

Down by the River

by

Steven M. Cross

Steve Cross
(870) 273-7712
Stevecrosswords@gmail.com

INT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - DAY

DAVID WRIGHT, 16 wearing a black t-shirt baggy shorts, stares at the floor as he walks toward the office, but occasionally glances up furtively.

He sees a huge banner: William Doniphan High School Sharks.

On each side of the poster is a picture, action shots, one of a quarterback #13 and the other a running back.

"Swimming with sharks? Prepare to be Devoured!" stretches across the top of the banner.

GABBY WRIGHT, about the same age, wears a bright royal blue shirt with a shark on its back. She smiles when she sees several kids wearing similar shirts.

BRENNON BAILY, wearing a shark football jersey with the number 13, sees them and nudges his friend JULIUS GERARD.

BRENNON

That's him.

Julius smiles. Brennon pushes himself off the wall and intercepts David and at the office door.

Gabby smiles.

GABBY

We're new here. I'm Gabby.

She holds her hand out.

He takes it.

BRENNON

Brennon.

He points to the poster and looks at David.

BRENNON (CONT'D)

This must be your brother.

DAVID

David.

Gabby's smile drops off.

GABBY

I'm nothing like him.

David grabs the doorknob to the office.

BRENNON
Your girlfriend is the one who
died.

David whirls around, but Gabby steps in front of him.

GABBY
She was crazy.

Brennon studies David and smiles.

BRENNON
Sure.

He chuckles and walks away.

David tries to push Gabby aside, but she refuses to be moved.

GABBY
Don't fuck this up for me.

She goes into the office.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

David and Gabby step through the office door back into the hallway.

Intercoms buzz loudly. David flinches and starts to cover his ear.

GABBY
Don't be so damn weird.

David cringes a little, but the buzzer stops.

DAVID
It's amazing.

Gabby frowns.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Here we are, loving siblings in the same grade even, and you managed to avoid having any classes with me.

GABBY
I'm pretending you don't exist.

He chuckles; she doesn't.

DAVID
My first class is ...

He glances at a sheet.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Video production.

Gabby glances at her sheet.

GABBY
Drama.

DAVID
Imagine that.

He walks away and says over his shoulder.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'll walk ahead of you.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A dozen computers and two huge monitors line the walls.

RICK HATKINS, 16, headset on, frowns.

RICK
I wonder about the picture quality.

The teacher WHITLEY SUMMERS looks over his shoulder.

WHITLEY
It's supposed to be good enough to
show movies.

RICK
Movie night? It's football's new
toy.

WHITLEY
But we're the ones who get to play
with it.

He chuckles.

Miss Whitley looks up and notices David.

WHITLEY (CONT'D)
David Wright?

David glances at her and nods.

WHITLEY (CONT'D)
Sit down.

He looks around, finds a chair next to the wall, and sits.

WHITLEY (CONT'D)
This is Rick. You'll be his
assistant.

David stands and offers him a hand, but Rick ignores it and looks at the teacher as if saying WTF.

WHITLEY (CONT'D)
I need to talk to Lorna about the
drama match.

She darts out the door.

RICK
I've heard about you.

David withdraws his hand and clenches it into a fist.

RICK (CONT'D)
Perfect.

INT. ANOTHER CLASSROOM - DAY

Gabby looks around the class which looks like a rummage sale. Props and clothes, poster, DVDs. The Drama room.

LORNA TYSON, mid 30s, frazzled, sits at her desk.

LORNA
Gabby Wright?

Gabby nods.

LORNA (CONT'D)
Any theater experience?

GABBY
Plays in middle school. Drama team.

LORNA
Holy shit.

She covers her mouth. The kids in the class, 12 -- 8 female, 4 male, giggle.

Lorna grabs a stack of papers.

LORNA (CONT'D)
Mickee, tell her about the drama
meet.

ISAAC, a boy of about 16, overweight, smiles at Gabby.

MICKEE BAILY, Brennon's sister, glares at him and then at Gabby.

Mickee's, feet rest on the desk in front of her. She wears shorts and a football jersey with number 13 on the back.

Whitley charges into the room.

Lorna snatches another stack of papers off the table and takes Whitley by the arm. They move out into the hallway.

Cold stares greet Gabby.

ISAAC

You can sit here.

He motions to a seat next to him.

Mickee throws a pencil at him.

MICKEE

Freak.

She motions to a girl sitting next to her, and the girl, SHONDA JONES, moves to another seat.

The other girls dress in various kinds of formal wear. Some have stage makeup. Most smile at her.

Gabby sits by Mickee.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I have a crazy brother too.

Gabby freezes, but then Mickee smiles.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I won't hold yours against you if
you don't hold mine against me.

Unsure, Gabby sits and fidgets.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I love him alot. And hate him alot.
I'd do anything for him. You?

Gabby nods hesitantly.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I'd like to meet David.

Mickee smiles.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Rick stands behind a tripod with a small camera on it and takes one last look through the lens.

David stands quietly, his eyes wide like a scared rabbit. He looks left, right, at Rick, at the stage, back at the camera.

RICK

Mickee always wins the comedy monologue. I don't know how that bitch can be so funny.

He reaches for a big trunk, flips it open, and pulls out a small camera. He hands it to David.

RICK (CONT'D)

You'll film them later. I assume you know how.

David takes it.

David glances through its lens.

RICK (CONT'D)

Miss Lorna wants her drama kids to beat this one girl named Trish.

David flinches.

RICK (CONT'D)

You know her?

David shakes his head.

RICK (CONT'D)

You can't miss her. She wears cutter cuffs.

He makes a motion; drawing a blade across his wrist.

David wobbles, sits down.

The auditorium door swings open.

TRISH DOWNS, taller than David, dressed in black, a goth, enters. She twists her black hair which is cut short.

David averts his gaze when she looks in his direction.

Rick shakes his head, a look of pity.

David inhales sharply when she walks up to him.

TRISH DOWNS
You're David.

Trish frowns.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
Maybe you shouldn't be here.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

David sits stiffly rigid by Rick.

TRISH DOWNS
The scars on my wrist are healing,
so my parents are happy.

She sighs, hangs her head, silence for a beat, looks up.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
They don't notice the ones on my
thigh.

David stands and wobbles.

He staggers away, bumps into a chair, loses his balance,
rights himself, and hurries out the door.

Rick watches him go.

Trish glances at Rick.

RICK
You warned him.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

David sits in a bathroom stall and breathes heavily.

He stares at the door as if looking straight through it.

The door dissolves.

FLASHBACK:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

David stands by a sink in a small bathroom.

PATRICIA (O.S.)
I'll go first.

PATRICIA, 16, short black hair, black clothes, including cutter cuffs steps into the bathtub.

She looks just enough like Trish Downs for it to be eerie.

Patricia turns the water on to a slow stream.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

So your mom can wash me away.

Patricia removes her wrist bands and picks up a sharp knife; a bright reflection of light.

David watches, his own knife in hand.

A spurt of blood flashes in the air. Patricia leans against the end of the tub.

David takes his own knife and rakes it across his wrist, looks at the blood welling up.

Someone knocks on the door.

The doorknob turns. The door opens.

GABBY

I need to piss.

David digs his knife deeper.

As Gabby steps inside.

GABBY (CONT'D)

You better not be playing with yourself.

She sees blood everywhere and then Patricia slumped over in the bathtub.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. SCHOOL BATHROOM - DAY

Back into the school stall. The door is open.

Isaac stands in front of the open door.

ISAAC

Dude, you okay?

David stands but stumbles. Isaac catches him.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Issac sits down by David and puts a water bottle in front of him.

ISAAC
You scared the shit out of me.

Issac pauses and smiles.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Bathroom's a good place for that.

David doesn't smile.

DAVID
Okay, you've helped the crazy kid.
Now, go do something important.

Isaac laughs.

ISAAC
Do, I look like I have anything
important to do?

David finally smiles.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I'm Isaac, but call me Ike. You're
David Wright.

David's smile vanishes. His shoulders slump.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Your sister's hot.

He laughs.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Drama is full of hot girls like
your sister.

David groans.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
All of them ignore me.

He looks up.

TRISH DOWNS (O.S.)
I warned you.

David flinches, but recovers.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
Pat was my half sister.

David reels back like she's slapped him

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
She had a hundred pictures of you
on her phone.

Trish stands up, tries to swing her leg over the bench, but
stumbles. When she rights herself ...

She untangles herself from the bench and takes one look at
David.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
I haven't decided whether you
killed her or did her a favor.

David watches her go.

ISAAC
What a bitch.

DAVID
She's hurting.

ISAAC
All of us do, but most of take a
tylenol and keep moving.

MICKEE(O.S.)
Not just a bitch, but a crazy
bitch.

Mickee and Shonda stand a few feet in front of them.

Two of the other drama girls stand a pace or two behind them.

Mickee looks at Shonda and the others.

Shonda looks at David and chuckles. She and the other girls
walk away.

Isaac stands up and quietly leaves also.

He looks down at the table.

Mickee sits across from him.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
She triggered you.

DAVID
She warned me.

MICKEE
How did she know you needed
warning?

David contemplates his answer and then sighs.

David mulls this over.

DAVID
She knows who I am.

MICKEE
So do I. Our parents used to hang
together.

David sits up, his interest piqued.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
In high school, and right after
they got married. When they had
cabins at the river.

David looks at her, completely uncomprehending.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
We swam together.

She giggles.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
I peed in that river a lot. The
water was cold.

Mickee winks at him.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
Let me know if you get cold.

She walks away.

EXT. PORCH OF CABIN - NIGHT

David sits on the porch of a cabin and stares at the moon.

Fireflies light up the night. He hears a quiet woof and looks
to his left. A white dog looks at him and then darts away.

Gabby appears and sits beside him.

GABBY

Mom's trying to start a fire with
book matches.

She pauses and looks around.

GABBY (CONT'D)

S'mores.

DAVID

I saw a dog.

He looks toward the woods.

GABBY

A stray.

She pauses and then

GABBY (CONT'D)

Maybe you're seeing things that
aren't there.

DAVID

I'm seeing you.

EXT. SIDE OF THE COTTAGE CLOSE TO THE RIVER - NIGHT

ABBY WRIGHT (early 40s, bedraggled, dressed in old shorts and
a Shark t-shirt with the number 12 on it, lights a book match
and holds it to some cardboard, but it goes out.

ABBYT

Shit. Just once, God.

She stands up.

Gabby and David walk around the corner of the house.

ABBY

I can't get this damn fire lit.

She's nearly crying.

David pulls a lighter out of the pockets of a ratty pair of
shorts and flips it on. It flares like a torch.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Why do you need that?

DAVID

To light my dope.

Crunch of tires on gravel.

Abby looks up and sees a car.

Police lights come on. A short burst of siren.

ABBY
What did you do?

David throws the lighter down and walks away.

The police car honks. The doors open.

GABBY
We found the lighter when we were packing.

ABBY
Why didn't he just tell me that?

GABBY
You didn't give him a chance.

MICKEE(O.S.)
Hi, Gabby!

ABBY
Oh, fuck, that's Jack. I look terrible.

GABBY
Jack?

A huge smile spreads over her face.

ABBY
Jack is ...

Her smile drops off her face as if a switch is pulled.

ABBY (CONT'D)
Jack is the policeman who worked your dad's ... death.

She turns toward Jack and Mickee.

JACK BAILY, tall, dad bod, looking impressive in his uniform.

JACK
Abby.

He hugs her a little more than friend a little less than love.

Abby gently breaks away.

ABBY
How's Ella?

JACK
No clue. Left six years ago.

She reaches out and squeezes his arm.

ABBY
I'm sorry.

JACK
Couldn't take being a police wife.

Abby hugs him again, not bashful about lingering. They break apart.

JACK (CONT'D)
When Mickee told me you were back,
I just had to come down and see
you.

MICKEE
Where's David?

GABBY
He went down the river to drown
himself.

ABBY
Gabby!

GABBY
He's pouting. Where's Brennon?

MICKEE
Hanging out with friends.

She walks toward the river.

EXT. CLIFF LEDGE OVER A RIVER - NIGHT

David stands on the edge of a cliff; water flows beneath him.

In the night the moonlight illuminates him and the river.

VOICES (V.O.)
I'm not going to let you drown.

GABBY(V.O.)
David's a pussy!

Splash of water.

He steps back with a little gasp.

MICKEE(O.C.)
Don't fall off.

David whirls around, eyes wide with fright.

He takes a step back, hears the river, freezes.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
It's Mickee.

She steps into his sight.

He relaxes a little but is still wary.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
It's hard enough to jump off the ledge during the day. At night, you'd bash your skull in and your brains would wash away.

She sits down on the edge of the ledge.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
What did you think about my monologue?

DAVID
It was good.

MICKEE
Sit down.

David hesitates for a second but carefully gingerly sits and scoots to the ledge.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
You didn't laugh.

DAVID
Sorry.

He doesn't say anything, stares at the moon.

MICKEE
Patricia, Trish, whatever the fuck she calls herself is a bitch.

She takes David's hand.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

She's psycho. She'll lie about you,
screw you over .. And under ... And
on the side ... And up high. Psycho
Slut.

DAVID

I don't even know her.

MICKEE

You're better off. Now, if you hang
with me, I'll ... expose you to a
thing or two.

She stands.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

Let's go for a walk.

She reaches down and takes his hand, helps him to his feet.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I think your mom might have a thing
for my dad.

She gets on his right side.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I'll keep you from drowning.

She giggles.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

Don't piss me off though, or I'll
push you off.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

David walks down the hall toward his video classroom.

Julius steps out in front of him.

Down the hallway, Rick watches him.

David walks to the left. Julius moves in front of him again.

David reverses direction. So does Julius.

Another football player leaning against his locker laughs.

JULIUS

You're in my way.

David starts around him again.

Rick pulls out his cell phone.

David tries to get around Julius again, but Julius bumps him hard and bounces him into the locker next to jock two.

Jock two pushes him away.

Julius sees Rick filming them. He steps in Rick's direction, but Miss Whitley steps into the hallway from his class.

Julius steps aside.

As David walks by him, Julius mutters

JULIUS (CONT'D)

Freak.

Julius and his buddy laugh.

WHITLEY

Everything okay?

DAVID

Yeah.

Whitley turns to Rick.

WHITLEY

Decide what you're going to do your project on.

She takes a couple of steps.

WHITLEY (CONT'D)

You got another partner. Switched out of drama.

She walks away.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

David talks with Isaac.

ISAAC

I was in there for the girls. Turns out they don't give a shit either.

He sits down next to David.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I decided to do something I enjoy.

Rick walks to them.

RICK
I knew that was coming.

DAVID
Knew what?

RICK
I knew he was going to hassle you.
You can tell it by their eyes.

DAVID
Thanks for your help.

RICK
I'm an observer. A journalist --

DAVID
An observer? You want to just watch
when people hurt other people?

RICK
It's just a some guys hassling you.

DAVID
Do you know how many suicides are
related to bullying?

RICK
About half I think.

He sits at a desk.

RICK (CONT'D)
We have to come up with a topic for
our video project.

David opens a notebook, his hands are trembling.

RICK (CONT'D)
(to Isaac)
What do you have to offer to this
group?

ISAAC
What do you have to offer me?

David laughs and writes down something.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I can do anything technical. I've
done lights, sound, and editing for
drama the last two years.

RICK
How do we know he's telling the
truth?

DAVID
Damn, Rick. Spielberg isn't
available.

He jots down another note and looks back at Isaac.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Do you have any experience with
bullying?

ISAAC
The bullied ...but not the bullier.

RICK
Afraid?

ISAAC
No. I just don't want to kill them.

DAVID
Do you think bullying is a problem
in this school?

Rick laughs.

RICK
Do you think the Pope is Catholic?

DAVID
Let's do our presentation on
bullying.

Rick lights up and digs a notebook out of his backpack.

RICK
That would give us an A for sure.

Isaac laughs.

ISAAC
We could do a season of 18 shows,
each featuring the face of one of
the bullied.

DAVID
I think we can make a change.

He jots down some more notes.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Maybe we could sell it to a
network.

RICK
(feigned excitement)
Maybe they could air it right after
the segment on the genocide in the
Mideast.

David slams his notebook shut and glares at Rick.

RICK (CONT'D)
Listen, I'm not against doing the
project, but we ain't gonna change
this school much less the world.

ISAAC
We could take it to the school
board.

Rick laughs again.

RICK
Four out of seven board members
have jock kids.

ISAAC
And Brennon's dad is a cop.

David pauses, considers.

DAVID
Let's get it done, make our A, show
it to people.

RICK
I'm all for this, but we have to be
realistic. Even if the board sees
our video, all they'll do is pass a
policy no one will enforce.

DAVID
Maybe so, but it's ended already if
we don't even start.

RICK
So, where do we start?

DAVID
Writing down the names of the
biggest bullies.

Isaac picks up a permanent marker and writes in big letters.
"BRENNON BAILY."

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

David stands in the cafeteria line. He picks up two cheese-filled breadsticks, a slice of pizza, a chocolate cupcake, a bottle of water, and then goes to the chekout.

Julius stands right behind him, and Brennon stands right behind him.

DORIS, a cafeteria lady with a hairnet, looks up at him.

DORIS
Need your thumbprint.

She points to a scanner.

David puts his thumb on it, and it buzzes.

DORIS (CONT'D)
You're not in the system.

Doris sighs.

DORIS (CONT'D)
Five-fifty.

DAVID
I'm supposed to get --

JULIUS
Geez, he ain't got his free food
card yet.

Julius pushes him, not hard, but David has to catch himself on the counter.

DAVID
Go ahead and charge.

DORIS
If you're not in the system, you
can't charge your food.

DAVID
I didn't bring my lunch.

From behind Julius.

BRENNON

You can give him the poor boy pack,
can't you, Doris?

DORIS

How thoughtful for you to remember.

She opens a door in the cabinet and pulls out a brown bag.

DORIS (CONT'D)

You can have one milk, plain, not
chocolate.

She looks into the door, looks toward the kitchen.

DORIS (CONT'D)

Clara! We need more poor boy's.

Some of the kids in line laugh.

David starts off, but Julius trips him up a little.

Miraculously, David doesn't fall, but he does drop his lunch
bag.

A girl steps on it and laughs. She kicks it to him.

David turns toward Julius, his face twisted in rage, and he
clenches his fist.

JULIUS

I think the freak is about to cry.

David takes a step toward him.

Brennon steps around Julius.

BRENNON

You better leave before you start
something you can't finish.

JULIUS

Go join your girlfriend.

David lunges forward and shoves Julius who staggers against
the counter. Kids scatter.

Julius starts to go after him, but Isaac appears from
nowhere.

ISAAC

You better move along, Julius.

Julius laughs.

Calmer, David moves away from them.

JULIUS

Get out of my way, or I'll kill you
too.

Isaac steps in front of him.

Julius starts to push him out of the way, but Isaac moves so fast, he has Julius by the shirt.

He reaches quickly and grabs Julius's right hand, and before Julius can move, he has his small finger bent backward.

He squeezes the finger, and Julius's knees buckle.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

Shit!

Isaac relieves some pressure.

With his free hand, Julius tries to sucker punch him, but Isaac has his wrist and arm twisted up. Julius freezes.

ISAAC

I'll break it off your shoulder.

Julius starts to move but yelps in pain.

JULIUS

Let go of me, you fucking freak.

ISAAC

Apologize.

He cries out.

JULIUS

Shit, shit, shit. I'm sorry.

Isaac lets him go.

Julius considers going after him again.

BRENNON

Drop it. Season starts soon.

Julius gladly backs away because his fearless leader has given him an out.

JULIUS

You're dead.

ISAAC
Aren't we all?

David, his head downcast, starts for a table.

Isaac catches him.

David spies Gabby sitting with some of the fringe popular girls.

Eye contact, then Gabby looks away from him.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

David and Isaac sit at one of the long tables.

Girls sit a few feet down the bench. One smiles at Issac.

David looks up; Brennon sits by Gabby. Mickee sits by them.

ISAAC
Are you one of those dangerous
dudes that loses his shit on people
and gives them a world of hurt?

DAVID
Or kill them.

Isaac laughs.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Haven't you heard about me?

Isaac falls silent.

MICKEE
Where's Rick?

ISAAC
On assignment.

MICKEE
I wanted a copy of my monologue.

ISAAC
How bad do you want it?

She ignores him.

MICKEE
You'll have to come to the end of
summer party, Dave.

DAVID
What party?

She kisses him on the cheek and stands

MICKEE
We'll talk about this weekend ...
When we're alone.

She glares at Isaac.

ISAAC
What about me?

She walks away and bumps into Rick.

MICKEE
Rick! My friend!

RICK
I'll have it done by Friday.

She kisses him on the cheek.

MICKEE
You're the best.

She hurries past him, waves to a table full of obviously popular girls and hurries toward them.

ISAAC
You better watch her, David. She's
a ball breaker.

RICK
But she's hot.

He sits beside them.

DAVID
So what is this assignment?

RICK
Undercover work for our project.

He looks at his watch.

RICK (CONT'D)
If it's going to hit the fan, it
will likely be during sixth or
seventh hour. If not ...

DAVID
What did you do?

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Gabby leans against a locker.

Brennon stands almost on top of her as the students stream past.

BRENNON

Your brother got Julius in trouble.

GABBY

I think Julius got himself in trouble.

BRENNON

No one in the cafeteria said anything.

Gabby tries to shrink against the lockers.

BRENNON (CONT'D)

A video clip wound up in the principal's office. Does your brother know anything about that?

GABBY

Of course not.

BRENNON

I don't think the football team will believe that. They're kind of pissed that Julius wound up in ISS.

GABBY

He should have been expelled.

BRENNON

It doesn't work like that around her. You should tell your brother --

GABBY

Please leave my brother alone.

BRENNON

I'm not the one you need to worry about.

He walks away but then stops.

BRENNON (CONT'D)

Walk with me, Gabs. We can talk.

Gabby hesitates.

Brennon breaks into a beautiful smile.

BRENNON (CONT'D)
The guys think you're hot.

He holds his hand out.

Gabby tentatively takes it.

BRENNON (CONT'D)
I can help your brother.

Gabby tries to take her hand away, but Roger squeezes it.

Gabby is interested, wary, by her expression.

BRENNON (CONT'D)
Walk with me.

He walks a couple of paces, turns back.

EXT. IN FRONT OF SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

David walks out the school's front door.

He sees Gabby and Brennon.

Brennon takes her hand and leads her toward the school's student parking lot.

David sees a bus pulling into a circle drive and checks a slip of paper he holds in his hand.

When he looks up, Julius stands in front of him.

JULIUS
I got ISS.

David glances as the bus pulls up, stops, and opens its door.

Julius notices and laughs.

JULIUS (CONT'D)
Bus kid. Loser.

A red Mustang turns into a drive in the front of the school and parks in a visitor's spot.

The horn honks, and the passenger side window comes down.

Julius shoves him a little and brings him back.

JULIUS (CONT'D)
 Sooner or later, you're going to be
 a dead bus kid. Your friend too.

David sees his mom's head poke through the window.

Miss Whitley, on-duty teacher, walks up to the driver's side.

EXT. BY THE SIDE DOOR OF THE MUSTANG - DAY

Miss Whitley lightly taps on the window and it comes down
 slowly to reveal the face of

ROSE WRIGHT, an elderly woman with makeup painted on and
 obviously dyed black hair.

WHITLEY
 Parents wait on the pickup road.

She points to a road farther down from the school. A line of
 cars stretches bumper to bumper.

Several kids walk in that direction.

ROSE
 I ain't that boy's mom.

WHITLEY
 Visitors park there after school.

ROSE
 I'm not aware of all the rules.

WHITLEY
 Just remember for the next time.

ROSE
 I'm pretty sure I ain't stepping
 foot on this place anytime soon.

Miss Whitley sees David.

WHITLEY
 Hi, David. Do you know this car?

He stands at the car and stares perplexed.

ABBY
 Get in the back.

WHITLEY
 That's my mom.

David crawls into the back seat.

ABBY
Where's Gabby?

DAVID
She's riding home with Brennon.

Abby smiles.

ABBY
A new friend on the first day of
school. Brennon who?

DAVID
Baily.

ROSE
She needs to stay away from that
crazy family of shit buckets.

David looks at Rose and then back at his mom.

ABBY
This is ... Rose, Rose Wright.

David's eyes narrow.

ROSE
I'm your sweet old granny.

Rose slams her car into reverse. Tires squeal.

She jerks to a stop.

ROSE (CONT'D)
I'm fucking surprised too.

DAVID
What the fuck, Mom?

ROSE
Don't say that word around me. I'll
box your ears.

She squeals away.

INT. ROSE'S HOME - DAY

David, Abby, and Rose walk through the front door of the
house.

An alarm rings.

ROSE
Shit, I always forget about that
thing.

As it shrieks, she hurries over to it and types in the pin.
Her phone, an old-fashioned push button thing, rings.
Rose grabs it.

ROSE (CONT'D)
I told you not to call me.

She hangs up the phone.

ROSE (CONT'D)
My house is bigger and nicer than
the shack you live in and I want to
keep it that way.

David looks at his mom, but she just looks away.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Abby, wait for us out in the car.

ABBY
But ...

Rose gives her a withering look, and Abby obeys.
When she's gone.

ROSE
Your mom's a bitch, but she's still
your mom.

He starts for the door.

He stops, uncertain.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Like it or not, I'm part of your
treatment plan. Now, sit your ass
down. This won't take long.

David reluctantly sits on a chair, but he sits on the edge if
he needs to make a run for it.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Dr. King, was one of my students.

DAVID
You were a teacher?

ROSE

They fired me because I slapped the
crap out of a kid who was full of
it. Then I slapped him again for
crapping on the floor.

She walks close to David who shrinks away from her.

Then, she LAUGHS.

ROSE (CONT'D)

I'm just shitting you. I retired
after 35 years.

DAVID

Who the ...

Rose glares him into silence as he starts to drop an F bomb.

ROSE

Your mother says I'm your
grandmother, but --

DAVID

Where have you --

ROSE

It's not polite to interrupt
people.

She sits down on a sofa and studies David.

ROSE (CONT'D)

I've known Dr. King forever and got
him to help many of my students.

DAVID

Is he expensive?

ROSE

It's a charity clinic.

She stands and heads for the kitchen.

ROSE (CONT'D)

I'm going to get us some cookies.

She opens a cabinet, grabs a tupperware bowl, pops the lid.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Anyway. Zeke asked me if I would
work with you. He said you need a
steady influence on your life.

(MORE)

ROSE (CONT'D)

I told him that didn't surprise me,
but what did surprise me, is he
wanted me to be it.

She offers David two cookies.

He shakes his head.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Eat them.

He grabs one; Rose takes three and goes back to the sofa.

ROSE (CONT'D)

He gave me this long spiel about
how you seemed like a really bright
kid and just needed the right kind
of guidance.

David bites into the cookie and then stares at it like he
can't believe how heavenly it is.

ROSE (CONT'D)

I told him you probably just needed
to get laid.

David's eyes open in shock.

Rose laughs, and then she stands and offers him two more
cookies. Without hesitating, he takes them.

ROSE (CONT'D)

He said you also need a friend
who's going through some of the
same troubles as you.

He takes another bite of his cookie.

ROSE (CONT'D)

I told him that two negatives only
make a positive in math.

Rose goes back to the sofa.

ROSE (CONT'D)

He already has someone he thinks
you'll like. Finally, he says how
in my old age I could use some
company too, someone I could pass
my knowledge too -- don't expect my
money -- just yet. I told him he
was full of shit and that he
shouldn't sling it at me.

Rose laughs again.

All David can do is eat his cookie and stare at the floor.

ROSE (CONT'D)
You'll stay here this weekend.

David stares at her and bites into his cookie. His hands tremble noticeably.

Rose watches it.

ROSE (CONT'D)
I told him there were two conditions.

He raises his cookie to his mouth, and it seems like the more David notices he trembles, the more he trembles.

ROSE (CONT'D)
They must have you on some pretty powerful shit. Anyway, condition one was that if you were an ass like your dad, it was off.

David's hands drop.

ROSE (CONT'D)
That's what I said. My son was an ass, but I loved him.

DAVID
Your second condition?

ROSE
That you get genetic testing so that I can see if you truly are my blood.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM - DAY

David pilfers in his backpack.

He pauses, puzzled, and reaches in. He pulls out a box and opens it.

In it are a leather journal with an expensive fountain pen, and ... he gasps in surprise. A new iPhone.

He sees a note and reads it.

ROSE (V.O.)

The phone has a minutes limit. If you go over, I'll slap the crap out of you. LOL. If I'm going to be a part of your life, I'm going to have to be able to contact you, and I know that your tight-assed, broke mom ain't going to give you anything like this. The journal's for if you get the notion to write. I got you a Facebook account and some other crap, the doc says kids need to have. All the passwords are on a slip of paper in the phone box. When you open up your Facebook account, look up ...

David frowns. He reads it again.

ROSE (V.O.)

She's the one Doc wants you to meet. Don't tell your mother about this phone or she'll steal it.

He turns the phone, brings up a Facebook account, signs in.

He goes to the Facebook search and looks up: Trish Downs.

He friends her and then puts his phone down and picks up his journal.

DAVID

I saw a strange dog a couple nights ago. It looked almost like a ghost.

Knock on the door.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Enter at your own risk.

The door swings open and Gabby enters.

GABBY

Mom's left some stuff for us to warm up in the microwave.

DAVID

Where's Mom?

GABBY

She went out to dinner with Jack.

DAVID

I'm glad she's found a friend.

Gabby hesitates, looks down on the floor briefly.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I guess you have too. I'll try not
to ruin it for you.

GABBY
I'd appreciate that.

This surprises David.

GABBY (CONT'D)
The football players are going to
leave you alone. Brennon promised.

David doesn't really understand what she's saying.

GABBY (CONT'D)
I'm going to warm up my plate.

Gabby leaves.

David picks up his pen and writes.

DAVID(V.O.)
Speaking of ghosts. I think Gabby
is possessed.

He hears a whine outside his door and then a soft bark.

He looks out a small window next to his desk and sees a
golden retriever outside his door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

David walks through the living room toward the door.

GABBY
Where are you going?

He pauses.

DAVID
For a walk.

He slips out the front door.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE COTTAGE - DAY

The golden retriever walks away from him when he takes a
couple of steps toward it, but it doesn't run.

DAVID

So what are you doing here, Fido?

David pauses. A bit of memory surfaces and then submerges. He takes another step toward the dog. It retrieves, stops. David smiles.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I don't trust people either. Lead the way.

Fido walks away, stops, looks back at David, and barks.

EXT. AT THE EDGE OF THE RIVER - DAY

Fido happily plunges into the water.

David stops at the edge.

DAVID

I don't swim.

Fido stands in the water which comes up to his belly, cocks his head, and woofs.

DAVID (CONT'D)

My Dad drowned in this river.

Fido comes out of the water, brushes lightly against David, and starts off down the river bank.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

The sun is lower in the sky.

David, amazed, looks at a downed tree that crosses the river.

Fido swims across the river while David walks.

On the other side, David reaches down and pets Fido.

Fido barks and runs off.

David sighs and follows.

EXT. CLEARING - DAY

Fido leads David into a clearing overgrown with weeds.

There's a run-down, partially burned cottage, standing in the middle of the meadow.

David walks toward it, but Fido barks and walks down a path.

EXT. CLEARING - DAY

David looks up and sees a treehouse in a tree.

When he walks toward it, Fido slips away into the trees.

MICKEE (O.C.)
Who the fuck are you?

David looks around.

MICKEE (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Don't move, or I'll shoot!

David recognizes the voice.

DAVID
Mickee?

Her face appears in the treehouse window.

MICKEE
Hey! Come on up.

DAVID
Promise you won't kill me!

He starts toward the treehouse.

MICKEE
It's just a 22. It probably
wouldn't kill you.

David hesitates but then climbs up pegs nailed to the tree.

INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Mickee sits on a bean bag chair. In front of her is a metal footlocker open, inside it are a bunch of papers and pictures, a gun.

David stares at it.

MICKEE
What if you'd been a rapist? What
if a poisonous snake showed up?
(MORE)

MICKEE (CONT'D)

You gonna stand there and let it
bite you in the ass?

She stops, giggles, and looks up at him.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

Don't expect me to suck out the
poison.

She sorts through a couple pictures in the locker.

Mickee points to another bean bag chair.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

Sit.

David still hesitates.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

Kick it a few times to make sure
there's no snakes or spiders.

David walks slowly toward it.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I'm fucking with you again.

Still David kicks the beanbag chair lightly.

Mickee picks up a drawing.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I come here to think.

She shows it to David.

It's a good picture -- drawn and colored by someone young.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

It's my happy little family.

David notices that thin black lines cross out the mother.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

My mother's dead to me now.

Mickee stuffs the picture back into the footlocker.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I would shoot her if I ever saw
here again. Or dad would.

She laughs.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
He's a cop. He'd get away with it
too. How did you find this place?

She looks up at him.

DAVID
I followed ... I followed the trail
because I wanted to take a walk.

MICKEE
I figured you remembered it from
when we were kids.

David doesn't understand.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
Our folks were friends. You came up
here a few times.

Mickee laughs.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
We probably played doctor right in
this very treehouse.

David is aghast.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
Oh, come on. All kids do it.
Brennon and I used to do it.

David leans away from her.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
Too much information, huh?

He nods.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
I could tell you about the time my
brother did more than play doctor
here, but I'm guessing you probably
don't want to hear about that.

David smiles and shakes his head.

She sorts through a few more pictures but puts them back in
the footlocker without sharing them with David.

DAVID
That cottage I passed --

MICKEE

My crazy bitch of a mother tried to
burn it down before she left us.

She slams her footlocker shut.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I don't want to talk about that.

She looks out the window.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I don't want to be out here in the
dark.

She stands without saying anything else and makes her way
down the treehouse.

He follows and when he reaches the ground, she's already
walking away.

DAVID

See you at school tomorrow.

David watches her and then hears a woof. Fido walks toward
him and then starts the opposite direction from Mickee.

INT. LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

He walks into the living room and see Gabby sits watching a
fuzzy television channel.

DAVID

So what's for dinner?

GABBY

Country fried steak, mashed
potatoes, and biscuits. Dad's
favorite meal. I think it's
supposed to be some kind of homage
to him.

Gabby laughs

GABBY (CONT'D)

Meanwhile, she celebrates our
return home by going out with her
dead husband's ex best friend.

DAVID

She tries.

GABBY

She's fake.

Her voice trails off.

He disappears into his room.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

He slams the door shut, and when he does, he hears the closet door creak.

He walks slowly toward it.

When he opens it, he sees a shelf that he's not noticed before with some old books and record albums stored on it.

He reaches up and feels around. He stops.

He pulls a stuffed golden retriever from the shelf. It has a red collar. "Fido" is marked on it with black marker.

He hears a soft woof and goes to the window.

Fido sits right outside.

Fido woofs again, and David leaves his room.

INT. LIVING-ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Gabby has gone. Soft music comes from her room.

He grabs his plate of food and takes it with him outside.

David breaks off a piece of the steak and tosses it to Fido who devours it like he hasn't eaten in weeks.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

David finds Rick and Issac at the computer.

RICK

Watch this.

David sits by him and watches.

RICK (CONT'D)

The kid with the greasy hair and t-shirt is a freshman.

ISAAC
His name's Jeremy.

CHUCK who wears a Shark jersey flips Jeremy's ear.

RICK
That's Chuck -- a Brennon flunkie.
Tolerated, not liked. But the jocks
leave him alone mostly.

ISAAC
Aside from your basic, nonfatal
verbal abuse.

Chuck flips the kid's ear again.

RICK
He's a third string lineman.

The boy turns. Chuck slaps him on the side of the head.

CHUCK
What are you looking at?

When Jeremy turns around, his ear gets flipped again.

JEREMY
Leave me alone.

CHUCK
What are you going to do? Cry?

Rick pauses the playback.

RICK
Here, the other kids notice.

He plays the video.

JEREMY
I'll tell somebody.

Chuck shoves his head in the window.

Kids around him laugh.

ISAAC
Why aren't they doing anything?

DAVID
They're glad it isn't them.

ISAAC
I'm going to kick someone's ass.

RICK
Make sure it's someone like Chuck.

Rick turns the video off.

DAVID
Where did you get this?

RICK
I took it.

DAVID
Why didn't you do something?

RICK
I don't want to be bullied.

David stands.

DAVID
We have to nail those bastards.

RICK
You do that. Now, we have to edit
the national anthem for the game.

David sits back down. A thought hits him

DAVID
I need to know how the scoreboard
works.

EXT. AT THE FOOTBALL STADIUM - DAY

Rick, Issac, and David climb the bleachers to a small
pressbox at the top of the bleachers. It's glass enclosed so
those in it can see the whole field.

RICK
The system's inside.

Rick pulls out a key.

RICK (CONT'D)
They don't want anyone to steal it.

They go inside.

INT. PRESSBOX - DAY

A computer system, with wires going every which way, sits on a huge table.

RICK
Looka likea a squirrel's nest.

He pulls the door shut behind him.

David notices that there is a dead bolt.

RICK (CONT'D)
There are only a few things you
have to know.

He points to a switch on the main board and the digital scoreboard lights up.

A monitor also comes on.

These first two adjust the cameras. He flips one on.

On the screen, the 50 yard line shows up.

RICK (CONT'D)
The girls do their halftime dance
here.

He laughs and pushes an arrow, which causes the camera to zoom.

RICK (CONT'D)
No close crotch shots.

He flips the second switch and a picture of most of the football field comes on.

RICK (CONT'D)
We use this for the marching band.

He puts a flash drive in a USB port and flips a third switch.

This switch makes the board show just what's on the flashdrive.

RICK (CONT'D)
A monkey could do it. You can work
with me tonight.

DAVID
You need help?

RICK
Somebody has to go to the
concession stand.

ISAAC
Anyone ever slipped in a porno?

He and Rick laugh.

RICK
No, but I guess you could if you
wanted to.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Rick locks the press box.

David looks around the field. Almost everyone except or a few
stragglers have gone

RICK
First home game is three weeks.

The three of them walk toward the parking lot

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The walk toward a Chevy Cruze. A truck pulls up next to it.

The truck door opens. Julius steps out.

From the passenger side, Brennon climbs out, and Chuck piles
out of the back.

Julius steps right in front of David.

JULIUS
I warned you.

BRENNON
Leave him alone, Julius. You'll get
expelled.

Julius looks at him. Brennon shakes his head.

BRENNON (CONT'D)
Besides, he can whip you.

Chuck pulls Julius out of the way.

CHUCK
He can't whip me.

DAVID

Oh, big tough man who picks on freshmen.

CHUCK

You should shut the fuck up.

DAVID

You should get a life.

Chuck shoves him and David bounces off the Cruze.

Isaac jumps forward and grabs Chuck's shirt front with his right hand. Chuck swings at him with his right fist.

Isaac blocks it, pulls Chuck forward, knees him in the groin. As Chuck's knees sag, Isaac uses the flat of his left hand to punch Chuck in the nose.

Blood gushes from his nose.

CHUCK

Oh, shit. Oh, fuck.

He retches. Brennon laughs.

BRENNON

You guys need to join us for the end of summer party at the river.

JULIUS

We don't want these fucking --

BRENNON

Before you say anything else, you might want to consider that you could be him.

He points at Chuck who groans and pukes.

CHUCK

Oh fuck, oh shit.

BRENNON

We might decide to uninvite you.

Julius shuts up and kind of steps back toward the truck.

BRENNON (CONT'D)

Help the loser back in the truck.

Julius tugs at Chuck but doesn't make much headway.

BRENNON (CONT'D)
Fuck. Do I have to do everything?

He holds Chuck up while Julius opens the truck door.

BRENNON (CONT'D)
I look forward to seeing you guys
and Gabby there.

He and Julius shove Chuck in the back seat.

Brennon gets in the front seat, starts the truck, and guns
it. The truck screeches away.

DAVID
I thought I was dead.

Issac sees that Rick is putting his cellphone away.

ISAAC
What the fuck man?

David signals him to chill.

DAVID
We got to show people what these
guys do.

ISAAC
Film all you want, but I'm not
going to let my ass get stomped.

DAVID
(mumbling)
Famous last words.

INT. ROSE'S HOME - DAY

Abby stands at the door.

David plops down on the couch and sets a worn duffel bag down
beside him.

ABBY
I want what's best for my son.

ROSE
I've heard that before.

ABBY
I --

ROSE
Don't say you mean it until you do.

ABBY
About Sunday --

ROSE
I'll bring him home before 10.

Abby relaxes.

ABBY
I can come get him.

ROSE
Really?

Abby doesn't speak.

ABBY
I'll call you. Goodbye.

Abby looks at Rose, then at David, and then without speaking goes out.

Rose closes the door.

DAVID
Goodbye, Mom. Love you.

ROSE
Don't disrespect your mom.

DAVID
You do.

ROSE
She ain't my mom.

Rose looks David over. He's unkempt, wears a stretched out pair of shorts and an oversized t-shirt.

He has a bad case of bedhead too.

Rose moves toward the kitchen.

Rose reaches into her refrigerator and pulls out a bottle of orange juice and some eggs.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Two doors down on the left. That's your bedroom.

David grabs his duffel bag

ROSE (CONT'D)
There's a shower and a whirlpool.
Use one or the other.

David pauses, thinks about speaking.

ROSE (CONT'D)
I had enough of stinky assed boys
eating in my kitchen to last a
lifetime.

She makes a trip back to the refrigerator and pulls out a
pack of bacon.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Clothes are hanging in the closet.
25 minutes before breakfast.

David stares at her for a minute then moves toward the
bedroom.

INT. DAD'S OLD BEDROOM - DAY

David stands inside the door and freezes.

A plush Golden Retriever dog sits on his pillow.

He leans against the wall and closes his eyes.

FLASHBACK

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

David lies on a gurney. He's restrained, and electrodes are
attached to his head.

A nurse walks up to his side and puts a stuffed golden
retriever doll at his side.

NURSE
A gift from a pretty young lady.

DAVID
Who?

NURSE
Trish. I think.

David flinches, pushes against the restraints. The dog falls
in the floor.

DAVID
This is fucking crazy.

The nurse hurries to the door.

NURSE
Dr. King!

A mountain of a man, DR. KING comes through the door. Dr. ZEKE KING is a POC. Under his scrubs, he wears a pair of jeans and a Bruce Springsteen T-shirt.

The doctor stands over David and chuckles.

ZEKE
You're not going to get loose.

DAVID
Fuck you.

ZEKE
You better not let my wife here you say that. She's a nurse here.

David's struggles slow a little.

ZEKE (CONT'D)
I could get her assigned to your case. That might be bad.

David struggle less.

ZEKE (CONT'D)
I don't want to have to sit on you.
I don't like it when my patients stop breathing.

David lies still again.

ZEKE (CONT'D)
And if I put you out right now, the anesthetic might wear off before we get finished with you.

The doctor bends over and picks up the dog.

ZEKE (CONT'D)
If a pretty girl took the trouble to give you this, I think the least you should do is let it go into surgery with you.

He puts the dog next to David.

Despite his restrained wrist, David can just reach the dog to stroke its nose.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

This is a pretty simple procedure.
We put you out, give you a muscle
relaxer, zap electricity into your
head until you convulse.

David doesn't move, but his eyes show terror.

Zeke laughs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I'm just shitting you. I love to
freak out my patients. That's why
I'm called Dr. Freak.

David relaxes.

DAVID

So how does it go then?

ZEKE

Oh, it goes exactly like I said.
You'll wake up with a horrible
headache, your jaw will likely
ache, and your memory will be
fuzzier than a newborn baby's butt.

He leans over David and squeezes his shoulder. David winces a little bit.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

The good news is it helps 80-85% of
people like you who get it.

DAVID

People like me?

ZEKE

Those who are an immediate threat
to themselves ... Or others. Your
mother and I thought this would be
the best first step.

DAVID

My mother's trying to punish me.

ZEKE

That's something we will probably
discuss in group therapy.

He stands.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I'll be there when you go under.
I'll do the procedure, and I'll be
there when you get out. I'll always
be there for you.

He motions for the nurse and the med assistant.

They push the gurney away.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Don't you forget that, Mr. Wright.

He chuckles.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Even though you probably will.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Wrapped in a towel, David sits down on the edge of the
whirlpool tub.

FLASHBACK

EXT. CLIFF LEDGE OVER A RIVER - DAY

A young David stands at the edge of the cliff and looks out
over the water.

In the water standing waist high are DEVLAND WRIGHT and Abby.

Near the beach, a huge smile across her face, sits Gabby.

Devland stands to his full height.

DEVLAND

If you don't jump now, I'm coming
up to get you.

ABBY

Can't you see he's scared, Devland.

DEVLAND

My son will not grow up to be a

He glances at Gabby

DEVLAND (CONT'D)

A pussy.

ABBY

He's afraid of the rocks.

DEVLAND

That's bullshit. He'd have to dive
in headfirst to hit those rocks.

He swims toward the bank, and David takes a couple of steps backward.

Devland reaches the bank just as David steps off the cliff.

He falls barely clearing the cliff itself, hitting right next to the bank, near some tree snarls and rocks.

He comes up spitting and coughing.

His head slips under.

Devland jerks his head out of the water.

DEVLAND (CONT'D)

Damn, you'll kill yourself.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

David breathes hard. He turns the knobs on, the water spurts out red.

He sees Patricia sitting there, smiling at him.

He staggers away and hits the shower door. It bangs loudly.

ROSE(O.S.)

What the hell you doing in there?

David can barely breathe.

Rose opens the door.

Patricia's gone.

DAVID

The water ... Blood.

Rose laughs.

ROSE
If you hadn't been used in 30
years, you'd have rust too. Now get
your ass in gear.

She slams the door as she goes.

The water flows cleary now.

David turns it off.

He opens the shower and turns the water on. It's clear.

INT. ROSE'S HOME/LIVING ROOM - DAY

When David steps out of the bedroom, he's wearing a pair of relaxed-fit jeans and a Dark Side of the Moon t-shirt.

He looks up and sees Trish and Rose sitting at a table.

He inhales sharply and lets it out.

DAVID
Thank you for giving me Fido.

ROSE
Is that the best you can do? Fido?
You're just like your dad. Sit your
butt down and eat.

David inhales.

DAVID
Bacon. Coffee.

TRISH DOWNS
I'm not really that hungry.

ROSE
I worked my ass off here, and you
two are going to enjoy it or I'm
going to knock you down and shove
it down your throat.

David laughs.

ROSE (CONT'D)
I can do it too.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

David pushes his empty plate away. Rose stands and starts gathering dishes.

She notices that Trish's plate is also empty.

ROSE
Pretty good, huh?

TRISH DOWNS
I haven't eaten that much in ages.

Rose loses her smile.

ROSE
You won't be needing to go to the bathroom, will you?

Trish looks down at the floor.

Rose stacks the dishes in the sink.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Weekend after next, we're going to Cape.

DAVID
So I'm going to be here.

ROSE
Unless you give me reason to kick your ass to the curve. You're welcome to go with us, Trish.

Uncertain, Trish looks at David.

DAVID
Please.

She nods.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Why are we going to Cape?

ROSE
You're getting a blood test.

DAVID
Oh.

Trish glances at David.

ROSE
He don't want to tell you he might
not be my real grandson.

DAVID
Rose.

ROSE
If you're going to be friends, she
should know.

TRISH DOWNS
I don't have to know.

ROSE
Too late now. David's dad -- my
son's DNA is on file.

David takes a sip of his coffee because he doesn't quite know
how to respond to this.

ROSE (CONT'D)
My husband wasn't sure he was
Devland's dad.

David coughs.

DAVID
You don't have to tell me this.

ROSE
All right then, he was thrown in
jail for rape.

Rose loads the dishwasher, looks back at the two of them, and
laughs.

ROSE (CONT'D)
You two go out and take a walk.
Blow the stink off you.

EXT. PATH IN A PARK - DAY

They walk slowly down the path.

David points to a tree. Two blue jays flit around.

DAVID
My dad's favorite bird.

David stops.

DAVID (CONT'D)
He always said they were pretty,
flashy, loud, and mean. Like him.

David sees a park bench a few paces ahead. He hurries to it and sits.

Trish catches up and sits beside me.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I don't even know if that memory is
true. Doctor Geek says my memory
will be affected by my treatment.
At least I think he said that.

Trish chuckles.

DAVID (CONT'D)
You have a pretty laugh.

She smiles but wipes it off her face quickly.

DAVID (CONT'D)
You don't talk much though.

She leans back on the bench. A breeze ruffles her hair.

TRISH DOWNS
I really wanted to hate you.

David slumps; it's his turn to stare at the ground.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
When Dr. Freak -- not Geek by the
way -- wanted me to buddy up with
you, I said I would. But I wasn't
going to be your support.

David looks at her, his eyes a little wet.

DAVID
I wish I could have changed --

His head drops. Trish hugs him, and he lets her.

TRISH DOWNS
You're the reason she didn't do it
sooner.

David sits up and tries to control himself.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
She talked you into it, didn't she?

He doesn't say anything.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
She was afraid to go by herself.

Through tears.

DAVID
But she did.

TRISH DOWNS
She loved you.

DAVID
Then why did she do it?

Trish sighs.

TRISH DOWNS
We had a lot more in common than
dads. We had cutting parties. We
talked about how we hated everyone
and how we were going to kill
ourselves.

Tears come to her eyes.

She stands.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
She probably never told you why.

David looks curious.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
We had two other things in common.
Our dad killed himself.

She hesitates.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
Our moms also had boyfriends ...

She can't continue

David stands and its his turn to hug her. She cries in his
arms.

She breaks apart from him.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
I live near here.

DAVID
I'll will with you.

She pushes him back.

TRISH DOWNS
I don't hate you anymore.

He steps back.

DAVID
Will you be all right?

TRISH DOWNS
Yeah. Thanks.

She walks away and he watches her go.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

David comes through the front door, stops, and glances around the dark room.

DAVID
Mom!

Gabby, wearing an oversized t-shirt as a night gown, steps out of her bedroom.

GABBY
She's off with officer off.

David stares, puzzled.

GABBY (CONT'D)
You know. Jack.

David pauses and then bursts into laughter.

GABBY (CONT'D)
So how's Grandma Rose?

DAVID
She's a crusty old bitch.

Gabby laughs.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I think I might like her.

GABBY
Mom hates her.

Gabby considers.

GABBY (CONT'D)
I might like her too.

He breaks out in laughter.

DAVID
Too bad, you're not the one crazy
as a shit-house rat -- or Wright
one--she wants to rescue... if
we're really blood.

GABBY
Blood?

DAVID
I'll tell you some other time.

He walks toward his bedroom, but then stops.

DAVID (CONT'D)
After all of the blood work's over.

A message ping sounds from his bedroom.

GABBY
If you're trying to hide a phone,
you should probably take it with
you when you go somewhere. Or learn
how to turn off the notifications.

DAVID
Does Mom know?

GABBY
So Granny Rose is the one who
bought it for you.

DAVID
She wants to check up on me.

GABBY
Your secret is safe with me, but as
soon as I can find a reasonably
cheap phone somewhere, we're going
to have a chat -- get it, chat --
about your personal wi-fi hotspot.

DAVID
I have a data plan.

GABBY

You'll have to keep track of it then.

She turns around. Another ping.

GABBY (CONT'D)

That's Mickee. She messaged you about a dozen times. Weird chick.

David starts to leave.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Or it could be Gal-goth-girl. Just what or who are you getting into, brother.

She giggles.

He flips her off and goes into his room.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM - DAY

David looks out his window and sees the sun is about to sink below the trees.

The sky is pink, orange, and fiery red.

He smiles and turns his phone on to his Facebook page.

He opens the messages and sees several.

He starts reading.

MICKEE (V.O.)

I just found you on Facebook. How cool is that!

He deletes it.

MICKEE (V.O.)

When a girl sends you a message, you're supposed to answer her.

He deletes it.

MICKEE (V.O.)

We're going to the party, right?

He deletes it.

MICKEE (V.O.)
Are you fucking with me? I don't
like to be fucked with.

David freezes. He sees three more messages.

MICKEE (V.O.)
Your sister told me you were gone.
LOL. Forget that last message. I
was fucking with you. Hmmm. There's
a thought.

He sighs, deletes the message.

MICKEE (V.O.)
I hate messaging. I'd rather text
or snapchat. You're going to have
to give me your phone number.

He deletes this message and reads the last one.

MICKEE (V.O.)
I just heard her car go by. I'll be
down in a few minutes.

David starts to type, deletes it.

Looks at GalGothGirl. Trish.

One message.

TRISH DOWNS (V.O.)
My phone number is 555-632-9166;
text me if I haven't scared you
off.

David hears a whine, jumps up, leaves his phone on the bed.

Bubbles that show Trish is messaging him pop up, go away.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

David walks through the kitchen, stops, and goes back to the
refrigerator.

He opens it, looks around, and grabs a hot dog.

EXT. PORCH OF CABIN - NIGHT

David sits on the porch and Fido comes around from the side
of the house.

He sits beside David and looks off into the night.

David offers him a hotdog which he devours.

Fido woofs and licks his hand.

DAVID

I had to visit my grandma.

Fido cocks his head and looks at him.

DAVID (CONT'D)

She's crazy.

Fido woofs.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Like me. But in a good way.

Fido licks David's face.

Then, he stiffens, looks into the night, and trots off.

David watches him go, hears the crunch of a footstep.

MICKEE (O.C.)

Where have you been all weekend?

DAVID

At my grandma's.

She walks up to the porch.

MICKEE

You have a grandma?

DAVID

I think so.

She gives him a puzzled look.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Long story.

She sits on the porch, almost on top of him, though there is plenty of room.

MICKEE

Don't forget about the party.

DAVID

Oh.

MICKEE
We'll have fun.

She places his hand on his leg.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
I want to show you a few things.

DAVID
I don't know if I'm going.

MICKEE
You have to.

DAVID
I'm not into the party scene.

MICKEE
If you ever want my brother and the
football team to let up on you, you
better go. They already think
you're a snitch.

DAVID
I'm not afraid of him.

MICKEE
You should be.

She suddenly smiles.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
Besides, I want you to be there.

She moves her hand to the inside of his thigh. He shivers.
She moves it away.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
Your sister's coming. My brother
likes her, and if he likes her,
everyone else in the school will
too.

DAVID
She won't appreciate me spoiling
her night.

Mickee stands.

MICKEE
She won't even notice you.

David also stands.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
Bring something to snack on.

She laughs.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
I'm sure you have some Zan or
something. Just bring some pills.
There will be plenty of other stuff
floating around and lots of beer.

She pauses.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
If you don't bring something, it
wouldn't be good.

She takes his hand and gives him a quick kiss on the cheek.

When she pulls away

DAVID
Oh, shit.

Mickee's eyes narrow.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Mom is not going to let us go to
any river party.

Mickee smiles.

MICKEE
Your mom's going to be out very
late that night with my dad.

DAVID
That's convenient.

MICKEE
Isn't it?

She walks away.

David looks around in the night and then whispers.

DAVID
Fido!

When the dog doesn't appear.

DAVID (CONT'D)
She's gone now!

Silence. He looks around once more and goes back into the

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

When he goes inside, he sees Gabby standing there.

GABBY
Are you going to the party too?

DAVID
Mickee kind of expects me to be
there. I'm sorry.

GABBY
I'm glad you'll be there.

David starts to walk off.

GABBY (CONT'D)
David. I'd appreciate it if you
kept an eye on me.

He looks at her.

GABBY (CONT'D)
Promise?

DAVID
Sure.

He goes into his room.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM - NIGHT

David picks up his phone, takes a breath, and types.

DAVID (V.O.)
I got your message. My number is
555-863-2216,

He hits send, message noise, and sets the phone down.

INT. TRISH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Trish sits on her bed. She's wearing a loose-fitting
Paramoure t-shirt as a night gown.

Her phone pings; she grabs it, reads the message, and types.

INTERCUT DAVID/TRISH

David sees the message "Hey, what's up."

He starts to type, pauses, and then taps out her phone number.

Trish jumps when her phone rings and answers it.

DAVID

I don't like to text so I just
thought I'd call instead.

She laughs.

TRISH DOWNS

I don't like to call, so I just
text.

David laughs.

DAVID

Thanks for getting in touch. I had
a great time hanging out with you.

TRISH DOWNS

Me too. I'm sure we'll see each
other a lot. With drama.

DAVID

And when I see Rose.

Trish laughs.

TRISH DOWNS

All thorns.

DAVID

And no flower.

TRISH\DAVID TOGETHER

But I like her.

Trish hears a car pull up in her driveway. She sits up straight.

DAVID

Hey, do you think --

TRISH DOWNS

What?

Silence.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
Sorry, I got distracted.

DAVID
Well, I wondered ... I want to ask
... There's this end of the summer
river party and I wondered if you
might ...

Trish hears a door open and footsteps.

She goes rigid.

TRISH DOWNS
What?

DAVID
The party?

Trish looks up warily.

TRISH DOWNS
River party. Drugs. Alcohol. My
reputation. They don't mix.

David hears a woof from outside his window.

Someone knocks on Trish's door.

TRISH\DAVID TOGETHER
Hey. I got to go.

Silence.

DAVID
I'll talk to you later.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM - NIGHT

He jumps up, searches his closet, finds a flashlight, and
heads for his door.

INT. TRISH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Her door opens slowly.

VICTOR MAYNARD, 40s, wearing a powder blue shirt and a smile,
pushes his head slowly into the door, his eyes closed.

Trish recoils.

VICTOR
I'm sorry. I thought this might be
your mom's room.

He slowly opens his eyes.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
She left the door unlocked for me.
I'm supposed to meet her here for
pizza.

TRISH
Then leave me alone.

He sees the phone in her hand.

VICTOR
A boy?

She doesn't answer.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
I hope he's a good one. Every young
lady deserves a good man.

He starts to leave but stops.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
I love your mom, Trish. You don't
have to be afraid of me.

Trish sits silently, unsure of what to say.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
You're so very important to your
mom, and what's important to your
mom is important to me.

He smiles.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Every man deserves a good young
lady. I'll holler when your mom
gets here. If you want to, you can
join us.

He closes the door.

Trisha sags on the bed and trembles.

EXT. BAILY HOUSE - NIGHT

Gabby walks up to her brother who sits in a lounge chair and smokes some pot.

The joint crackles and hisses in the night.

MICKEE

You better hope you don't get tested.

BRENNON

You think Dad's gonna let that happen. Fuck, do you think the school's gonna let that happen?

MICKEE

David's going.

BRENNON

Good job. You got the mom gone. You got him going so she'll go. You're just as devious as I am.

MICKEE

I'm smarter than you are.

BRENNON

I'm sorry to dump the freak on you.

MICKEE

I might actually like him.

He laughs.

BRENNON

I'm not the only one fucked up.

She starts toward the house.

MICKEE

You need to clean up the crap from last time before the weekend.

He stands.

EXT. PORCH OF CABIN - NIGHT

David shines the light on Fido.

DAVID

This better be good.

Fido walks toward the woods. David follows.

EXT. RIVER BANK - NIGHT

Fido wades into the water.

David starts to cross over the downed tree.

He slips and one foot slides off in the water.

Fido grabs his pants leg.

DAVID

You swim better than I do.

He regains his footing.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Lead on.

EXT. RUINS OF THE CABIN - NIGHT

The dog stands at the partially burned doorway of the cabin near Mickee's treehouse.

David sighs, looks at Fido.

Fido walks through the door.

David steps through it also.

The walls of the cabin are mostly intact. The living room has sustained the damage, charred floor and wood, smoke stains.

Fido sits and woofs.

The floor is cracked; weeds grow up through them.

Fido stands and then pads into a den.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

The den is a lengthy room at the back of the house. It looks as much like a wide hallway as it does a room.

And old desk stands at one end. Books lie on the floor.

Two wood chairs, one broken and heaped on the floor and the other leaned up against the wall, are the only remnants of any furniture that might have been in there.

Fido moves to the center of the room and scratches the floor.

David sees a rug when he shines his light, kicks it aside and finds a brass ring screwed into the floor.

He tugs it. With a groan, the door pulls from the floor.

Steps lead down into another room.

It's a storm shelter -- a safe room -- built into the house.

INT. STORM SHELTER - NIGHT

This room is narrow and long -- the exact dimensions as the den upstairs.

Some shelves are built into both ends of the room, one set under where the desk was upstairs.

David shines his light on the nearer shelf and sees a dusty old can of peaches and a small can of tomato sauce some of which has leaked out and looks like blood under his light.

He shines his light on a small section of the floor and sees a cot turned over on the floor. A couple of worn out blankets lie next to it.

DAVID

Okay, I've seen it.

He starts toward the steps but hears the crunch of his foot crushing an aluminum can.

He sees several empty beer cans and some wine bottles.

Used condoms lie next to the wall.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Somebody had some fun here.

Fido growls.

David spies a sandwich bag close to one of the wine bottles.

Out of curiosity he picks it up.

Fido woofs softly, whines, and walks out of the light.

David absentmindedly stuffs the bag into his pocket, climbs the steps out of the room, pushes the trap door shut, and covers it up with the rug.

Fido whines anxiously, walks toward the door, stops, comes back a few feet toward David, whines, and walks back to the door.

David follows him out.

EXT. PATH - NIGHT

Fido suddenly stands still, like a dog on point.

He walks off the path into higher weeds and hunkers down.

David sees the faraway gleam of a flashlight.

He hurries off the path and drops down on his stomach.

David can't see the person clearly, but he can see the light coming up the path and then shining on the cabin.

It disappears into the living room. The trap door squeals open.

Fido leaps to his feet and starts down the path.

David follows.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

When David walks into his classroom, Isaac and Rick sit at the table and look at a phone.

ISAAC
This is so full of shit.

RICK
You're full of shit.

DAVID
Lot of shit flying here.

ISAAC
Look at this.

David sits at the table and watches the video that comes up on the screen.

It's the video Rick took of the kid being bullied on the bus.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
He posted it on Youtube.

RICK
Anonymously.

DAVID
This is against everything we're
trying to do.

RICK
Wrong. It's for eveything we are
trying to do.

ISAAC
It's not right for this kid. Look
at the likes. People are sick.

DAVID
Why would you pull this shit?

RICK
The jocks suspect something's going
on. It's like some kind of animal
instinct.

ISAAC
He thinks if they know he posted
it, they'll think he's a prick too.

RICK
I want to go to the river party and
film the bastards in action.

DAVID
No matter who gets hurt.

RICK
Hurt the few; save the many. When I
crush those bastards, other people
just like him

He points to the freshman on the screen

RACHEL
Are gonna thank me.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM - NIGHT

He shuffles through his drawers, pulls out some prescription
pill bottles, and pours some out into his hand.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out the sandwich bag. It
has whiter powder in it.

His brow furrows.

Gabby clears her throat behind him.

He holds the pills up.

DAVID

Cover charge for the party. What are you taking?

GABBY

Brennon said all I needed to bring was myself.

DAVID

I don't like him.

GABBY

He's nice.

DAVID

What's he done for you?

She smiles, reaches into her back pocket, and pulls out a phone.

David looks at her, looks at the phone, doesn't quite understand.

GABBY

It won't text, but because of your hotspot, I can get online and at least message him.

She smiles.

GABBY (CONT'D)

And don't mess with the family sharing button. I'll know it.

She chuckles.

GABBY (CONT'D)

It's the least you can do for your sister.

David falls silent.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Really, it makes me feel a little more secure. Well, as long as you're pretty close by. Come to think of it; that kind of sucks.

She laughs and starts for the door.

DAVID
Really, if you need anything,
message me.

GABBY
When have I ever needed you?

She sashays out of the room.

David slips his phone in his pocket.

EXT. FLAT MEADOW, WITH THE RIVER NEARBY - NIGHT

Chuck carries a big bowl and moves from group to group.

Kegs sit on the ground, one in close proximity to every bonfire. This is a big party out in the middle of nowhere.

Chuck sees Isaac, Rick, and David standing close together and starts toward them.

Isaac steps forward to meet him

ISAAC
Chuck, I'm sorry. I have trouble
with my temper sometimes

He drops a 20 into the bowl.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
My peace offering. Are we cool?

CHUCK
We'll be cooler if you drink a few
brew with me.

ISAAC
You don't have to tell me twice.

Chuck hands the bowl over to Isaac and pulls a red, plastic cup from a bag slung over his shoulder.

CHUCK
Drink up, Dude.

He takes the bowl back and walks to Rick.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
I got 200 likes.

RICK
Not bad.

He drops some bills into the bowl.

RICK (CONT'D)
I can make you an Internet
sensation.

CHUCK
Awesome.

He looks at David.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
Your offering?

David pulls pills from his pocket and drops them into the
bowl already about to overrun with other pills.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
Why don't you have one?

David pulls out one as Chuck eyes him suspiciously.

DAVID
Never met a Zan I didn't like.

He takes Issac's beer from his hand and washes the pill down.

Chuck nods his head.

CHUCK
Heard you were a snitch.

Isaac and Chuck walk off together, laugh, and joke.

RICK
Xanax?

DAVID
I've taken so many in my life I
don't even feel them anymore.

RICK
I'm going to mingle.

He ambles off.

MICKEE (O.C.)
So you made it.

She steps into the ring of bonfire light and hugs him.

DAVID
No one's killed me yet.

MICKEE
You're safe with me.

Giggles.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
Up to a point.

DAVID
Have you seen my sister?

MICKEE
She's with Brennon. Let's go for a walk.

DAVID
I should check on Gabby.

GABBY (O.C.)
I'm fine.

She and Brennon step into the light.

DAVID
Do you need anything before we go?

GABBY
Where are you going?

MICKEE
For a walk.

BRENNON
She doesn't need anything from you.

DAVID
Gabby?

GABBY
Fuck off.

Mickee pulls David away.

GABBY (CONT'D)
It looks like you don't need anything either.

MICKEE
I'll bring him back safe.

As she drags him away, David sees Gabby do the phone me gesture. He understands.

When they slip out of sight, Gabby looks at Brennon.

GABBY
He'll be fine?

He kisses her hard.

BRENNON
Let's go for a walk.

EXT. BEFORE A FIRE - NIGHT

Mickee and David walks past a group of guys.

Rachel and some other girls from Mickee's drama class wave.

Isaac chats one up while Chuck and Julius stand close by.

DAVID
Wait.

He goes up to Isaac.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Are you going to be okay?

ISAAC
Dude.

He sways a little, reaches out and grabs David's arm.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I can take care of myself.

He slaps Chuck on the back.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Lots of good shit floating around.

CHUCK
Fuck yeah.

Julius walks toward David.

JULIUS
I know we didn't start out right,
but it's cool now. You cool with
Brennon, you cool with all of us.

EXT. PATH - NIGHT

The river murmurs close by.

Both Mickee and David have flashlights. She stands a few feet away from a dropoff and shines her light on the ground. The light reveals the edge of the hill sloping steeply down to the water.

A weedy path goes down this hill toward the water.

MICKEE
Follow me.

DAVID
Where are we going?

MICKEE
Someplace awesome.

She steps lightly down the path, and he follows.

EXT. MOUTH OF A CAVE - NIGHT

DAVID
Holy shit.

MICKEE
Indian cave. One of many.

DAVID
I've never heard about them.

MICKEE
People used to pillage them for artifacts. The state stopped it.

David peers into the black cave, shines his light inside but it doesn't pierce the dark very far.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
They've even found burials.

DAVID
Burials.

MICKEE
Dead Indians. My dad used to have a skull but returned it.

David backs away from her a little ways.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
They believe if their bones are disturbed, their souls can't rest.

DAVID

Ghosts?

MICKEE

Lots of weird stories about the river. People floating hear moans and groans, sometimes screams and weird animal noises.

She takes his left hand and pulls him forward.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

I'll keep you safe.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

The cave is wide and goes back farther into the dark than their flashlight can probe.

David sees a flame flare behind him and hears the soft sound of escaping gas.

Suddenly light breaks the night.

A gas lamp sits on the ground, its bright light illuminating the cave with an eerie white glow.

Now he sees a large part of the room.

Quilts pile up on the ground.

Some wine bottles lie on the gravel floor.

MICKEE

Welcome to the man cave ...
Literally.

DAVID

What is this?

MICKEE

My dad found this.

She looks around.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

Now he stays here when he wants to go gigging.

DAVID

Gigging?

MICKEE

For frogs. He used to use it for ... Well, let's just say it wasn't for hunting arrowheads.

DAVID

A love nest.

MICKEE

He went ... spelunking ... with several girls. My mom one of his first.

She laughs.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

Maybe your mom too. Both were kind of slutty.

She smiles.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

Still are apparently.

She kisses him and takes his hand.

DAVID

Why here? Any horny kids can find a dark road with a big enough car --

MICKEE

Not as much of an adventure as a dark cave on a haunted river.

She kisses him again.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

Let's sit.

DAVID

Really? My mom? Your dad?

MICKEE

You don't really thing that my dad showed up at your house to be neighborly do you?

David sits, more in shock than a desire to sit close to Mickee.

MICKEE (CONT'D)

Kind of cool, isn't it? Like a spider and a web,

David suddenly straightens.

DAVID
I should check on Gabby.

He pulls out his phone and looks at it

Mickee laughs.

MICKEE
You're not getting a signal from
that thing down here.

She kisses him.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
There's a much stronger signal.

She kisses him, lingers.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
Gabby's a big girl.

She wraps her arms around him, and at first he stiffens, then she gets him to lean back with her on a quilt.

The light from the camp lantern flickers.

She rubs his cheek.

The light goes out with a soft huff.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

A flashlight pops on and reveals Mickee. She shines it on David who lies still.

She shakes him awake.

MICKEE
We can go back now.

She jumps up.

David sits up and blinks.

DAVID
Did I --

MICKEE
You fell asleep.

David stands up and pulls his shirt on.

Mickee walks toward the entrance.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CAVE - NIGHT

Dave climbs close behind Mickee.

Muffled yells as if coming from a long way off.

DAVID
What was that?

MICKEE
A ghost maybe.

David freezes.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
Relax, sounds carry funny across
the water.

EXT. AROUND A BONFIRE - NIGHT

Mickee and David walk up toward a group including Chuck, Julius, Brennon, and a few girls.

They laughing until they see David and Mickee. Their eyes follow them.

Julius smiles.

JULIUS
(slurs)
Having a good time?

MICKEE
I'm going home, Brennon. Any
problems?

BRENNON
Absolutely none.

MICKEE
Night, David. See your around.

David suddenly notices something as Mickee slips in the dark.

DAVID
Where's Gabby?

BRENNON
Haven't seen her for a while.

JULIUS
Probably hanging around somewhere.

CHUCK
She'll come around.

DAVID
If you did anything to her.

BRENNON
Chill, dude. We didn't click. We
went our separate ways.

David looks around again.

DAVID
Where's Isaac?

CHUCK
(drunkenly)
Who?

BRENNON
Karate kid.

CHUCK
Just kicking around.

Another drunken laugh.

Julius steps forward.

JULIUS
Maybe you should worry about
yourself. The night's still young.

David looks from one face to another, then backs away quietly
out of the dying light of the bonfire.

He bumps into someone, whirls, Rick.

RICK
David?

DAVID
Where's Isaac?

RICK
Gone. You should be gone too.

DAVID
I need to find my sister.

RICK
She's fine. Go home, David. These fuckers are crazy.

David starts to go.

RICK (CONT'D)
We're going to have to work off school Monday. Isaac lives close by.

DAVID
What's happened?

RICK
I'll explain Monday.

Voices float through the night.

RICK (CONT'D)
Get the fuck out now.

David takes a quick look at Rick and then slips away.

JULIUS (O.C.)
Where's the freak, man?

David hears this over his shoulder as he hurries away.

CHUCK (O.C.)
Your pussy friend,

RICK (O.C.)
He ain't my friend.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

David slips in through the front door and tiptoes through the living room, listens. Silence.

He heads opens his mom's door. The room is empty.

He sighs, goes back toward his room, stops at Gabby's door.

He starts to knock, stops, and reaches into his pocket for his phone to bring it to life.

Checks his messages.

GABBY (V.O.)
Where the fuck did you go?

He slips the phone back into his pocket, considers knocking at the door again, but changes his mind.

Instead, he types out something on his phone and sends it.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM - DAY

Pounding on his door.

He straightnes after much groaning and bone popping.

More knocking.

DAVID

What?

His mom breezes through the door.

ABBY

The old bitch is coming after you.

DAVID

What?

ABBY

Rose wants you for the day.

DAVID

Where's Abby?

ABBY

Sitting on the porch. In one of her moods.

DAVID

She's okay then.

Abby smiles.

ABBY

She needs a good boy.

She turns around as she's going.

ABBY (CONT'D)

It can work wonders for a girl.

She flips around again and opens the door.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Why yes. I had a wonderful time last night. Thank you very much.

She leaves, pulls the door shut.

EXT. PORCH OF CABIN - DAY

David finds Gabby on the porch: a flimsy blanket twists tightly over her body.

Scrapes crisscross her shins and dust covers her feet.

DAVID
You're dirty.

Gabby laughs bitterly.

GABBY
I haven't been inside yet.

She stands and pulls the blanket tightly around her.

She is naked underneath it.

GABBY (CONT'D)
Where the fuck were you?

DAVID
I messaged you.

GABBY
Sure you did.

She glares at him; her eyes red and puffy.

GABBY (CONT'D)
No matter. I lost my phone
somewhere.

She brushes past David and opens the door.

GABBY (CONT'D)
Don't expect my help anymore.

EXT. PORCH OF CABIN - DAY

David sits on the porch and watches as Rose's Mustang turns onto their road and drives up the lane.

His phone pings.

Messages. He reads.

MICKEE
Who's that?

David replies.

DAVID
Grandma Rose.

Another ping.

MICKEE
Why is she here?

DAVID
She needs me for the day.

MICKEE
I'm not talking about Rose

The car pulls up as he's about to type. He sees Trish in the back seat, types TTYL and puts the phone back in his pocket.

He hurries to the car door, but Trish doesn't move. She stares at her surroundings.

Puzzled, David goes to the other door.

DAVID
Trish.

She jumps.

DAVID (CONT'D)
You okay?

TRISH DOWNS
Something.

Her words fade, and she commences staring.

ROSE
When we get to the four lane,
you're taking over.

DAVID
I don't have my license.

ROSE
That's never stopped me.

She laughs. She glances at Trish who's still a little lost.

RACHEL
She can ride up front with you,
keep you in line. Besides, I don't
want you two to do nothing dirty in
my clean back seats.

She rips the car into reverse and throws gravel.

She speeds up the road and makes a left.

Mickee stands outside and stares as they pass.

David tears his eyes away from her, notices Trish is looking too.

 DAVID
Where we going?

 ROSE
Who's my daddy, genetics lab.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Rose skids the Mustang into a Kum and Go along the highway.

She puts the car in park and opens her door.

David opens his door and slides out.

 DAVID
Trish.

She blinks as if coming out of a hypnotic state.

 DAVID (CONT'D)
Come on.

He offers his hand which she takes and then slides stiffly out of the seat just as Rose slides stiffly into the back.

David opens the passenger door and she takes his hand and squeezes it hard.

 TRISH DOWNS
The river.

She hugs him tightly.

 TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
I've been there.

 ROSE
Let's haul ass; you got plenty of
time to do that shit later.

David looks desperately at Trish.

 TRISH DOWNS
Later.

He helps her into the seat, and by the time he slides in on the driver's side, Rose has closed her eyes, and her head lolls on the back seat.

David starts the car, gingerly slips the car into drive, and creeps toward the road.

Trish clinches his leg.

Rose snores softly.

INT. WHOSE YOUR DADDY GENETICS LAB - DAY

Trish thumbs through a magazine, but she's not reading.

A door buzzes open and a lab technician comes into the room with David.

CHLOE RIGHT, a breezy, smiling young woman, walks up to Rose.

CHLOE

How are you doing out here, Ms. Wright?

She looks at the sullen, silent Trish.

ROSE

Any better, and I couldn't stand myself.

CHLOE

The paperwork is done. You will get the results soon.

ROSE

Where's the nearest pizza place?

CHLOE

Cheelio's about a mile up the road.

ROSE

How cold is their beer?

CHLOE

Frosted mug cold.

ROSE

Hot damn. Thank you, Miss.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

As they reach the car.

TRISH DOWNS

I feel kind of sick, Rose. Could you just take me on home?

ROSE

Had my heart set on a cold beer, but if you ain't feelin good.

She starts for the back seat, and David reaches for the passenger side front door.

TRISH DOWNS

I'd rather sit in back. I think I need to nap.

David looks at Rose.

ROSE

I'll sit up front with you. Let the girl stretch out in back.

David goes to the driver's side.

Trish slips into the back seat and stretches out.

Rose and David slip into the front seat.

Rose glances at David but he shrugs.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Holler if you have to puke.

EXT. ROSE'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

David pulls into the driveway and stops. Rose snorts awake.

Trish stirs too.

ROSE

I'll drive you on home, hon.

TRISH DOWNS

I'll walk.

ROSE

David, walk with her.

TRISH DOWNS

He doesn't have to do that.

ROSE

Yes, he does.

Trish relents, gets out of the car, and walks away.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Come here for a second.

David lags behind Trish and walks to Rose.

ROSE (CONT'D)
You find out what's going on with
that girl or I'm gonna kick your
ass up between your shoulders.

She looks up.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Goodbye, Sweetie.

Trish barely acknowledges her.

EXT. PATH IN A PARK - DAY

David and Trish walk silently.

David tries to make small talk.

DAVID
Birds don't give a shit about
anything except food, flying, and
fucking. And taking a good crap
every now and then.

Trish looks at him.

TRISH DOWNS
Will you shut the fuck up?

She bursts into tears.

TRISH DOWN
Just shut up.

She starts to hit him in the chest, but he grabs her and pulls her tight, so she can't pummel him. He wrestles her to the park bench where she breaks apart and sobs.

She sobs and shakes and suddenly clings to him.

DAVID
Shh! Shh! I'm here.

He hugs her tight, kisses her head.

She finally calms.

DAVID (CONT'D)
You can tell me anything.

She looks at him.

TRISH DOWNS
The river. Mickee.

She hiccups and another sob escapes. She quells it.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
She invited me ...

Starts having trouble catching her breath; she struggles to get it together.

TRISH DOWNS (CONT'D)
River party.

David suddenly knows where this is going.

Trish breaks down again.

Birds scatter from the limbs above them.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

As David is about to walk into his classroom

CHUCK (O.C.)
Ask your buddy to show you the hottest trending video.

David turns to him.

A couple kids in the hall stifle laughter.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
You'll get a kick out of it. Down by the River -- you can't miss it.

David hurries into the classroom.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

DAVID
What the fuck is Chuck --

RICK
Come here.

David sits down by him.

A video plays. Isaac tied up, standing swaying, as a circle of kids surround him.

You can't see any of their faces for most are in the dark and some have hoodies and hats pulled low.

A big guy comes up behind him and shoves him to the ground. He looks like Chuck.

Isaac struggles to get up.

Someone kicks him back down. He rolls on his side retches.

Two people, head and face hidden, their back to the camera lift him to his feet.

A girl sneaks forward.

DAVID

Rachel.

She yanks his pants down, and he falls.

The same two guys pick him up, spin him around, and he staggers into the shadows and falls again.

There's a vicious kick in his direction.

CHUCK

Get a kick out of that, bitch.

You can't see Chuck's face, but you recognize the voice.

JULIUS (O.C.)

Get him out of here.

His voice from the shadows, you can't see him.

DAVID

They set him up.

RICK

You can't see any of their faces.

DAVID

Fuck.

RICK

Unless you have a different view.

DAVID

You didn't.

Rick sits silently for a second, his face serious.

RICK
I shot a lot that night.

DAVID
Has Isaac seen this?

RICK
It was posted yesterday.

DAVID
Where is he?

RICK
He didn't show today.

David jumps up.

DAVID
Where'd you say he lived?

RICK
Up the road, a half mile on the
right. It's a shitty trailer but he
has an A+ computer set up to

David rushes through the door and almost bumps into Mickee.

MICKEE
We need to talk about that bitch.

DAVID
I don't have time for you.

He runs past her.

Julius steps in front of him, but David shoves him up against
the locker.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Don't fuck with me

As he runs by.

Julius glances over and sees Chuck who shrugs.

EXT. IN A YARD IN FRONT OF A SHITTY TRAILER - DAY

Two junk cars, one on cinder blocks sit in front yard.

Cut, split, and stacked wood sits by an outside wooden stove.

One window air conditioning unit drips water on the ground.

David goes up to the door and knocks. No one answers, but he hears thumping music from somewhere inside.

He smiles a little.

It surprises him that the door opens when he twists it.

He steps inside.

DAVID

Hello!

No one answers.

He walks past a ratty couch, over a rust colored-slightly stained rug.

He stops at a bathroom door. The music beating loudly. He reaches for the doorknob, can't make himself open it. Checks the floor. No blood.

He goes to the room where the music blares from. He steels himself and jerks the door open.

Nothing.

Puzzled he leaves the room.

On the way back out, he looks at the bathroom door but walks past it.

When he comes back to the living room, he sits on a stuffed chair and stares back at the bathroom.

A vision: blood pooling on a white floor. He shakes his head to clear it.

He stands and looks up.

Out the back window is Isaac hanging from a tree by a brown karate belt.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

David moves numbly toward the classroom.

Rick walks beside him, neither speaking.

They walk by Gabby leaning against her locker.

She watches them come down the hall and then turns back to her locker.

Farther down the hallway, Chuck and Julius stand together with Brennon.

Chuck nudges Julius. Brennon whispers in Julius's ear.

As Rick and David reach the doorway Julius steps toward them.

JULIUS

I heard you and your friend got to
hang--

David is on him, his fist driving into Julius's face before he can finish his sentence.

He staggers against the locker. David punches him twice, knocks his head against the locker, grabs him by the shirt, and slams him against the metal.

When Julius staggers, David lifts him up and slams him again.

Then Rick and Chuck have him and drag him away.

Julius sags to the floor, his eyes open but not seeing.

Chuck shoves Rick away and is about to punch him.

GABBY (O.C.)

Leave him alone.

She tears into Chuck, her fist pounding his chest.

He's stunned.

Rick pulls her off.

David stands, looks at Gabby, and then at Julius who groans.

BRENNON

Fucking freak.

He walks past David who leans against the wall and waits.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Zeke sits across a table from David and his mom.

Rose stands in the back of the room by the door.

ZEKE

The school knows the story. They can't prove anything and I'm not sure they're trying very hard.

He looks at David who sits silently, stares into space.

ZEKE (CONT'D)
You're off your meds.

David looks at him, then away. Guilty.

ZEKE (CONT'D)
If you don't follow your treatment
plan, you can't be helped.

Rose meets eyes with the doctor.

ZEKE (CONT'D)
You're going to wind up in a
detention facility.

Rose stands straight up, her full 5'2" frame.

ROSE
You know that little shit got what
he deserved.

ZEKE
So does the school. They made a
deal we should accept.

ROSE
If we take their deal, they'll get
away with it.

ABBY
I want this over, Dr. King.

ROSE
Bull shit.

ZEKE
You have ISS the rest of the week.
That gives you three days to cool
off. Friday, you'll get to do your
work for the class.

David's head pops up.

ZEKE (CONT'D)
You stay in the pressbox. No
mingling with anyone other than
your teacher and Rick. Both say you
can't pass the class without doing
this. The administration doesn't
think you can cause any problems
from up there. Make sure you don't.

DAVID
Does Julius get to play Friday?

Dr. Zeke pauses.

DAVID (CONT'D)
That's the only reason they're
letting me work the game.

ABBY
I think that's fair.

David stands.

DAVID
You just don't fucking get it.

He leaves; Rose follows him out the door.

She puts her hand on his shoulder.

ABBY
I'm so sorry about him.

ZEKE
He's right.

Abby stands and goes out the door.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

David strides into the room, determined, fixed.

DAVID
Give me the drive.

RICK
It's not completely edited.

DAVID
Give it to me.

RICK
We should talk first.

DAVID
Is it all there?

Rick ponders.

RICK
What about the people on it?

DAVID
Maybe, they'll thank you.

Rick hands him a flash drive.

RICK
Good thing the pressbox is open. We
can't find the key.

David understands.

INT. PRESSBOX - NIGHT

The buzzer, ending the half, sounds.

Miss Whitley and Rick stand by the door.

RICK
Most of the crowd will be back when
the Sharkettes make their swim.

He glances at David. The message passes.

RICK (CONT'D)
Miss Whitly, I have some
suggestions about how we can
improve halftime.

WHITLEY
What kind of suggestions?

RICK
I can explain better outside.

Miss Whitley looks at David.

WHITLEY
Can you take this?

He nods.

They leave the pressbox.

INT. PRESSBOX - NIGHT

A row of girls marches out the 50 yard line.

David switches the big screen to a closeup. The crowd cheers.
They love their fish.

David stands, goes to the door, closes it and twists the
deadbolt.

He sits at the computer as the girls' first notes play.

He slips the USB in and clicks on the file.

The giant screen shows the sharkettes confused faces.

The picture changes on the screen.

A hallway -- "Bart, halfback," the caption

There's a little applause which stops suddenly when Bart bodyslams a kid against the lockers and then laughs.

The picture fades to: "Amy, cheerleader." Amy laughs, says, "I see you shop at Goodwill." The girl slinks away.

David looks down and sees that the football players are coming back out. Chuck looks at the pressbox.

Fade to "Julius, wide receiver." Julius shoving him in the cafeteria. "Give him his poor boy." David winces, sees that Chuck is heading toward the pressbox.

Three other men hurry up the bleachers.

Picture fades to: The bus, the caption: "Chuck third string lineman."

David chuckles.

Chuck slams the kid's head into the window.

Chuck reaches the bottom row.

Fade to, the party. Chuck, Julius, their faces plain.

The people close in, Chuck moving fast.

A man stops by Miss Whitley and Rick. Rick shrugs.

Close up on Isaac's face, streaked with pain and terror.

Close up, him in the coffin.

The picture fades.

"Your Quarterback."

Chuck reaches the pressbox door. The others next. One pounds on the door.

David turns back to the picture.

Brennon, his face plain, lugs a staggering, half-naked Gabby. The picture shifts to the half-burned cabin.

The door splinters.

Chuck hurtles through the door, smashes into David, and both go through the glass in the pressbox.

David falls six feet to the bleachers, cracks his head, and then Chuck lands on top of him. David lies stunned, blood pools under his head.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

David lies in a hospital bed. His eyes flutter open, and he groans.

Rose stands there.

ROSE

Severe concussion. Bruises, muscle tears, but you're alive.

David eye blink.

ROSE (CONT'D)

God wants to keep you alive for some reason.

She pulls her chair up to David's bed, sits, and offers a glass of water with a straw. David sips it.

ROSE (CONT'D)

You're coming to my house for a few days. Until things cool down.

David sips.

ROSE (CONT'D)

You're a bigger shit disturber than your ... my boy was. Enough?

He nods, so she sets the cup down.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Your dad wasn't a whole lot better than some of those boys. I know he was rough on you. He didn't want you to be like him.

Rose stands.

ROSE (CONT'D)
You got lots of people wanting to
see you, so I better go.

She stands still; David looks at her curiously.

ROSE (CONT'D)
I got the results back.

David doesn't understand.

ROSE (CONT'D)
The blood work.

His eyes widen.

ROSE (CONT'D)
We'll talk.

As she exits, Abby comes in and approaches his bed.

DAVID
(croaks)
Gabby?

She steps away.

ABBY
She's devastated.

Abby sits in the chair under the window, looks out.

ABBY (CONT'D)
I don't know what to say. That was
a brave thing, S ... but you
should have thought about ... I
don't know ...

David swallows, clears his throat a little.

ABBY (CONT'D)
Jack ...he doesn't think ...boys
are boys ...she consented ... I
don't know.

David swallow again.

DAVID
Get.

He coughs.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Fuck.

He coughs, groans.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Out.

Abby stands.

ABBY

Your sister wants to talk to you. I told her she shouldn't.

Abby looks up and sees Gabby at the door.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Well. She's here.

As Gabby walks in the door, Abby reaches her hand out to Gabby. Gabby ignores it and brushes past her.

Abby stands at the door, stares in shock.

GABBY

Alone, Mom.

Abby looks her two children over one time and leaves.

Gabby stands over Davids bed. She twists her hands together; her eyes are red, face drawn and worn.

DAVID

Gab.

GABBY

Way to go, David.

She smiles. David's eyes widen.

GABBY (CONT'D)

All of the nonconference football games -- the two that are left -- have been forfeited. The rest of the season still a go.

David furrows his brow.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Lucas and Chuck are expelled. The others, alternative school for the rest of the semester.

DAVID

Brennon?

GABBY

Oh, you know, officer Jack. Boys will be boys. The tape disappeared before they pulled him from the investigation.

David groans.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Don't worry. A real journalist keeps backups. The television stations in Cape and Jonesboro have one. It's a shit storm.

DAVID

Not enough.

GABBY

No. Too much. Goodbye.

She walks away but stops at the door.

GABBY (CONT'D)

I should have known you'd fuck this one up for me too.

She leaves.

David hears a ping and sees his phone sitting on a table beside his bed.

He sits up, groans, drops back into bed. With a little more effort, he sits up again and finds a message from Mickee.

MICKEE

All of you are dead to me.

He sets the phone down, sinks back into bed as Dr. Zeke comes in with the attending physician.

ZEKE

You have another visitor.

DAVID

No.

ZEKE

She has something to tell you.

Victor and Trish stand in the door. Zeke motions for them to come in.

TRISH DOWNS

David. This is Victor. My mom's ...
friend.

Victor steps forward.

VICTOR

Every school has a Brennon.
Usually, no one stands up to them.
You're a brave kid, and I'm happy
that Trish has you for a friend.

He steps back.

Trish sits in the chair by his bed.

TRISH DOWNS

I know the house. The one in the
film.

She looks down; Victor squeezes her shoulder.

TRIS DOWNS

After a competition, Mickee invited
me to the end of the summer party.
She said she would fix me up with
her brother.

VICTOR

We've been to the police, but it's
not going to be enough.

INT. CAR OUTSIDE THE COTTAGE - NIGHT

Rose looks over at David.

ROSE

I should come in.

DAVID

I'll be fine.

ROSE

I'd rather not then.

DAVID

What if it's all for nothing, Rose?

ROSE

It's up to you, David, to make sure
that it ain't. Call me if you need
me. I'll come.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

David goes into the living room to find his mom sitting on the couch.

ABBY

That bitch has always hated me.

David sets his duffel bag down.

His phone pings, and he looks at it.

DAVID (V.O.)

"Ask your mom what she's doing tonight. Me and you need to take care of this, freak."

David shuts his phone down off and sets it on a coffee table.

ABBY

Her precious little boy. She didn't think I was good enough for him.

He walks toward Abby, stands in front of her, and leans over.

DAVID

Were you?

Abby looks up into his eye; in them are no love.

ABBY

He was no Angel.

DAVID

No wonder he jumped.

She slaps him hard, jumps up, and shoves him back.

David manages to catch his balance as she swings again, but he catches her wrist.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Don't make me mad.

There is such steel in his voice that she immediately drops her arm and shrivels a little in fear.

ABBY

I deserve more than this.

She grabs her purse off the couch and starts for the door.

DAVID

Where are you going?

ABBY

Out.

He watches her touch the door handle.

DAVID

Fuck no!

She whirls around.

ABBY

I'll do what I want.

DAVID

But mom! Gabby.

ABBY

Abby is a stupid girl.

David starts for her.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Don't fucking touch me.

She goes through the door.

David sits down on the couch, hears something behind him, and turns to see Gabby.

GABBY

David, you missed out on all the excitement.

DAVID

This isn't over.

GABBY

Probably not.

DAVID

Have you seen him?

GABBY

He wants to talk to me.

DAVID

No!

GABBY

We should do something. After all, we could be step siblings.

DAVID

Are you fucking kidding me?

ABBY

She wants to believe it was my
fault. Let her. I'm going to bed.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

David lies on his bed, twitches restlessly. His stuffed Fido sits beside him. In his dream-filled sleep, he finds the dog and tucks it under his chin.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

David lies on his side and grumbles. His eyes open slowly.

He frowns, looks at the end of his bed, and sees Fido sitting there, his eyes studying him.

Fido woofs, jumps down on the floor.

DAVID

You can't be here.

The dog just looks at him and pads toward the door and out into the living room.

David jumps out of bed and runs after him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Fido stands by the couch, then walks for the door, and back to the couch.

David sees no one stirring, hears nothing.

He walks over toward Fido, stops when he sees his phone sitting on the couch and not the table.

He picks it up long enough to see there are no other messages.

Fido goes to the front door.

DAVID

Let me get my clothes.

He opens the door so that Fido can go on out.

EXT. PORCH OF CABIN - DAY

He steps outside and finds Fido lying next to a ratty blanket. He starts to walk past it, but Fido grabs his pants leg.

David grabs the blanket and runs back into the house.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM - DAY

He carries the blanket into his room, tries to decide what he should do with it.

Finally, he opens a dresser drawer and starts to put it in there. He spots the plastic bag with the powder residue.

He drops the blanket into the drawer and uses part of it to cover the plastic bag.

He hears a woof from Fido who's outside his window again.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE COTTAGE - DAY

Fido barks at him.

DAVID

Where now?

The dog races away.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CAVE - DAY

David looks down the path that leads into the cave.

DAVID

Are you sure?

The dog makes its way carefully down the path to the river.

When David reaches him, Fido stares at the water and whimpers.

David looks down.

Gabby's body bobs up and down in the water, her clothes tangled up in branches.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

David sits on the front row and looks at his sister's body.

Others sit nearby. Rose next to him.

Dr. Zeke walks in and squeezes David's shoulders.

Miss Whitley and Miss Lorna sit on one side of the room. Rick comes in and drifts by the casket.

Victor and Trisha walk into the room. Victor nods to Trisha who hurries to the front; when David sees her, he jumps up and they hug.

Just then, Jack and Mickee walk through the back.

MICKEE

That bastard.

Mickee turns and walks out the door. Jack pauses but decides to come on in.

He comes to the front and when Abby sees him, she lets him hug her. In the middle of the embrace, she looks at David.

David stands and rushes out. Trisha follows.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rose and David walk into the living room. Rose nervously looks at her watch.

ROSE

I would prefer if you came home
with me tonight.

DAVID

So would my mom, but I'm not going
to give her that pleasure.

He sits on the couch.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What happens now?

ROSE

What happens, happens, one day, one
minute at a time.

She shivers a little.

ROSE (CONT'D)

I need to get home, David.

David stands.

DAVID
Will you take something home with
you tonight?

ROSE
Ghosts.

He runs into his bedroom.

Rose stands in the living room.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Too many fucking ghosts here.

David runs back out and hands a plastic garbage bag to her.

Rose glances into the bag.

ROSE (CONT'D)
What the hell do you want me to do
with this shit?

DAVID
I'll call you, leave you a message.
Just take care of it.

She kisses him on the cheek which stuns both of them. She
draws back as if she's a little embarrassed.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Goodbye, Grandma Rose.

He hugs her.

ROSE
I'll be here bright and early
tomorrow. That ass of yours had
better out of bed cause I ain't
gonna spend a damn second longer
with that bitch than I have to.

She whirls around and starts out the door; David smiles.

He watches her drive away, and as she reaches the end of the
drive and turns left at the Baily house, his smile vanishes.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

David sits on his bed and dials his phone.

DAVID
Grandma.

He listens for a second to the answer machine.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Grandma Rose. I love you, and I
want you to listen to me closely.

EXT. ON THE BLUFF NEXT TO THE RIVER BANK - NIGHT

David flashes his light into the water. A branch snaps.

He shines his light into the face of Brennon.

BRENNON
What the fuck do you want?

David walks up to him slowly.

DAVID
You raped my sister.

BRENNON
It was consensual.

DAVID
Roofies aren't consensual.

Brennon freezes.

BRENNON
You can't prove anything.

DAVID
What if I can?

BRENNON
She's dead. It's done.

DAVID
It's not done.

BRENNON
What do you want from me?

DAVID
Did you push her?

BRENNON
Fuck you. It ain't my fault.

DAVID
Did you push her?

BRENNON
The crazy bitch jumped. Did
everyone a favor --

David punches him hard, rocks his head back.

Brennon staggers but doesn't fall. Blood pours from his nose.

He jumps toward David, but David sidesteps him, and punches him on the side of the head, staggering him again.

Brennon kneels and catches his breath. Then he springs forward, but Fido darts from nowhere in front of him and Brennon trips and falls into David's arms.

David rocks him with a punch, and Brennon starts to drop to the ground, but David yanks him up and hits him in the face.

Brennon falls over backward and hits the ground.

Fido barks.

A gun fires, and a bullet hits him in the shoulder. He stumbles backward but catches himself before he falls.

The light shines in his eyes and blinds him.

MICKEE
Leave. My. Brother. Alone.

She has the gun pointed at him.

MICKEE (CONT'D)
No one hurts my brother.

Brennon stirs.

BRENNON
I'll take care of him, Mick.

MICKEE
You didn't take care of her.

DAVID
What's she talking about?

MICKEE
Shut the fuck up. You were with
her. That bitch. You're dead to me.

BRENNON
Don't do this --

He struggles to get up.

Mickee takes her eyes off him.

DEVLAND (V.O.)
Jump, David. It won't hurt.

David sees Mickee point the gun at her brother.

He stumbles toward the edge, regains his feet, and when he jumps, Fido jumps with him.

Mickee runs to the edge of the cliff, shoots blindly into the water, until Brennon drags her back down.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Abby stumbles into the living room and hears the door pounding.

She opens the door to Rose who barges into the room.

ABBY
You just can't barge in here --

ROSE
Where's David?

ABBY
In bed ... I guess ... I want him
out of here.

Rose hurries past her and goes to his room. Frantically, she opens the door, the room is empty.

ROSE
He's gone. Call 911.

ABBY
Jack --

Rose slaps him.

ROSE
You stupid, woman. Call 911. Tell
them a child's missing.

Rose hurries out the door.

EXT. ON THE RIVER BANK - DAY

David lies still on the river bank.

Fido lies next to him, as close as he can possibly get.

ROSE (O.S.)

David!

Fido's tail wags when he hears her voice.

He licks David's face and stands up. He pads to the river, slides into the water, and swims downstream.

Rose reaches the top of the bank and sees David.

INT. ROSE'S HOME/LIVING ROOM - DAY

When David walks into the house, he sees Trish sitting on the couch.

She walks over to him and hugs him.

ROSE

Go sit on the couch.

Trish helps him to the couch, and they sit down.

TRISH DOWNS

I'm testifying.

DAVID

I hope it's be enough.

TRISH DOWNS

The powder you found. Six more girls. It's enough. You did a good thing, David.

DAVID

Tell that to the others.

TRISH DOWNS

Good things cost.

She stands up.

TRISH DOWN

I have to go.

She laughs.

TRISH DOWN (CONT'D)

Rose says you have to get your strength before you try to do any dirty shit on her sofa.

She leans over and kisses him, and then smiles.

As she heads toward the door, a ball of golden fur runs into the air and leaps into David's lap.

ROSE
Meet Fidette.

The dog licks him in the face; he laughs as Trish slips out the door.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Your dad's dog drowned in the river. Someone shot him and he fell off the bank into the water.

David freezes. Fidette licks him over and over, but he isn't really noticing anymore.

ROSE (CONT'D)
What's wrong with you? Don't you dare be an ungrateful little asshole --

DAVID
I love Fidette.

ROSE
What is it then?

DAVID
What did the blood test show?

Rose pauses and takes a deep breath.

ROSE
Does it matter?

DAVID
I don't know. Maybe?

RACHEL
You are my son's son, David, that makes you my grandboy. Family is more than blood and bones.