

Sleep Well Beast

Written by Dillon Horner

Blackness.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - DAY

Mid-size town. Snowy weather. Shops on either side. A bicycle is laid over on the sidewalk as people move past. Some shops have 'closed' signs hanging over their front door.

An older woman DAISY (mid-60's) attempts to enter a drug store but sees a 'closed' sign. She turns around and looks out at the crowd and walks on.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

The shop is worn down and busy.

Some people are on their phones as others are shouting at employee's.

Daisy is talking on her phone.

DAISY

Ok look. I'm going to run home and try to find those meds and then I'm gonna drive to your place ok?

A voice over the phone.

DAISY

Yes. Yes. Ok. I will bring it. No your father doesn't need that stuff. I will be there as soon as I can. Ok bye.

An employee walks up with her beverage.

CLERK

Here you go ma'am.

DAISY

Thank you so much.

CLERK

This place is getting a bit hectic...might be a good idea to take that coffee to-go.

DAISY

Hun, I was in Missouri a few years back. Don't worry 'bout me. I do need to head on home though.

CLERK

Yes ma'am.

Daisy walks out.

EXT. HOME/SUBURBS - DAY

A small older home with a garden bed out front.

Daisy pulls up in her sedan. Goes inside.

INT. HOME/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Modern decor on the walls. Ceramic Angels on bookshelves. A screen door.

Daisy sets her keys in a jar by the door. She goes to the bathroom.

A masked man appears through the screen door and walks out of sight.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Dirty sink counter.

Daisy looks through different pill bottles and walks back to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Daisy grabs the keys and looks behind her. She walks into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Stuffed fridge.

Daisy looks through the fridge and closes it as the man appears over her. She screams in fear! He covers her mouth and takes the keys from her.

Blackness.

EXT. GROCERY STORE/DOWNTOWN - DAY

Various people in heavy coats. 'Open sign' on the door.

Customers rush inside amongst the traffic.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

The store is low on supplies. Standing in line are close to 30 people with only 2 clerks. A television hanging.

SUE(early-teen) is standing in line with glasses reading a book while everyone else is on their phone. She waits with her father DAVE(mid-30's). Dave is clean-shaven.

Dave and the others stand and watch the President speaking.

An older gentleman MARTY(60's) moves up behind Dave.

DAVE

Well hey Marty...you feeling any better today?

MARTY

I have my good and bad days so I'm bout normal I guess...I can't complain, how bout you...?

DAVE

Trying to enjoy this summer...it's not as easy as it used to be.

MARTY

To tell you the truth, I think we need to head further south. The damn cold is pushing everyone down.

DAVE
My home is here.

SUE
Daddy, we need to get going. Our
show is gonna start soon.

DAVE
It will be ok I got it saved for us
to watch when we get home, now
don't interrupt.

They look up at the President on TV.

PRESIDENT
...And I know that when you sit on
the steps of a porch where a home
once stood, or sleep on a cot in a
crowded shelter, it is hard to
imagine a bright future...But that
future will come.

MARTY
That man just doesn't know what
he's doin...it's a waste of our
time and money is what it is...

DAVE
There is only so much that can be
done. When you're one man what can
you do?

MARTY
He may only be one man...but we
elected him...there was a time when
that meant something.

DAVE
...I think it still does..

MARTY
Not like it was.

David and his daughter move up in line and the clerk starts
moving packages of Tylenol and Excedrin.

CLERK
Is this it for you sir?

DAVE
Yes thank you...you have a good
day.

CLERK

Thank you sir.

Dave and Sue start to leave.

MARTY

You take care of yourselves now.

DAVE

Oh we're gonna try. There is some good in the world Marty...we better start trying to find a way to take care of it.

Dave waves goodbye and they leave.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Trash blows across the busy streets.

TITLE CARD: Galveston, Texas.

David and Sue exit the store and get inside of an old red 94' Chevy truck and drive away.

EXT. SEA WALL/HIGHWAY - DAY

The highway along the coast is bare. Sun is going down.

They drive along the sea wall as Sue looks out at the water hitting the shore.

EXT. TRAILER HOME - DAY

A trailer home sits on a small lot. Kid's toys out front.

They pull up and David and Sue head inside.

INT. TRAILER HOME - NIGHT

The house is moderately staged with family photos. A small kitchen is evident.

Dave and Sue come walking in to find Lily(30's)wearing reading glasses, cooking fish over the stove top.

SUE

Hey momma! What's for dinner? Dad say's he's tired of fish.

LILY

I don't care what dad is. If he is hungry then he will eat what I serve him...same goes for you little lady.

Dave comes up behind her and rubs her shoulders.

DAVE

Hello there.

LILY

Hey honey.

DAVE

How have you been?

LILY

I've been pretty good...I missed you earlier.

DAVE

I missed you too.

LILY

C'mon, stop babe...I gotta finish dinner.

DAVE

Oh ok...well then I guess...I'll just leave you to it then.

He abruptly stops and walks away.

Lily goes back to work as Sue comes in with her camera and starts filming.

SUE

Is dinner almost ready momma?

LILY

Almost Sue, now go on and let me work.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A chair and couch are in front of a big television.

Dave is dressed in pajama pants. He takes a seat in his lazy chair and turns on the evening news. Sue sits down with her dad while they watch a reporter talking on the television.

NEWS REPORTER

Attention ladies and gentlemen, this is an announcement. If you are just tuning in, we have received word of increasing break-ins all throughout the country. Especially the southern regions, as of late. We advise everyone to lock up your cars, windows and doors. This is an update on the epidemic that has gripped not just the country, but the entire world over the past 4 or 5 years.

Dave sits with his daughter in his lap.

NEWS REPORTER

What started as one of the worst winters in recorded history has now turned into a complete and utter abandonment of the upper regions of North America. Citizens are flooding down south as far as they can to survive. People's homes are being raided, cars are being stolen and the interstates are cramped with traffic that's at a standstill.

LILY

Oh my god Dave, are you hearing this...?

Dave continues watching.

LILY

...Dave?

Dave doesn't move.

LILY

Dave turn that off. I don't want Sue to be scared. Let's watch a movie instead.

SUE

I'm ok mommy, I'm not scared.

LILY

Yea well it's not up for discussion.

SUE

No I want to watch my show!

LILY

let's watch a superhero movie or something uplifting like that.

DAVE

I need to watch this...

Lily drops her spatula and walks up to the television and struggles to reach behind and unplugs it.

DAVE

Hey what are you doing?! How do you think I'm going to know how to protect us?

LILY

I told you that I don't want our daughter listening to that stuff...now pick out a movie because dinner is almost ready.

The phone rings and Dave answers.

DAVE

Hello. Yes. I know. I know I just saw it like you did. Don't worry ma we are going to be ok.

Dave sits down to look at the different selections that they have and Sue walks over beside him. She picks up an animated movie.

SUE

How about this one?

Dave shakes his head.

DAVE

(still on the phone)

I know we need to be careful. I'm looking at her right now and we are fine. Ok I love you too. See you tomorrow, bye.

He picks up an 80's action movie.

DAVE
(to Sue)
Now this is more our speed.

Sue smiles.

LILY
Alright you two, grab your dinner
towels.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

A white dinner table with red cloths on top.

Both Sue and Dave sit down and grab their red cloth and
cover their lap.

Lily brings in their plates and sets them down. They start
eating.

DAVE
Thanks hun.

LILY
You're welcome babe.

SUE
I'm hungry momma.

LILY
So eat.

LILY
How was the store...still a
madhouse?

DAVE
Oh yes...definitely.

SUE
Momma what's a mad house?

LILY
A madhouse is what you call a place
that has a bunch of crazy stuff
going on...people doing weird
things.

DAVE
..A lot of tension..

SUE
Ok.

SUE
Hey dad...what is tension?

Dave and Lily chuckle now and she motions for him to take the lead.

DAVE
Well sweetie...tension is just another word for being uncomfortable, like how dad feels going over to Nina's house.

Lily gives her husband a look.

LILY
Eat your dinner Sue. I'm sure you have asked your dad enough questions for today.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A blaring screen against sleepy faces.

Sue's eye's are closed and Dave scoops her into his arms. He heads into her small room across from their bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kids toys are scattered about the floor.

Sue starts to wake up now and feels a surge of energy as she sees her father.

SUE
I missed the movie? I always miss the ending...

DAVE
Don't worry, you have seen it before. Besides, you can finish it tomorrow.

SUE
Really...?

DAVE
Now sleep tight kid.

SUE
Wait dad! Can you sing me a song?

Dave shrugs his eyebrows and sits down beside her.

DAVE
What song do you want to hear?

SUE
Porgy!

DAVE
You know I love you so much? Like
more than anything...?

SUE
Anything?

DAVE
Anything...maybe even more than
your mom...don't say anything
though I don't want to hurt her
feelings.

SUE
I won't.

DAVE
Thanks.

A beat.

SUE
...Sing the song dad!

Dave smiles and softly sings.

DAVE
I loves you, Porgy. Don't let 'em
take me. If you can keep me, I want
to stay here with you forever...and
I'd be glad.

Sue smiles at him and snuggles up in her bed. Dave finishes
his lullaby.

DAVE

I loves you, Porgy. Don't let 'em
keep me. If you can take me, I want
to stay here with you
forever...I've got my man.

He finishes the song in a whisper and she drifts off to sleep..

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The lamp is on.

Dave sits back down beside Lily and falls asleep.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

The power CUTS in and out. The electricity FLICKERS until going dead.

Blackness.

Dave stands as he tries to hear for movement.

LILY

What is it Dave?

DAVE

Listen...

Suddenly the lights RETURN and three masked men are standing motionless beside them! They point a gun.

Another burglar shakes open a trash bag and starts raiding the refrigerator.

BURGLAR #1

Be calm and everything is going to
be ok, your daughter won't be
harmd.

DAVE

What are you doing?

BURGLAR #1

We need food, I'm sorry about this.

A beat.

The man looks behind him and Dave springs forward, knocking the gun away across the floor.

Lily runs toward the gun. Dave is on top of the leader, punching him.

Lily strains until she has it.

LILY
Dave! Here!

Lily tosses the gun and Dave catches it, pointing the gun.

DAVE
Put it down now!!

DAVE
I want you out of my house...

BURGLAR #1
Ok...looks like we picked the wrong house this time, but you aren't the only one's who need food and shelter...

DAVE
If you wanted food or some help, you just come ask...not this.

BURGLAR #1
Sometimes a man has nothing to lose and everything to gain...and when that happens...we all have to pay that price. It's not negotiable.

DAVE

BURGLAR
...NO!

BANG! A LOUD GUNSHOT!

Dave looks at the big man pointing a gun and raises his arm to FIRE. He turns back to the two men and FIRES again.

Dave looks to his wife and sees the blood. Lily is holding both her hands on her chest.

LILY
I'm sorry. I didn't mean for this to happen...

DAVE

I know you didn't...shhh now, you are gonna be fine. I'm calling an ambulance right now see? You are going to be fine.

LILY

I'm...I'm...sor-

DAVE

No...please...don't leave me...

Lily's eyes close and her head falls to the floor. Dave sobs as Sue appears.

DAVE

Oh...don't look please...

Sue runs over to Dave and buries her face in his chest.

DAVE

It's ok sweetie, It's over now. They won't hurt you.

Sue looks around before seeing her mom. Dave comforts and hugs her.

EXT. TOWN LIMITS - DAY - 10 YEARS LATER

Snow covered ground. A small camp amongst an abandoned town.

Darting behind a deserted truck, SUE(early-20's) hides and waits. She is older and has red hair.

Two men(30's) come looking for her. They go walking by, making TRACKS in the snow.

STRANGER

Come here girl...where are ya?

STRANGER #2

We know you are here somewhere.

STRANGER

Aw hell...she done run off.

STRANGER #2

Looks like it.

STRANGER

Let's get the hell outta here. The snow is getting worse.

The two men walk back to camp allowing Sue to run out toward the woods. Carrying a backpack through the cold wind, she passes through the outskirts of town limits.

EXT. WOODLANDS - DAY

The clouds are dark. Thorn bushes are everywhere amongst the tree's.

Moving quietly, Sue stops to listen. She tightens her coat and continues home.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Thorny vines and snow.

Sue finally makes it to a clearing.

EXT. RURAL CLEARING - DAY

TITLE CARD: Texas hill-country. Ten years later.

A rural clearing is seen.

Sue makes her way out of it and sees home. A two-story wooden house is tucked away and hidden in the back corner of the clearing.

EXT. GARDEN/FRONT YARD - DAY

A small garden with three people working on it.

Dave sees Sue and smiles. Dave's face is grizzled and he has facial hair.

Equally covered up, ISAAC(54) and AMELIA(46) wave hello. Isaac has gray hair and a large vest. Amelia is black with dark hair and she wears a hoodie.

DAVE

Sue! I'm glad to see you back.

Sue runs over to her father and buries her face in his clothing.

AMELIA

Sue!

ISAAC

Hello!

SUE

Hey guys!

DAVE

C'mon...help me finish this last crop before we lose the daylight.

Sue deposits some hunted food in a wicker basket for 'Frozen Items'.

EXT. WOODEN HOUSE (FRONT YARD) - DAY

The house is made from scrap materials with a timber roof. A medium-sized generator runs with a line toward the house.

Dave comes walking up behind Sue as she discards her catch into wicker bin labeled 'Freezer' and they head toward the house.

DAVE

So...you made out with a good catch
I see...have any troubles?

SUE

No, not much trouble at all. I
found the last one on my way back.
I had two guys on my trail for
awhile but I shook them off.

DAVE

How many?

SUE

Just two...

DAVE

And they didn't see you?

SUE

No I doubled back like ya taught me.

DAVE

Good...good. Let's get inside.
C'mon I'll race ya!

They race to the door and Sue beats him by a mile.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

A couch and some chairs sit in the middle of the living room with a fireplace. A wooden theme throughout with pictures hung up across the walls.

Sue walks past Issac and Amelia's room.

SUE

Hey guys how was today?

AMELIA

It's ok. Issac caught a fish over at the river while you were gone. We have him sitting outside. You should join us tomorrow if the weather holds out.

SUE

Nice! I'll think about it...who wants to cook tonight...?

AMELIA

Shit...why not you?

ISSAC

Yes please Sue! I can't stand another night of burnt baked potatoes from 'you know who'.

SUE

Ok...I'll fix dinner.

AMELIA

Thank you Sue! You are the best.

SUE

Yea...yea...

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

A dirty sink. Music is playing over a small radio on the counter.

Sue goes to the kitchen and starts cleaning up the leftover dishes.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Her room is decorated with Bill Nye posters and different folk musicians.

Sue walks to her bathroom and takes a shower.

EXT. TRUCK IN A FIELD (A DREAM) - NIGHT

Sue and a handsome boy are laying down on a few fluffy blankets in the back of his pick-up truck.

Taking turns between making out and tickling, the boy brushes Sue's hair and they lean in for a kiss.

Sue wakes up.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Sue WAKES UP from her dream_and looks around in a panic.

She gets out of bed and goes to brush her teeth.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

The mirror reveals Sue has a quiet strength and beauty.

She splashes water on her face and looks in the mirror.

SUE

...C'mon...

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Isaac is on the couch reading his worn bible. Dave is seated in his chair reading from a novel. The fireplace is burning. A little battery powered-radio sits on the table spouting weather reports.

Isaac takes off his glasses and Dave turns to stoke the fire. Sue walks in.

ISAAC
Morning Sue.

SUE
Morning.

DAVE
Good morning...the radio says our
'fun-in-the-sun' is just about
over.

Sue heads to the kitchen to pour herself a cup of left over coffee.

SUE
Well we knew that little bit of
warmth wasn't going to last.

ISAAC
Yea I figured that too but I'm glad
we had it. I wish we had just one
more day so I could have finished
that damn fence-line...

DAVE
What's the use? What the hell is a
fence gonna do for us anyhow?

ISAAC
It's mainly for the garden. You
know...

DAVE
Yea we know Isaac.

SUE
Will you two quit bickering like
old women...?

Sue grabs the sugar and pours for a half-second into her cup and stirs.

ISAAC
I'm not gonna say another word.

DAVE
Spoken like a true diva.

ISAAC
Well if this is the morning's
conversation then I'm going
outside.

Isaac gets up and starts putting on a jacket.

DAVE
Don't let us stop ya...I'll be out
there in a minute.

DAVE
Don't wait up.

ISSAC
Oh I won't.

A beat.

Dave gets up to head outside.

Sue sips on her coffee as a man speaks on the radio.

REPORTER
It looks like the temperature is
going down again with a temp range
of between 15 and -5 degrees. Those
warmer temps we had for awhile were
nice weren't they?

REPORTER
Today is the 13th of August and the
freakish cold front that swept
through a little under 10 years ago
is just not going to let up. Chris
Douglas, NKC News.

Sue turns off the radio and bundles up to follow the others
outside.

EXT. HOME (FRONT YARD) - DAY

The weather is foreboding. The four of them work outside.

Dave gathers up the tools while Issac heads to the generator for repairs. Sue heads to the barn to help gather milk and eggs.

Issac continues to work on the generator as Dave and Sue pluck the last of the crop while Amelia works in the barn.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER

The fireplace burns. A radio is on.

The men come inside and get warm. Dave sits in his chair with a glass of tequila. He looks at a picture of Lily.

Dave grabs his notebook and maps out his day.

His handwriting is seen:

First motion of the day: see to Sue, check.

Second motion of the day: finish garden, check.

Third motion of the day: see to a drink, check.

Fourth motion of the day: make plans for the day, LIVE.

Fifth motion of the day: cook, LIVE.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Coffee is brewed on the counter. Radio on counter. Pans on the stove.

Dave walks back to the kitchen and turns the radio to a music channel. Isaac comes in from the bedroom and gives Dave a look about the volume.

Dave is prepared and holds out a shot of tequila for Isaac and they both down their beverage.

ISAAC

Hey David would you mind turning
the music down a tad?

DAVE

What?

ISAAC
Amelia keeps telling me she has a
headache and I'm trying to read...

DAVE
Isaac it's not up that loud is it?
Just calm down.

ISAAC
Well it is...

DAVE
Seriously?

ISAAC
Look...I'm calm...please just turn
it down.

DAVE
You know what Isaac? I'm gonna turn
it down...ok?

ISAAC
Thank you.

DAVE
But next time...

ISAAC
Yes?

DAVE
I might suggest some ear buds or
maybe some better insulation
perhaps? I could even help with the
project.

Issac walks back to his bedroom.

ISAAC
Yea I bet.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

A shelf is lined with books. Dozens of them.

Sue lays on her bed in her room reading. She falls asleep.

EXT. HIGHWAY (DREAM) - DAY

A road with short trees on either side. A truck speeds ahead.

Lighting a cigarette, Sue turns up the rock music.

Speeding down the highway now, she nods with the beat and exits off into a suburban area until she stops at a friends house.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD (DREAM) - DAY

Nice houses are lined together. Families together.

SAM(20's) comes running out of her house to give Sue a hug. She is around Sues age with blonde hair.

SUE

Hey Sam!

SAM

I'm so glad you made it...come inside, Mom has dinner in the oven.

SUE

How you been?

SAM

I'm doing fantastic.

SUE

That's great.

SAM

How about you?

SUE

I'm good.

SAM

Really?

SUE

Yea...I'm good.

INT. BEDROOM (DREAM) - DAY

Modern bedroom. Toy boats for decoration.

Sam turns on the TV and they jump on the bed. Sam leaves it on some sit-com.

SAM
Oh I like this show.

Sue looks out the window at the falling snow.

SAM
He sure is handsome...and he
doesn't take any shit.

SUE
And you're into that?

SAM
Into what?

SUE
Assholes...?

SAM
No? What are you talking about?

SUE
I mean guys that don't 'take any
shit'.

SAM
Oh...yea.

SUE
You like that?

SAM
Well sure...don't you?

SUE
Maybe...I'm just curious I guess.

SAM
I am for sure...

SUE
How do you know?

SAM
I don't know...you just know it
when you feel it.

Sue looks at the 'asshole' on TV.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The glare from the moon over her.

Sue WAKES UP from her dream and looks around the room in confusion.

Turning on her light, Sue reaches for a worn letter. She removes the contents and carefully opens the paper.

DAVE (V.O.)

Lily, I can't stand it anymore. I don't know what to do with myself. I've been stationed here so long now that I forget how things look back home. How's your mom? If I had known how things were going to turn out. I'm not sure that I would have ever made that decision. I think about it all the time. How is Sue? I hate myself for the fact that I couldn't have been there when she was born. I will be back before you know it! Just wait and see. When she gets old enough to walk I will be there to hold her. When she gets old enough to talk I will be there to listen. Tell her I love her. You are always with me in some way. I take comfort in that. I couldn't make it here without that. You are one of the few great decisions in my life and I tell everyone. You must be busy with Sue, how is that all going? You won't be alone soon, just a little while longer. Pretty soon I will be there to hold her and change her and you can take long baths and watch your shows. I know how much you love your shows. I want to be there to help. Just do something for me...Always think of me when you get into trouble or when you have something on your mind that just can't shake. I know how that feels. It helps to talk about things. I don't know what else to do. All I can do is bleed into this page and hope some of it

(MORE)

DAVE (V.O.) (cont'd)
gets to you. Am I getting to you?
Am I getting to you yet? I hope so.
Wait for me, I won't be long. I'm
ok I just need away from this
place. It isn't fun anymore. I'm
not sure that it ever was. I seem
to remember a time back when things
were within sight. Within my grasp.
I can't wait to leave here and be
with you. In a simple place. In a
simple world. Listening to music, I
think of our family. The family we
created. I can't wait to see you
baby. Love you and see you
soon! Please think of us this
way, David.

Sue lies awake in the darkness.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Roaring fireplace. Radio on table.

Dave sits in his chair with a blanket over him and a drink
in his hand.

Looking at a photo of Lily, he listens to OLDIES MUSIC
coming out of the small radio on the table as the fire place
crackles behind him.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Morning time. Wind is heard outside.

Sue gets up and makes her bed before heading into the
kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Pans are scattered about. Food is on the floor.

Sue tip-toes in the kitchen and turns on a light.

SUE
Jesus...

She hears a low MOANING noise and looks over to find her father laying face down on the floor.

SUE

Dad!

Sue runs over to him and starts shaking him awake.

SUE

Dad! Wake up!

SUE

Are you ok? Dad wake up!

DAVE

I'm sorry kid, I'm alright. Are you alright?

Isaac and Amelia come running into the room. Dave sits upright.

AMELIA

Dave are you ok?

DAVE

I'm alright guys, please just give me a minute...

Isaac and Sue help him into his chair and throw a blanket over him.

ISAAC

Are you sure?

DAVE

I'm ok goddamn't leave me be!

A beat.

SUE

Ok...I'll finish making the coffee.

Issac and Amelia walk back to their room and Sue starts making breakfast.

Dave reaches for the radio while Sue works.

Dave looks at her.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Small room. Many pictures and a large mirror are hung up.

Amelia sits on the bed and brushes her hair while Isaac puts on a clean shirt.

AMELIA

Can you believe that man? You need to find his stash and-

ISAAC

And do what with it? Huh? We need to band together, not start fights. Just let him be.

AMELIA

That poor girl doesn't need to be taking care of her daddy.

ISAAC

We all need to take care of each other Mel...You want to go back to living how we were?

AMELIA

Of course I don't...have you asked about her yet?

ISAAC

No not yet.

AMELIA

I don't want Sue to have to see this kinda thing anymore.

ISAAC

Hey, give him a break Mel, he took us in.

AMELIA

Yea and now we are stuck with him. Where does this end exactly?

Issac takes her in his arms and kisses her.

ISAAC

It is going...to end with us...in bed...together.

They fall on the bed and embrace.

ISAAC
Kinda like...right now.

AMELIA
Get off of me you crazy man...c'mon
lets go.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY - LATER

Mid-morning. Hissing pan. Steaming coffee.

Sue CRACKS several eggs in a bowl and stirs them. Sue opens the oven and pulls out fresh biscuits.

As she prepares 4 plates and sets them on the dining table, Dave comes WALKING over.

DAVE
This smells amazing...I'm ready for
breakfast today.

SUE
Yea I bet...Amelia! Ike! Foods
ready.

Sue and Dave sit down at the table together. Sue places distinct red napkins for everyone and they start eating.

SUE
So I guess we better dig in for
winter huh...?

DAVE
What's that?

SUE
Well we gotta get the house
fixed...help you off the floor...

DAVE
Sue...

SUE
...make breakfast everyday...Screw
around outside as long as we can-

DAVE
Please Sue.

SUE
Until we can't go outside at all
anymore...and then we are stuck
here!

A beat.

SUE
...no where to go.

DAVE
Not today...please.

SUE
Yea not today...not ever.

DAVE
What do you want me to do about it?
Huh?

SUE
What can you do about it? That's my
point. We are stuck...absolutely
stuck.

DAVE
I'm doing the best I can...

SUE
Yea you are doing great dad...real
good.

DAVE
It's a lot better than freezin to
death! You let me know how that
works for ya.

SUE
Don't tempt me...

Sue gets up from the table ABRUPTLY.

DAVE
Sue...please come back.

Sue SCRAPES her food in the leftover bin and throws her
plate in the sink roughly before walking past the kitchen to
her room.

DAVE
Sue...

SUE

I can't take this anymore!!

She goes to her room and slams the door shut as Isaac and Amelia come walking in.

Dave tries to eat but drops his fork down on the plate and buries his face in his hands.

ISAAC

She will be alright.

ISAAC

David?...she just needs some room to run is all.

DAVE

Well that's the problem Isaac isn't it?...There's no fucking room to run. I don't know what to do for her anymore...

ISAAC

Of course you do.

DAVE

Except to try and keep her safe, what else is there?

ISAAC

Maybe we could send her on another hunt before the weather really sets in?

AMELIA

Maybe you could try not being piss-drunk in the floor.

A beat.

AMELIA

Sue doesn't need to worry about you.

ISAAC

Mel please...

AMELIA

No...that little girl doesn't need that in her life...she has enough already.

Dave starts nervously trying to eat.

DAVE
I'm doing the best I can here...

ISAAC
We know that.

DAVE
If you two find my company to be
unsatisfying then please, by all
means, go strike out by yourselves.

ISAAC
David that's not what we mean-

DAVE
If you two find my parenting skills
to be less than satisfactory then
please...help me.

DAVE
Help me won't you?

Isaac and Amelia look at him.

AMELIA
We've been trying Dave...we have
been.

Dave starts breaking down.

DAVE
I don't know what I should
do...I've gotten this far but now
what? I don't know how to handle
this waiting...

AMELIA
Hey listen to me...it's going to be
ok...we are in this together.

ISAAC
You aren't in this alone Dave.

Hold on the group.

EXT. RURAL CLEARING - DAY

Tree branches crack. Snow falls.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The hallway is a brownish color. Tight space.

Sue comes out of her room dressed up in many layers of clothing and sees that Isaac is as well.

SUE
You're going out also?

ISAAC
I need to check the generator. What are you doing?

SUE
I'm checking on the animals.

ISAAC
You really don't need to...let me.

SUE
No...you already have a job.

ISAAC
I know but-

SUE
So let me do mine...Ok?

Isaac smiles.

ISAAC
Ok.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Fire is burning. Blankets are folded up on the couch.

Issac puts his facemask on and walks outside with a slight nod to Dave on his way out. Sue works on her gear before leaving.

DAVE
Do you really need to go outside right now?

SUE
Yes.

DAVE

Why not wait until the weather
calms down in the evening?

SUE

I'm fine dad, I'm checking on the
animals real quick.

DAVE

But wait Sue I need you to--

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Snow is BLOWING. Debris is flying around. Barn across from
house.

Sue wraps her arms around her body. Making her way across
the field she sees the small wagon they have as a visual
checkpoint.

Sue continues her way past the wagon and into the big barn
with an 'X' painted in red over the front entrance.

INT. BARN - DAY

A cow and pigs are huddled together on several piles of hay.

The chicken coup is further down and Sue makes her way
inside to check for eggs.

She sees a couple chickens have died and adds some hay to
their bedding. Sue hugs the cow playfully and it BELLOWS and
shakes, causing her to back up in fear.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

A tree line. Little visibility.

Sue looks out at the field and sees a dark figure out in the
distance. She takes off her goggles and looks out again,
near the tree-line.

She sees the dark figure is moving in closer towards them.

Sue runs to the house and BANGS on the door.

SUE
Man approaching!

DAVE
What?!

SUE
Man approaching!

She runs over to Isaac to let him know and they both head inside where Dave already has the door open.

INT. LIVING ROOM (FRONT DOOR) - DAY

The door is open. Everyone is looking outside. Dave holds a deer rifle.

Dave looks through the scope for a closer view. It is two men walking slowly wearing only a couple of light jackets.

Dave lowers his rifle and shuts the door.

DAVE
It's a couple strays...heading this way.

ISAAC
Really?

DAVE
They've surely seen enough to come wanting in.

SUE
Are we going to let them?

ISAAC
Why wouldn't we let them in? They don't have long out there.

DAVE
We can't...we don't have the space, or the supplies.

AMELIA
So what?

DAVE
There isn't much we can do.

AMELIA
You want to just leave 'em out
there?

Dave sits the rifle down against the door.

DAVE
I don't want to but we know
absolutely nothing about these
people and-

ISAAC
Exactly! We know nothing about
these people and you are talking
about-

DAVE
Yes I am!

Dave locks the door and takes a seat, sipping his coffee.

Sue looks through the peep-hole in the door and sees white
snow-flakes falling to the ground.

ISAAC
Dave...they can stay in our room
ok?

AMELIA
Isaac honey...

ISAAC
I'll let them.

AMELIA
Just wait a minute.

DAVE
They can't stay...

Sue turns to the peep-hole again, leaning upward.

Two men are standing right up close to the door!

Sue SCREAMS! She jumps away in panic!

They turn their attention to Sue as the two men outside hear
her.

MAN #1
Hey you in there! Can we please
come in?

Dave gets up and heads to the door and grabs his rifle. He doesn't open the door.

DAVE
I'm sorry but...we can't.

MAN #1
We won't be of much trouble to you folks...just need inside for a day or so.

DAVE
We can't I'm sorry.

ISAAC
Just let them in David goddamn't!

They look at each other fiercely as the two men outside are YELLING and BANGING on the door.

SUE
Maybe we should let them in dad.

DAVE
If we let them in then we can kiss all of this goodbye.

ISAAC
Who says?

DAVE
All in a matter of weeks...is that what you want?!

Sue covers her mouth in fear. Dave goes back to the door.

DAVE
You aren't welcome now leave!

The POUNDING stops and so do the voices.

Suddenly LOUD SHOTS BURST through the door! They all dive for cover.

Dave gets SHOT in the leg! He scrambles to the kitchen YELLING in pain.

SUE
Daddy!

The gunfire stops and the door is KICKED open with two men falling in, desperately from the cold.

The two men are freezing and trying to regain their footing. The man with the gun goes to shoot again but the clip is EMPTY.

Amelia raises a pistol of her own and SHOOTs the man holding the gun, sending him to the floor.

The other man looks at his dead friend and SHRIEKs, darting back outside into the cold.

EXT. THE FIELD - DAY

Tracks are made in the snow. A steamy breath.

The man is running away from the house as fast as he can into the cold.

Dave crawls over to his rifle and takes aim out the front door and SHOOTs the runaway down into the snow where it soon turns red.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The door is closed. The fire still burning.

Amelia disposes of her pistol. David works with the door before sinking downward.

They see that his leg is bleeding.

DAVE

Yea let's let 'em in huh...?

ISAAC

I can't believe you...

DAVE

...We see how that would have went.

ISAAC

You crazy bastard!

Sue runs to get some bandages.

ISAAC

What did you do?

DAVE

I saved our fucking lives...You
wanna help me with this or are you
gonna keep yelling at me?

Isaac goes to the kitchen and rummages for some long rags.

Sue returns and looks sternly at Amelia who is still in
shock.

SUE

Amelia snap out of it!

Isaac comes back with a rag and starts to tie Dave's leg off
with force causing Dave to CRY OUT in pain.

Sue pours peroxide and it foams up causing Dave to grit his
teeth and pound the floor with his fist.

DAVE

Jesus Christ! I believe I can feel
that. Isaac...man...grab me that
bottle underneath the sink over
there...

SUE

No! Not yet...your leg will never
stop bleeding if you start that up.
You have to wait.

DAVE

Fuck...

Amelia is deeply shaken and gets up to go into her room and
Isaac follows after her.

A beat.

SUE

Do you know who those guys were?

DAVE

No...I didn't recognize them. But I
do know this isn't over...not even
close.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The next morning. Dave is asleep in his chair.

Sue decides to make breakfast and starts washing potatoes. Dave awakes and starts looking around before the nerves in his leg come alive.

DAVE
Son-of-a-bitch...

Sue grabs a fresh bandage.

SUE
Morning dad...

DAVE
...Morning...

SUE
How are you this morning?

DAVE
I'll let you know in 'bout 30
minutes.

He grits his teeth as she applies more peroxide.

SUE
Are you hungry? I'm going to make a
big breakfast and we can all eat
together.

DAVE
I suppose so..

SUE
I think we need it right now.

Sue heads back to the kitchen as Dave looks under his chair for some pain remedy.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A radio plays music. Pans are moved around.

Sue starts fixing some breakfast for everyone.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Snow is seen through the bedroom window. The room is a mess.

Isaac and Amelia are lying in bed together. She is quiet as Isaac holds her.

ISAAC
Are you ok Mel?

AMELIA
Yea I'll be ok. Just thinking.

ISAAC
I was scared too...

AMELIA
I wasn't scared.

ISAAC
You weren't?

AMELIA
No...I just can't believe how easy
it was.

ISAAC
What do you mean?

AMELIA
...to pull the trigger...

ISAAC
You saved us..

AMELIA
I killed somebody is what I did...I
promised that I would never take a
life.

ISAAC
If Dave had just talked to
them...we could have avoided this.

AMELIA
I'm not so sure of that.

ISAAC
How can you say that?

AMELIA
I mean I agree we should have.

ISAAC
You do?

AMELIA
Yes...It just all happened so fast.

ISAAC

I know.

They hear the music going on in the kitchen and Amelia suddenly rolls over and gets out of bed, still shaky.

ISAAC

Hun?

AMELIA

We gotta do something...

ISAAC

what you doin'?

AMELIA

Come on, lets be there for Sue.

ISAAC

...alright...

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Coffee is on the table. Dave is still in his chair over by the fire.

Issac and Amelia walk in to find Sue concentrating on the pans of food in front of her.

AMELIA

Hey guys.

SUE

Why don't ya'll take a seat...do you want coffee or water?

AMELIA

Water.

ISAAC

Coffee please...black.

SUE

Dad you want some more coffee?

DAVE

I still have some...thank you though.

Dave gets up and hobbles to the table. Sue brings the drinks and goes back to finishing breakfast.

DAVE

Let me guess...we have eggs and
toast...probably some potatoes
thrown in there too huh?

SUE

Well...yea.

DAVE

That's what I thought...

AMELIA

Dave just....c'mon.

SUE

Is there something wrong with that?

DAVE

No no...I just was...thinking you
had some talent to mix things up
once in a while.

Sue lays down Isaac and Amelia's plates and then TOSSES her
dad's plate, causing the food to fall about.

SUE

Why don't you take another pull and
shut up...

Everyone eats nervously as Dave remains silent.

SUE

So are we going to talk about what
happened yesterday?

A beat.

ISAAC

Not much to talk about...we killed
two people.

Another beat.

DAVE

...After they started shooting at
us...

ISAAC

Oh no, we both know they were dead
before that...

SUE
So we shouldn't have a say at all?

ISAAC
A say...?

SUE
We should just open our doors to everyone that walks up on our home? That doesn't make sense.

AMELIA
And this makes sense? This right here makes sense? Sue c'mon.

ISAAC
They might have been nice people that could have helped us! They might've had some supplies...

DAVE
Firewood isn't our worry...its our food supply.

ISAAC
They might have had some food!

DAVE
...We don't know how long this winter is going to last and we can't assume we have enough as it is.

AMELIA
What if they had more food? or a vehicle nearby?

DAVE
We don't know...

AMELIA
With more food and water?

ISAAC
Right we don't know.

DAVE
They had a gun. We know that much...that's what we know for sure isn't it?

A beat.

DAVE

We know that because they started shooting at us...

AMELIA

We don't know shit.

DAVE

Jesus christ Amelia! Look at my leg!?

AMELIA

We knew they were freezing to death and wanted inside to get warm...we denied them entry and they shot you for it!

DAVE

I happen to remember you shooting one of them in response.

ISAAC

Dave please..

DAVE

Am I right? Thank you by the way, you saved our lives.

AMELIA

Damn you...

SUE

...Amelia...

DAVE

Please trust me that there would have been zero good in letting them in...

DAVE

..Everyone is out to survive and that includes us...I trusted you both because I had to...so we would survive.

ISAAC

Exactly you took us in...

DAVE

We built this place for us. For our size and for our consumption level. There is no room for anyone else. I'm sorry it has to be that way but

(MORE)

DAVE (cont'd)
I didn't make the rules...I'm just
trying to keep us alive.

Everyone is quiet.

ISAAC
What happens when more people find
this place?

DAVE
I don't know Issac...we aren't
ready...

SUE
So what should we do?

DAVE
Prepare as best we can and
then...pray.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Late evening. The weather is getting worse.

Isaac and Sue are outside feeding the livestock and bringing
in firewood.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A fire crackles in the air. A radio plays music.

Amelia's hands are drenched in putty as she stuffs the
mud-like substance into a hole.

Dave is seated on the couch going through the different
tools.

DAVE
Fill it in...until you don't feel
anymore cold air coming
through...and then keep packin.

AMELIA
C'mere and hold this up for me..

Dave hobbles over as the front door OPENS.

Isaac and Sue come in from the cold and Sue tries to CLOSE
the door.

DAVE
 (sarcastic)
 Well isn't it nice to see ya'll
 back safe and sound...how's the
 weather...?

ISAAC
 Screw you...

SUE
 (closing the door)
 C'mon...there.

DAVE
 Your getting stronger every
 day...might come in handy late in
 the season.

Isaac goes to his room while Sue takes off her facemask and
 sees her father's glass of liquor sitting on the table.

SUE
 (pointing)
 What is that!? I told you to wait!

DAVE
 It's ok sweetie...my leg is feeling
 better...look here, Amelia has
 fixed the hole in the wall. That
 will help keep the temp in here.

Sue goes to her room and Isaac walks in, looking outside
 through the window.

Dave is sitting in his chair with a blanket over him and
 drinking from his glass.

Isaac sits down beside Dave and grabs a blanket.

The radio is playing THE INK SPOTS - 'I DON'T WANT TO SET
 THE WORLD ON FIRE'.

A beat.

ISAAC
 I've been studying from the Book of
 Revelations recently...

DAVE
 ...Is that right...?

ISAAC
What do you think?

DAVE
I think...but who really knows? I mean c'mon...people have been talking since the start of times.

ISAAC
I've been reading a few things-

DAVE
But it's just as well...do we really think this is the first time something like this has happened?

ISAAC
I guess...it might not be.

DAVE
I'd bet this has happened before. We are just the newest recipients of it...

ISAAC
What?

DAVE
...this whole thing is starting to get redundant.

ISAAC
How can you say that...? You have a daughter?

DAVE
...I love Sue but...I can't imagine what's out there. What's waiting for us...

Issac gets up and walks over to the dish strainer and picks up a small glass and goes back beside Dave, reaching out his arm.

ISAAC
(grins)
I wouldn't mind a pour.

Dave smiles and pours some of the tequila. Issac takes a whiff and does a sort of snort/cough reaction that Dave finds humorous.

DAVE

You are supposed to drink it not
sniff it man.

A beat.

ISAAC

You know...that Sue can really
cook.

DAVE

Yea she is a talented kid...gets it
from her mother.

ISAAC

Was she a good cook...?

DAVE

(taking a drink)

Oh hell yes...Lily was absolutely
amazing.

DAVE

Lily was the most confident person
I've ever known...much more so than
me. I was worried sick when we got
pregnant with Sue. She calmed me
down...she was good at that.

ISAAC

I know you miss her...

DAVE

You know this one time early on in
our...I was working nights and so I
would have to sleep during the day.
Well as confident as this women
was...she woke me up to tell me
that there was a rat in our house!

ISAAC

A rat?!

DAVE

Yes! A big ass rat...I freaked out.

ISAAC

I'll be damn.

Dave gets up now, waving his arms.

DAVE

I thought surely she could handle it but she come running to me...like I would handle it any better...?

ISAAC

Did you take care of it?

DAVE

I went running for my life just like she did! We finally just opened the door and let him run out the door...we laughed for like an hour after that.

Dave hobbles back to his chair and sits.

Neither man says anything as the SONG continues and the fire crackles and burns.

ISAAC

I've never heard you speak of prayer until today...

ISAAC

...a little under ten years now and I haven't heard a single word.

DAVE

So what?

ISAAC

So now that you brought it up, I felt like I could ask you about it.

DAVE

So ask...

ISAAC

What are we gonna do?

DAVE

We are going to keep up our plan and routine...try and live out the winter so we can collect more come spring...I think that-

ISAAC

No really...what do you think we should do?

DAVE

Do?...I think...we are...I don't think there is anything we can do.

ISAAC

So you're a pessimist?

DAVE

No I'm a realist.

ISSAC

Every pessimist says that...

DAVE

I'm not anything...I'm just another man.

ISAAC

So you don't believe in anything?

DAVE

What are you getting at here...?

ISAAC

Just humor me David.

DAVE

I'm worried about this life.

ISSAC

Do you really think this is all there is?

DAVE

Is there another option I'm not aware of?

ISAAC

Well yes...there is the Bible. It's never too late.

DAVE

Until it is...right?

ISAAC

It's a way to move forward.

DAVE

Is that what it is?

Dave turns his glass up, draining the remaining liquid. He pulls out the bottle and refills his glass.

Dave looks over and sees Issac allowing his glass to be filled once more.

DAVE

You know Isaac...I was happy...I really was.

ISAAC

And you can be again.

DAVE

No Isaac. You aren't listening to me...I was happy. As in past tense.

ISAAC

Yea?

DAVE

I woke up with a smile and went to work on my dreams. It was like I had a purpose and I knew exactly what it was that I was supposed to be doing with my life.

ISAAC

You still have your purpose sleeping in her bed...can't you see that?

DAVE

I know...and I feel her sleeping away from me all over again.

ISAAC

What happened?

DAVE

Some teenagers burst into my house because they were starving and cold...this world that we live in.

ISAAC

I'm sorry David...

DAVE

He talked about the burden that we pay for being here...and we all have to pay the price. Its not negotiable.

ISAAC

DAVE

The look in his eye when I...so please forgive me for not being able to daydream through life ok? I surely would but I can't get these thoughts outta me.

ISAAC

It's not day dreaming David. It's letting go of those things and leaving it up to him.

DAVE

Take a look outside Isaac. Have you seen this world?

ISAAC

(sips from his cup)

Yes...maybe we have to earn it.

DAVE

...Oh yea...yea that's what it is...

ISAAC

I'm serious David.

DAVE

What are we going to do about Sue?

ISAAC

What do you mean?

DAVE

We can't let her go exploring anymore. It's too dangerous.

ISAAC

Ok.

The two men sit with the music hovering above them. Dave eventually drifts off to sleep.

Issac sits down his empty glass and turns out the lights and music before going to bed.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The night is silent except for snoring.

Dave wakes to the sounds of sudden SCREAMING.

DAVE
(waking up)
What's wrong?

ISSAC (O.S)
Help! Come quick!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sue comes alive to YELLING.

She gets dressed enough to walk outside and hears pleas from Isaac's room.

INT. ISAAC'S ROOM - NIGHT

Amelia is blue in the face. She unresponsive.

Sue runs inside to find Issac on top of Amelia. Isaac is giving her mouth-to-mouth with tears in his eyes.

ISAAC
Go get the DEFIBRILLATOR! HURRY
PLEASE!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sue runs across the hall and into the kitchen where she rummages through different objects and throws things around.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dave comes walking in.

DAVE
What the hell is going on?

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Finally finding it, Sue runs back into the bedroom and starts setting up the two patches on her chest.

Motionless, Amelia bounces upward when Sue administers a quick SHOCK through her body.

DAVE
What the-

ISAAC
Do it again!

Sue SHOCKS her again. And four more times.

There is nothing more she can do as Amelia is unresponsive and Issac goes running into the bathroom WAILING.

Sue cries and Dave comforts her.

SUE
What's going on dad?!

DAVE
I don't know...I'm not sure.

DAVE
It's going to be ok...I'm sorry
Sue.

SUE
What's happening?

Dave is powerless.

DAVE
I don't know.

SUE
What?

DAVE
Sue it's going to be ok...I'm sorry
come here please.

He comforts her among the chaos and confusion.

EXT. RURAL CLEARING - DAY

Morning. A storm blows through.

An animal walks through the snow.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The radio on the table discusses the alleged forecast.

Dave is reading a novel as Sue shuffles cards on the table. Isaac reads his bible.

Dave and Sue are playing 'I-Spy' and picking random places on the walls with shadows flickering.

SUE
Is it the fire...?

DAVE
Nope...guess again.

Isaac gets up and shoves the blanket to his seat on the couch and walks to the kitchen to pour himself a hot cup of coffee.

The chirping bird-clock on the wall belches out to signify the time.

SUE
It's the clock!?

DAVE
(slams his book closed)
Son-of-a-bitch...

A voice comes BOOMING from outside the door.

MAN
Hello in there!

They remain still.

MAN
Could you please open the door so
that I may speak to the head of
this household?

Dave starts moving his arms about in a laughable manner an order to convey a message to Sue.

Isaac gets up and walks to the door without a word.

DAVE
Isaac wait!

Isaac opens the door, revealing a smaller sized young man shivering in his coat.

ISAAC

What do you want?

YOUNG MAN

I desperately want to get warm...if only temporarily.

Isaac steps aside while Dave is fumbling for his pistol.

SUE

Isaac what the hell are you doing?

ISAAC

What we should have done the first time...

Riley(20's) has longer hair and his face looks like he hasn't had a shave in a week or two.

He stands shivering.

Wearing many coats and layers of clothing...The young man takes his beanie off his head and holds them with both hands down in front of him nervously.

DAVE

Who are you?

RILEY

My name is Riley...

ISAAC

How did you find us?

RILEY

I just stumbled onto the place...honest. I only saw your lights after hiking a ways...I got separated from the group.

DAVE

Group? What group?

Riley leans back and forth on each foot.

RILEY

The power finally went out in town and some of us volunteered to go find help...the plan was to go out at daylight and hopefully find something or somebody in time but I got lost...

ISAAC
What happened?

RILEY
I ran my truck way off the road
crumpling two different tires...I
couldn't afford to wait around in
the truck and hope someone found
me.

SUE
So you just went walking...?

RILEY
...Yea. I was really lucky that I
found this place when I did...

DAVE
Well...don't feel too lucky just
yet.

ISAAC
David...

DAVE
No! Isaac you see what happened to
my leg?

RILEY
I don't have a gun and I wouldn't
hurt anyone.

ISAAC
See...he doesn't have a gun! What
are we gonna do? Send him out to
die?

SUE
No we can't do that.

Dave stands up on his two feet now.

DAVE
I say what we can and cannot do!!

A beat.

SUE
Dad...maybe we should give him a
chance.

DAVE
(pointing at Isaac)
Ok you check him! Now. Make sure he
doesn't have a gun.

DAVE
That means taking off all of his
fucking clothes and patting him
down thoroughly Isaac...

Riley proceeds to take his clothes off until he has just his
t-shirt and pajama pants on.

Isaac pats him down.

ISAAC
Sorry...but we have had some rough
encounters with strangers lately.

RILEY
Oh it's ok...I'm just glad to be
out of the cold.

ISSAC
He's clean David.

A beat.

DAVE
Do you think you could find your
truck if assisted?

Riley nods.

DAVE
What supplies do you have in your
truck?

RILEY
I have 5 gallons of water. Some
camping gear with a little metal
pan...knives and fishing gear. A
fully loaded pistol and a box of
energy bars.

DAVE
(skeptical)
Your telling me that you are lost
in the woods and your truck is
broken down and your only choices
are to trek blindly in the cold
woods or use that pistol and call
it a day?...and you chose walking
in the snow...?

RILEY

Well...sure. I'm not gonna go out like that.

Dave scoffs.

DAVE

Whatever you say kid...

DAVE

..Ok look, you can sleep on the couch here tonight and Issac will assist you to go looking for that truck tomorrow.

RILEY

Thank you so much...sir.

DAVE

It's whatever.

RILEY

I really appreciate your hospitality.

Isaac scoffs now and Sue helps Riley find a place for all of his clothes.

Guiding him through their small wooden home, Sue goes to the back of the house.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The hallway is dark and cramped.

Sue takes him to a back room where Riley lays his belongings down. She gives him the tour as he follows along with his hands in his pockets, wearing a grin as he looks at her.

SUE

So where did you say you were from?

RILEY

..I didn't say..

Sue stops to look him in the eye.

RILEY

I'm originally from Florida, but my family moved to Stephenville years ago before this craziness started.

SUE
You were in Texas before the storm?

RILEY
Yea but I was young though...

Sue looks at his blue eyes and stubble face. Riley looks at her freckled cheeks and rosy red lips.

DAVE (O.S.)
Sue. Come in here...

Still looking at one another, Sue grins and turns away to walk toward the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dave sits in his chair by the fireplace.

Entering the living room, Isaac gets up from the couch across from Dave and heads for his room. Sue sits down while Isaac stops and looks at Riley.

ISAAC
I'm glad you found us...

RILEY
Thanks...for taking me in..

ISAAC
Sleep well.

Sue looks at her dad and he back at her. Dave gets up and walks over and takes his daughter into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

They stand alone together. Socked feet on carpet.

Dave looks at Sue.

DAVE
What are you doing?

SUE
I'm not doing anything..

DAVE
I saw you two.

SUE
...He's cute so what?

DAVE
We don't know him at all...Sue?

SUE
I'm old enough that I should be able to make this decision. I should be out of the house by now.

DAVE
Not by much...

SUE
What if this never happens for me again? What if this is my only chance?

DAVE
Yes I know...just be careful.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sue takes a seat beside Riley on the couch beside the fireplace.

Dave scoffs limping away to his bedroom.

SUE
Are you hungry?

RILEY
No thanks...

SUE
Seriously?

RILEY
I'm ok.

SUE
You're not hungry at all? After almost freezing out there in the cold?

RILEY

Ok...maybe I could eat a little something.

She grins and he smiles.

SUE

(mocking)

Yea I just walked all through the snow and almost froze to death, but yea I'm just stuffed to the gills right now.

Sue goes to the kitchen and puts up silverware out of nervous habit.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Pork chops in a pan. Water in glasses.

Sue sighs as she wipes her brow. She walks into the living room holding two plates and sits them down on the table in front of the sofa.

RILEY

Thank you...very much.

SUE

Your welcome...be right back.

Sue heads to the hallway.

INT. ISAAC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pictures on the wall. Amelia's face.

Stepping into Isaac's room, Sue looks at the pictures on the wall.

Isaac is lying in bed on his back, looking at the ceiling.

SUE

Here is dinner Ike...Pork chops...hope you like it..

She lays the plate on his dresser.

Isaac rolls over.

ISAAC

Thank you Sue...Be careful with
that boy ok?

SUE

..Ok..I will..

ISAAC

But...don't deny yourself
happiness.

Sue smiles back at him and walks out, closing the door
behind her. Isaac then rolls over in bed.

INT. DAVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A mini TV on top of a dresser. Clothes scattered everywhere.

Dave watches a tape from a '93 Cowboys game and Sue marvels
upon entry.

SUE

Jesus...dad?...

DAVE

What? Give me a break...I've been
shot.

SUE

Yea...right...here's dinner. I'm
sitting it here on your
dresser..see it?

DAVE

Thanks sweetie.

SUE

Goodnight dad.

DAVE

Goodnight.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Riley eats from his plate. Fire is burning.

Sue comes and sits down next to him and they eat together.

Riley slows down his eating.

RILEY

I sure hope...I sure hope they aren't in their rooms on my account?

SUE

Oh no...

RILEY

Really...?

SUE

They usually do their own thing come night time.

RILEY

Ok...good.

SUE

We sometimes do group things earlier in the day, like when you showed up...

RILEY

Yea I was a little nervous your dad was going to shoot me there for a minute.

SUE

I was too...

Riley is shocked.

SUE

Don't worry though. He usually has good judgment.

They finish their meals and she collects the plates and puts them in the sink and goes back to sit next to Riley.

SUE

What are you thinking...?

RILEY

I'm thinking the food is really good.

SUE

Thanks...

RILEY

I...want to...

SUE

Yea?

RILEY

Oh...nothing.

SUE

No really...I wanna know?

RILEY

Well...I was thinking.

SUE

Yes?

RILEY

Just...about how beautiful you are.

They look at each other and Sue waits for him to make the first move. She leans in and kisses Riley on the lips.

They kiss in front of the fire.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The next morning. TV still blaring.

Dave gets up and limps out of the bedroom door.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A coffee pot is boiling.

Dave pours himself a cup. Riley and Sue are laying together with a blanket over the two of them, still asleep.

Riley's eyes bolt open at the sight of her father.

Riley gives Sue a quick shrug.

SUE

(to Riley)

How did you sleep?

RILEY

(disbelief)

...I slept fine...thanks.

DAVE
Oh shut up will ya? I already saw
it.

Isaac comes walking into the kitchen and grabs his purple coffee cup and extends his arm forward.

DAVE
Don't worry Isaac...I won't forget
about ya.

Sue heads to her room.

Isaac walks toward the window and looks out at the barren landscape. Dave goes to sit down at his chair, both men drinking their coffee.

Riley sits there on the couch to himself.

A beat.

DAVE
So...Mr. Riley? You want some
coffee?

RILEY
...um..sure...

DAVE
Well you have two legs, the
coffee's waitin'.

Riley, unsure of himself, gets up and goes to pour a up.

DAVE
As you can see...my leg has been
shot by intruders and I've already
sat down...Isaac here could have
gotten you a cup of coffee...

DAVE
(to Isaac)
You are the one who decided to let
this guy in...What? He's good
enough to let in but not good
enough for coffee? Is that right?

ISAAC
David...shut up.

DAVE
I just loathe your hypocrisy is
all.

RILEY
 (holding a cup)
 It's ok, I have some right here.

ISAAC
 I'm not a hypocrite...that is your
 department.

DAVE
 Not the way I got it
 figured...Isaac.

ISAAC
 Is that right?

RILEY
 Please fellas...don't fight on my
 account.

A beat.

Isaac goes to sit on the sofa and Riley stands in the
 kitchen.

DAVE
 Isaac as rough as I know it might
 be, we need you to help Riley here
 find his truck.

ISAAC
 (turning to Riley)
 How far away is it?

RILEY
 4...5 miles.

Sue comes walking back in, with more clothes.

DAVE
 A couple packs sounds like it
 should do the job...Riley? You
 think you could haul an extra one?

RILEY
 ..Sure..

SUE
 I can go...I know the terrain
 better.

DAVE
 Sue I would rather you stay here.
 It's bad enough parting with half
 (MORE)

DAVE (cont'd)
of our group now please just listen
to me for once ok?

RILEY
Yea Sue...we got this.

Sue looks at him and turns walking off to her room.

ISAAC
I can be ready to head out in less
than an hour.

RILEY
Ok same here.

DAVE
Ok then...it's settled.

EXT. WOODLANDS - DAY

The trees are bare amongst the snow-covered ground.

Issac and Riley are dressed in multiple layers of clothing
and walking steadily.

Issac treks through snow squinting his eyes. They cross a
stream and walk up and down multiple hills.

EXT. SNOW-COVERED HILL - DAY

A large snow-covered hill.

Isaac and Riley are climbing upward.

The weather has broke for a moment and they can finally look
around. Isaac is managing upward but falls and HITS a rock
down below. Riley rushes downward to help.

RILEY
Isaac! I'll be there in a second
just hold on.

RILEY
Ok...where does it hurt?

ISAAC
...I think I'm ok.

RILEY
Ok...c'mon...we gotta keep moving.

EXT. HILL (HIGH-GROUND) - DAY

Trees are down below. A wooden bridge is seen.

Walking along now on along the top of a hill, Issac and Riley can see down below an old bridge that connects the paths.

RILEY
Hey look at that! This is the way.

ISAAC
A clearing...c'mon let's get
down...carefully this time.

RILEY
Yes carefully is probably quicker.

They continue on.

ISAAC
I haven't had a fall like that in
many years.

RILEY
Have you done much hiking?

ISAAC
Oh yea...all the time.

ISAAC
Well...not so much anymore as you
can tell.

RILEY
You from 'round here?

ISAAC
Oh no, I used to live in the city.
I still went out and traveled but
most of my life has been spent
walking on concrete.

RILEY
How did you get here?

ISAAC

Same way everyone else did...didn't have much choice.

RILEY

Yea I guess...my family moved here before the storm so I didn't see it.

ISAAC

Well...you're seeing it now aren't you?

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Wobbly and falling apart. The bridge is suspect.

Down below now, Issac and Riley make it to this wooden-bridge.

ISSAC

I'm not sure about this....

RILEY

Oh c'mon...you don't think it's sturdy?

ISSAC

No...no I don't.

RILEY

Just let a young guy teach you something.

Riley briskly walks along the bridge until making it to the other side. He wipes a bead of sweat and turns to Issac.

RILEY

See! Nothing to it...just don't spend a lot of time on each step...you can do it.

ISSAC

Oh yea...you mean hurry up before it breaks.

RILEY

C'mon! We gotta get going before we lose the light.

Issac slowly steps up to the bridge and makes his way across. The wind suddenly picks up and the bridge starts moving and squeaking.

Riley freezes.

RILEY
Don't stop! Keep going!

Issac panics and starts RUNNING across the bridge at full tilt.

The makings of the bridge start coming undone and Riley sees that the bridge is giving way.

RILEY
Move your ass! Right now!

Issac dives and falls into the dirt on the other side as Riley grabs unto him.

RILEY
Holy shit are you alright?

ISSAC
(panting)
Yea...yea.

RILEY
Alright well lets go.

EXT. WOODLANDS - DAY

Level ground. Surrounded by bare trees.

They continue their way on and Riley leads.

RILEY
We should be here anytime...I should be seeing my truck.

ISAAC
I believe you...I just hope we find it before dark.

RILEY
Lets talk about literally anything other than that.

A beat.

ISAAC

I sure miss the city
sometimes...Mel and I would walk 5
or 6 blocks just to get these
certain bagels.

RILEY

Bagels?

ISAAC

Yes! They were blueberry bagels
with cream-cheese inside.

RILEY

Wait...who's Mel? A girlfriend?

ISAAC

Oh...yea...yea something like that.

RILEY

Ok so blueberry bagels...go head.

ISAAC

Yea...bagels.

RILEY

No continue...my mouth is watering.

ISAAC

My point was...life used to be a
lot different...

RILEY

Look! Look here.

Riley is pointing at a BLACK TRUCK off in the distance and
they both run toward it.

ISAAC

Hey we found it! How bout that?

Riley walks over to the side of the truck and starts trying
to open the door.

RILEY

Yea but now we gotta get it open...
c'mere, help me with this.

They manage to break open the door. Riley starts rummaging
through his gear.

RILEY
Alright...start filling up your
bag.

Isaac starts searching through the vehicle and filling a
bag.

Isaac steps out and Riley goes in. Isaac looks over across
the field to see a small group of men walking up toward
them.

ISAAC
Riley...you got a gun stashed away
in there?

RILEY
Yea why?

ISAAC
Get it...some people are walking
up.

RILEY
Really?...aw shit.

Three younger men (30's) walk up in heavy coats. They are
rough looking and smoking cigarettes.

Isaac steps out front while Riley is still in the truck.

MAN #1
(to the others)
Man this truck looks sick.

MAN #2
Oh yes...fine instrument of
transportation right here.

ISAAC
Can I help you gentlemen?

MAN #1
Well...as a matter of fact...yes.
Yes you can. See we have went out
hunting and have not seen a damn
thing.

ISAAC
That's a shame...if you go out to
the northwest there a ways...lots
of small game. You should have
better luck.

MAN #1

We just happened to come from that way...and we didn't see much...but we see something now...don't we boys?

MAN #2

Oh yea that's right.

MAN #3

Yea what you got in the truck?

MAN #1

(to the other man)

You shut the fuck up! I ask the questions!

ISAAC

I'm afraid we were just leaving.

MAN #1

Is that right?

ISSAC

Unfortunately.

MAN #1

That is unfortunate...who is this behind ya?

Riley steps out beside Isaac.

RILEY

I'm Riley...what is your name?

JOHN

You can call me John...this is Matt and Lucas.

JOHN

...well Riley...I'm afraid we are gonna need that truck.

Isaac stands still as Riley makes his way in front.

RILEY

We came to get some supplies out of it first. It's stuck but if you can get it free then it's yours...how's that?

JOHN
That sounds like a pretty fair
deal...I have to admit.

RILEY
Alright...we'll be on our way in a
moment then.

Riley and Isaac start to finish packing.

John walks toward the front while the other two flank them.

JOHN
Just because I said the deal was
fair...doesn't mean that I was
going to take it.

Riley looks around at Isaac.

Riley suddenly TACKLES John to the ground as Isaac punches
Matt in the face; breaking his nose.

John quickly manages to get on top of Riley and is PUNCHING
him relentlessly. Isaac WRESTLES with Lucas until knocking
him unconscious on a rock.

Isaac grabs the pistol sitting in the truck seat and points
it toward Matt's head. John has a knife to Riley's throat.
It's a stand-off.

ISSAC
...Stop!

JOHN
You want him?!

ISAAC
Stop right now!

JOHN
You want him?!

ISAAC
I'll kill him I swear to god!!

John gets up suddenly and throws his knife to the ground.
Matt is holding his bloody nose while Riley's face is badly
beaten.

JOHN
Alright...alright...I let him
go...now you.

ISAAC
Back away first...Now!

JOHN
C'mon Matty let's go...grab him.

Matt runs to get Lucas and they walk away with John.

Riley can hardly move.

Isaac runs over to him and helps him sit up. Looking back, Isaac sees John still eyeing them as he walks away.

ISAAC
Come on buddy, we gotta get moving.

RILEY
(moans)

ISAAC
I know...Come on.

Isaac helps carry Riley along.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

A campfire.

John FIRES a weapon in the air as Matt and Lucas try to keep warm. John SCREAMS in frustration.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Dishes in the sink. Coffee steaming.

Pouring himself another cup, Dave stops and listens.

He looks down.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A fire is burning. A radio is playing on the table. Dave sits in his chair with a blanket.

Sue comes into the room as the radio plays an oldies song. They listen together.

Sue smiles at the old tune and Dave smiles back, wiping at his face.

Sue turns the volume up on the radio as the news comes on.

NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

If you are joining us now, we have been going over the different temperatures across the nation, similar as they may be, in hopes of communicating some form of news to a public that we fear are dwindling. Times are tough everywhere and we haven't a word from the president who has been holed up in an undisclosed location for sometime now.

Sue and her father look at each other.

NEWS REPORTER

This is a series of final broadcast we are trying to send out before another long winter takes hold. More than news, we are sending prayers and love. A message to the survivors out there. Keep close, keep warm and stay together...Chris Douglas, NKC News.

EXT. RURAL CLEARING - DAY

Late evening. Birds fly across the field.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dave is in his chair reading.

Looking out the window, Sue doesn't see anything. She paces back and forth.

Dave tries to read.

SUE

Where are they dad...?

DAVE

Just try to stay calm...They might have gotten lost and it's taking them longer to get back.

SUE
Well then I'm going to look
for them.

Dave stands up to grab her.

DAVE
No! You are not!

SUE
Yes I am!

DAVE
Sue wait!

SUE
I have to go find them!

DAVE
No...

SUE
They are out there somewhere!

DAVE
No you can't go out there...

SUE
Why not?

DAVE
It's too dangerous.

SUE
I don't care dad!

DAVE
I do!

A beat.

SUE
Where the fuck are they
huh?...Where the fuck are we?

DAVE
Please Sue, calm down...

SUE
Where are we dad?

DAVE
It's getting dark Sue...

SUE
I don't care.

DAVE
WELL I DO!!

Sue stops.

DAVE
I can't lose you too...I can't.
Please just stay here.

They hug and Sue starts crying in her father's arms.

DAVE
I know...I'm sorry...ok?

SUE
Where are they dad?

DAVE
I don't know sweetie, I don't know.
But I need your help ok? We are
going to be ok but I need your help
Sue...I can't do this without you.

SUE
What do you need help with?

INT. UPSTAIRS/ATTIC - DAY

A dusty attic with cobwebs. Boxes of supplies. Feed sacks.

Sue is on the second floor in the storage room searching for
ammo.

DAVE
You find it yet?

SUE
No not yet...I told you I would
holler when I did.

She looks around the room with her flashlight. Searching
around the corner she finds a package of shells for a
revolver.

SUE

Ok...I found it...only a few shots
though.

DAVE

They will have to do...best come
down from there before you fall
through a board.

SUE

We built this place I'm sure it's
fine.

DAVE

Issac and I built this place, but
that was some time back and who
knows what the weather has done to
it.

Sue walks back to head down but finds a collection of video
tapes marked: 'Family'

She secretly brings them down with her, Dave is in the
living room.

DAVE (O.S.)

Bring the ammunition in here with
you please.

SUE

Ok...on my way.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Sue stuffs the video tapes in her room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dave sits in his chair.

Sue hops on the sofa.

SUE

Here ya go...it's only a few like I
said.

DAVE

They will surely help.

SUE
What are you expecting?

DAVE
I'm not sure...I just want to be as
prepared as I can be...Don't be
scared.

SUE
I'm not scared.

DAVE
We will make it through this.

SUE
I said I'm not scared.

DAVE
Just listen to me...stick with the
plan ok?

SUE
Ok.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A TV screen. Blankets scattered.

Sue inserts a tape into a player plugged in to her
television.

The tape starts playing some poignant music along with home
footage of a young Dave and Lily together in their trailer
home.

MONTAGE/VARIOUS.

-Dave and Lily cook together in the kitchen to hilarious
results.

-Dave dances around with Lily.

-Lily holds little Sue in her arms.

-Both parents hover around Sue.

-They tuck her in to sleep.

END OF MONTAGE.

The tape starts blanking out and Sue is left with a tear
streaming down her face.

DAVE (O.S.)
Where did you get that?

Sue turns around quickly to see her father standing at the door.

SUE
...I found it upstairs.

DAVE
I haven't seen that in a long time.

SUE
I've never seen it.

DAVE
Yea...well...now you have.

SUE
Do you have more of them?

DAVE
I'm sure I do...but I can't watch them anymore.

SUE
Why? Why not?!

DAVE
Because I said no! You don't know how it feels to be left with memories!

SUE
Oh I don't?...all I have are memories!!

Dave SLAMS the door closed and something brakes. Sue hears drunken cackling.

Sue gets up off the bed and heads out.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A pan is tossed around.

Past the hallway and into the living room, Sue runs up to her father.

SUE
What is your problem...?

DAVE
Me?

SUE
Yea you...who the fuck else is
here?

DAVE
I don't have a problem...

SUE
Yes you do.

DAVE
It's you with the problem...I don't
like the way you are talking to
me...ok?

SUE
How long are we going to live like
this...huh?

DAVE
As long as it takes...

SUE
As long what? What does that mean?

DAVE
Exactly what I said.

SUE
Just try and speak regular English
please...I know...its difficult.

DAVE
I don't like the way that you are
talking to me.

SUE
I don't care!

DAVE
Shut up! I should slap you for the
way you talk to me you know that?

SUE
Don't say that..

DAVE
(jabs his finger in her cheek)
D'you know that...? I should slap
you right across the face.

Sue pushes him away.

SUE
Then why don't you do it huh? Go
ahead!

DAVE
Maybe I will! is that what you
want?!

SUE
Yes that's exactly what I want
c'mon hit me!

DAVE
(relenting)
Sue please.

SUE
C'mon hit me!

DAVE
Sue stop...now. Now!!

Sue slowly calms.

SUE
Exactly...so what do you want? What
do you want from me dad?

Dave moves over to his chair and throws a log on the fire.
He sits down with a blanket.

A beat.

DAVE
I don't want anything from you
Sue...

SUE
I need something to do dad...I
can't stay here anymore.

DAVE
Yes you can.

SUE
No dad! I can't.

DAVE
Do you want to go out and freeze?
Sue we have been through this
before...

SUE
I can go search for help ok?

DAVE
No...we can't.

SUE
I can really do something dad...do
not get that?

DAVE
I can...Sue I really can..

SUE
Then what?

DAVE
It's too risky.

SUE
You are always the one talking
about risk and reward.

DAVE
I know.

SUE
But where is the reward?

DAVE
It is right here! This warm place
around us right now. We have a
shelter. I worked on it. Issac
busted his ass on it, so did
Amelia. We all did. And it has kept
us safe for many years and that is
not about to change now.

Sue starts to break down.

DAVE
I know you are tired of being
inside...So am I! But we have to
stick through this together because
this world is frightening Sue...I
would be terrified without you.

Sue looks at the fire.

DAVE

It gets so damn cold
sometimes...and keeps pushing you
until you feel hollow inside...and
then it swallows you whole if you
let it...

SUE

I won't let it.

DAVE

All we have is each other Sue.

SUE

Ok.

DAVE

Ok?

SUE

Ok.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

The radio is playing on the table. Fire is burning.

Sue lays on the couch and throws a baseball up and down
while Dave fumbles with the radio, increasingly inebriated.

The radio static breaks in and out before completely
blanking out and Dave abruptly staggers upward and grabs the
radio.

DAVE

Piece of shit radio...never works.

He sits it down gently and heads into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Plates are lined up on the dish strainer.

Dave grabs a plate and looks at it solemnly before launching
it across the room. It SHATTERS against the wall into
pieces.

Sue gets up from the couch.

SUE
What the hell are you doing?!

DAVE
I'm doing what I want to do! Leave
me in peace or something...

SUE
...What?..

DAVE
(drunkenly)
Just go back to your room
Sue...I'll handle this.

SUE
No tell me what you are doing dad?

DAVE
I'm getting my anger out!

SUE
Ok?

DAVE
You can do the same...or not.

SUE
Fine go ahead!

DAVE
Go back to your room! I'm throwing
plates!

Dave yells and throws another one and it brakes on the wall.

SUE
Alright is this what you want? Here
we go...

She throws a plate. They both start breaking dishes in the
kitchen until Dave suddenly FALLS backwards in a corner.

SUE
Dad...Dad?

DAVE
(speaks incoherently)

SUE
Come on Dad, come on...I got ya.

Sue is crying when the DOOR BUST OPEN.

Isaac falls in with Riley in his arms. They are shivering. They are beyond Shivering.

SUE

Where in the world have you guys been?? Jesus! Riley are you ok?

ISSAC

...Blankets...Sue...

Sue drags them over by the fire and puts another log on the pile. She throws blankets on them to get warm.

Dave awakens now and sees the two men.

DAVE

Isaac? Are you alright?

ISAAC

We'll be fine...just need a few minutes.

Dave and Sue look solemnly at each other.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The next morning. Fire is roaring. Their steamy breath is visible.

They all sit together and drink coffee. Riley's face is badly bruised but Sue tends to it.

SUE

I'm glad you made it back Isaac.

ISAAC

Yea...me to.

DAVE

How many of 'em were they?

ISAAC

Like I said...three.

DAVE

Alright then...we should let Riley sleep in the back room...you mind?

ISAAC

No I don't mind.

DAVE

Sue, you have been tending to him
so maybe you can just keep doing
that...help him to his room and
make sure he is set up.

SUE

Ok.

She takes Riley and they head to the back room. Dave looks
at Isaac.

DAVE

You sure you're ok?

ISAAC

Yea...just tired.

DAVE

Might as well take my room and get
some rest...I need ya man.

ISAAC

Oh you need me? I didn't see any
search party.

DAVE

You know I couldn't do that.

ISAAC

I know.

DAVE

You don't think I wanted to? I had
to keep Sue from busting out the
door.

ISAAC

Oh I can about picture it.

A beat.

DAVE

So...what do you think?

ISAAC

I think...we need to worry.

DAVE

Yea...that's kinda what I was
thinking.

EXT. RURAL CLEARING - DAY

Evening time. Birds chirp in a tree. A twig BREAKS and they fly away.

TITLE CARD: THREE DAYS LATER

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

TV screen blaring. Video game noises.

Sue is in her room playing old games to fight boredom.

She day-dreams about her mother.

DAVE (O.S.)
Isaac come here...quick.

CUT TO:

Sue on her bed.

DAVE (O.S.)
Isaac...get in here...now!

Sue jumps up out of bed quickly.

DAVE (O.S.)
Quick...bring the gun.

SUE
I'm coming!

DAVE (O.S.)
No! Sue stay in your room!

A GUNSHOT!

Sue peeks out of the hallway to see a bleeding hand breaking through the door, reaching for the door handle.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dave stands with his pistol. Noises coming from outside.

Dave is off to the side, waiting for the hand to come back.

Dave aims and FIRES causing two fingers to fall from the hand, which is pulled back immediately.

Isaac runs in with the rifle.

Another glass window BREAKS from somewhere in the house and Sue looks to see a hand coming out of the window.

A SHOT RINGS OUT! Isaac FIRES into the broken window frame.

A man shrieks in agony.

ISAAC

How many?

DAVE

Two so far!

Silence.

Dave moves quickly and picks up his ammo by the chair to reload. He sees Sue in the hallway.

DAVE

Sue...go to my room!

A noise from the front door.

DAVE

Go!

Sue runs into the bedroom as Dave and Isaac FIRE rounds into the front door.

Silence.

Dave motions for Isaac to hide off to the side and Dave does the same.

Dave reloads when the front door BUST open now and MATT walks in with his gun outstretched toward Isaac and they FIRE at each other.

Dave has only one shot and walks from behind the door, aims the pistol at Matt's head and FIRES. Matt falls to the floor dead.

Isaac succumbs in the corner, bleeding.

DAVE

Isaac!

Dave is then TACKLED by LUCAS to the ground. Both men are wrestling for the gun.

Sue comes out of hiding and sees the chaos.

SUE
...Dad!...

DAVE
Sue get outta here!

Lucas manages to get on top of Dave and forces the gun to his chest.

AN EMPTY CLICK. A GUNSHOT!

A hole explodes through Lucas's chest.

Sue is seen behind them, holding a pistol.

DAVE
Get back in the room now!

Dave gets up and heads to his room when a SHOT RINGS OUT from the broken window frame, HITTING Dave.

Dave falls to the floor where he crawls to his room.

Sue opens the door and helps her dad in.

DAVE
No...back away Sue..

SUE
Shut up and get in here..

Sue closes the door behind him.

SUE
Where are you hit?

DAVE
The bastard got me in the side here...there is an emergency kit in my bedside drawer..

Sue gets it and throws it to Dave who shifts his focus to the kit. Sue grabs the gun and opens the door.

DAVE
Wait...No! Sue!

She shuts the door behind her.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lights flicker. Bad weather. Cramped hallway.

DAVE (O.S.)

Sue! No!

The Hallway is dimly lit as Sue creeps forward. Sue points the gun at the front door and stands by her bedroom.

A SOUND.

LIGHTS FLICKER.

Sue looks to her right in her bedroom as a man is seen sneaking through the front door.

Sue turns back toward the front door and starts slowly moving down the hall.

Her gun is outstretched and her finger on the trigger.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Fireplace is burning. Lights flicker.

Sue creeps forward toward the front door.

The intruder suddenly comes from behind and points a gun at Sue and has her in a head lock. He takes the gun from her.

JOHN

Well...what have we here?

SUE

Who are you? What do you want?

JOHN

This warm house sounds like enough for right now.

JOHN

Alright...what's your name?

Sue doesn't answer.

JOHN

I asked you your name!

SUE

It's Sue.

JOHN

Alright Sue...listen. I need you to holler out for your dad.

SUE

No...I won't do it.

JOHN

You see that is gonna make my job difficult. I need you to holler so he will come out...what is he a coward? Is that the deal here?

SUE

No!

JOHN

Oh no? Well how about this?

John pulls a knife.

JOHN

How about I start cutting until you can't stand it anymore and scream.

Sue shakes around.

JOHN

Stop it! Right now!

JOHN

I just...need a scream.

He puts the blade closer to her face.

JOHN

...Just one scream...

Riley TACKLES John to the floor causing the gun to fall to the ground. They WRESTLE until John has the upper hand once more and has a knife to his throat.

A SHOT RINGS OUT!

Sue sees John bleeding from his chest.

Dave is outstretched on the floor behind them with the door open and a revolver in his hand.

Sue walks over to John who stops breathing.

A beat.

Sue helps Riley up.

SUE
Thank you so much...

RILEY
Don't mention it...I couldn't do
nothing...right?

SUE
So you're a good guy huh?

RILEY
Well...I try to be...as it turns
out, it's a bit of a racket.

Riley becomes dizzy and nods out as Sue helps him over to the couch.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A broken door. Living room is a mess. An emergency kit is sprung open on the table. Supplies everywhere.

Sue makes it back to see Riley helping her father take Isaac's body outside. She helps them drag the other dead bodies outside.

They comes back in and Dave sits in his chair while Riley and Sue sit in the couch.

They realize how much Dave is bleeding.

SUE
Jesus dad...

RILEY
(pointing)
Your...ya know..

DAVE
Sue can you go grab that kit in my
room please.

The wind blows the front door open.

Sue brings the kit and sits beside him and struggles to work on sealing the door, she starts kicking.

DAVE

Before we start this...can you fix the front door? It's colder than a well digger's ass in here..

SUE

What does it look like I'm doing dad?

Sue keeps kicking it in place. She finally kicks it shut but there are holes in the door. Walking over to the counter she looks for duct-tape.

DAVE

Duct-tape....over by the counter..

SUE

I know..dad...I know..

Sue finally tapes the holes shut and returns to her father. She pulls out bandages and other pins.

DAVE

Just relax Sue...I need the bigger-sized bandages. Those one's right there..yes...just take them and apply them right here..

SUE

I know dad...I'm trying to stay calm, just give me a damn break.

DAVE

You are right..just be steady.

Dave grits his teeth as she digs around his side. Riley passes out at the sight of so much blood.

Dave is bleeding on his left side above his kidney. She digs in with a pair of needle-nose pliers and Dave YELLS in pain.

Sue stops and throws the pliers against the wall. Dave is panting heavy.

SUE

(starts to sob)

I'm sorry dad...I can't find it.

DAVE

It's ok sweetie...you have done all you can do.

She finishes applying the bandages on his body and he squints in agony.

She wets a rag and tries to clean up the blood.

The lights start to flicker and the heater stops for a second before starting again. The appliances come back on and light flickers some more but stay on.

Sue walks to the bathroom.

EXT. THE HOUSE (FRONT YARD) - NIGHT

The wind howls. Men are lying in the snow.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

A dirty mirror. Blood on her arm. Tears in her eyes.

Sue goes to the sink and looks in the mirror, nervously brushing her hair.

She sees the blood and washes it off.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The fire is going out. Dave is in his chair. Riley on the couch. Radio is playing on the table.

Sue comes walking back but stops when she hears her father talking to Riley.

DAVE

Riley would you be a good sport and go fill up this glass...it's under the sink?

RILEY

Ok.

DAVE

You can fix yourself one as well.

Riley does as he is asked and sits back down, handing Dave a glass.

DAVE

You take care of her...you hear?

RILEY

Yes sir.

DAVE

She's all I have.

RILEY

I won't let anything happen to her.

DAVE

...I said the same thing..

Sue comes walking in.

SUE

Hey...you feeling any better?

Dave holds up his glass.

DAVE

Slowly but surely.

DAVE

The fire is going out Sue...throw
some wood on it.

Sue does so and sits down beside Riley.

The power flickers off and on again.

DAVE

Let's light some candles...we want
the heat to stay on so lets cut the
lights.

DAVE

(coughing)

While you are up Sue...go head and
bring that whole bottle back with
ya would you please.

Sue brings it back with her as she sits down beside him.

A beat.

DAVE

You remember Galveston right?...the
beach and everything?

SUE

..Yea...

DAVE

We would go out and try to catch fish, sometimes all day long.

SUE

I remember.

DAVE

If we were lucky, we would come home with a pile of red snapper and mom would cook 'em for all of us.

SUE

We didn't catch anything for the longest time so you eventually bought us these special live minnows and then we actually caught some.

DAVE

Yea there wasn't anything particularly special about those minnows...they were just ordinary bait but they sure worked well.

Dave is attacked by a coughing fit.

EXT. THE HOUSE (FRONT YARD) - NIGHT

Snow is falling and a coyote runs past.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Fire is burning. Radio is on the table. Dave looks at his pistol. He sees only one bullet in the chamber.

DAVE

Sue hand me that box of shells.

Dave finds only four bullets in the box. He shakes his head and starts loading the gun.

DAVE

Only 5 shots left...

RILEY

Will we need more?

SUE
I think that was all of them dad.

DAVE
Yea...you're right..

SUE
...poor Isaac...died protecting all
of us..

DAVE
He doesn't have to worry
anymore...He's with Amelia now.

SUE
..Don't bullshit me...you've never
believed in that stuff.

DAVE
It doesn't matter what I
think...Isaac talked about being
with Amelia again almost every day
after she died...It's what he
wanted most.

SUE
So...?

DAVE
It's about what YOU believe
in...all we have is what we want in
this world...

SUE
I guess...I guess we're not that
far away huh?

DAVE
What do you mean? You are gonna
stick this out...You're a survivor
Sue...You're a lot better at this
than me.

SUE
(looks at his bled through
bandages)
...I need you.

DAVE
Wherever you are, I'll be with you.

SUE
 ...Really?

DAVE
 Ya know...I have this dream. Almost every night. Of your mom and me sitting down on that couch we used to own and watching that movie. We get through about half-way before she turns to me and ask if she can get up and go home. Just as calm as could be. I ask her what she means but she doesn't say anything and gets up and walks right out the door...I can't stop thinking bout it.

Riley holds Sue's hand and Dave looks at the window as they try to keep warm.

EXT. RURAL CLEARING - NIGHT

The winds increase. Debris is blowing around.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

They all three sit together. Radio on table. Red embers and wood.

Sue throws another log on the fire and Riley is asleep on the couch, covered up in blankets.

They hear: 'THE INK SPOTS' - 'IF I DIDN'T CARE'

DAVE
 What shall we do Sue?...how about a game of 'I-Spy'.

SUE
 Ok you start.

DAVE
 I spy...the color green.

The power flickers and the generator gives way outside.

SUE
 Son-of-a...

Sue goes to grab some more blankets out of the bedrooms.

DAVE
 ...Jesus...

Sue returns and snuggles up with her blankets beside her dad.

The music continues as Dave looks at the fire.

DAVE
 (tearing up)
 ..I'm sorry I let us go under..

SUE
 You didn't...you saved me...dad you saved me.

DAVE
 I feel like I've let you down..

SUE
 You haven't...You have always been by my side.

DAVE
 I'm sorry kid...I tried.

SUE
 You did good dad.

DAVE
 Yea right...

SUE
 You have...I don't feel alone...I never have.

DAVE
 Well...you have someone to take better care of you now.

Sue looks over at Riley who is asleep and smiles. She looks back at Dave who appears droggy.

SUE
 Dad...?

SUE
 Here's to you dad...maybe in the next life.

DAVE
 (coughs)

(MORE)

DAVE (cont'd)
No...here's to you...you and your
green eyes. I spy beautiful green
eyes.

Sue leans back with her blankets and stares into space.

Dave looks at her and lies back with his blankets. They
listen to the fireplace and the radio.

EXT. THE HOUSE (FRONT YARD) - NIGHT

The same men are lying out in the snow.

The wind speed is increasing.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Riley lays asleep. Radio is still playing.

Sue and Dave sit together as the fire crackles and pops.

THEY HEAR THE RADIO:

If this isn't love, then why do I thrill?

If I didn't care, would it be the same?

Would all this be true if I didn't care for you?

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Morning. The fire is out. Riley is snoring.

Sue wakes and gets up quietly. She looks at her father.

His head is down. He isn't breathing.

Dave is dead.

Sue covers his face with a blanket and walks to her bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Dark room. Closed door. Lamp on nightstand.

Sue comes in and shuts the door behind her. She turns on the light and sits down on the bed crying.

Sue reaches in the drawer for a letter and opens it.

She lays back on the bed reading it.

DAVE (V.O.)

Hey Lily it's me. I know I haven't written in a while and I'm sorry for that. I need to apologize for one of the letters I sent you sometime back about are parents. I'm sorry. I was angry and in a bad place when I wrote that. I should have never sent it. Your mom just drives me so damned crazy that I can't think straight. I don't want us to focus on that though. Let's focus on good things. How's Sue? I think about you both constantly. I've been working on getting better. It's hard. A few good days are manageable but consistently satisfying days are difficult to come by. I've learned that I have to get out of my own head and get busy for my own distraction. Sometimes I feel that everything blends in. Do you ever feel that way? Are you doing ok? I miss you. It won't be like this forever. Soon you will be in my arms and little Sue will be doing great and we will all be happy. Good things are worth fighting for Lily. Don't forget that. I gotta go now. Sleep well beast.

Think of us this way, David

Sue turns off the light and goes to sleep.

WE FADE TO BLACK.