

DARK SKY

Written by
Diana Robertson Bond

dlrbnd@gmail.com
805-709-8070

FADE IN:

EXT. THE MOUNTAINS - COLORADO - DAY

A wide blue sky. Views of golden Aspens in every direction.

I/E. STEPH'S HONDA CRV/MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY - DAY

An attractive 28-year-old woman -- STEPH (ball cap and pony tail) -- drives her new, near spotless vehicle, hands at 10 and 2.

The dash displays: NATALIE.

NATALIE (V.O.)

Should we say six? Does that give you enough time?

STEPH

Oh, yeah. We'll be back. I'll have the wine poured and ready.

NATALIE (V.O.)

Just a warning. I might get completely trashed.

STEPH

Right? After yesterday?

I/E. NAOMI'S JEEP WRANGLER/TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT - DAY

Steph's identical twin -- NAOMI (messy top bun and sunglasses) -- sits in the driver's seat with the window rolled down. Her vehicle is older than her sister's, a chill, worn-in vibe, and she listens to ROCK MUSIC.

FROM THE WOODS, she hears the REPEATED REVVING OF A THREE-WHEELER ATV.

She turns down the volume on the radio.

The revving persists.

NAOMI

Rude.

Her phone RINGS. The dash reads CAL CALLING. She answers.

NAOMI

Dude, can you hear that?

INT. AIRPORT RESTAURANT - DAY

CAL (25, fit, USMC uniform, a cast on his right forearm) sits on a stool at the bar and talks on his cell phone.

CAL
It's not exactly quiet here.

INNOCUOUS GUY waiting for a drink stares at Cal a half-second too long.

CAL
(aggressive)
WHAT.

Innocuous Guy gestures, "All good, Man," and turns his gaze.

Cal. NAOMI (V.O.)

Yeah? CAL

NAOMI (V.O.)
(mocking)
WHAT.

Cal's not in the mood.

CAL
Did you get my text?

NAOMI (V.O.)
(mocking)
WHAT.

I/E. NAOMI'S JEEP WRANGLER/TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT - DAY

The REVVING continues.

NAOMI
You seriously can't hear that? Who does that?

STEPH'S CRV pulls into the small gravel lot and parks next Naomi's Jeep. She exits the vehicle carrying a slim PINK HIP PACK and a TEAL HYDRO FLASK. She looks in the direction of the incessant revving, "WTF?"

INSIDE THE JEEP, Naomi wraps up her call ...

NAOMI

I got it. Five-thirty. See you then, Loser.

CAL (V.O.)

You're the loser.

NAOMI

Nah ah. You are.

She hits END CALL, effectively getting the last word.

The door opens, and Steph enters.

NAOMI

Hey.

STEPH

Hey.

Steph points toward the REVVING.

NAOMI

Who does that?

STEPH

Right?

The noise stops.

NAOMI

Well, okay then. Much better.

Steph buckles her seat belt, and Naomi moves the gear shift to R.

EXT. TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT/STREET - DAY

The Jeep backs out of the parking spot and exits the lot onto a paved road.

INT. NAOMI'S JEEP WRANGLER - DAY

Naomi lifts her phone from the console and shows her sister the text from Cal: **17:35 united 3119**

NAOMI

You still a no-go tonight?

STEPH

Yeah. Sorry.

NAOMI

But you're coming over tomorrow?

STEPH

(amused)

Oh, yeah.

NAOMI

What's that? "Oh, yeah."

STEPH

I just still can't believe you're letting him live with you.

NAOMI

I know. 'Cuz he should be living with you.

STEPH (OVERLAPPING)

No way.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

You're the one with the house.

STEPH

No way. You know I need my space.

NAOMI

Oh my God. "Your space." I've been hearing about "your space" since we were in the womb.

EXT. STREET/ANOTHER TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT - DAY

Naomi's Jeep turns off the paved road and parks.

The twins exit the vehicle.

Steph puts her teal Hydro Flask on the roof and snaps her pink hip pack around her waist as Naomi opens the trunk and retrieves a mid-size BACKPACK.

STEPH

You got your phone, right?

NAOMI

Yeah, why?

STEPH

I left mine in my car. I'm
travelin' light.

She uses PRICE IS RIGHT Model hand motions to highlight
her brand new, slim-fit, pink hip pack.

NAOMI

Cool. When'dya get that?

STEPH

Yesterday. You like?

NAOMI

Yeah. I like the color.

STEPH

Right? You want me to order you
one?

Naomi scrunches her face, "Nah," adding ...

NAOMI

Too small. Where ya gonna put your
water? Where ya gonna put snacks?

Steph grabs her Hydro Flask from the roof, holds it up.

STEPH

Carry my water. And I got snacks.

NAOMI

What snacks do you have in there?

Steph unzips the pack and removes A 1 OZ BOX OF RAISINS.

NAOMI

Oh my God. Okay. You got snacks.

Steph puts the raisins back in the pack and zips it up.

Naomi closes the trunk, slips her backpack over her
shoulders, and the twins walk toward the trail.

EXT. THE MOUNTAINS - COLORADO - DAY

Again -- the blue sky, the golden Aspens. But, now, from
the South and the East, DARK CLOUDS loom.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOREST TRAIL - DAY

The twins hike at a confident pace.

STEPH

So, my neighbor, Natalie? And she's got the three-year-old. The cutie with the curls.

NAOMI

Oh my God, the cutie with the curls.

STEPH

Right? So, yesterday, Natalie puts the cutie down for a nap, and then she was, like, doin' stuff -- ya know, up and down from the basement, in and out of the garage -- at one point, she went out back to the shed. And then she's walking through the kitchen, and the monitor's on the counter, and she hears a woman's voice--

NAOMI

Whaaaaa ... ?

STEPH

Right? So she hauls it upstairs, and this other neighbor, she's, like, fifty, old, we barely know her -- we see her at the mailbox sometimes, in her bathrobe, smokin' her cigarettes, but that's about it -- but, she's sitting in the rocking chair, and Natalie said she's, like, fully dressed, she's got make-up on ... and she's got the little girl in her lap.

NAOMI

Nah ah!

STEPH

Ya ha! And she's talking to her, like, "And for Halloween, we'll stretch cotton over the shrubs and make it look like spider webs."

NAOMI

For Halloween! What the fuck?

STEPH

Right? So, Natalie's, like, "What are you doing?" and she grabs her kid, who starts crying, 'cuz ya know, her mom's all freaked out. And the lady says ... "You're making my baby cry."

NAOMI

What the fuck!

STEPH

You're making my baby cry.

NAOMI

Oh-my-God-oh-my-God-oh-my-God.

STEPH

Right?

NAOMI

Oh-my-God-oh-my-God-oh-my-God.

STEPH

I know!

NAOMI

(points to her arm)
Fuckin' goosebumps.

STEPH

Right? And that's not even the creepiest part.

NAOMI

What's creepier than "You're making my baby cry"?

STEPH

I'll tell you what's creepier. So, Natalie calls 911, and a couple of officers come out, and they're asking a bunch of questions, and it turns out ... that wasn't the first time the woman had been in their house *with the girl*.

NAOMI

I'm gonna be sick.

EXT. THE MOUNTAINS - COLORADO - DAY

DARK CLOUDS on the move.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOREST TRAIL - DAY

The twins, hiking.

NAOMI

Please tell me she's pressing charges?

STEPH

I mean, for what? You can't charge people just for being creepy.

NAOMI

You should *totally* be able to charge people for being creepy.

STEPH

Right? Your guy from last weekend?

NAOMI

Oh my God, all night, whenever we were walking ...

Naomi puts her hand on her sister's back, and, through her shirt, she FINGERS THE CLASP OF STEPH'S BRA STRAP -- continuing this action beyond a comfortable length of time.

STEPH

I got it.

Naomi persists, and Steph pushes her ...

STEPH

Get off me.

Naomi rights herself from the shove, snickering.

STEPH

I told you, I think he was, like, trying to gauge whether he'd be able to undo your bra at the end of the night.

NAOMI

Gross. If you's not confident in your bra handlin' abilities as this point ...

STEPH

Right?

NAOMI

Plus, he kept talking about marriage. On the first date. Who does that?

STEPH

No one who wants to be with you.

NAOMI

That's right. *I ain't gonna be no wifey.*

(beat)

I will say -- situations like that -- it's gonna be nice to have a solid out, like, "Sorry, ya can't come up. Brudder livin' with me right now."

Steph doesn't answer. They walk a few steps.

STEPH

Hey, has he called that therapist I gave him the referral for?

Silence.

STEPH

Naomi.

No answer.

STEPH

I can't set it up. He has to set it up himself.

NAOMI

Yeah, he doesn't wanna go to some guy in your same practice--

STEPH

He's not in my practice. We went to grad school together. But he's not in my practice. He's part of a whole other group. Across town. You two don't listen.

NAOMI

Sometimes. I think of you in a session. With one of your patients. And I'm always thinking, ... "Please tell me she doesn't use her 'Steph tone' with them."

STEPH

I'm very patient with my patients.

NAOMI

Ha! Good one.

STEPH

You're suggesting I'm not?

NAOMI

No -- good one -- the play on words. "Patient with my patients."

STEPH

Oh. Yeah.

Steph smiles, pleased with herself.

NAOMI

Just ... let him catch his breath for, like, two seconds. He's about to get out, discharged, whatever, and then, he can find his own guy. Or gal. His own person.

STEPH

He should've taken advantage of the resources available as active duty.

NAOMI

Yeah, he hasn't been ready.

STEPH

For seven years? You can't move on, if you don't move through.

NAOMI

Oh my God. Please tell me you don't say that to your patients?

STEPH

Why? It's true.

Naomi pretends to vomit.

A SHORT WHILE LATER

The twins, hiking. Naomi points ahead, trailside, to a LARGE HORIZONTAL LOG. They walk to the log and sit down.

Naomi pulls off her backpack, sets it on the ground and unzips it. HER PHONE IS VISIBLE IN THE OUTER MESH POCKET.

Steph drinks from her Hydro Flask, then places it on the ground next to her feet. She unzips her hip pack and removes the box of raisins.

Naomi pulls a HUNK OF CHEESE, crudely wrapped in Saran Wrap, from her pack and peels back the plastic.

STEPH

Wha'dya steal that from work?

NAOMI

Not steal. It was left over from an event I worked last week. They don't care.

Steph notices something and curls her lip.

STEPH

Okay, but do you care that it has mold on it?

Naomi looks at the cheese. A spot of MOLD.

NAOMI

Well. Shit.
(then, a shrug)
I can probably just eat around it.

STEPH

Naomi. No.

Steph grabs the cheese and tosses it into the woods.

NAOMI

Rude.

STEPH

You can have some of my raisins.

She holds out the box, now open, and Naomi scoops out some raisins.

NAOMI

I'm taking at least half.

She shoves the raisins in her mouth.

Steph scoops out raisins. Eats them.

Mouths full, chewing ...

NAOMI

I always forget how good raisins are.

STEPH

Right?

IN A SPLIT SECOND, THE SKY GOES DARK.

Both women reactively sit up straight. *Gulp.*

They look upward.

BLACK CLOUDS blanket the sky.

NAOMI

Fuck that's dark.

STEPH

You checked the weather?

NAOMI

You said you were gonna.

STEPH

No, I said, "You do it."

They hear RUSTLING, 20 yards away, from the direction of the cheese.

They look at each other, eyes widened.

MORE RUSTLING.

They shoot up to standing --

Steph's Hydro Flask falls over (unnoticed) --

Naomi grabs her pack --

And the women hustle back onto the trail and forward.

JUMP CUT:

Dark sky. The twins hike at a faster clip than earlier.

JUMP CUT:

Dark sky. The twins see a Trailhead Parking Lot ahead. Their expressions, "Thank God."

EXT. TRAILHEAD PARKING LOT - DAY

The twins step off the trail into the lot. They quickly appear confused.

There are three vehicles parked, but none are Steph's.

NAOMI

What the fuck? Where's your car?

STEPH

It was right ...

(points)

We were parked ... Did someone steal my CRV?

NAOMI

No. We're probably not at the right trailhead.

STEPH

How can we not be at the right trailhead? Do 'find my phone'.

Naomi nods, "Good idea."

STEPH

My phone's in the CRV, so we'll see.

NAOMI

Yeah, we'll see.

Naomi pulls her phone from the outer mesh pocket of her backpack, unlocks it, and taps on the FIND MY PHONE app.

Steph leans in to look at the phone screen. PINWHEEL.

STEPH

Come on.

NAOMI

Worst app ever.

STEPH

Refresh it.

Naomi closes the app. Re-opens it. PINWHEEL.

STEPH

Pull up Google maps.

Naomi taps on her phone. Studies the screen.

NAOMI

Yeah, it doesn't have these little lots.

STEPH

What do you mean it doesn't have them?

NAOMI
 It doesn't have 'em.
 (points to screen)
 Here we are. No lots.

Steph looks back to where she thinks she parked the CRV.

NAOMI
 Yeah, I don't think we're at the
 right lot.

STEPH
 You really don't?

NAOMI
 No. I don't think we went far
 enough. I think we need to get
 back on the trail, go a little
 further, and then, most likely,
 it's the next trailhead.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOREST TRAIL - DAY

Dark sky. The twins, hiking.

JUMP CUT:

Dark sky. The twins, still hiking. Steph sees, up ahead --
 an OPENING -- and points.

The women pick up their pace, but as they near the
 opening, they can see it's a small area of cleared land,
 but not a parking lot.

STEPH
 Nevermind.

NAOMI
 Fuck.

JUMP CUT:

Dark sky. The twins, hiking.

JUMP CUT:

Dark sky. The twins, still hiking.

STEPH
 See, now, this feels too far.

NAOMI
 Grrrrrrr.

Steph stops walking. Naomi stops next to her.

STEPH

I'm really thinking that we were
at the right lot and that my CRV
was stolen.

NAOMI

We weren't at the right lot.

STEPH

How can you be so sure?

NAOMI

Fine. Do you wanna go back? But
we'll have to go all the way back.
To my Jeep. Because even if we
were at the right lot
(under her breath)
we weren't
(normal voice)
your car's not there.

Steph FLIPS THE BIRD at Naomi.

NAOMI

Rude.

A LOUD THUNDER CRACK -- the kind that sounds like it's
splitting the sky in half.

NAOMI

Fuuuuck.

STEPH

The sky's gonna open up any
minute.

NAOMI

So, wha'dya wanna do?

Steph looks around. Naomi follows her gaze, and at the
same time, they see it, through the trees, a half mile
onto open land ...

A CABIN.

They look at each other and both shrug, "Yeah."

EXT. OPEN SPACE - DAY

The twins walk toward the cabin. They riff ...

NAOMI
You're making my baby cry.

STEPH
You're making my baby cry.

NAOMI
You are making my baby cry.

STEPH
No. You. You're making MY baby
cry.

NAOMI
My baby's cryin', and it's *you's*
fault.

EXT. LEROY'S PROPERTY - DAY

The twins approach the MODEST CABIN (1940s, upkeep lacking). Though there are no properties nearby, a 6-foot fence encloses the side and back yards.

AT THE FRONT DOOR, Steph knocks.

Naomi attempts to look in the front window, but the curtains are drawn.

Steph knocks again, calling out ...

STEPH
Hello. Anyone home?

NAOMI
Hello?

No answer.

Naomi grabs the door knob.

STEPH
Naomi.

NAOMI
What?

STEPH
What are you doing?

Naomi's face, "Relax." She jiggles the knob.

NAOMI
It's locked, anyway.

Naomi walks away from the front door to the SIDE GATE in the fence leading to the EAST SIDE OF THE HOUSE. There's a thumb-latch pull handle and a COARSE ROPE LOOP at the top for extra security.

Naomi removes the Loop just as Steph steps behind her.

STEPH

Naomi. This is private property.

NAOMI

There's no "NO TRESPASSING" signs?

Steph does a cursory scan.

STEPH

No, I guess not.

Naomi opens the gate, and the twins enter the

EAST SIDE OF THE PROPERTY

Naomi lets go of the gate, and the spring hinge pulls it closed with a BANG.

STEPH

Ahhhh!

NAOMI

Fuck!

The twins take a moment to catch their breath, with Naomi offering ...

NAOMI

Sorry, I wasn't expecting that.

The twins resume walking and come across TWO CHICKENS CLOSED IN A SMALL COOP.

STEPH

See, now, this makes me mad. All smashed in there.

Naomi peers inside the cage.

NAOMI

I'm sorry, Girls.

The twins continue into the

BACK YARD

which has a junk yard feel to it -- broken-down machinery, old tires, rusted furniture.

STEPH

(to Naomi)

Okay, so, at this point, let's
just call the sheriff's office.
See if they can send a car for us.

(louder, including

Leroy)

We're gonna call the sheriff's
office.

LEROY

Sheriff's station's just over that
hill.

Leroy points beyond his fence.

NAOMI

Really?

STEPH

(loud)

Is it walking dist--

ANOTHER LOUD THUNDER CRACK. Followed by A BRIGHT, PERFECT
FLASH-GORDON-LOGO SHAPED STREAK OF LIGHTNING.

And then, HEAVY RAINS POUR DOWN. HAIL.

LEROY

Follow me.

The twins follow Leroy to the cabin and through the back
door into

INT. LEROY'S CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY

An outdated room with dark, mountain-themed decor.

One window over the sink.

Leroy closes the door behind the twins and flips on the
lights -- 1970s overhead fluorescents.

The bulbs FIZZLE as they warm up, and, with one bulb
blown, the room remains poorly lit.

LEROY

I'll get some towels.

Leroy SETS HIS BAG ON THE COUNTER BY THE SINK and exits.

Naomi and Steph look around the gray, uninspired space. Notable is the clutter -- random items used and never put away. The surface of a 3'x 5' TABLE seems to be a favorite dumping spot.

STEPH

This is how your apartment's gonna look with Cal living with you.

Naomi picks up a HAMMER from the table.

NAOMI

Nah-ah, cuz I'll smash him. Right in the noggin'.

She wields the tool toward her sister's head.

Steph deflects and pushes it away.

NAOMI

Besides, all that military training ... he's probably more anal than you at this point.

Steph nods, "Eh, probably."

Naomi sets the hammer back onto the table and like an ear worm ...

NAOMI

You're makin' my baby cry.

STEPH

Okay, enough. We shouldn't have even been joking about it earlier. Feels like bad mo-jo.

NAOMI

Yeah, I don't want that.

STEPH

Right?

FOOTSTEPS nearing.

The twins' postures shift to a more polite, deferential stance.

Leroy returns. His hair is now towel scruffed, and he's changed into an old, faded flannel shirt.

He carries TWO FLANNEL SHIRTS (also old and faded) and TWO BRIGHT, CLEAN BATH TOWELS.

He sets the shirts on the table ...

LEROY

If yer cold.

... and hands a towel to each woman.

NAOMI AND STEPH

Thank you.

(then, louder)

Thank you.

LEROY

Towels'r pretty new. An' they been washed. The wife loved a fresh towel. Take a smell.

The women do so. They smile and nod ...

STEPH

(loud)

Very nice.

NAOMI

(loud)

Yeah. Fresh.

Leroy's not sure if they're mocking him.

The twins pat themselves dry.

LEROY

You girls sit if ya like. When the storm passes, I don' min' runnin' ya over to the Sheriff's station.

STEPH

(loud)

Thank you.

(re the towels)

What should we ... ?

Leroy gestures, "Give them to me."

They do so.

He exits.

The women slide onto one of the benches flanking the table -- the one against the wall -- leaving them to face out into the room.

Leroy returns.

LEROY

I've been diggin' all day -- an
then some trekkin'. Come back
cause a' the sky. And to eat. I'll
make extra, if ya like.

Quick, between each other ...

STEPH

I mean, we haven't really ...

Naomi shrugs, "No, we haven't."

STEPH

And who knows how long--

NAOMI

This storm.

STEPH

Right?

To Leroy ...

STEPH

(loud)
Thank you. That's kind of you.

NAOMI

(loud)
Yeah, thanks.

LEROY

I'm Leroy, by the by.

STEPH

(loud)
Hi, Leroy. I'm Steph.

NAOMI

(loud)
Naomi.

LEROY

'Fraid I've fixed myself into a
certain cravin'. Been eatin' the
same thing ev'ry day since Jean
passed. In part cause it was her
favorite, and it feels right. In
part

(attempts humor)
cause I got a damn year's supply.

(beat)
Guess I was hopeful.

STEPH

(loud)
I'm sorry about ... Jean was your
wife?

LEROY

The wife.

STEPH

(loud)
I'm so sorry about her passing.

NAOMI (OVERLAPPING)

So sorry.

LEROY

Cancer done come up an' got her.

STEPH

(loud)
I'm so sorry.

NAOMI

I'm sorry.

LEROY

It's been tough. Known her my
whole life.

STEPH

(loud)
That is very tough.

NAOMI (OVERLAPPING)

Really tough.

(loud)
I'm so sorry.

Leroy nods, then turns and disappears into the fridge.

The twins look at each other. Naomi mouths, "Whaaa ... ?"

The refrigerator closes.

Leroy reappears with a sleeve of WHITE BREAD, HOT DOGS,
and a BOTTLE OF KETCHUP.

LEROY

I hope you girls like hot dog
sandwiches.

NAOMI

Oh. Wow.

STEPH

I've never ... okay, well
(loud)
... it's good to try new
things.

Again, Leroy's not sure if he's being mocked.

He carries the items to the counter. Sets them down.

He moves to the sink and reaches in for a 3-QT SAUCEPAN that sits soaking.

Naomi whispers to her sister.

NAOMI

I can't eat--

STEPH

(side of her mouth)
Dude's wife died.

NAOMI

Grrrrrrr.

Leroy looks up from the sink ...

LEROY

Somethin' not right?

NAOMI

(loud)
No. It's just that I can't eat
gluten.

Holding the pan now, Leroy grabs a towel from the countertop and wipes it across the outside.

LEROY

That's a myth, that there? Bunch a
so-called experts wrote about it,
and now you an' half the world's
got it all up in your heads.

Naomi's not sure how to respond.

STEPH

(loud)
I mean, it's okay, though, right?
She can just eat the hot dogs? Not
the bread?

LEROY

Don't eat what you don't want.

Leroy turns back to the sink, turns on the faucet and fills the saucepan.

Naomi lifts one of the shirts -- it's large and old and ratty and has crusted food on it. She elbows her sister and mouths, "Gross."

Steph's face says, "Would you knock it off?"

Naomi drops the shirt.

NAOMI

(loud)

May I use your bathroom?

Leroy shuts off the water, but remains facing the sink.

LEROY

Down the hall. You can't miss it.

Naomi exits.

Leroy lifts the pan and turns toward Steph.

LEROY

Jean always wanted to be a twin.

STEPH

(loud)

It has it's pros and cons.

HALLWAY

Naomi, frozen in place, stares into the

LIVING ROOM

where a VERY LARGE (double wide) CLOSED COFFIN sits atop cinder blocks, 3 feet high, in the middle of the room.

HALLWAY

Naomi looks back, attempting eye contact with Steph. No luck. The angles put her sister out of view. She continues on to the

HALF BATH

The same worn, outdated look as the rest of the property.

But, a BRIGHT, NEW HAND TOWEL hangs next to the sink.

A HALF DOZEN PILL BOTTLES for JEAN SMITH are shoved to the back of the counter.

Naomi sits on the toilet. She looks out the WINDOW to the

EXT. WEST SIDE OF THE CABIN - SAME

where, pelted by heavy rain (no more hail), there is

-a small garden,

-an empty plastic chair,

-a second plastic chair with a 4 ft, stuffed FEMALE SCARECROW-type figure staged in a seated position,

-a shovel,

-a HUGE PILE OF DIRT,

-a large, grave-shaped HOLE IN THE GROUND, and

-A THREE-WHEELER ATV

INT. LEROY'S CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY

Naomi returns. She passes Leroy at the counter, walking directly at Steph, mouthing, "Oh-my-God-Oh-my-God-Oh-my-God."

Steph's expression, "I have no idea."

Naomi's hand is chest-level, out of Leroy's view. She points behind her, mouthing, "Jean is in the other room."

Steph's still not getting it.

NAOMI

(loud)

Didn't you need to use the bathroom?

STEPH

(loud)

Oh. Yeah. Just ... waitin' on you.

She stands, and as they pass closely, Naomi whispers ...

NAOMI

Living room.

Steph tries to act normal. To Leroy ...

STEPH

(loud)
You said down the hall?

LEROY

You can't miss it.

Naomi returns to the bench, and Leroy turns to her.

LEROY

Jean always wanted to be a twin.

NAOMI

Oh, yeah?

LEROY

She had this little-girl friend. Same street when we were growin' up. I don't remember her name, but they played together near ev'ry day. Jeannie would run around shoutin', "We're twins. We're twins." Lots of sleepovers with them two.

HALLWAY

Steph peers into the

LIVING ROOM

The oversized casket.

HALLWAY

Steph looks back toward her sister. No luck. The angles. She continues on to the

HALF BATH

Just like Naomi before her, she sits on the toilet and sees -- out the window --

EXT. WEST SIDE OF THE CABIN - SAME

The small garden, the empty plastic chair, the second plastic chair with the scarecrow, the shovel, the huge pile of dirt, the large, freshly dug grave, and the three-wheeler ATV.

INT. LEROY'S CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY

Steph returns to find Naomi by herself. Out of precaution, she speaks in a soft tone.

STEPH

So, that's gotta be Jean in there.

NAOMI

Who else would it be?

STEPH

Unless the casket's empty.

NAOMI

Then, where's Jean?

Steph hesitates, a glint in her eye ...

STEPH

Upstairs. In a rocking chair.
Staring out the window.

She makes the PSYCHO movie knife-stabbing motion.

NAOMI

Oh my God. You's funny when you
wanna be.

Steph likes this comment.

STEPH

Where is he?

NAOMI

Out getting eggs.

STEPH

In this storm?

NAOMI

Said he had to. Apparently, what--

STEPH

I just realized.

NAOMI

What?

STEPH

We don't need to be whispering.

NAOMI

(still whispering)

No, I guess we don't.

(normal tone)

Apparently, what made Jean's hot dog sandwiches so special is that she would layer a fried egg on top of the hot dogs. Also, we're getting strawberry milkshakes.

(then)

It's kinda no wonder the casket in there's so big.

Steph simultaneously laughs/shakes her head, "So bad."

NAOMI

How is this our day?

STEPH

Right? Pull out your phone and just check ... he said the sheriff's station's close?

As Naomi pulls her phone from the pocket of her backpack, Steph walks to the sink and looks out the window.

Naomi unlocks her phone. Opens GOOGLE MAPS.

NAOMI

Yeah. It's like he said. I'm not great with scale, but seems like--

Looking up, Naomi notices Steph staring at Leroy's bag.

NAOMI

Steph?

Steph reaches in the bag, removes a TEAL HYDRO FLASK, and with a look of horror, turns and shows it to her sister.

NAOMI

Noooo. That can't be--

STEPH

You think Leroy has a teal Hydro Flask?

The DOOR OPENS.

Naomi bristles.

Steph shoves the bottle into the bag.

Leroy enters wearing a HOODED RAIN PARKA and carrying the TWO CHICKENS.

He sets the chickens on the floor, and they squawk and chicken-walk around the room.

LEROY

Damn birds. I don't like 'em in the house, but I'm out there, an' I hear Jean's voice. She always thought they were scared a' weather.

Leroy looks at Steph, and she tries play off that she was doing nothing more than checking the weather. Pointing to the window ...

STEPH

It is really bad out.

Leroy holds his gaze.

NAOMI

(loud)
I'm glad you brought 'em in.

LEROY

You and Jean.

He removes his parka, hangs it behind the door, reaches in one of the pockets and removes 3 eggs, then walks to the sink.

Steph gives him a wide berth as she returns to the bench.

Leroy retrieves a bowl from an upper cabinet, and places the eggs in it.

LEROY

'Fraid nature calls.

Leroy exits.

The girls huddle and whisper ...

NAOMI

What the fuck? Your bottle? Was he following us?

STEPH

I mean, I don't know how he coulda been. He said he was out riding around so maybe, ya know, he just saw it and picked it up. But, it's definitely weird

NAOMI (OVERLAPPING)

Definitely weird.

STEPH (CONT'D)

and I am, like, not comfortable here at this point.

NAOMI

No, me neither.

STEPH

So, let's ... we definitely won't let him drive us anywhere--

NAOMI

Oh my God, no.

STEPH

But, as soon as the storm lets up - - even a little -- you said the Sheriff's station's on the map, right? So, as soon as it lets up, we'll walk there.

NAOMI

Fuckin' speed walk.

FOOTSTEPS nearing.

The women alert. They try to act normal.

STEPH

Scoot over. You're on top a' me.

Naomi scoots.

Leroy enters carrying a PHOTO ALBUM.

LEROY

Thought you girls might like to see Jean.

INT. LEROY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Curtains open. The storm outside, still intense.

There is a 2' x 4' flat board, serving as a gate, propped from the inside of the room, blocking the doorway.

The casket on cinder blocks looks even more unusual amidst the twins sitting on the couch and Leroy sitting in an arm chair.

TV trays stand in front of the living, and they eat their hot dog sandwiches -- in Naomi's case, just the hot dogs and a fried egg -- and drink their strawberry milkshakes.

LEROY

My guess, it's strange to you girls. Eatin' in here.

STEPH

NAOMI

No.

It's fine.

LEROY

But I do what I can. Cause Jean did'n like bein' alone. Never liked it. Not from way back. That's why I've been puttin' off--
(chokes up)
Puttin' off the burying. I hate her being down there alone. Been keepin' me up at night.

STEPH

(loud)
I'm so sorry.

LEROY

But I finished the diggin' today. As the universe doth giveth.

The twins nod, mostly empathetic, but there's also a little, "WTF? Doth giveth?"

LEROY

She loved that west side. Had her garden and would sit out there with her Scarecrow friend. The two of them, taking in the sunset. Some eve'nins I'd get so mad. Dinner'd be late. She'd be out there.

(to the casket)

I'm sorry about all that, Jeannie. Seems like alot a' nonsense now.

(to the twins)

My guess, young girls like yourself, you don't know loss.

NAOMI

Me? No.
 (loud)
 I'm a cater-waiter.

LEROY

Is that right? You and Jean.

NAOMI

(loud)
 Jean was a cater-waiter?

LEROY

Jean was a cater-waiter. Til Dad got sick. Then she took care a' him. We both did, but she did most of it. Cause I travel. Pick up supplies and what not. Dad asked to be scattered in the woods, but now, I'm kickin' myself. If I'd buried him ...

(gestures west)
 Jean bein' alone would'n be drivin' me.

STEPH

Driving you?
 (loud)
 You said, "Driving you"?

Leroy doesn't answer.

Long awkward silence.

STEPH

(loud)
 So, uh, one thing I was curious about. From the photos.

FLASHBACK: INT. LEROY'S KITCHEN - 20 MINUTES EARLIER

The twins, at the table. The album open in front of them.

A NEWSPAPER PHOTO of a GRADE SCHOOL GIRL and a GRADE SCHOOL BOY standing together in front of a car, holding buckets.

The caption: **Jean Smith and Leroy Smith help out at the Church car wash.**

STEPH (V.O.)

(loud)
You and Jean, growing up, you two
had the same last name?

END FLASHBACK

INT. LEROY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Naomi reacts with surprise.

NAOMI

Whaaaaa ... ?
(to Leroy, loud)
You two had the same last name?

Silence.

The twins look back and forth -- to each other, then to Leroy -- the delay making the whole situation seem even more peculiar. Then ...

LEROY

Jean wasn't so much my wife as my
sister. We lived together so long,
I started sayin' Wife. She'd say
Husband. Dad was Dad, a' course.

THE BOARD FALLS (is pushed), and a chicken enters.

LEROY

God dammit!

Leroy rises, scoops up the chicken.

LEROY

I said not in the den.

He carries the chicken out of the room.

The twins turn to each other. STEPH, A BEAT SLOW.

NAOMI

Oh my God. That creepy law we were
talkin' about earlier? And now I'm
thinking, Cal can stay with me
for, like, a week or two, but
after that ...

She gestures, "You're out," with her thumb.

NAOMI
Your eyes look funny.

STEPH
Do they? I feel kinda funny.

Steph slouches forward. SHE'S OUT COLD.

NAOMI
Oh my God! Steph! Steph!

Naomi shakes her sister. No reaction. She calls out ...

NAOMI
Leroy!

She leans in ...

NAOMI
Steph.

She checks for breathing. Confirms breathing.

She stands. She's dizzy, she takes a few wobbly steps, she slurs ...

NAOMI
Lee-roy.

She crumbles to the ground. SHE'S OUT COLD.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

OVER BLACK

THUD

THUD

THUD

EXT. LEROY'S PROPERTY - WEST SIDE - DAY

The rain has stopped, and sunlight pushes through the parting clouds.

Leroy tosses one last shovelful of dirt onto where the hole in the ground once was. With the back of the shovel, he evens out the surface.

Satisfied, he turns. He picks up the scarecrow and the plastic chairs, then continues walking toward the back of the house.

EXT. AIRPORT - PASSENGER PICK UP - DAY

Smoking a cigarette, a duffle at his feet, Cal looks up and down the lane of idling and incoming vehicles.

After a minute -- adept with both a lit cigarette and the cast on his forearm -- he pulls his phone from his pocket, unlocks it and talks into it ...

CAL

Call Naomi.

INT. LEROY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Leroy sits at the table looking at photos in the album.

His shoulder bag lays in front of him. The teal Hydro Flask upright next to it. Plus, Steph's hip pack. Plus, Naomi's backpack.

Naomi's phone RINGS.

Leroy removes it from the outer mesh pocket.

The screen reads, "CAL".

Leroy hits DECLINE.

EXT. AIRPORT - PASSENGER PICK UP - DAY

Cal is startled when the RING abruptly stops.

CAL

Rude.

Cal hits END CALL. He looks above him, checks the overhead airport signage -- UNITED -- then types on his phone.

He resumes smoking and scanning the incoming vehicles.

INT. LEROY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Naomi's phone CHIMES, then displays a text from Cal:
under united sign

Leroy lifts the hammer (previously held by Naomi) from the table and SMASHES THE PHONE TO PIECES.

FLASHBACK: INT. LEROY'S HALF BATH - EARLIER THAT DAY

Leroy lifts one of Jean's pill bottles. ZOLPIDEM. He opens the top and shakes a dozen pills into his hand.

INT. LEROY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Leroy puts the pills into his shirt pocket, then grabs a photo album from the bookcase.

INT. LEROY'S KITCHEN - DAY

The twins, at the table, engrossed in the photo album.

Leroy, at the counter, drops pills into 2 of the shakes.

END FLASHBACK

INT. LEROY'S CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY

Leroy hand-brushes the phone bits into a trashcan.

NAOMI (O.S.)

HELP! HELP!

Leroy stops what he's doing to listen. He strains to hear.

BEDROOM - A MINUTE LATER

Leroy enters.

Naomi -- now dressed in the same ratty flannel shirt she had derided earlier -- lies chained to the bed.

NAOMI

What the fuck! Get these off me!

LEROY

Calm down now.

NAOMI

I'm not gonna calm down, you psychopath. Get these chains off me!

LEROY

I liked you best.

NAOMI

Fuck you! Unchain me!

LEROY

You'll stay with me. As Wife.

NAOMI

You're fuckin' crazy! HELP!

LEROY

And your sister's with Jean.

NAOMI

What do you mean my sister's with Jean?

A chicken enters.

LEROY

God dammit.

NAOMI

(heightened)

What do you mean my sister's with Jean?

Leroy picks up the chicken ...

LEROY

Back outside now.

... and exits.

NAOMI

HOW IS SHE WITH JEAN? STEPH!
STEPH!

INT. CASKET - NO CONCEPT OF DAY OR NIGHT

STEPH'S EYES. FULL TERROR. She's buried alive. With Jean
(a solid 245 lbs).

STEPH

This can't be happening. This
can't be happening.

She tries to move her arm, to bring it up from her side, but she's smashed in too tight.

STEPH
Wake up. Wake up. Wake the fuck
up.

Steph, hyperventilating, then crying.

STEPH
(through tears)
Naomi.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER CREDITS:

EXT. STEPH'S HOUSE - EVENING

NATALIE (30s) holds a bottle of wine in one hand and knocks on the door with the other.

She steps back and waits.

FADE OUT.