE
Yes. Four says 'Last Goodbye.'
Sticky note number 4 says 'Muroc 9 green.' What's that?

TAMI
It's the on-base golf course.
Muroc. The ninth green maybe.
(beat)
Dad played there a few times with his friend.

MARILEE

Again kinda weird.

TAMI

Not really. Golf courses in the desert are actually quite romantic, especially at night with the Milky Way high overhead, no light pollution, a cool breeze, no people around.

MARILEE

That sounds like a perfect location for a last goodbye of an engaged couple. But why last?

TAMI

Yeah. It's like that 'promised again' spot.

(beat)

But we can't go on the golf course during the day. It's got to be at night. When no one is playing golf and it's not as hot.

Marilee finishes her sandwich. Both finish their juice.

MARILEE

We may have to stay over after dark - to sneak onto the golf course. Is that okay with Louise?

TAMI

She'll never know, as long as we don't get in trouble.

(beat)

So you've mentioned one, two, three and four. What's number five?

MARILEE

Number five is another strange one: 'Second love' at 'Mary's Place.' What's that?

TAMI

I'm not sure. We'll have to ask Louise when we get on base. Whether it's there or some place else. She should know.

MARILEE

Well, it sounds like we have our work cut out for us today.

TAMI

You better believe it. So, let's leave in about an hour, drive over to the main entrance on Rosamond Boulevard for a visitor's pass, and to the museum on the way to Louise's house. After that we can play it by ear. Okay?

MARILEE

I like it.

TAMI

I'll go get us drink bottles. You always need water here in the desert. I'll see you in a while. Okay?

Tami gets up to leave.

MARILEE

Thank you again. I could never have done this without you. You're a lifesaver!

TAMI

No biggie. I'm happy to help.

There's a warm goodbye and Marilee sighs and folds up the Andy's wishes list with all the sticky notes still stuck in place. She stares at the urn on the table.

MARILEE

We'll get this done for you Grandpa. Just watch.

EXT. ROSAMOND BLVD - DAY

Andy's pickup heads east on the dreary desert road toward Edwards Air Force Base. It slows at Century Circle, passes the display of jets and approaches the security police check station.

When the pickup stops, the driver's window lowers at a waiting security police officer.

SECURITY POLICE OFFICER

Your IDs please?

TAMI

Uh, do you want to see our drivers' licenses?

SECURITY POLICE OFFICER
No, your military or government
IDs.

TAMI
Oh. We don't work here. We just
want to visit the museum.
(beat)
See the B-52.

SECURITY POLICE OFFICER
There's no B-52 there.

TAMI
What?

SECURITY POLICE OFFICER
Yeah. There used to be one, but it
was removed years ago. There is one
over by the north gate.
(beat)
At least that's what I was told.

Tami shrugs, glances at Marilee, then at the officer. Marilee
speaks up.

MARILEE
Doesn't matter. We'd like to see
what's at the museum now. My
Grandpa used to be stationed here.

SECURITY POLICE OFFICER
That's nice. Who's your sponsor?

TAMI
Louise Goodrich. She lives on base.
Her husband is a test pilot.

SECURITY POLICE OFFICER
Very good. Please pull ahead and go
into the visitor center to get a
pass.

TAMI
Got it. Will do.

Tami drives to the nearby visitors center and parks.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Marilee smiles as Tami drives onto the base.

EXT. EDWARDS MUSEUM - DAY

The pickup drives into the Flight Test Museum parking lot and parks.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Tami is ending a cell phone call.

TAMI

That's great, Louise. You have a safe trip.

Tami ends the call.

TAMI (CONT'D)

Louise says we don't need to stop by at all. And, 'Just stay out of trouble.'

(beat)

And she's about to leave anyway.

MARILEE

Okay. So we can take care of Andy's wishes on our own?

TAMI

As long as we don't do anything stupid.

(beat)

But we'll have to be kinda stealthy with our tasks.

MARILEE

Yeah, that might be a little strange.

TAMI

So let's check this out first. Since there's no B-52 here, I don't know what we should do.

INT. FLIGHT TEST MUSEUM - DAY

Marilee and Tami enter and approach an elderly man who polishes a display. He sees them and smiles.

SERGEANT DAVIS

Howdy folks. I'm Bob Davis, retired Air Force Master Sergeant. Welcome to the Flight Test Museum. First time here?

TAMI

Yes. Hi, I'm Tami. I live in Boron and this is my friend Marilee. She's visiting from Boston.

SERGEANT DAVIS

Pleased to meet you. Boston, eh? What brings you all the way to Edwards? Beside visiting Tami.

MARILEE

My grandpa was stationed here many years ago. He died recently and I'm interested in his life story, especially the early years. He met his wife on base, so we're just retracing his steps.

SERGEANT DAVIS

Good for you. Not many of today's youngsters care much about us senior citizens. They're hypnotized by their gadgets. Always looking down.

(beat)

You know we had a family in here last week. They had two teenagers who didn't read one display or look at any of the historical artifacts, just stared at their smart phones and...

MARILEE

(interrupts)

I get it. So frustrating. And rude.

SERGEANT DAVIS

That's right.

MARILEE

But we were wondering. Is there's a B-52 here? Or ever was one?

SERGEANT DAVIS

Funny you should ask. A guy came in here a few years ago, said when they lived on-base back in the late eighties his son told him he used to break into the officers club, steal liquor, and sneak over here into the B-52 to drink with his friends. Of course, the dad didn't learn about it until decades later.

Davis chuckles. Marilee and Tami feign interest.

TAMI

Crazy story. But is that B-52 still here? At this museum?

SERGEANT DAVIS

That one? Heck no. It was hauled away years ago. Probably chopped up into scrap metal.

(beat)

But we have a B-52B over by the north gate. On the way out to Boron in fact. But it flew until 2004. It was the mother-ship for the X-15 and other test aircraft. Probably not the one you're looking for.

TAMI

No, I don't think so.

SERGEANT DAVIS

I think we have a few leftover parts from that old B-52 over by the parts storage area north of this building. I have to stay put in here, so I can't escort you there, but you're welcome to look around if you want.

MARILEE

We might do that. Anything in particular we might find over there?

SERGEANT DAVIS

Possibly a wing takeoff support wheel. Maybe even an aileron or a Bombay door. I dunno for sure.

Marilee and Tami head for the exit.

MARILEE

Thank you. We'll be outside looking around.

SERGEANT DAVIS

Lots of great aircraft out there too.

(beat)

Be careful. Might be snakes about in this heat.

EXT. FLIGHT TEST MUSEUM - DAY

Marilee and Tami walk slowly, maybe gingerly - they look for snakes - toward a pile of junk by a building just north.

As they walk they talk.

MARILEE

Is this right? Grandpa wants us to put ashes in or by or around a bomber that isn't even here?

TAMI

That doesn't matter. The fact that we're at the approximate location where he got engaged is what's important.

MARILEE

I suppose so.

(beat)

Maybe what school kids used to do, grandpa and grandma did.

TAMI

You mean steal boos and hide in an old bomber to get drunk?

MARILEE

No silly. Just the thrill of sneaking some place they weren't supposed to be so they could be alone. Unbothered. For a special event.

They arrive at a junk pile and stop.

TAMI

This isn't very special.

MARILEE

Not at all.

Tami spots a large snake sunning itself on the sand nearby.

TAMI

Uh, back up please.

MARILEE

Why?

TAMI

Slowly.

Tami points to the snake.

MARILEE

Oh my gosh!

They back-track and quick-step it back to the parking lot.

They lean on the pickup. What to do.

TAMI

Though the B-52 is gone this is the location where they got engaged.

MARILEE

Either in, under, or somewhere around that bomber. So you're right. We need to place some of grandpa's ashes here, even if the original plane is gone.

They look around and see no other visitors. They notice an entrance to the circle of aircraft displayed outside.

TAMI

Let's just drive slowly by those planes, pick one, get out with the urn, and do our thing. Okay?

MARILEE

Yup. Let's go.

LATER. The pickup parks at the end of the row of aircraft.

They get out. Marilee has the urn. They walk slowly, no snakes, to the north side of an F-111. They stop and look around.

TAMI

This is good. Can't see us from the museum building. Not visible from the road.

Marilee squats, places the urn on the ground, and removes the lid and hands it to Tami. She carries the urn over to the side of the F-111, near its wheel-well. Tami follows.

Marilee bows her head, thinks.

MARILEE

Sorry Grandpa. The B-52 isn't here anymore. But we've picked this pretty cool jet to take its place.

(MORE)

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Hope you don't mind, cuz we know
this is where you got engaged to
Grandma. So it's special ground.

Marilee tips the urn near the aircraft wheels and deposits a
portion of ashes on the ground. Some ashes float away in a
soft breeze.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Rest in peace. I love you.

A fighter jet takes off to the west and roars overhead.

TAMI

Good timing, Andy. Again.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Through the windshield base facilities grow closer. Marilee
and Tami are quiet for a while.

TAMI

Watch for Popson Avenue, That's
where we turn right.

MARILEE

Good thing Louise told you that
Mary's Place closes after lunch
time.

TAMI

We should be there in time for
lunch.

(beat)

There's Popson.

(beat)

And our assignment.

EXT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

The pickup turns right. It heads toward the flightline.

Popson Avenue ends at Yeager Boulevard and they turn right
again.

Soon Mary's Place appears on the left. They find a place to
park across the street.

Marilee and Tami approach the front door, without the urn,
and enter.

INT. MARY'S PLACE - DAY

They sit at a table with lunch in front of them. They eat burgers and drink sodas.

MARILEE

This is going to be very difficult.
How on earth are we supposed to
leave Andy's ashes in here?

Between bites and sips they discuss what to do.

TAMI

What was on Andy's Wishes for this
location?

MARILEE

Another mystery: 'Second love.'

TAMI

Kinda like 'Promised again,' right?

Marilee nods, inhales more lunch, chews, sips, and shakes her head.

MARILEE

(swallows)

Yeah, I'm way confused. It's like
Grandpa screwed up his love-life
and had to do it twice to get it
right.

TAMI

Maybe he did.

MARILEE

Well, unless we discover more
clues, we'll just have to remain in
the dark.

TAMI

Especially about how to leave ashes
at Mary's Place. We can't dump them
in here.

MARILEE

And they close in thirty minutes.

They continue to eat lunch. Every now and then they gaze around the establishment as if a light will come on to inspire them what to do.

EXT. MARY'S PLACE - DAY

LATER. As they exit and the door is locked behind them, they pause, look around, and stare at each other. Then they look at the polished, extremely clean sidewalk, and at other patrons going to their vehicles.

After several cars leave Marilee notices a two-sided curb with parking on both sides. She walks over to it and notices a crack between each side of the curb.

MARILEE

Look down. See the crack between the parking curb?

TAMI

I do. Am I thinking what you're thinking?

MARILEE

That's where Grandpa will rest. Since he can't go inside.

TAMI

To meet his second love?

MARILEE

That's the best we can do. Let's move the pickup over into one of these middle slots.

(beat)

Will you do that while I examine the curb for an appropriate place to place Andy's ashes?

TAMI

Sure.

Tami walks to the pickup while Marilee walks down the double curb and looks down for the best place to place a bit of Andy's ashes.

When she finds a crack along the curb, she signals Tami to park next to it.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

The engine is on and AC runs. Marilee pours a small amount of ashes into the lid of the urn that Tami holds. AC vents blow a tiny cloud of white dust. They notice but ignore it.

Marilee carefully puts the open urn down on the floor and packs a few items around it so it won't turn over.

TAMI

Here's your next task.

She hands the ashes-filled lid to Marilee.

TAMI (CONT'D)

You gonna say something now, before we do the deed?

TAMI (CONT'D)

That's a good idea. There's still traffic around, and we may have to wait to 'do the deed' as you called it.

(beat)

But not too long. It's hot.

It's quiet between them. Marilee speaks as she bows her head and looks at the ashes in the lid in her lap.

MARILEE

Grandpa, we're not sure what 'second love' is all about, but we're here at Mary's Place where they serve pretty good hamburgers. The restaurant and sidewalk are too clean and it's way too busy to leave your ashes inside or in front. So we'll put some by the parking lot where, no doubt, you probably parked with or met or kissed your 'second love.' I'm sure you understand. As I've always said, we love you and miss you.

She looks up and then at Tami, whose eyes are moist.

TAMI

You're so good. You must have been close to Andy.

MARILEE

I was. When I was a lot younger, whenever he visited, he invented wonderful stories. They had a positive effect on me and helped me deal with family stresses. Which were often.

Tami taps Marilee's shoulder.

TAMI

We all have challenges.

MARILEE

Not everyone has a dysfunctional family like mine. I'm surprised we still talk to each other.

TAMI

But you seem pretty grounded.

MARILEE

Grandpa had a lot to do with it.

(beat)

I really miss him.

(beat)

And grandma too.

EXT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

The pickup rests alone in the Mary's Place parking lot.

The two women eventually get out and mosey to the front of the pickup near the parking curb. Marilee carefully carries a small cup-shaped item.

They pause and Marilee bends down as if looking for something on the ground while Tami stands guard.

Marilee taps ashes from the urn lid into several cracks along the curb. A little dust puffs up.

Then she stands and reverently stares down at her deposit. As a final gesture, Marilee stretches out her arm, turns the urn lid over and taps out a tiny bit of ashes. Down-wind of course. A white puff sails toward and over Mary's Place

Sheepishly, she and Tami go back to the pickup and get in.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Marilee fastens the lid on the urn.

TAMI

What next?

Marilee pulls out the Andy's Wishes list with sticky notes affixed up and down. She peruses it; still holds the urn.

MARILEE

Before coming on base, we did six, seven, and eight: Promised Again, Married, and Dotty Died.

(beat)

(MORE)

MARILEE (CONT'D)

So far on base we've done three and five: Engagement and Second Love.

(beat)

We have three more here on base: one, First Met - base chapel; two, First Date - Burger King; and four, Last Goodbye - Muroc golf course, ninth green.

TAMI

The base chapel and Burger King should be easy. I think. But sneaking onto the golf course not so much, especially during the day.

MARILEE

And in this heat.

(thinks)

Should we go to the chapel first. Then hit Burger King, for an Andy's ashes sprinkle. Somewhere, somehow?

TAMI

And a soda?

MARILEE

Then home?

TAMI

Good plan. But there's a catch.

MARILEE

Why? We can just come back later. At night.

TAMI

Think about it.

(beat)

Louise will be out of town for a week.

MARILEE

Oh. Right. Don't you have other on-base friends you can contact.

TAMI

No one that close that I'd consider using, just to get on base.

MARILEE

So we gotta stay on base until dark.

TAMI

We do.

MARILEE

Later when we get back, I'll keep hunting for sticky notes of the last two clues for...

(reviews list)

Let's see... '9. A. Strong'... this one will be very interesting. And '10. Dotty Rests'... perhaps grandma's grave?

TAMI

Probably. I can help again when we return.

MARILEE

That would be nice. I found more notes in the bedroom office, a few behind the desk, others suck on the back of the door, and several that had fallen off on the floor. But I haven't gone through them yet.

Marilee Stares out the side window. She pats the urn. Impatience grips her. Tami rests her hand on Marilee's arm.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Why did you make it so hard, Grandpa?

Tami attempts an answer.

TAMI

You said he was a complex man, right Marilee? You've experienced that personally.

(beat)

What was the most important thing he taught you. Something you learned from him that still sticks with you.

MARILEE

You mean like all those sticky notes?

They both laugh.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Well, mostly he showed me through his actions that no matter what, you're never done until the vision of what you started with is realized.

TAMI

Woh. That's heavy.

(beat)

But I teach that too, Sort of. I call it 'stick-to-it-tive-ness.'

Marilee looks down at the Andy's Ashes list and its many sticky notes.

She looks up at Tami, smiles, looks down again, removes one sticky note, and sticks it on her own forehead.

Tami reads it out loud.

TAMI (CONT'D)

'Base Chapel.'

(beat)

Our next stop?

MARILEE

Yes. We're going to stick to this project till it's done. Got it?

TAMI

(big smile)

Yes mam, definitely. I do get it!

A jet fighter on the nearby flightline roars suddenly and breaks the silence as Tami puts the pickup in gear and backs up.

Before Tami puts it in DRIVE, they smile and nod at each other. Marilee returns the note from her forehead to the Andy's Wishes list.

EXT. MARY'S PLACE - DAY

The pickup heads away. On the nearby flightline, a very loud jet also taxis away toward the runway.

EXT. BASE CHAPEL - DAY

Andy's pickup is parked alone in a lot across the street from the base chapel. The engine runs.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Marilee and Tami stare out the windshield at the chapel.

MARILEE

Looks like this is as close as we can park to the building.

TAMI

Lots of tree-cover over there, but too much traffic on the street.

MARILEE

Yeah, I prefer not walking across the street carrying the urn.

(beat)

Let's go over there first and check out things.

They exit the pickup.

EXT. BASE CHAPEL - DAY

They peer into a stain glass window in the front of the main chapel.

MARILEE

All locked up. No one there.

(beat)

Do we place ashes inside? You think that's what Andy would want?

TAMI

I don't know. Didn't it just say 'First met' and 'base chapel'? Could have been anyplace around here.

MARILEE

And look. Here's a sign that says 'Chapel One.' Maybe there's a chapel two.

TAMI

Or three.

MARILEE

But this one the sign says is called the 'Memorial Chapel.' That's what I want: Leave grandpa's ashes at the 'memorial chapel'. No matter what.

TAMI

So let's walk around more and see
if there's a closer place we can
park to make that happen.

They walk about more. They explore on sidewalks that wander
through trees to a different building and check its doors.
Locked.

Then they check the main chapel side doors; all locked. They
circle around the main chapel and see what appears to be a
loading dock or service entrance.

MARILEE

This is perfect. We can drive back
here, park, and find a close place
to leave ashes.

(beat)

Let's go back to the truck.

Marilee and Tami turn back toward the front of the building
and onto the main entrance sidewalk.

Halfway to the street a security police car pulls up and two
officers get out and approach them. One rests his hand on his
gun on his hip.

OFFICER 1

Can we help you ladies?

TAMI

No sir. We thought we might be able
to look inside this beautiful
building. But it seems closed.

OFFICER 1

Well, it is closed and someone
reported you wandering around,
looking in windows, trying doors.

(beat)

Can I see some ID please.

TAMI

They're in the car, but we're
guests of Louise Goodrich and
she...

Marilee interrupts.

MARILEE

She was busy, but said we could go
visit the chapel where my grandpa
met my grandma.

OFFICER 1

That's nice, but I'll have to talk to her.

Tami takes her cell phone from her hip pocket.

TAMI

I'll call Louise. We both teach at Boron Junior High School. Her husband's a test pilot.

Tami Starts to bring up Louise's number.

OFFICER 1

Benny Goodrich is Louise's husband?

TAMI

Yes. They're such a nice couple.

Tami continues to bring up Louise's number.

OFFICER 1

Could have fooled me. Major Goodrich is one of the strictest, straight-arrow pilots on base. Has a reputation for being a stickler for detail.

OFFICER 2

Even reports trash blowing around in base housing and troops riding bicycles on the wrong side of the road.

OFFICER 1

Look. You're fine, just be careful where you snoop around. If it's locked, walk away. Okay.

Tami puts away her phone.

TAMI

You got it. We understand. Thank you.

The officers return to their car and drive off as Tami and Marilee cross the street to the pickup.

LATER. Tami and Marilee walk back across the street. This time Marilee carries the upside-down urn lid in one hand and the other covering it carefully.

They take a few steps along the sidewalk in front of the chapel. They sit under a tree at the first bench they encounter. They look around.

TAMI (CONT'D)

I guess this will have to do.

MARILEE

It's fine. Better than being locked up or kicked off base.

Again they pause in the heat of the day and rare shade of the tree. Tami is nervous. Marilee is pensive. Then she speaks.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Well grandpa, here we are at the place where you met grandma. Dad says you were in the Air Force at the time, decades ago. We can't go inside the chapel, cuz it's locked. But I imagine it went something like this: You worship and sing. Maybe she's in the choir. Your eyes meet and your hearts pump and sparks fly. It's special. Rare.

(beat)

So we'll leave a portion of you at this spot to commemorate that occasion. So appropriate, to do this by the memorial chapel itself. We love you and miss you.

Marilee slides to the end of the bench, turns, and squats by a tree, near some bushes.

She empties ashes along the sidewalk, in the bushes, near the tree, and taps the urn lid upside-down on the grass. A small puff of ash hovers over the spot.

Marilee retakes her seat on the bench. Tami puts her arm around Marilee. They sit quietly in the shade, in the heat.

INT. ON-BASE BURGER KING - DAY

Marilee and Tami sit at an indoor table. Two sodas rest on the table. They face each other as a small crowd mingles about. Many leave. It's way past the normal lunch time.

TAMI

(quietly between sips)

So if this place was Andy's first date with Dotty, how we gonna... well, you know, do the deed?

MARILEE

I don't know. This doesn't seem like a proper place to be...

(beat)

Doing the deed, as you put it. Especially inside.

TAMI

Agreed.

Both drink and ponder.

MARILEE

There's some trees and bushes around the building and parking lot. Maybe we can put some ashes around them.

TAMI

Aren't ashes good fertilizer?

MARILEE

I think so. And I'm sure Grandpa would be happy knowing he'd be helping green up the desert.

TAMI

It's settled then.

They continue to sip, then get a refill.

When they finally get up, Marilee tosses her cup.

MARILEE

Save your cup. And grab a few napkins.

TAMI

Okay? But...

MARILEE

You'll see.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Tami wipes out her cup. Marilee takes napkins from Tami who now has a dried out cup.

MARILEE

Okay. Hold the cup steady please.

Tami grips the cup tightly and carefully with both hands as Marilee removes the top of the urn.

Marilee tilts the urn toward Tami's cup. Nothing happens. She taps it. Still nothing. She tilts it back and peers inside.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Looks like grandpa has clumped up.

TAMI

You gonna stick your hand in there to un-clump it?

MARILEE

I guess I could. Grandpa and I used to hold hands a lot when I was little.

TAMI

Not quite the same, but...

Marilee slowly sticks her hand in the urn.

MARILEE

Okay Grandpa. Here's my hand.

Marilee's hand is in the urn up to her wrist. She rotates her hand clockwise. She glances at Tami and smiles.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

It's kinda warm.

(beat)

But now it's loosened. Ready to pour.

Slowly she removes her hand from the urn. She stares at her powder-covered hand and holds it up.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Look. I'm holding hands with Grandpa.

Tami, moved almost to tears, holds out a hand toward Marilee.

Marilee puts her ash-covered hand in Tami's. Tami places her other hand on top of Marilee's hand.

TAMI

I can tell Andy is here. Somehow.

MARILEE

Me too.

A fighter jet takes off from over on the runway. Its seconds-long earth-shattering roar doesn't rattle the two ladies.

The jet's noise slowly dissipates. They look at each other, smile and nod.

EXT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

The two ladies stand beside each open front door of Andy's old pickup. They clap and rub their hands together. Faint white clouds of dust float away.

Next they are ensconced the bushes behind Burger King. Another white cloud forms there and dissipates in the breeze.

They emerge from their apparent hiding place and wave to a curious family in vehicle that motors through the fast food drive-thru lane.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - NIGHT

The sun has just set behind the Muroc Lake Golf Club House.

Andy's old pickup is parked away from the club house.

Marilee and Tami watch through the windshield and downed windows as several cars and golf carts pull away. Lights go out inside. The restaurant is closed.

MARILEE

Sorry about having to wait all day for this.

TAMI

No biggie. Dad just watches TV and eats frozen dinners. He can fend for himself.

MARILEE

Thanks for helping me. Seems like I'm almost done.

(beat)

Except for numbers nine and ten.

(beat)

Is it always this hot?

TAMI

Only from March through November.

MARILEE

Geez. I don't get it.

TAMI

You know the best part about living here?

MARILEE
December, January, and February?

TAMI
(laughs)
True. But the best part is
nighttime.
(beat)
Year-round.

They both sip sports drinks. They watch the last car leave the parking lot.

MARILEE
Almost time to do the last on-base
Andy's Wishes item.

TAMI
Before we do, I'd like to drive
around nearby to see if any
security police are lurking.

Tami starts the engine.

MARILEE
Not quite dark yet anyway. Good
idea.

EXT. MUROC GOLF COURSE - NIGHT

Andy's truck circles the parking lot and leaves the golf club area.

It follows the Doolittle parkway left past Club Murdoc onto Chamberlin Loop past Chapel two then back onto Doolittle parkway.

They pass High Desert Inn, turn left onto Crossfield Drive back toward the golf club, and park as hidden and discretely as they can, lights out.

Marilee and Tami get out. Marilee carries the urn. They walk toward the green to the northwest. The moon and stars light their way.

TAMI
From our earlier scouting, the
ninth green should be just past
these trees.
(beat)
Let's go around the paved cart
path.

They emerge on a carpet of close-cropped grass. A flag with number nine flaps lightly on a stick in the ninth hole.

They pause.

MARILEE

Where do we put the ashes?

TAMI

If we sprinkle ashes on the grass,
it'll be obvious that someone
trespassed.

MARILEE

Hmm?

TAMI

How about we dump some in the cup?

MARILEE

Maybe a little.

(beat)

Or in the sand trap over there.

TAMI

That's a good idea. Let's do both,
the cup first.

They slowly walk over to the number nine cup. Tami removes the flag.

TAMI (CONT'D)

Ready for your putt.

MARILEE

My pour?

TAMI

Okay, your pour.

Marilee takes the top off the urn and kneels. She tips the urn and a small amount of ashes trickles into the cup.

She replaces the cap.

TAMI (CONT'D)

Nice shot.

Marilee stands. Tami replaces the flag.

TAMI (CONT'D)

You forgot to say grace, or a
tribute or memoriam, or whatever
you've done so nicely before.

MARILEE

Right. I'll do that over by the sand trap, okay?

TAMI

Fine.

As they head to the sand trap, they hear a motor and see lights approaching the parking lot.

They hurry to the sand trap and lie down in the sand and lay low below the berm.

A flashlight scans the golf course, including the ninth green.

OFFICER 1

(yelling)

Whoever's out there, get back to your car. No one is allowed on the course after dark.

A long pause. Marilee and Tami stay down. The flashlight passes over them again.

Another pause. The flashlight goes out. Soon the security police car's lights go on. The car leaves.

The ladies breathe heavily. They sit up.

TAMI

That was close. Should we just leave?

MARILEE

Let me do this first.

Marilee, on her knees still in the sand trap, removes the urn's lid, scrapes a hole in the sand, and pours some ashes into the hole.

She replaces the lid and, kneeling, pauses again. Then she speaks.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Grandpa, under these beautiful stars and shining moon, where once you said a last goodbye, probably to grandma, we leave a little more of you to mark that occasion and fulfill another of your precious wishes. We love you.

Marilee hears a snuffle. It's Tami.

TAMI

Sorry. This is sad. But it is something I'll always remember.

(beat)

Because, well, we're doing these special tributes together.

(beat)

Thank you for including me.

MARILEE

No, thank you. There's no way I could have done any of this without you.

They hug, kneeling, help each other up, smooth out the sand, and cross the ninth green toward the pickup.

The pickup turns left from Fitzgerald Boulevard onto Rosamond Boulevard toward the north gate that exits onto Highway 58 and Boron.

On their way they pass a Security Police car, emergency lights flashing, going the other way.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - NIGHT

Tami, who still drives, glances at Marilee. They shrug their shoulders and share a 'who me' look.

Tami checks the rear view mirror. Nope, no one follows.

EXT. ANDY'S PICKUP - NIGHT

The pickup slowly passes the north gate and joins Highway 58 east toward Boron.

The moon and stars frame a night-time jet sortie rising from the base to the east.

INT. ANDY'S TRAILER - DAY

Marilee and Tami sit at the table and sort the few remaining sticky notes. Drink bottles are on the table with a bag of donuts. The urn rests between them on the table.

The front door opens and Ben enters with Mutt. He unhooks the leash, hangs it up.

Mutt runs to Marilee, puts his head on her lap.

MARILEE

Thank you Ben.

Marilee pets Mutt's head.

BEN

No problem. Mutt's a good dog. But I think he's hungry.

Ben picks up Mutt's empty food dish. Taps it.

MARILEE

Oops. I forgot to refill it.

Marilee starts to get up.

BEN

That's okay. I'll do it.

Marilee sits back down and Ben retrieves the bag of dog food from the cupboard. The sound of the food bag rustling causes Mutt to vigorously wag his tail, and instinctively head to Ben.

Ben unrolls the bag's opening and a yellow sticky note flutters to the floor. Mutt sniffs it. Ben picks it up.

BEN (CONT'D)

You guys need this?

Ben holds up the sticky note. Waves it around.

TAMI

Where'd that come from.

BEN

Must 'a been stuck on or near the dog food bag.

Ben hands the note to Tami and pours the dog food in Mutt's bowl.

Tami smiles. She's excited!

TAMI

Look Marilee! It's number ten!

Together, they examine the note.

MARILEE

It says, '10 - Lancaster Cemetery.'
We were right. Ten on Andy's Wishes list is 'Dotty Rests.'

Ben rolls up the dog food bag's top.

TAMI

Andy wants us to place some of his ashes where...

MARILEE

(interrupting)
Grandma is buried!

BEN

That makes sense. The final resting place for both of them. And for your mom.

TAMI

That's right. Why haven't we gone there since she died. To leave flowers or something.

BEN

Cemeteries are for the dead. And flowers are expensive, wilt, and die. It's a waste. And a silly practice.

TAMI

That may be true. But remembering and honoring the dead is what the living need to do.

(beat)

And I miss mom.

BEN

Me too. But I prefer my memories, photos, videos, and good times we had together.

(beat)

Not a grave surrounded by a bunch of other dead people.

TAMI

Well, I'm on a mission with Marilee and we'll just go there anyway.

BEN

Suit yourself. But it's not for me.

Marilee interjects to get them back on topic.

MARILEE

Let's hit the cemetery later. But for now, what about number nine?

(MORE)

MARILEE (CONT'D)

We haven't found the related sticky note. So we can't figure out what 'A. Strong' means, or where it is.

Everyone gazes around the room as if they might have missed something.

TAMI

Obviously we haven't looked everywhere, like that rolled-up dog food bag.

(beat)

Andy sure was mysterious. Was he always like this?

MARILEE

Well, kind of. When I was younger, probably eight or ten, when Grandpa visited, he would make up bedtime stories. They were always mysteries that didn't end, that left me wondering, what next?

(beat)

So I'd look forward to his next visit.

TAMI

That's kinda cool. And very smart.

MARILEE

And tricky. That's one reason why I loved his visits so much. Always something new. Yet familiar.

Ben goes to the door.

BEN

Sounds like you both need to retrace your search, see if you missed anything.

(beat)

But I'm going home now. But not to any cemetery.

Ben opens the door.

MARILEE

Thank you again for taking Mutt on his walk.

BEN

Any time. I mean it.

Ben leaves.

TAMI

So do we need to resume our search?

MARILEE

I think so. If a sticky note was rolled up in Mutt's dog food bag, who knows where number nine can be?

TAMI

And I think we've gone through all the ones we've found.

MARILEE

We have. And no number nine.

They scoot their chairs out, get up determined. Now, where to re-start.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Tell you what. I'll go back into the bedrooms, office, and bathroom. You take this big room. Okay?

TAMI

Sounds good. Leave no stone unturned.

(beat)

So to speak.

MARILEE

Right.

Marilee heads to the back of the trailer; Tami starts going through cupboards. Mutt continues eating.

First, Tami goes through everything, again: cupboards, between stacked plates and inside cups, under the sink, under chairs and table, in Mutts bed, everywhere.

Also, Marilee delves into the medicine cabinet, looks through dirty clothes hamper, leafs through books, lifts up the mattress, goes everywhere.

They both find a few sticky notes, read them and trash them. No number nine.

They meet back at the table and sit.

TAMI

You find anything?

MARILEE

Just a few more reminders and to-do notes.

(MORE)

MARILEE (CONT'D)

(beat)

And these. One says, 'Book two: F = Finally, G = Gone, H = Highlight, I = ?'

TAMI

That's very strange. More Andy mysteries?

MARILEE

For sure.

TAMI

Well, at least we know one place we can go: Lancaster cemetery.

MARILEE

And we've probably got about a cup or so of Andy left in the urn.

TAMI

So you want to go now?

MARILEE

Why not. I'm game. But let's freshen up.

(beat)

See you at the pickup in thirty?

TAMI

Great. I'll refill our drink bottles too.

Tami grabs the bottles and leaves. Marilee goes back to the bedroom.

BEDROOM - LATER

Marilee sits on the bed and folds up clothes, puts them in her suitcase. She holds Andy's Wishes list, examines it, and becomes a little emotional.

She picks up the big envelope from under the folded clothes. She slips Andy's Wishes list into the envelope. It snags on something.

She reaches inside, pulls out the small envelope, and reads the sticky note still affixed to it. Again. 'Do not open this until you arrive at my home.'

MARILEE

Oh geez! I forgot about this.

Instead, she puts Andy's Wishes list into her purse. Then she rips a corner off the small envelope when a knock at the door startles her.

She stuffs the still unopened envelope into her purse with the list and heads to the door.

It's Tami, all ready to go.

TAMI

All set?

MARILEE

Yup. Let's go.

EXT. LANCASTER - DAY

Andy's old pickup passes Antelope Valley High School on Division Street.

It turns left on Lancaster Boulevard, then left again into Lancaster Cemetery.

It parks in front of a building.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Tami leaves the engine running, the air conditioning on.

MARILEE

Still think it's a good idea to do ten before nine?

TAMI

Yes. Even though on the way here, you opened that 'do not open till you're here' envelope, and it has the number nine sticky note and clue, we should go ahead with our plan to visit your grandma's grave first.

MARILEE

Really?

TAMI

Yes. We gotta figure out where '9, Li'l Book Bug' is and what Andy's Wishes, number nine, 'A. Strong' has to do with number nine sticky note.

MARILEE

And the other note stuck in the small envelope said, 'Open all my mail. It's yours.'

TAMI

What's that mean?

MARILEE

I don't know, but I put all his mail in a grocery sack.

TAMI

On the counter back in his trailer.

A man comes out of the building in front of them. He approaches the pickup.

Tami rolls down her window.

SEXTON

Hello ladies. Can I help you?

TAMI

Yes, please. We're looking for a particular grave.

SEXTON

I can help you. What's the name.

MARILEE

Dotty Stout.

SEXTON

Dotty?

MARILEE

She went by that. But it's Dorothy Stout.

SEXTON

Okay. I'll go back inside and look it up on the computer. Each grave has a plot number.

(beat)

From that I can give a row then point you in the right direction.

The sexton heads back inside.

TAMI

Isn't this kind of weird?

MARILEE

What?

TAMI

Here we are: Sitting in your grandpa's pickup truck with his ashes, or what's left of them, surrounded by dead bodies in a hot afternoon in a city in the middle of the desert in California.

MARILEE

With your mother buried here too. Right?

(beat)

Isn't that what you said?

TAMI

Yes, but I haven't visited her grave for, what? Five or six years.

(beat)

Kinda creeps me out.

(beat)

And makes me sad. Brings back some not-so-fond memories.

(beat)

In spite of what dad thinks.

MARILEE

Welcome to the club.

Silence now. They wait.

EXT. LANCASTER CEMETERY - DAY

The sexton comes out, says a few things, points to the west, and heads away.

The pickup backs, turns, and travels the direction the sexton pointed. It's the only vehicle in the cemetery.

LATER

Marilee and Tami walk away from the parked pickup, down a row of headstones. Marilee carries Andy's urn and her purse slung over her shoulder.

They read names and move down the row.

TAMI

I think mom was buried near here too.

MARILEE

Then we'll look for her grave and visit it as well.

(beat)

If that's okay with you.

TAMI

Sure. About time I paid my respects. Somehow.

They find a grave with a headstone that says 'Dorothy Deming Stout' and birth and death dates. They stop.

MARILEE

This is it. Grandma's grave.
'Dorothy Deming Stout.'

TAMI

'Deming'?

MARILEE

Yes. That's grandma's maiden name.

(beat)

It also says. 'Beloved wife of Andrew for 55 years and mother of Martin and Marilyn.'

TAMI

My mom's maiden name is Deming too.

They're startled, curious.

Marilee scans adjacent graves and sees a headstone next to her grandma's.

MARILEE

Hey look. That headstone says,
'Daniela Deming.'

TAMI

And the dates she was born.

(beat)

The exact same date as my grandma's.

They look back and forth between both markers.

MARILEE

They we sisters? Twins probably?

TAMI

This is eerie. They are buried side-by-side. Must be sisters.

Tami reads another headstone next to Daniela's. She turns to Marilee.

TAMI (CONT'D)

This mom's grave. I was here seven years ago. Now there's a permanent headstone that has her name: 'Deborah Deming Adams.'

Marilee comes near her, reads the headstone. Goes back, examines Dorothy's and Daniela's side-by-side markers again.

Reads them, pauses, and goes back to Tami and her mom's headstone.

Tami's eyes are wet. Marilee puts her arm around Tami.

MARILEE

You wanna know something even stranger than just being here?

TAMI

What? You see a ghost?

MARILEE

Not quite. But how about this: Your mother's birthdate is the same as Daniela's death date.

(beat)

Think about it.

Both hesitate, ponder. Tami realizes something.

TAMI

How long were your grandparents married? I mean on the date your grandma was killed?

MARILEE

The headstone says 55 years. Our family attended their fiftieth wedding anniversary. And grandma died five or so years later.

TAMI

You see where this is going, right?

MARILEE

I think so. Let me take over. It's been about seven years since grandma died until now. So fifty-five plus five plus seven equals about sixty seven. Right?

TAMI
Exactly? But...?

MARILEE
Okay, but let's just say
approximately.
(Tami nods)
About sixty-seven years ago, give
or take a year, what date are we
looking at? Literally. Right now.
In front of us.

Merrilee gestures to the headstones. Tami looks back and
forth at the headstones. Then her face lightens.

TAMI
That's about one year after mom was
born.

MARILEE
And?

TAMI
Grandma died?

They sit down at a nearby bench.

MARILEE
Yes. Probably in childbirth. And?

TAMI
Andy got married about a year after
my grandma died, probably during
the birth of my mom.

MARILEE
So here's it in a nutshell: Grandpa
married Dotty about a year after
her twin sister Danni died giving
birth to your mother.
(beat)
I have an idea.

Marilee takes Andy's Wishes from her purse. She starts at
number one.

MARILEE (CONT'D)
Here's what I think, and why some
of the places we left grandpa's
ashes seemed so confusing.

TAMI
(smiles)
Okay, keep going.

MARILEE

'Number one, first met, base chapel.' I think grandpa met Daniela, not Dorothy, there.

(beat)

'Number two, first date.' Again, with Daniela.

(beat)

'Number three, engagement.' Probably to?

TAMI

Danni, my grandma.

MARILEE

Right. 'Number four, last goodbye.' To whom?

TAMI

Again Danni.

(beat)

But why a goodbye?

MARILEE

Remember, grandpa was in the Air Force. Probably had an assignment, maybe temporary. So he probably had to leave but could return to the same base.

TAMI

A last goodbye, a warm night under the stars, on the soft grass of the golf course? Hmm. I wonder if...

MARILEE

I don't wonder. It must have been a lot more than a kiss goodbye.

TAMI

Engaged. Last goodbye. Perfect setting for...

They giggle softly and blush in the moment, if that's possible in the heat of the day.

MARILEE

Then 'Number 5, second love.'

TAMI

Andy fell in love with Danni's twin sister Dorothy because Danni was dead, gone, or who knows.

(MORE)

TAMI (CONT'D)

She just wasn't there when he was reassigned back to the base.

MARILEE

I bet Danni's parents sent her away to have the baby. That's what they used to do when a daughter got pregnant 'out of wedlock.' Too embarrassing for the parents.

TAMI

Yeah, my mom's birth certificate says she was born in San Diego. But it doesn't list a father.

MARILEE

And 'Number six, promised again' is to Dotty; 'Number seven, married' means to Dotty, not Danni. And 'Eight, Dotty died,' is, well, you know what that is; and 'Ten, Dotty rests' is here, right now in this cemetery.

TAMI

Mystery solved.
(beat)
Except for number nine.

MARILEE

That we can figure out later. But do you know what we just discovered?

TAMI

That we're related?

MARILEE

Exactly. We have the same grandpa. Andy.

TAMI

Probably.

MARILEE

I'd say certainly. So what are we? Step sisters, twice removed?

TAMI

Second step sisters?

MARILEE

I'm not sure, but we're definitely none of that 'in-law' stuff.

(MORE)

MARILEE (CONT'D)

We've got a direct blood-line to
the same person: Andrew Stout.

They sit closely and occasionally look at each other.

TAMI

So let me try to summarize: Your
father's mother is my mother's
mother's twin sister.

MARILEE

And your mother's father is your
grandpa, Andy.

(beat)

Because Andy and Daniela had a way
too intimate 'last goodbye' before
he left on a temporary assignment.

TAMI

And your father's father, your
grandpa Andy, fell in love with and
married Dorothy, my grandma's twin
sister, after he returned to the
base.

MARILEE

Clear as mud. Especially the 'last
goodbye' and the 'second love' and
'promised again' and 'married,' all
the places grandpa wanted us to
spread his ashes. Places that
confused us.

(beat)

Until now.

They shake their heads and exhale, each with a big sigh.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Holy cow! My head is spinning.

(beat)

But I think we've solved the
mystery of Andy's Wishes.

TAMI

Except for number nine, 'A. Strong'
and the 'Li'l Book Bug.'

MARILEE

And grandpa's direction to 'Open
all my mail.' We didn't do that yet
either.

TAMI

Well, let's get going. Maybe the sexton - is that what he's called? - can help us.

They rise from the bench.

MARILEE

Yeah, a sexton cares for a cemetery.

(beat)

He might know what 'Li'l Book Bug' is. Or where it is.

Before they step toward the pickup, Marilee stops suddenly.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Wait!

TAMI

What?

MARILEE

We haven't spread grandpa's ashes.

TAMI

Oh, right.

MARILEE

And I think, considering what we've just figured out, we should put ashes by Dorothy's and Daniela's and your mother's graves.

TAMI

For sure. They all have ties to Andy.

MARILEE

Why don't you say a kind of eulogy, especially since your mom's father was Andy and your grandma was Andy's...

(pause)

Lover?

TAMI

Engaged lover.

MARILEE

Better. Go for it. Please.

Marilee hands the urn to Tami who takes off the lid and hands it to Marilee.

Tami carefully tips the urn sideways and deposits some of the last of Andy's ashes near the grave of her mother Debbie. She does the same for her grandma, Daniela.

Tami stands and bows her head. She then faces Marilee.

TAMI

I'm not as good as you are at this.

MARILEE

Yes, you can do it. Just listen to your heart, say what comes to your mind, and that'll be fine.

TAMI

Okay.

(beat)

Here I stand next to mom and grandma's graves to...

(beat)

That's not very good.

Tami again faces the two headstones.

MARILEE

Go on. You're doing fine.

TAMI

Okay. Here goes.

(beat)

I miss you mom. Dad struggles, but I'm here for him. I love you. And grandma, I never knew you, but your sister married a very fine man. In your place. He's kind of here with us now and we've left a little of him with both of you. Amen.

MARILEE

Amen. Perfect.

TAMI

Your turn.

MARILEE

Oh, right.

They exchange the urn and its lid. Marilee approaches Dotty's grave.

She kneels and tips just a few ashes near Dotty's headstone. She stays on her knees and clutches the urn.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Grandma: Grandpa never got to take you back to reminisce about where your lives started. You left too soon and so suddenly. But he left a list that led me and Tami, my new friend and his other granddaughter, to all the places that were special for you two. Thank you for giving me this experience. Even though it is hotter than... well, usual. We love you. We miss you. And we pray that God will wrap you and grandma and Danni and Tami's mom in His love and mercy. Amen.

TAMI

Amen.

(beat)

You amaze me. That was so good.

(beat)

Now we can go.

EXT. LI'L BOOK BUG -- DAY

Andy's pickup pulls into a parking slot on Lancaster Boulevard across from the Li'l Book Bug.

Tami and Marilee get out (without the urn), cross to the sidewalk and enter the Li'l Book Bug store under the large Regency Cinemas sign.

INT. LI'L BOOK BUG - DAY

The high, open ceiling, house-plants lined up, several chairs spread about, and rows of book shelves reveal a welcoming setting as Tami and Marilee enter.

A friendly, smiling lady approaches.

JACKIE

Hello! I'm Jackie. Welcome to the Li'l Book Bug.

MARILEE

Thank you. This is the coolest book store I've ever been in. So homey!

Jackie chuckles.

JACKIE

That's always been our goal. Create an atmosphere of peace, relaxation, and escape from the heat of the desert.

MARILEE

Well, we're happy to accept your hospitality. And your nice air conditioning.

JACKIE

Are you looking for anything in particular, an author, a subject, fiction, nonfiction...

MARILEE

Actually, we were wondering if 'A. Strong' means anything to you.

Jackie smiles.

JACKIE

Maybe you mean 'Andreas Strong.' He's one of our local writers. Comes in occasionally for book-signing events.

MARILEE

Possibly him. To get autographs from visiting authors?

JACKIE

No silly.

(beat)

To sign his books. He's a best-selling author, one of our favorites. Brings in lots of customers. And money.

(beat)

He said he was working on a second book. We hope so. His first book sold out fast. Still does. It's in its third printing.

MARILEE

Are there any copies left?

JACKIE

Yes, I think there's still one on the shelf.

(beat)

Follow me.

They line up behind Jackie and traipse to a section of books with a sign overhead: 'Young Adult Books.'

Jackie bends down, peruses across a line of books and removes one. She hands it to Marilee.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

It's very good. And very popular.
Let me know if you'd like to buy
it.

Jackie heads back to the front of the store.

Marilee examines the book.

MARILEE

Tami! Look at the title: 'Mary
Leigh Mysteries.'

TAMI

'Mary Leigh Mysteries.' Is 'Leigh'
pronounced 'Lee'?

MARILEE

Yes! That's what grandpa called the
stories he told me when he visited
us, 'Marilee Mysteries.'

TAMI

So you think... Maybe Andy had his
stories printed. In a book.

Marilee leafs through the first few pages.

MARILEE

Look, the chapters are 'Angry,
Brave, Courageous, Defeated...'
Alphabetically titled, just like
stories grandpa told me. And they
were stolen by this Andreas Strong
guy?

TAMI

Look in the book jacket. Usually
there's a short bio, maybe a photo
of the author.

Marilee turns to the back of the book, inside the cover of the book jacket. She sees a picture of Andrew Stout. But it says 'Andreas Strong,' and it's a much younger man.

MARILEE

That's grandpa alright, when he was younger, maybe forty or fifty. But not his name.

TAMI

It's called a pseudonym. Many Authors use it to disguise their identity. Andrew is Andreas. Stout is Strong.

(beat)

Makes sense.

MARILEE

So grandpa turned the stories he made up for me into a book. And used a pseudonym to disguise himself.

TAMI

Yup. Pretty smart. Easy way to hide himself from prying eyes.

MARILEE

And scammers probably.

(beat)

So let's buy this book.

TAMI

And figure how to put the rest of Andy's ashes somewhere nearby.

They head to the front of the book store.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

Marilee sits in the front passenger seat with the urn in her lap and the book on the seat next to her. Tami holds the cap. This time she holds a napkin under it.

TAMI

How much is left?

Marilee peers into the urn, taps its sides.

MARILEE

Maybe a half cup or so.

(beat)

Ready?

TAMI

Sure. Go for it.

Marilee tips the urn almost completely upside-down and taps it. The rest of the ashes fall into the cap in a small cloud.

MARILEE

Okay, wait and I'll get out and go around and take the hat from you.

Marilee gets out, goes around the front of the pickup, opens Tami's door, and accepts the cap from Tami. Tami steps out and shakes the napkin in the air. Ashes float away. She gets back in and closes the door.

EXT. LI'L BOOK BUG - DAY

As some ashes leak through holes in the hat, Marilee wanders across the road toward bushes that line the sidewalk in front of the book store. Ash clouds follow every step.

At each bush she taps out ashes, moves along to the next. After a while, all the ashes are gone.

As Marilee returns to the pickup she claps the hat in her hands to release any ash that remains stuck to the cap. A little puff of a cloud follows her.

INT. ANDY'S PICKUP - DAY

She gets in the pickup. The engine and AC run. It refreshes Marilee whose brow trickles with sweat.

MARILEE

Ah! That feel good.

She sits back, relaxes, closes her eyes.

Tami remains quiet. After a while Marilee revives, speaks.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Are we going back now?

TAMI

Yes, but there's one more thing.

MARILEE

What?

Tami pauses, lets silence reign. Marilee sits up straight.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

I know what I forgot.

(beat)

(MORE)

MARILEE (CONT'D)

A final eulogy. Or whatever we call it.

TAMI

Yes! Since this is the last item of Andy's Wishes, it's appropriate that you say something.

(beat)

At least I think so. You've been what I consider, inspired.

MARILEE

I don't know about that, but I felt grandpa with us when we followed his wishes, left his ashes, and you know, left a portion of him, his presence, at all those places.

TAMI

Amen. Me too. After what we learned about Andy, his loves, and our own relationship, it all means so much more. I'm happy I could accompany you. I feel like we're sisters.

MARILEE

Ditto. And thank you.

Marilee sits back, looks outside where she spread Andy's ashes in the bushes along the sidewalk. Tami looks out there too.

They see the breeze catch some of the ashes in little white puffs that float away.

Both smile. Marilee bows her head. So does Tami.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Dear God.

(pause)

She looks up at Tami who returns a confused glance.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

Is it okay if I make this a prayer?

TAMI

Since this is the end of our Andy's Wishes trip, a benediction is very appropriate.

(beat)

I say go ahead. Pray. Okay?

MARILEE

I'll pray then.

(beat)

Dear God.

(beat)

Please let our Grandpa, Andrew Stout, know that we have placed his ashes in the ten locations he requested. Or at least close-by. We ask you to let him rest in peace with our grandmas, with Tami's mother, and with those he may have known throughout his life, those who have passed away too.

(beat)

We did our best to return grandpa's ashes to the earth from whence he came.

TAMI

From 'whence' he came?

MARILEE

I heard that in a movie once. It sounded pretty cool.

TAMI

I guess so. Go on.

MARILEE

Anyway, God, tell Grandpa we're done and we're going back to his trailer to, well, clean it up and feed Mutt.

(beat)

Good talking to you, God. Say hi to grandpa and tell him we love him and miss him. Thank you for listening.

(beat)

Amen.

TAMI

Amen.

(beat)

And say hi to mom and our grandmas.

Marilee nods and gives Tami a thumbs-up.

A multi-engine jet roars overhead.

MARILEE

We're not near the base anymore are we?

TAMI

No, but there's an airport in Palmdale. That's pretty close.

MARILEE

I suppose God can answer our prayer, or grandpa can amen us back, from any airport.

TAMI

You're right. God is all-powerful. Don't know what power Andy has though.

MARILEE

Probably enough to guide us around to his 'Wishes' spots.

(beat)

And mark our completions with flyovers.

TAMI

But now we need to get back to feed Mutt. And open mail.

MARILEE

And read Grandpa's book.

EXT. LI'L BOOK BUG - DAY

The pickup backs out of the parking slot and turns toward the highway.

It passes the bushes by the sidewalk by the book store. The truck's back-wash stirs up a few wisps of Andy's ashes.

INT. ANDY'S TRAILER - DAY

Marilee sits at the table. She reads 'Mary Leigh's Mysteries' book. The sack of mail rests on the table in front of her.

The door opens and Tami enters with Mutt.

TAMI

We got back just in time. Mutt practically dragged me to his dumping ground.

Tami unhooks Mutt's leash.

Mutt trots over to his food dish. Slightly distracted, Marilee responds.

MARILEE

I filled Mutt's food and water dishes.

Mutt laps water and chomps on his food. Tami sits.

TAMI

Did you go through the mail?

Marilee turns a page.

MARILEE

No, I wanted to start reading grandpa's book first.

(beat)

It takes me back over a decade. It's like he's visiting me again, telling those same stories, all over.

TAMI

That's so cool.

(beat)

Mind if I sort through the mail?

MARILEE

No. Go ahead.

Tami opens the sack and stacks mail in different piles.

Marilee reads on. She smiles, turns pages, and enjoys herself.

Tami opens a few letters. She examines them closely.

TAMI

Can I interrupt you?

(beat)

I think you need to see this.

MARILEE

Sure. What's up.

Marilee looks up from the book.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

I'm on the chapter called 'Defeated.' Chapters began with Action, Brave, Courageous, then this one. He was so clever: alphabetical titles.

TAMI

That's not all he was. Look at this.

Tami hands Marilee a few bank statements. She reads them.

MARILEE

This one says grandpa has over ten thousand dollars in his checking account. Holy cow!

TAMI

Uh, look at the second pages, his savings account.

Marilee flips to a second page. She reads it.

Her eyes widen. She gulps. She shakes her head. She looks up at Tami. Her jaw drops.

MARILEE

Is this for real?

Tami holds up several opened letters.

TAMI

Oh yes. The bank statements pretty much all say the same thing. And the amount increases every month.
(beat)
And so do these letters...

Tami holds up another stack of letters.

TAMI (CONT'D)

They're from Holiday House Publishers. Each letter lists a monthly distribution of profits from the sale of his book, transferred automatically to Andy's bank savings account.

MARILEE

You mean grandpa saved over...
(she gulps)
A million dollars from selling the stories he made up for me when I was ten years old?

TAMI

Looks like it. And here's another letter from the publisher.

She hands it to Marilee.

TAMI (CONT'D)

They've begun printing 'Mary Leigh Mysteries, Book Two' that'll come out in a month or so.

MARILEE

That jives with that sticky note I found that had F, G, H and I... And what I found on his computer. I thought it was just notes from his reading.

(beat)

It was notes for his writing! This book's chapters go from A to E. Book two will be F to whatever.

TAMI

So Andy turned stories he made up for you years ago, into a best selling book for kids?

MARILEE

I guess so.

(beat)

This blows my mind.

EXT. MOBILE HOME PARK - NIGHT

Lights at a few mobile homes are lit. Lights are on in both Marilee's and Tami's mobile homes.

A two-jet formation takes off at the nearby base.

EXT. LARGE EASTERN CITY - DAY

A passenger plane lands at the airport.

EXT. MARTIN'S SUBURB HOUSE - DAY

A taxi pulls away.

INT. MARTIN'S SUBURB HOME - DAY

Marilee and Sylvia hug. Martin puts down a suitcase.

MARTIN

Glad you're home safely! Thanks for your text updates. Sounds like you accomplished Dad's ashes-scattering and made a friend.

MARILEE

Yes, we fulfilled Andy's Wishes,
and more. Tami helped a lot and was
wonderful.

SYLVIA

What's this about you giving this
Tami girl Andy's trailer and truck
and dog? I thought you...

Marilee interrupts.

MARILEE

'This Tami girl' is, well... Let's
go sit down. I have an interesting
story to tell you.

They retire to the living room. On the way Marilee takes her
dad's hand.

MARILEE (CONT'D)

You like mysteries, dad?

THE END.