

Point SUBLIME
by
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EXT. DAY - SOUTHERN ARIZONA DESERT

The flat open desert bakes in the midday sun.

Dry seemingly lifeless vegetation is scattered randomly across the vast expanse. Heat waves radiate up from the ground making everything wavy.

The cloudless sky is pale blue.

THE STRANGER, a weathered, grizzled man in his mid 50's dressed in all black (black stetson hat, black scarf over his mouth and nose, black trench coat, black button-up shirt, black pants, black boots) half walks, half stumbles along through the brush.

His eyes match the sky.

His dirty long hair pours out from under his hat. He has been walking for a very long time.

The wind rips across the desert blowing the scarf from his face to reveal a bushy grimy beard.

Moving away from him slowly until he is just a tiny black dot mixed in with the cacti and sagebrush, we see that he seems to be walking from nowhere. There is nothing behind him but desert.

In front of him there are mountains in the distance but they are very, very far away.

EXT. DAY - GAS STATION

An old gas station stands lifeless on the southern outskirts of the small town of Kanab Utah.

The sun is hot, the ground is dry and dusty and the wind blows in gusts across the empty parking lot whipping a tattered American flag that hangs on a pole just outside the door to the gas station's convenient store.

Two cars pull into the gas station and park on opposite sides of the two lone gas pumps.

One car is a mid-nineties Jeep Wrangler and the other is a Subaru Forrester. Both vehicles are covered in dust.

The doors open and the occupants of the vehicles begin to get out.

From the jeep steps JOHN (mid-thirties, rugged, and in good shape) and his wife TRACY (mid-thirties, blond hair, and in good shape).

As Tracy gets out she pulls the lever on the bottom of the seat to slide it forward. The wind blows her hair in her face as GABBY (six) jumps out of the back seat smiling.

TRACY

C'mon Gabby. Let's go pee while
daddy pumps the gas.

Gabby grabs her mother's hand and Tracy starts to shut the door.

GABBY

Wait mommy! Ms. Tinkles has to go
too!

Gabby jumps into the back seat almost getting shut in the door and grabs her Ms. Tinkles doll. It's a little Cabbage Patch type doll that wets itself. John looks over at the Subaru on the other side of the pump.

TED (late 30's, kind of heavy set) gets out of the car, as does NANCY (thin, well dresses) his wife.

WILLIAM (thirteen, punk-ish), their son, stays firmly seated in the back seat with his arms crossed staring out the window at Gabby and her doll.

Ted looks over at John and then at Gabby and shakes his head.

JOHN

I tried Ted.

Ted just shakes his head again.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Jesus Ted she's six. She wanted to
bring one damn doll. What did you
want me to say?

TED

No. You should have said no.

Ted walks over to the pump and starts to pump the gas. Will stays in the back seat with the window up. Ted taps on the glass and Will looks over.

TED (CONT'D)

If you want to go this is your last
chance.

Will flips him the bird.

INT. DAY - GAS STATION

Ted and John have just finished paying for the gas and now stand next to the glass door that leads outside.

TED

I know John, it's just that Will is already pissed off at me as it is for making him come along. He's said one word in the last six hours.

JOHN

Remember you at his age?

TED

Exactly. I don't want him to hate me.

JOHN

I don't think it's up to you.

Ted looks out the door at Tracy and Nancy playing with Gabby in the parking lot and runs his hand through his hair.

TED

I know.

JOHN

So, should we wait here for Carl and Brian?

TED

Nah. They said if they weren't here to call them when we get to the lodge.

JOHN

Well then let's get it on!

John puts his hand up for a high five and Ted can't help but laugh as he slaps John's hand.

EXT. DAY - NORTHERN ARIZONA DESERT

CARL and BRIAN (both in their early thirties, bearded and rugged looking) walk through the hell hot northern Arizona desert somewhere just south of the Utah border with large backpacks strapped to their backs that are loaded down with supplies.

A medium sized rifle is strapped to the side of Brian's pack.

Ahead of them in the distance is a mountain.

Carl reaches around on his pack and digs into a pocket pulling out a compass and a well used map. He unfolds the maps a little and looks up at the sun and then at the compass.

CARL
Yup, still headed south.

BRIAN
That's getting old.

CARL
If we get ten more miles in today
we'll be right on schedule.

BRIAN
Think we'll make it before it
starts to snow?

CARL
Of course.

INT. DAY - TED'S SUBARU

Ted drives the Subaru up the winding road that leads to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Nancy sits in the passenger seat doing a crossword puzzle and Will sits in the back seat still brooding.

NANCY
What's a seven letter word for
condiment?

TED
William, please speak, your mother
is getting very boring. Nancy looks
over at Ted and smiles.

NANCY
Ketchup?

TED
Please Will.

WILLIAM
Fuck you.

Nancy spins around in her seat.

NANCY
Hey! Watch the mouth.

TED

At least that's seven letters.
Would you like to be more
articulate?

WILLIAM

You said nothing but necessities
and then that little bitch gets...

NANCY

William! Enough with the mouth.

WILLIAM

And then Gabby gets to bring her
little pissy doll. It's bullshit.

NANCY

Last chance.

TED

It's okay honey.

WILLIAM

What are you gonna do? Ground me? I
mean you're already making me spend
the whole fucking winter up here.

Nancy closes her eyes and shakes her head then goes back to
doing her crossword puzzle.

TED

Look Will, we've been over this. I
know you think it's going to suck
but it's a truly amazing place.
You'll have plenty of things to do
and after a few days you'll feel
relieved from...

WILLIAM

(finishing Ted's sentence
for him mockingly)

From the pressures of modern
society. No dad, I'll be bored.
Really fucking bored. Did it ever
occur to you that maybe I like
modern society? I checked on the
internet, it snowed eight feet last
year. Eight feet! What am I gonna
be able to do in eight feet of
snow? And don't say ride the
snowmobile dad 'cause you already
know mom won't let me.

NANCY

You're not old enough.

WILLIAM

See?

TED

Look Will, the thing is that you've grown up with all this stuff so you can't ever imagine a world without it. But not long ago people didn't have computers or television or phones or iPods. And really, in most of the world people still don't have those things. Some people only get to do what they have to do to survive.

WILLIAM

So? Why punish me?

TED

It's not punishment. Only boring people get bored Will.

WILLIAM

What is that supposed to mean? You think I'm boring?

NANCY

What your father is trying to say is that this is an opportunity for you to learn how to be more creative with your time and to not rely on other people and things to keep you entertained.

WILLIAM

(snidely)

Things like crossword puzzles?

TED

Don't speak to your mother like that.

WILLIAM

Whatever.

INT. DAY - JOHN'S JEEP

John and Tracy sit in the front seat while Gabby plays with her doll in the back.

JOHN

He's not *that* pissed.

TRACY

He seemed pretty pissed off.

JOHN

Yeah, okay, he's pretty pissed. He just wants Will to be more like him. Or, he wants him to be less like him when he was his age. I mean, the guy never had anything growing up and he just wants to teach Will that material things aren't everything. You know?

TRACY

Yeah, I know, I've heard his (using finger quotes) "Evils Of Modern Society" speech before on several occasions.

GABBY

(repeating her mother in a sing song voice)
Evils of modern society.

TRACY

So did you talk to Carl and what's his name.

JOHN

Brain. His names Brian. Just 'cause you've never met him doesn't mean you can't remember his name. And no, we didn't talk to them. We're just gonna wait until we get to the lodge.

TRACY

But what if they need something? What if they're in trouble?

JOHN

Trace, they're big boys. And besides, they've done stuff like this plenty of times and they've been planning for months.

TRACY

So?

JOHN

So we're just gonna radio them from the lodge once we get there.

TRACY

I just can't imagine hiking that far just to spend an entire winter on an isolated mountain top.

JOHN

They are definitely not your normal type guys...the word sadistic comes to mind.

TRACY

Do you think they'll really be there as soon as they say?

JOHN

Yeah, I mean, you've met Carl. The guy's been doing this his whole life. I'd say his estimate is pretty accurate, give or take a day.

EXT. DAY - DESERT

The Stranger trudges along. He stumbles and falls to his knees, gets right back up and keeps moving. He is much closer to the mountains now.

EXT. DAY - GUARD POST/ENTRANCE TO NORTH RIM NATIONAL PARK

The GUARD (older white guy, big beard, dressed in a tan shirt and olive green pants) steps out of the booth as the Jeep and then the Forrester pull up and stop.

GUARD

How are you folks doin'?

JOHN

We're good, just headed up to the lodge.

GUARD

You're going to be the care takers this year?

JOHN

That's right.

GUARD

Ever done it before?

JOHN

No, we've been here several times
but this is our first time staying
for the winter. Any advice?

The Guard leans his head inside the jeep to the back seat and
smiles at Gabby.

GUARD

Hey there little lady. How you
doin'?

GABBY

Just fine sir. Thank you for
asking.

GUARD

(laughing)
Well ain't she somethin'?

TRACY

That's our Gabby.

GUARD

Well, you folks better go on and
get up there 'fore it gets too
dark. I'll see you in a few days at
the employee party for the end of
the season.

JOHN

Okay, see you then. Thanks a lot.

John starts to pull forward and Ted follows his lead. As they
drive past the gate house they pass a very old wooden sign
with white lettering that reads: "TAKE ONLY MEMORIES, LEAVE
ONLY FOOTPRINTS"

EXT. NIGHT - NORTH RIM

The Subaru and the Jeep pull into the almost completely empty
parking lot just before the lodge at the North Rim.

The park is officially closed so the only people at the lodge
are employees.

The road only goes past the parking lot about one hundred
yards and even that is just a turn around area in front of
the lodge.

Though it's not visible from the parking lot, past the lodge,
there is no where else to go except several thousand feet
straight down.

There are a few rustic cabins scattered throughout the tall pine trees.

Everyone gets out, relieved to finally be there.

TRACY

God, it's cold up here.

TED

Eighty eight hundred feet in October gets chilly.

Ted raises his eyebrows in a "what did you expect" kind of way.

NANCY

Last one to the lodge is a rotten egg!

Everyone takes off running except for William.

Tracy looks over her shoulder at him but keeps running.

William looks up at the darkening sky and for the first time sees the night sky almost completely free of light pollution from the city. He just stands and stares through the tree branches at the stars.

WILLIAM'S P.O.V.

Through the swaying branches of the aspen and pine trees thousands upon thousands of stars are shining brightly.

EXT. NIGHT. LODGE

Everyone runs up and stops at the front doors to the lodge out of breath because none of them have adjusted to the altitude yet.

NANCY

(out of breath)

Man I'm out of breath. I thought I was in better shape.

TED

It's the elevation. There's way less oxygen up here.

JOHN

No kidding. Boy it's been a long time since I've been here.

TRACY

And it hasn't changed a bit. C'mon
Gabby, let's go out to the veranda
and look at the stars.

Gabby jumps up into her mothers arms and John opens the door to the lodge for them and they all walk through.

As the door shuts Ted turns around and looks back at Will who is still standing in the parking lot staring up at the stars.

INT. NIGHT - LODGE

The five of them walk slowly through the empty lodge looking around.

The wall to wall carpet is a dull shade of green and the walls are made of stone and wood.

There are a set of big double doors to their immediate left as they come in that lead to the auditorium.

To their right are the stairs that lead down to the dining room. Ahead of them on the left is the front desk and directly in front of them is the staircase that leads to the sun room and veranda.

Over the wooden railing they can see that the sun room is a large and open with a high ceiling and huge windows that look out into the darkness where the Grand Canyon lies in the night.

They take the stairs to the sun room and spread out amongst the wicker chairs and green cushioned couches.

Gabby runs over to one of the huge windows and mashes her face up against it then puts her hands to block the glare.

GABBY

Daddy, there's nothing out there.

John walks over behind her and picks her up.

JOHN

No honey, there's just no lights so
you can't see anything.

GABBY

(pointing)
Yuh huh dad. Look. What's that?

Gabby is pointing to a small dot of light that seems to be very far away.

JOHN
That's the light from the lodge at
the South Rim.

GABBY
Where's that?

JOHN
That's on the other side of the
canyon.

GABBY
What's the canyon?

The door on the left hand side of the room opens up and
DONALD (large, bald, mustache) walks into the room. They all
turn and face him.

TED
Donald!

DONALD
Ted! Long time no see!

They walk quickly towards each other and hug. The rest of the
gang comes over to see Donald.

JOHN
Big Don! How are you.

They shake hands.

DONALD
God it's good to see you guys.

Tracy and Nancy give Donald a double hug.

Gabby hangs back a little bit.

TRACY
I've missed you Don.

DONALD
How long has it been?

TRACY
Long enough that this little lady
needs a proper introduction.
Gabiella, can you say hello?

Gabby's shyness quickly fades as all the attention turns to
her. She curtsies and puts out her hand to be kissed.

GABBY

My name is Gabriella. You may call me Gabby.

Donald kneels down and takes her hand, giving it a kiss.

DONALD

Spoken like a true princess. Now come here!

Donald scoops Gabby up in his big arms and swings her around in circles. Gabby screams with delight!

GABBY

More! More!

DONALD

(continuing to spin in circles)

Lets get you guys a drink, what do you say?

JOHN

That sounds good.

DONALD

Okay, follow me.

Donald takes off running up the stairs with Gabby in his arms. When he reaches the top he does a quick spin and heads down the stairs into the dining room.

EXT. NIGHT - DARK TRAIL

William walks alone down the dark trail that runs along the edge of the canyon. The sky is cloudless and the stars are bright.

He stops and picks up a rock. He throws the rock as hard as he can.

The rock hits a few tree branches on its way out making a little noise. Then it disappears and is never heard from again.

INT. NIGHT - DINING ROOM

The six of them sit around a candle lit table in the center of the dim dining room.

Three empty bottles of wine sit on the table.

Gabby is half asleep, curled up in her chair.

Donald, a bit drunk, is in the middle of a funny story.

DONALD

And then, as if that weren't
enough, my thumb doesn't cover the
top so the damn beer starts
spraying all over my face!

Everyone laughs.

DONALD (CONT'D)

(sipping some wine)
So I move my head out of the way
and it just sprays over my shoulder
onto the lady behind me!

Ted cracks up and slaps the table. The rest of them are
doubled over in laughter.

DONALD (CONT'D)

So she screams and there's nothing
I can do but put my face back in
front of it and let it spray me.

JOHN

(catching his breath)
Oh, it's too much.

Just as the laughter starts to die down William appears at
the top of the stairs. Donald turns in his chair to face him.

DONALD

Sir William! My god boy, you're
huge!

William wanders down into the dining room slowly and makes
his way to the table.

WILLIAM

Hey Don.

Donald reaches out and grabs a chair from a nearby table and
pulls it over.

DONALD

Have a seat young man. Want a
glass?

William looks over at his parents. Ted and Nancy look at each
other and shrug.

TED

It's alright with me.

NANCY

Okay, but just a small one.

Donald fumbles a glass and grabs a bottle of wine and pours a little bit in then hands it over to William.

WILLIAM

Thanks.

Gabby lifts her head.

GABBY

I want one too.

Everyone, including William, cracks up.

EXT. DAY - FRONT OF LODGE

There are several large picnic style tables set up with chairs surrounding them just in front of the lodge.

The entire staff of the lodge, 100+, sits around eating hamburgers and hot dogs.

Donald is manning the huge grill. He wears a ridiculous floppy chefs hat and flips several burgers in a row.

There is a line of people standing next to him waiting for food.

KEVIN (early twenties, lanky, shaggy hair) is first in line holding his plate with a bun open on it.

DONALD

Alright, who's ready for another.
Kevin, you up?

KEVIN

Serve me Don.

Donald takes his spatula and flips a burger at Kevin. Kevin deftly catches the patty on his bun.

DONALD

Get another beer from the cooler.

Kevin steps over, reaches down, and grabs a can of beer out of the open cooler that's filled with ice.

KEVIN

Thanks Don. Good year man.

DONALD

You comin' back?

KEVIN
You know I am.

DONALD
Alright my man. NEXT!

Kevin walks away and the next person in line steps up. Don flips a burger at them.

INT. DAY - LODGE SALOON

John and Ted sit next to each other belly up to the old wooden bar.

There is no bar tender in sight but there are quite a few beer cans in front of them and they are pretty obviously intoxicated.

SEVERAL PEOPLE mill about in the bar and as some of them leave for more refreshments others show up with fresh beers and plates of food.

JOHN
...and that's when I realized that a box of cheap wine doesn't constitute a meal and I should have actually packed some food.

TED
Oh, shit. You know what that reminds me of?

JOHN
What?

TED
We never radioed to Carl and Brian.

John makes an exaggeratedly startled face and jumps off his stool.

JOHN
(laughing)
Well then let's get it on!

He takes his arm and swings it through the empty beer cans on the bar shoving them all over the place and causing a huge racket.

Ted jumps up and takes off running and John quickly follows.

None of the other people in the bar pay one bit of attention to them or their exaggerated antics even as they dart out the door way almost crashing into someone as they go.

INT. LODGE - FRONT DESK

John and Ted sloppily burst behind the desk through swinging door with beers in their hands.

They head for the old antique radio that has been maintained along with everything else at the lodge to make the tourists feel like they've taken a giant step backwards in time.

Ted grabs the old free standing microphone receiver and just starts talking.

TED

Ten four good buddy, roger that.
(turning to John)
I think it's busted.

JOHN

I think maybe you have to try
turning it on before you can...

Ted reaches up, flips a switch and the old radio crackles to life. The little lights on the front light up and Ted starts spinning the dial to find a frequency.

TED

(kind of singing into the
mic)Caaaaaarrrrrrruuuuuuh
hhhlll!
Briiiiiiiiiiaaaaaaaaaaaaaa
an!

JOHN

Here, I think this will work
better.

He snatches the mic from Ted and turns the frequency knob a little bit.

Ted looks at him with a frown.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(into the mic)
Hey Carl.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Carl and Brian walk along, loaded down with their packs full of gear. They are both sweaty and dirty.

They are much closer to the mountain now. There's a loud beep and they both stop and look at each other. There is another beep.

CARL
It's the radio!

Carl turns around so Brian can get at his pack and Brian unzips one of the numerous pockets. He reaches in and pulls out a small, very high-tech looking walkie talkie.

He uses his thumb to slid a switch on the side and the walkie talkie bursts into life.

He turns around and Brain quickly unzips one of the pockets on his pack and reaches in pulling out a small but very high tech looking walkie talkie. He moves a small sliding switch on the side and the walkie talkie bursts into life.

TED & JOHN (V.O.)
(out of the walkie talkie)
...roads, take me home, to the
place, I belong!

BRIAN
(into the walkie talkie)
Ted, is that you?

TED & JOHN (V.O.)
(still singing)
West Virginia, mountain momma, take
me home!

BRIAN
Where have you been? You were
supposed to radio hours ago. We've
been wasting battery power...Are you
guys drunk?

There is a moment of silence.

A light breeze blows across the desert and rustles the brush around.

TED (V.O.)
(trying to sound serious
over the walkie talkie)
Uhm, my associate and I have
conferred, and we concluded that,
well, yes. It seems to be so.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The Stranger is still walking North through the desert.

Dark, ominous clouds are coming in from the west. A bolt of lightning streaks across the sky and a huge clap of thunder rolls across the desert.

It begins to pour rain. The Stranger just continues to walk as if nothing changed.

EXT. FRONT OF THE LODGE - DAY

The festivities are beginning to die down. Some people have started to clean up.

Kevin and Donald sit with William and Gabby at the end of one of the long tables. There are plates of half eaten food strewn about in front of them.

The old Guard from the entrance gate sits at the end of the table.

Gabby and William are both staring at Kevin as he finishes his story.

KEVIN
(very dramatic)
And then this Stranger, the
Skinwalker, just walks off into the
woods, into nowhere.

Gabby scoots closer to Will and clutches his arm.

GABBY
I don't believe you.

KEVIN
Ask Don, he's seen him.

William and Gabby both look over to Donald in unison.

Donald looks over at Kevin.

DONALD
Don't scare the kids for Christ's
sake.

KEVIN
I'm not saying I really believe
there is a crazy murderous
shapeshifter roaming the woods man.
But the Native Americans believe in
him.
(turns to the old Guard)
And you've seen him, haven't you
old timer?

GUARD

I don't know what I saw exactly.
You see a lot of strange stuff up
here.

The old Guard stands up and walks away with his plate.

William shifts uneasily and tries to get Gabby off his arm.

WILLIAM

So he just wanders around like an
elephant or something taking the
same path every year? I don't buy
it.

KEVIN

Hey, you guys wanted a story about
this place. Just wait a couple
weeks until after the first snow
and see if you see him is all I'm
saying.

DONALD

Alright, enough. These kids won't
ever go to sleep tonight.

John and Ted stumble up trying to do "The Monkey's" walk and
failing miserably.

TED

We, got a hold of Crian and Barl
and they are fine.

DONALD

Those nuts really gonna do it?

Gabby jumps up and grabs her dad's leg.

JOHN

Looks like it.
(then looking down at
Gabby)
Hey sweetie. Uncle Don treating you
nice?

GABBY

Daddy, they said a half monster man
dressed in black walks through here
every winter.

JOHN

Well, if they said it, it must be
true.

Gabby wrinkles her face up at her father.

TED

Having fun Will? William looks over at Ted then stands up and walks away.

DONALD

That went well.

EXT. FRONT OF THE LODGE - DAY

A few days have passed. The party is a memory and the mess is all gone.

From the turn about Ted can be seen on the roof with a stack of green wooden shingles, a hammer, and a sack of nails.

He has on a puffy winter coat and his breath is visible in the morning air. There's no way to tell how he managed to get up there.

Nancy walks up in a sweater holding her elbows close to her chest.

NANCY

(speaking loudly)

Hey honey! I made you some soup and sandwiches!

TED

(speaking loudly)

Okay, I'm almost finished! I'll be down in a minute!

NANCY

(speaking loudly)

Or I can just have Will bring it up!

TED

(speaking loudly)

Good idea. See if you can get him to do that.

Nancy turns and walks away.

EXT. SIDE OF LODGE - DAY

William walks around the corner and comes upon an aluminum extension ladder on the side of the lodge.

He has a back pack in his hand. He looks up the ladder for a minute then throws his back pack on and begins to climb.

EXT. LODGE ROOF - DAY

The top of the ladder moves around a little as William makes his way to the top. Ted looks over and sees him coming up and heads over to give him a hand.

TED

Glad you could make it.

He puts out his hand but William just climbs up on his own.

Once he's up they both walk over to the middle of the roof and sit down on the ridge.

William takes off his back pack and unzips it. He pulls out two thermoses and two brown paper bags. He hands one of each to Ted who waits in awkward silence.

TED (CONT'D)

Thanks.

They both begin to open their thermoses.

WILLIAM

It's kinda cool up here.

TED

It speaks!

WILLIAM

Fuck you.

TED

D'you mean cool on the roof or up here as in the North Rim.

WILLIAM

I was referring to the roof, but I guess in general too. It's pretty cool.

TED

Where have you been wandering off to in the mornings?

WILLIAM

I've just been hiking around. I figure I won't have much of a chance once it snows so I've hiked all the trails along the rim out to the points and stuff.

William pours some of his soup out into the top of the thermos that doubles as a bowl and steam rises up.

He digs in the back pack and gets out two spoons handing one to his dad.

They both begin to eat.

TED

Really? So have you found anything good out there?

WILLIAM

Yeah, about a mile down the Kaibab there's a sign about the layers of rock and how they formed.

TED

I know the one. That geology stuff is pretty cool huh?

William looks at his father like he's an idiot.

WILLIAM

No, it's boring. What's cool is if you walk back behind the sign you can follow this deer trail back pretty far and it takes you out to this huge flat rock that just sticks out into the middle of nowhere.

TED

What did I tell you about leaving the trail Will?

WILLIAM

Nothing.

TED

Well, I should have. It's dangerous.

WILLIAM

(annoyed)

Okay.

(then excitedly)

But so I was thinking that you guys might like it out on the rock and that maybe one day when you don't have as much to do we can all go out together and watch the sunset or something.

TED

You thought about everyone? Are you sure you're my son?

WILLIAM

Dad?

TED

Yes?

WILLIAM

Well, it's hard to explain.

TED

Okay, what?

WILLIAM

Well, it's like there's no one else up here right.

TED

Just the six of us and the rangers down at Phantom Ranch but they're miles away from here.

WILLIAM

Right, there's no one around for miles right?

TED

Right.

Ted looks at him, waiting.

William stares off into the canyon for a moment.

WILLIAM

Okay, so I went out to this rock I found, the one I want all of us to go to...

TED

Yeah.

WILLIAM

Well, so it's just me out there on the rock right. I'm out there by myself in the middle of nowhere and...

William looks off at the storm clouds in the far off distance.

TED

And?

WILLIAM

Well it's like no one was there.

Ted gets a quizzical look on his face.

TED

Yeah, you said that. Just you on the rock. All alone. I am listening you know.

WILLIAM

But that's just it, I wasn't alone.

TED

Okay, you lost me. Someone was there?

WILLIAM

No, I was alone, but I didn't feel alone. It was like everyone was there with me.

TED

Must be a really big rock.

William throws yet another "fuck you" look at his dad.

TED (CONT'D)

Sorry.

WILLIAM

It's like, I really liked it. You know? I didn't miss anyone or anything even though I was totally alone. I felt...connected. I just sat there on the edge until it got so dark I couldn't see my hand in front of my face.

TED

Are you high?

WILLIAM

What?

TED

Never mind. When we get down from here I have a surprise for you.

This time the look Ted gets from William isn't so harsh, just a bit confused.

INT. JOHN & TRACY'S CABIN - DAY

Gabby sits on the floor of the small cabin playing with her doll singing a song quietly to herself.

Tracy is in a chair reading a book and Nancy sits on the bed knitting something.

The door is open and birds can be heard chirping outside.

NANCY
(to Tracy)
So you've never met Brian either?

TRACY
Nope. 15 years of hearing his name
but...

She shakes her head.

NANCY
I don't think I've even seen a
picture of him.

They laugh a little.

John walks up into the doorway and knocks. He has a grave look on his face.

JOHN
May I come in?

Tracy looks up from her book.

TRACY
Hey sweetie.

Gabby jumps up and runs toward John. He picks her up and swings her around forgetting whatever it was that had him concerned

GABBY
Daddy!

JOHN
How's little Ms. Gabby McGabberson?

Gabby giggles wildly.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Who's my little milkshake?

GABBY
Me!

John begins to shake her vigorously and jump up and down and she begins to squeal.

Tracy and Nancy both laugh at the pair of them being silly.

After a minute he stops shaking her and puts her back down.

GABBY (CONT'D)
Thank you daddy.

JOHN
You're very welcome.

John's look of concern comes back as turns to the ladies.

NANCY
How is it again that we've never
met Brian?

John is taken off guard by the question.

JOHN
(defensively)
What? I don't know.

Tracy notices his tone and changes the subject.

TRACY
So what's up? Did you just come
down here to disturb the peace?

JOHN
I wish. They just announced snow.

Gabby shrieks and runs back over to John and grabs his leg tightly.

GABBY
Daddy.

He ignores her.

NANCY
How soon?

JOHN
Late tomorrow night.

GABBY
Daddy?

No one pays attention to her.

Tracy sets her book down.

TRACY

So early?

JOHN

It happens sometimes.

GABBY

Daddy?

Nancy rolls up what she's knitting and lays it on the bed.

NANCY

How much?

JOHN

A couple feet maybe.

TRACY

A couple of feet? Are we ready for that?

GABBY

Daddy?

Gabby begins to jump up and down.

JOHN

Of course. There's nothing to worry about. It just means a little bit of extra work for all of us over the next few days clearing a path up to the lodge is all.

NANCY

What about Carl and Brian?

JOHN

That's my only worry. There's no way they'll make it to Point Sublime by tomorrow and the trail will be covered by the time they do.

TRACY

But they'll be okay right?

JOHN

Yeah of course. I'm going to try to get a hold of them right now to let them know. It'll just be slow going for them.

GABBY

Daddy?

TRACY

So how long until they get here in the snow?

JOHN

No clue. Okay, I'm off to the lodge to call. If you see Ted tell him to come up and meet me.

GABBY

Daddy?

JOHN

(slightly annoyed)
Yes honey?

GABBY

Is the man that walks through the woods gonna get your friends?

John looks at Nancy and Tracy. They have no idea what Gabby is talking about and just give him a shrug.

JOHN

No honey, of course not. Why would you ask that?

GABBY

Uncle Don and his friend said...

JOHN

Don't believe them. They were being silly babe. The only thing Carl and Brian have to worry about is the snow.

INT. TED & NANCY'S CABIN - DAY

The cabin sits quiet and empty. The sound of a key hitting and turning the door lock disrupts the calm.

The door opens and Ted and William come in.

WILLIAM

Why do you lock the door? No one's up here.

TED

Animals are smarter than you think.

WILLIAM

What, you're scared of a squirrel?

TED

No, but raccoons can get in here and destroy stuff and before it snows the bears will try to eat just about everything.

WILLIAM

So what's the surprise?

Ted walks over to the dresser and opens the top drawer. He reaches his arm into the back and digs around for something.

He finds what he is looking for and a big smile spreads across his face.

He slowly pulls his hand out of the drawer and in his hand is a very used iPod.

William runs over immediately and grabs his dad hard in a bear hug.

Struggling, Ted reaches back into the drawer and pulls out the charger.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

TED

(handing him the charger)
You'll need this too. The battery is completely dead.

WILLIAM

Dead?

TED

I got bored splitting wood.

William lets his dad go and steps back.

WILLIAM

You listened to my iPod? That breaks so many of your rules it's not even funny.

William takes on a grown up tone and begins shaking his finger at his father.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Respect for privacy, using without asking, and not to mention the whole getting away from evils of technology thing.

Ted laughs.

TED
(singing)
Does that make me crazy!?

William plugs his ears with his fingers and then runs out of the cabin with the iPod charger cord dangling behind him.

WILLAIM (O.S.)
(shouting)
Thanks dad!

TED
(quietly) I love you too.

INT. LODGE FRONT DESK - DAY

John sits at the two way radio with his feet up on the desk.

There is a voice coming from the little am/fm radio in the corner talking about all the snow headed their way.

Ted crashes through the gate.

TED
Snow!?

JOHN
Tomorrow night at the latest.

TED
Carl and Brian?

JOHN
Nothing. They must be coming up the side of the mountain.

TED
This almost three weeks early!

JOHN
I know that.

John sits up and turns off the little radio.

TED
Well is it just the one storm or is there more on the way?

JOHN

For now it's just the one. But it should last for a few days and by then another one could be here.

TED

So how much are we looking at?

JOHN

Feet.

TED

Good thing we got the roof finished.

JOHN

Yeah.

TED

Okay,, I'm going to go put some things in order. You keep trying for Carl and Brian.

JOHN

Knowing Carl they probably already know.

Ted leaves and John turns the little radio back on.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Carl and Brian have made it out of the scorching heat of the regular desert and are now fairly deep into the woods of the mountain desert terrain.

They sit around a small camp fire cooking food surrounded by tall pine trees and quaking aspens.

Their little one man tents are set up right next to the fire and their packs are close by.

CARL

There's a storm coming. Probably going to snow.

Brian looks around.

BRIAN

Yeah?

CARL

Yeah.

BRIAN
Snow?

CARL
Yeah.

BRIAN
How soon?

CARL
Another day or so.

BRIAN
We won't make it to Point Sublime
by then.

CARL
No we won't.

BRIAN
That means no trail.

CARL
No big deal. Just a little slower
going is all.

BRIAN
Don't you think they would have
radioed?

CARL
They probably have. We won't be
able to get a signal again until we
get to the point.
(he stirs his soup)
And even then we may be out of luck
depending on how hard it's snowing.

There is a crackling noise in the woods close by.

Carl and Brian both look around.

Carl stands up and starts to move off quickly in one
direction.

Brian leans over and unstraps the rifle from the side of his
pack and clicks the safety off.

He stands up and moves slowly toward where Carl was headed.

As Brian comes up over the top of a small hill he sees Carl
standing very still just a few yards away from a very large
male elk.

Brian levels the rifle at the animal. He is shaking with fear.

BRIAN
(quietly)
Carl, move out of the way.

Carl turns his head slowly to see Brian with the rifle pointed at the elk.

He turns quickly to face him and puts his hands up.

CARL
No. What are you doing?

BRIAN
It's okay. I'll kill it. Just move.

CARL
What? Stop. You're not killing anything. He's not doing anything wrong. We're in his house.

BRIAN
Carl, that is a very large, very wild, very unpredictable animal, that is very close to you. Just move away slowly and let me play the better safe than sorry card on this one and we can get back to our meal.

Carl turns around slowly and kneels down on the ground facing the elk. He picks up a stick and tosses it toward the animal.

The stick lands just short of the massive animal's feet and as it does the elk darts off quickly in the other direction disappearing into the trees.

Carl turns back around to see Brian still holding the gun aimed in his general direction.

CARL
See? He's more scared of us than we are of him.

BRIAN
I don't know about that.

CARL
Could you point that somewhere else?

Brian lowers the gun and Carl stands and makes his way over to him.

BRIAN

Sorry.

CARL

It's okay. You just gotta calm down. I don't understand it, but it seems to be a pretty common reaction.

BRIAN

What do you mean.

They make their way back to camp.

CARL

I just mean that people in general seem to take the offensive in most situations when defense, or even no-fense would be a more effective option. Especially when it comes to animals.

BRIAN

The rifle is defense.

They sit down around the fire and Brian puts the rifle back next to his pack.

CARL

Not if you use it before it attacks.

BRIAN

Okay, point taken. I'll try to be less reactionary.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The Stranger plods along.

He has dried out from his time spent in the rain.

His slow rhythmic steps carry him up the hillside between the pine trees, crunching the pine cones and pine needles beneath his boots as he goes.

The storm clouds that are bringing the snow can be seen in the near distance.

EXT. KAIBAB TRAIL - DAY

William is in front on the way down the dirt trail that leads into the Grand Canyon.

He's being followed by John, Ted, Nancy, Tracy, and Gabby.

William stops at a switchback where there is a small sign that stands about four feet high. He waits for the rest of them to catch up.

WILLIAM

Alright, this is the spot. We just have to go back around this way a little bit.

He points off to the left to a faint deer trail.

JOHN

How big is this rock? I mean, I don't see anything. Are we all gonna fit?

WILLIAM

We'll fit. Trust me. It's just a little farther. Be careful, it's a little steep in some places.

William walks back behind the sign and follows the trail through some bushes.

TRACY

Talk about off the beaten path.

The group follows Will down the deer path into the bushes.

NANCY

William, I'm not sure I'm thrilled about the idea of you roaming around out here off the trail all alone.

WILLIAM

I'm not.

Ted lets out a loud laugh and everyone but William turns to look at him. Ted just smiles at them.

EXT. BIG FLAT ROCK - DAY

The rock is just as William described it. It's huge, flat and juts strikingly out of the steep hillside into the empty space that is the canyon.

Will steps out from behind a tree and leaps onto the rock triumphantly.

He spins to see everyone's reaction as they take in his discovery.

They all come out from behind the tree with looks of awe and wonder on their faces.

WILLIAM
See, I told you.

JOHN
Holy crap!

GABBY
Holy crap!

NANCY
Gabby, don't say that.

TRACY
She's right though.

Now that they all have a chance to take it in and explore they can see just how amazing it really is.

The rock, if it was a perfect square is about 40ft X 100ft.

With the exception of the side that is buried into the steep hill behind them, every side is just a sheer vertical face that drops about 30ft straight down to a sharply inclined slope of rocky dirt that then quickly turns into a vertical cliff that plummets thousands of feet straight down feet to the bottom of the canyon.

Will walks right up to the edge and looks over.

NANCY
Be careful honey.

Will looks back over his shoulder and while doing so casually sits down letting his legs dangle over the edge.

Everyone else tentatively walks up to where he is and looks over the side.

TED
This is better than I imagined.

WILLIAM
I'm glad you guys came.

TED
Having us here doesn't ruin it?

WILLIAM
Not at all.

They all stand or sit near the edge just staring off at the amazing view.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

The Stranger walks along through the woods as the sun sets.
His breath is visible in the cold air.

EXT. GRASSY OPENING IN WOODS - NIGHT

Everything is silent. There is nothing but grass and trees and moonlight. There is no one.

It starts to snow a little bit. At first it's just a tiny bit but after a moment it picks up drastically.

In the silence, you can actually hear the snow as it hits the ground. But instead of making a sound, it only seems to amplify the silence.

It begins to snow a great deal and within a few moments the snow has almost covered the grass.

EXT. LODGE - DAY

There is a foot of snow on the ground already and it's still falling very hard.

The sky is one giant gray cloud. The snow comes from all directions. The giant rock and everything around it is covered in snow.

EXT. BIG FLAT ROCK - DAY

The snow is falling hard and the rock is completely covered.

The wind blows and a large chunk of snow near the edge falls off and scatters out into the void.

INT. WILLIAM'S ROOM - DAY

Will is asleep in his bed. There is very little light because there is snow covering his window.

He rolls over and opens his eyes. After a second he sits up quietly and looks around.

He turns his gaze to the window and sees the snow. He jumps up and runs over to the window. He quickly heads over to his dresser and begins to get dressed throwing on all of his winter gear over his pajamas.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

It's still snowing. The door to the cabin opens inward slowly and quietly leaving a wall of snow at Will's feet when he step into view.

He pauses a moment and smiles, then gingerly steps into the snow lightly closing the door behind him.

He tromps quickly and quietly over to the next cabin and peeks in the window. He then moves soundlessly around to the other side.

Looking through another window, this time taps a gloved finger against the glass which produces an odd thumping sound in the silence of the falling snow.

INT. GABBY'S ROOM - DAY

Gabby is asleep with Ms. Tinkles under her arm when Will's head appears in the window.

He thumps the glass and Gabby wakes up and looks over. She jumps up and runs over to the window. She yanks the window open and Will puts a gloved finger up to her mouth.

WILLIAM

(Whispering)

Shhhh. Get dressed. Be quiet, don't wake anyone up and meet me out front.

GABBY

(Whispering)

Okay.

She nods enthusiastically and closes the window slowly.

Then she very dramatically tip toes over to her dresser and opens a drawer.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

It's still snowing.

The door to Gabby's cabin opens slowly and a gust of wind blows the mound of snow in front of the door onto Gabby's boots.

She looks down grinning. She turns and shuts the door and as she begins to turn back around a snow ball pelts her in the back of the head stopping her in her tracks.

Quickly she turns the rest of the way around and is immediately hit with another snowball.

She looks around but doesn't see anyone. A smile creeps onto her face.

From a completely different direction, another snowball slams into Gabby, exploding in a puff against right in the side of her head. She flops on the ground and laughs.

WILLIAM(O.S.)
Don't fall down! Fight back!

Gabby jumps up and begins running in the opposite direction of the last snowball.

She gets clobbered in the back by a large chunk of snow and is knocked onto her knees.

Her hands dig in the snow and begin to make a snowball but before she can finish she's hit yet again.

INT. TED & NANCY'S CABIN - DAY

Ted and Nancy are sound asleep spooning in the bed.

There is a loud thump and a piercing scream from outside.

Nancy bolts awake and runs to the window. Ted rolls out of bed right behind her.

TED
What was that?

NANCY
A near miss.

TED
Huh?

Nancy turns and heads back over to the bed.

NANCY
Don't worry, your son just threw a snowball at Gabby and missed.

Ted rolls back onto the bed and covers his face with his hands.

TED
How bad is it?

Nancy uses her hands to indicate how much snow is on the ground.

NANCY
And it's still coming down pretty hard.

TED
You're kidding.

Nancy shakes her head no. Ted pulls the pillow over his face but she grabs it and pulls it off.

NANCY
No. We have a lot of snow to shovel. Time to get up.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

It's still snowing.

The Stranger walks along through the snow that is up to his knees.

Though it definitely impedes his progress, he doesn't seem to notice the change in his surroundings.

EXT. SUPPLY SHED - DAY

The snow continues to fall at an amazing rate.

Ted, William, and John are shoveling through the snow making a path from the cabins to the work shed.

William's good mood has vanished. He stops shoveling for a minute.

WILLIAM
I don't see why we have to do this now.

Ted stops shoveling and looks over at William.

TED

When do you suggest we do it?

WILLIAM

When it stops.

TED

When it stops? There could be four feet when it stops. Do you wanna...

WILLIAM

I get your point.

William goes back to shoveling.

TED

Plus we'll still have plenty of shoveling to do when it stops.

WILLIAM

I said I get your Goddamn point.

John stops shoveling and looks over at them. He and Ted laugh and then go back to shoveling.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Carl and Brian trudge through the knee deep snow in their snow-shoes as it continues to pile up.

It's very slow going. Their backpacks have little mountains of snow on the tops.

BRIAN

(out of breath)
How far?

CARL

(out of breath)
To the point or from where we were?

BRIAN

(out of breath)
Both.

CARL

(out of breath)
We've made it about 4 miles so far. Seven miles to Point Sublime, give or take.

BRIAN

(out of breath)
That's it?

CARL
(out of breath)
Yeah. Another half day at this
rate.

BRIAN
(out of breath)
Then just seventeen more miles and
we're there.

They both start laughing hysterically even though it's really
not that funny.

The isolation and severe conditions are starting to take
their toll on them both mentally and physically.

Brian pauses for a moment and Carl stops with him.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
We should try the radio again.

CARL
I'm telling you it's not going to
work until we reach the point.

BRIAN
I'd like to try anyway.

CARL
One more mile and we'll stop for
lunch. We can try then.

INT. SUPPLY SHED - DAY

The shed is large enough for John, Ted, and William to be
standing inside along with random objects like shovels,
rakes, and gas cans that line the walls.

There are two snow mobiles parked in the middle of the shed.
William sits on the one on the right hand side.

The falling snow can be seen through the open door of the
shed.

TED
It's easier than a motorcycle. It's
more like a jet ski. Remember the
lake?

WILLIAM
So can I have the key?

TED

You can drive it but you're in charge of plowing a path to the lodge.

Ted points over to the corner of the shed where the plow attachment for the snow mobile sits.

WILLIAM

So can I have the key?

TED

One half hour and then we put the plow on and you get started on the path to the lodge.

William holds out his hand.

WILLIAM

Key?

Ted digs in his pocket and gets out the key. He lets them dangle just above William's hand for a moment.

TED

Your mom is gonna kill me.

He lets them go and Will's hand snatches them out of the air quickly sticking it immediately into the ignition.

He turns it to the "ON" position and hits the red "START" button with his thumb.

The snow mobile comes to life with a quiet purr. William gives the throttle a quick twist and the purr becomes a roar.

Everyone smiles.

TED (CONT'D)

Okay, just take it easy.

Will revs the engine and then tears out of the shed like a rocket.

JOHN

So much for that plan.

Ted looks over to John as the noise of the snow mobile fades.

TED

Yeah, I think I was being too ideological about the whole technology thing.

John holds out his hand just like William was doing a moment before.

JOHN

Key?

Ted slumps his shoulders and sighs.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What? You said half an hour.

TED

Are you serious?

JOHN

Key?

Ted digs in his pocket a second time and produces another key. He tosses it to John who smiles and then jumps on the other snow mobile. He has it on and is revving the engine within seconds.

EXT. SUPPLY SHED - DAY

It's still snowing.

John blasts out of the supply shed on the snow mobile and tears off after William following the quickly disappearing tracks.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

William races along on the snow mobile through the trees weaving back and forth randomly as huge snow flakes smash into his face.

In the near distance John can be seen making a B-line in William's direction.

It doesn't take long for John to catch up and come close enough to William to yell over at him.

William sees him and they both slow down but neither of them stop.

JOHN
(yelling over the sound of
the snow mobiles)
I'll race you to the lodge!

William nods and holds up his left hand with three fingers up. His right hand stays on the throttle.

He begins to count down to zero dramatically dropping a finger every second.

When his last finger goes down he puts his hand back on the handle bars of the snow mobile and he and John both take off.

INT. JOHN & TRACY'S CABIN - NIGHT

Tracy is sitting on the bed by the window watching the snow fall on the darkening world.

Nancy is in a chair reading a cookbook.

Gabby is plopped down on the floor with Mrs. Tinkles and some other toys playing quietly.

The door swings open and Ted and John come in soaked from head to toe. They begin to kick off their shoes and take off their jackets.

Gabby jumps up immediately and runs over to John.

GABBY
Daddy!

She jumps up and John drops his coat and catches her mid flight.

Twirling her around he delivers a big kiss on her forehead.

JOHN
Hey baby.

NANCY
How's it going out there?

TED
Good. Will's almost finished with the path to the lodge and we were thinking it might be nice to have dinner up there tonight.

TRACY
That sounds fun.

JOHN

Good, 'cause Ted and I still have to check the sprinklers up there anyway. So when Will comes back and gets cleaned up we can all load into the Bubarsu and head up.

TED

And we can try to give Carl and Brian a call again.

GABBY

And make a giant snow man?

JOHN

We'll have to see about that.

INT. DINING ROOM -NIGHT

The six of them are seated around a table right next to the big window that looks out to the canyon.

The patio lights have been turned on so that they can watch the snow that continues to fall outside.

Everyone has finished with their meals and they are just looking out the window.

WILLIAM

Can we go play in the auditorium?

NANCY

Help clear the table first.

William jumps up and starts gathering plates.

Nacny and Tracy both stand up and begin to help.

Gabby stares solemnly out the window.

TRACY

Gabby honey, are you alright?

After a moment, Gabby looks away from the window.

GABBY

How does he stay warm out there?

TRACY

How does who stay warm? You mean Carl and Brian?

GABBY

No. The Stranger. He doesn't have a puffy coat.

Tracy and Nancy both look to each other and then to John and Ted.

JOHN

Honey, that's just a story. Don and Kevin were just trying to...it's just a story.

TRACY

Do you wanna take some silver ware?

GABBY

Uh-huh!

Gabby begins to circle the table and quickly grab all the forks and knives.

TED

Wanna try the radio?

JOHN

Sure. I don't think they're gonna be close enough but it's worth a shot.

Ted and John head over to the stairs as the others head off toward the kitchen with the dishes.

INT. FRONT DESK/OFFICE - NIGHT

John and Ted are coming into the office where the radio is.

John takes a seat at the desk in front of the mic.

TED

How close do you think they are?

JOHN

Hard to say. Knowing those guys they probably picked up the pace when they saw it was gonna snow, but it's still gonna slow them down.

TED

(whistfully)

It sure would be nice to be out there in the middle of nowhere with all that snow.

JOHN
We are out there.

TED
Yeah I guess so.

John flips the radio on. Ted dramatically crosses his fingers.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Carl and Brian have set up camp. They sit by the fire cooking.

The falling snow sizzles when it hits the burning logs.

Their tents are set up behind them and there are some logs set up by the fire to try to help them dry out.

JOHN (O.S.)
(over walkie talkie)
Carl, Brian, can you hear me?

They look at each other in astonishment.

Carl jumps up and rushes to his tent and just about tears the zipper off trying to get in.

He flops into his tent head first letting his legs dangle out the open flaps.

Brian lumbers over through the snow with his bowl of soup in his hands.

CARL
(into the walkie talkie)
John!? Can you hear me?

JOHN (O.S.)
Shit! Holy shit man we didn't think...

CARL
Yeah, us either!

JOHN (O.S.)
How is everything? We can barely hear you.

CARL
Great, just fine. We're just sitting down to dinner.

JOHN (O.S.)
So you made it to the point
already?

CARL
Yeah we set camp just before dark.
Brian was being a cry baby and made
me turn the radio on early just in
case though. We tried to get you
guys earlier.

Carl turns and crawls out of the tent with the walkie talkie
in his hand.

TED (O.S.)
Hey Carl good to hear you. Got an E-
T-A?

Brian grabs the walkie talkie from Carl and almost spill his
soup.

BRIAN
I'm fine, thanks for asking.

TED (O.S.)
Sorry Bri-guy. So when can we
expect you?

Carl takes the Walkie talkie back.

CARL
It's gonna be another few days. If
the snow doesn't let up it may be
longer.

Again Brian snatches the radio from Carl.

BRIAN
Have you heard anything? What are
they predicting.

JOHN (O.S.)
It's not supposed to let up until
tomorrow night and then there is
more on the way by the end of the
week.

TED (O.S.)
Now that you are within earshot we
should set up a schedule for
someone to be near the radio so you
guys can check in.

BRIAN

Good idea. We're gonna eat for now
but we'll radio back soon.

JOHN (O.S.)

Okay, bye.

TED (O.S.)

Glad to hear from you.

BRIAN

Yeah, good to hear you too.

Brian tosses the walkie talkie back at Carl but it's a bad
throw and it lands in the snow next to the tent.

CARL

Shit man! Be careful!

BRAIN

Chill out. It was an accident.

Carl digs it out of the snow and tries to wipe it off the
best he can to get it dry.

CARL

Well it's out only means of
communication so..

Brian turns and walks back over to the fire and trips over a
logs. He doesn't fall down but he drops his soup bowl
spilling the contents all over the snow.

BRIAN

Shit fuck mother fucker.

Carl tries not to laugh.

Brian gets his bowl out of the snow and sits down next to the
fire defeated.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Goddanm. I was really hungry too.

INT. LODGE AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

The auditorium isn't huge but it has extremely high ceilings.

There are some folding chairs set up in front of the stage
and on top of the stage is a piano where Gabby is seated and
banging away at the keys playing a made up song.

William is lying across a few chairs in the front row staring at the ceiling.

The only light comes through the large arched windows on the far wall. The snow continues to pile up on the outside window sill.

Gabby stops playing.

GABBY

Do you think Uncle Don and his friend were lying?

WILLIAM

About what?

GABBY

About the Stranger.

WILLIAM

Yeah. They were just trying to scare you. Nobody's just gonna wander up here.

GABBY

But my daddy says that his friends are walking up here even in the snow.

WILLIAM

Yeah. But they're friends. The Stranger...Look, even if he was real why would he bother us if we don't bother him?

Gabby shrugs and starts banging on the keys again.

INT. FRONT DESK/OFFICE - NIGHT

John, Nancy, Ted, and Tracy are all in the office now. They are lounging and drinking coffee.

TED

I'm gonna stay up here tonight just in case they call.

I

think until we can get a schedule worked out then we should have someone up here all the time.

NANCY

I think that's a good idea. It makes me nervous to have them out there.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

The Stranger makes his way slowly through the knee high snow.

Snow is piling up on the top of his hat.

His pace is slightly slower but there is no indication that the snow makes any difference to him.

INT. JOHN & TRACY'S ROOM -NIGHT

John and Tracy are sound asleep in their beds.

INT. GABBY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Gabby is asleep with Mrs. Tinkles.

She rolls over onto her side but does not wake up.

INT. TED & NANCY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nancy is asleep by herself since Ted stayed in the lodge for the night.

INT. WILLIAM'S ROOM - NIGHT

William has his iPod head phones in his ears but the music is off and he is asleep.

INT. FRONT DESK/OFFICE - NIGHT

Ted is asleep on a little cot right on the floor of the office.

There is a red light on the radio blinking indicating that it is on but it is completely silent.

There is a digital clock on the desk next to the radio.

INT. BRIAN'S TENT - NIGHT

Brian is asleep in his sleeping bag with only his face exposed.

The dim light from the fire bounces and shines through the thin blue-ish material of Brian's tent causing his face to look like it is rapidly changing colors between several different shades of orange and blue.

There is a noise outside of the tent and Brian jumps form his slumber and bolts up then freezes.

BRIAN
Carl?

CARL (O.S.)
Yeah?

BRIAN
Shit man you scared me.

CARL(O.S.)
I'm just going to take a pee. You should stoke the fire.

Brian gets out of his sleeping bag and throws on his boots then unzips the tent.

EXT. CARL & BRIAN'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Carl is standing across the fire, facing away wearing only his long johns and his boots. He is urinating.

Brian slowly comes out of his tent and begins to put the rest of the logs on the fire.

BRIAN
We're gonna need more wood. If we wait until morning it's just going to be harder.

CARL
You still hungry?

BRIAN
Yeah. Hell yeah.

CARL
You cook something up and I'll go try to get some more wood.

Carl turns and gets into his tent and throws on some extra clothes as Brian goes to his tent and starts getting out cooking supplies.

Brian heads over to the fire with a pot in one hand and some packages in the other.

Carl comes out of his tent with an extra coat and pair of pants thrown on.

CARL (CONT'D)
I'll be back in a minute.

Brian nods at Carl. Then he takes the pot and levels out a spot in the fire, grabs a big handful of snow and throws it into the pot.

There is a noise in the opposite direction from where Carl walked off to. Brian looks over and just stares into the darkness.

There is nothing there but a lot of trees and falling snow.

BRIAN
(quietly)
Carl?

There is another noise.

Brian slowly gets up and moves to his tent.

He never takes his eyes off the direction noises are coming from.

With one hand he opens the flaps of his tent and pulls out the rifle.

Looking around, he goes back and sits next to the fire still staring off into the woods.

There is another noise from the same direction and it's much closer than the last one. It is the very distinct sound of a stick breaking.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
(slightly louder this
time)
Carl?

Now, in the distance, in the darkness, something is definitely moving.

It's only a black shape in the dark forest but it seems to be coming toward the camp.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Wha-Wha-Wha-okay, it's just an
animal. J-j-j-just an animal. Just
s-s-s-s-sit still and be calm it
will go away. It's just hungry, it
doesn't mean any harm. It's cold,
shit, I'm cold too, I can relate.

Brian's mouth drops open and hangs for a moment.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Oh fuck.

The Stranger is walking in his usual slow, methodical pace. He is coming directly toward the camp and Brian.

As he walks he stumbles a bit over something hidden in the snow but he doesn't slow down.

Brian stands up. He is shaking.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Uh-uh-uh-uh-Carl!

Brian steps backward and trips over the log he was sitting on falling into the snow.

The Stranger is only about twenty feet away from the fire.

Brian is rolling in the snow trying to grab the rifle. He gets it into his hands.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

D-d-d-d-don't come any closer.

He gets to his knees and tries to chamber a round but he shaking wildly.

He finally gets it cocked and raises it to his shoulder aiming it somewhat in the Stranger's direction.

The Stranger doesn't stop walking. He doesn't seem to see the fire or Brian or anything else for that matter.

His eyes look past it all at a point somewhere in the distance, in the darkness.

Snow hisses into steam as it falls on the still crackling fire.

Brian is literally shaking in his boots.

The gun goes off with a severe bang made even louder by the silence of the surrounding woods.

The Stranger twists back and to the left as he drops to his knee.

His head turns slowly and his gaze locks on Brian.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Carl wanders along with a few sticks in his arms but nothing very substantial. All of the useful firewood is buried beneath several feet of snow.

There is a gun shot somewhere behind him.

It is very loud but muffled in a strange way by the woods and the falling snow. He stops dead in his tracks stunned. He turns slowly and looks back to the camp. The fire is a tiny dot that seems very far away.

CARL

Brian?

He drops the sticks and takes off running as fast as he can, leaping through the ever deepening snow.

EXT. CARL & BRIAN'S CAMP - NIGHT

Snow falls rapidly on the dwindling fire but it's giving off enough light to show Brian laying on his back not moving, his hands on his gut.

He and the snow around him are splattered with blood. It looks black and shiny in the dim, flickering light of the dying fire.

The barrel of the rifle is sticking out of the snow next to him.

The Stranger is no where to be seen.

Carl runs and tumbles up to the campsite through the snow. He stops when he sees Brian.

CARL

Holy shit! Brian!

He drops to his knees beside Brian and looks him in the face and puts two fingers on his neck.

Brian lets out a breath that gurgles.

Carl looks down at where Brian's stomach used to be and sort of puts his hand on the exposed guts, then thinks better of it and takes his hand.

Brian gurgles again and some blood sprays out of his mouth.

CARL (CONT'D)

Oh shit. Okay, Fuck! What happened?!

Brian stops gurgling and. Carl looks into his eyes.

CARL (CONT'D)
Brian? Brian! Fuck!

Carl takes off his jacket and thermal shirt then places the shirt on Brian's stomach. He puts Brian's hands on top of the shirt.

His arms are limp but he makes a little noise.

Carl puts the coat over Brian.

CARL (CONT'D)
I'm gonna get you help.

Carl runs over to his tent in just a T-shirt and rips the the flaps open.

He reaches in a pulls the radio out feverishly trying to turn it on.

He keeps looking over at Brian and looking around in the woods.

CARL (CONT'D)
(into the radio)
Ted! John! Anyone!

There is only silence on the radio.

BRIAN
Huh-huh. Guh-hurrrr.

Carl looks over to see that Brian is writhing in pain in the bloody, messy snow and spitting up what little blood he has left.

CARL
Oh, Jesus fuck...

Carl drops the radio and moves quickly over to Brian. He kneels down and Brian grabs a hold of his arms, looks him in the face and then turns his head to the right as if he's looking at something. Blood pours out of his mouth.

Looking over in the same direction Carl sees footprints in the snow.

The expression on Carl's face goes from panic to confusion as he realizes what the footprints mean.

Brian's grasp on Carl's arms loosens and his attention immediately goes back to his friend.

CARL (CONT'D)

Oh no. No. No.

INT. FRONT DESK OFFICE - NIGHT

Ted is still asleep on the cot near the radio. It is dark and silent in the room and remains so.

EXT. CARL & BRIAN'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

It's still snowing. Carl is geared up and ready to move. Brian is now covered with numerous blankets but he hasn't been moved. Carl has tears in his eyes as he leans over his friend.

CARL

Brian, I don't know what else to do. The radio isn't working, I can't do anything for you by myself. I'm going to the lodge to get help okay? I'll be back...I'll be back soon.

Brian just stares up at the snow flakes that are falling onto his face.

Carl stands up with the radio in one hand and grabs the rifle that is now leaning up against a nearby tree.

He looks at the footprints in the snow that are quickly vanishing and hurries off in a different direction wearing only his long johns and boots.

INT. FRONT DESK OFFICE - DAY

Ted rests peacefully on his cot. The room is much more illuminated now.

A soft light is coming through the open door. The alarm clock by the radio says it's 7:13 AM.

There is a loud, sharp beep that comes from the radio.

Ted jumps up and tumbles off his cot and hits the alarm clock.

There is another loud beep from the radio. Ted looks at the alarm clock and then to the radio slightly confused.

He finally puts it al together and quickly grabs the radio receiver as he flips the switch.

TED
Hello? Brian? Carl?

Several seconds of silence pass and Ted looks to make sure the radio is on, which it is.

TED (CONT'D)
Carl? Brian?

The radio blaers to life with a wild noise. The reception is pretty bad.

Carl is on the other end, still running and out of breath.

CARL (O.S.)
(on the radio)
Ted!

TED
Carl? What's going on?

CARL (O.S.)
(on the radio)
Brian's hurt. I don't know. The radio wasn't working.

TED
What? How?

The radio gets extremely fuzzy.

CARL (O.S.)
(on the radio)
I don't know. I went for wood
and...gunshot...there's someone...now
he's...

The radio goes silent.

TED
Where are you? We're coming. Carl?
Carl!? Fuck.

Ted tosses the receiver on the desk and begins racing to put on his boots.

He grabs a pair of newer walkie talkies out of the charging station on the desk.

Without bothering to put on his clothes or even a coat he bolts for the door awkwardly towing his back pack behind him.

EXT. LODGE - DAY

It's still snowing. All is white and pristine.

The snow mobile sits idle, buried under a few inches of fresh snow about twenty feet from the front door. The double doors burst open and Ted runs full speed out into the snow finally getting his back pack on. Vaulting onto the snowmobile he knocks off most of the snow as turns the key, hits the gas and blasts off throwing a mess of snow and noise into the morning air.

INT. JOHN & TRACY'S CABIN - DAY

John and Tracy are asleep. The clock on the bedside table says 7:18 AM.

The sound of the snowmobile can be heard outside and it is rapidly getting louder.

John's eyes open and he turns his head a bit just as the sound peaks and then cuts out completely. The door swings open wildly and Ted rushes in.

TED

John! Get up!

Ted runs over and rips open one of the dresser drawers and starts throwing clothes over at John who is just barley sitting up in bed.

Tracy begins to stir.

JOHN

Ted, what the hell man?

TED

C'mon! Brian's hurt!

JOHN

What? How?

Ted pulls his back pack off and finally starts getting himself dressed as fast as he can.

TED

I don't know. Carl's pretty shaken. The radio cut out before he could tell me what happened. He said gunshot.

JOHN
Gunshot?!

At this, John leaps out of bed and quickly starts getting dressed with the clothes Ted threw at him.

Ted finishes and heads for the door.

TED
I'm getting a first aid kit. Get
the rifle and meet outside.

He leaves without shutting the door and snow blows in all over the floor.

Tracy finally sits up.

TRACY
What's going on?

JOHN
(pulling on his last boot)
Brian's hurt. We gotta go.

TRACY
What? How?

JOHN
Fuck, I don't know Tracy.

His boot is on and he's headed for the door.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

The snow is coming down as hard as ever.

Ted is on one snowmobile with a large white package strapped to the back that has that first aid symbol of a big red cross on it.

John is on the other with a rifle slung over his shoulder and a walkie talkie on his hip.

Tracy stands holding Gabby in her arms wrapped up in a blanket. Gabby is almost ready to cry.

William stands next to Nancy who holds the other walkie talkie.

TED
We'll call you on the walkie talkie
as soon as we find them.

NANCY

But, the trail is covered, How can
you be sure you'll find them?

JOHN

Carl's radio wouldn't work if he
wasn't between the point and here.
Once we get a little closer we can
reach him with this. He taps the
walkie talkie with his gloved hand.

JOHN (CONT'D)

These don't have a strong signal
but you can reach us from the lodge
if you need to.

TRACY

Please be careful.

GABBY

Be careful daddy.

JOHN

I will sweetie.

TED

Let's go.

John and Ted both turn on their snow mobiles and take off
really fast.

William, Nancy, Tracy and Gabby stand and watch as they
disappear in the falling snow.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Ted is leading as he and John race along at top speed through
the snow dodging trees.

John has the walkie talkie out and up to his mouth.

JOHN

Carl! Carl! Can you hear me.

CARL (O.S.)

(on the walkie)

John?!

John slows to a stop and Ted looks back and sees him then
circles around.

JOHN

We're on our way. Where are you?
Where is Brian?

Ted pulls up next to John.

CARL (O.S.)
 (on the radio)
 I don't know where I am exactly.
 Brian's still at our campsite at
 the point. I think I stayed near
 the trail but it's hard to tell...the
 footprints...

A blast of static comes over the walkie talkie.

JOHN
 What? What footprints?

He shakes the walkie talkie.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Goddamnit! Carl!

CARL (O.S.)
 (on the walkie)
 Yeah!?

JOHN
 Are you okay?

CARL (O.S.)
 (on the walkie)
 Yeah I think so.

JOHN
 Okay, you stay put. We're gonna go
 to the point and find Brian if we
 don't find you on the way then we
 will when come back.

CARL(V.O.)
 Okay.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Carl is leaning up against a tree with the radio in his hand wheezing.

What little breath he had left has caused the snow around his mouth and nose to melt but it has then refrozen on his cheeks and ears as it dripped down.

Nothing but trees and snow can be seen in all directions.

EXT. CARL & BRIAN'S CAMP - DAY

Brian is lying on his back in the snow with three or four inches of snow on him and it continues to pile up.

Little faint puffs of steam are coming from his mouth.

The snow around Brian has a pinkish hue to it due to the dark red blood under the fresh snow. The fire is out and the tents are getting buried as well.

It is very quiet at the campsite.

The sound of the snow mobiles approaching in the distance wrecks all of the eerie peace. Quickly Ted and John zoom up to the camp just behind the tents and jump off of the snowmobiles.

Ted has the first aid kit in his hands and is opening it before he even gets to the mound of pink snow that is his friend.

TED

Brian!

JOHN

Shit. He's gone.

John rushes up and he and Ted both drop to their knees next to Brian and begin to dig through the snow.

They start with his face and then uncover the rest of him. By the blueish color of his face it is immediately evident that he is already dead.

His hands are still clutching the bloody thermal shirt on his stomach and they are now all frozen together.

Ted pries Brian's frozen arms off his abdomen and removes the shirt to expose the gaping mess that used to be his torso.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(covering his mouth.)

Oh Jesus fuck!

TED

That's not a gun shot.

JOHN

Oh fuck. What happened?

TED

How should I know? It looks like something clawed him or took a bite out of him.

JOHN

Jesus.

Ted looks around the campsite trying to look for anything that might explain this tragedy.

The first thing to catch his attention are the dips in the snow that are all that is left of the Stranger's foot prints that lead up to where Brian's body is.

TED

(pointing to the
footprints)

John, look.

John turns his head and looks to where Ted is pointing.

JOHN

Yeah?

TED

It doesn't make sense.

JOHN

Why? I don't get it.

Ted stands up and moves to the other side of the burned out fire.

TED

Look here, this is where Carl and Brain walked up to the camp together. See how big the prints are from the snow shoes?

There are two, very distinct sets of large dips in the snow that have been smoothed out tremendously by the hours of accumulation.

JOHN

Yeah, so?

TED

So those footprints over there are from someone else. They definitely weren't snow shoeing. And look, they keep on going off in that direction.

He points and then reaches in his pocket and gets out a compass.

Looking at the compass Ted turns just slightly to his left.

JOHN
Someone else? Who would be up here?

TED
I don't know.

JOHN
And why would they...

Ted makes a puzzled face and then goes back into his pocket and pulls out a small map of the North Rim. He unfolds it and puts it up to the compass.

TED
Come here and look at this.

John steps over.

JOHN
Yeah? I don't get it.

TED
Well, the trail goes that way. It follows the ridge because it's an easier hike. But the straightest line to the lodge is that way.

He points in the same direction as The Stranger's footprints that are in a very straight line off into the woods.

JOHN
It's Carl. Carl would go the fastest way.

TED
Yeah, he would, which is why he went that way.

Ted points to a fresher set of prints that go off in another direction.

JOHN
But you said...

TED
It's a straight line but the cliffs would be almost impossible even if it wasn't snowing.

JOHN

I don't like this at all. No person did that to Brian. We need to find Carl.

TED

What are we gonna do with Brian?

JOHN

Let's find Carl and come back.

Ted nods and they head back over to the snow mobiles.

INT. TED & NANCY'S CABIN - DAY

Will, Gabby, Nancy, and Tracy are all sitting in silence. The walkie talkie sits on the night stand.

NANCY

How long can it take? It's only seventeen miles.

TRACY

But with the snow and not knowing...

WILLIAM

What happens if Brian needs a hospital? Shouldn't one of us go to the lodge and call someone? Or get one of the cars ready?

TRACY

He's right. We should be ready.

NANCY

I'll go. She gets up and goes for her coat.

WILLIAM

I'll go mom.

NANCY

No, you stay here and wait for your father. I won't be long.

She throws on her coat and heads for the door.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Carl is still standing next to the pine tree. It is doing a poor job of sheltering him from the falling snow. He is completely exhausted.

The sound of the snow mobiles pipes up in the distance and Carl looks around. As the sound gets louder he can locate it's direction and he begins to run toward Ted and John.

INT. TED & NANCY'S CABIN - DAY

Tracy, Will, and Gabby are still sitting in the cabin waiting to hear something. Tracy is seated on the bed looking out the window.

She makes a puzzled face and stands up. She takes a quick deep breath and puts her hand up over her mouth.

TRACY

Oh my god! It's Brian!

Will and Gabby both look over.

WILLIAM

What?

TRACY

Call your mother on the radio right now. Brian's here.

Tracy runs to the door and heads outside in a very big hurry.

Will grabs the walkie talkie and runs to the window.

He sees The Stranger trudging along as Tracy tires to quickly make way over to him through the ever deepening snow.

William turns the knob on the walkie talkie and presses the button.

WILLIAM

(his voice shaking)

Mom?

EXT. CABIN - DAY

The snow is falling hard still and Tracy is running just as fast as she can toward The Stranger.

The Stranger, bleeding profusely from his shoulder, keeps his slow and steady pace.

TRACY

Brian!?!

Tracy makes it to The Stranger's side and sees that he is bleeding.

He doesn't look at her.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Brain? Are you okay? Let me help you.

She gets on his good side and tries to help him walk.

The Stranger does nothing to resist her act of kindness.

Will runs up holding the walkie talkie.

WILLIAM

Mom's on her way.

Gabbie peeks her head out the door of the cabin behind them.

TRACY

Good. Can you help me carry him?
He's in shock.

Will rushes to the other side of The Stranger and gets under his arm.

They lead him to the cabin.

INT. TED & NANCY'S CABIN - DAY

Tracy and Will are laying The Stranger down on the bed.

Gabby watches from behind the closet door.

Tracy removes The Stranger's hat and scarf and begins to unbutton his shirt to get a look at his shoulder.

TRACY

Will, get a first aid kit.

William runs out of the room and Gabby steps out from behind the door.

GABBY

Is Brian hurt?

TRACY

A little honey, but he'll be okay.

GABBY

Where's daddy?

Tracy takes The Stranger's scarf and uses it to apply pressure to his shoulder.

TRACY

Brian, where are Ted and John? What happened?

The Stranger just blinks.

William rushes in with the first aid kit and Nancy comes in right behind him.

She sees Tracy with The Stranger and rushes over.

NANCY

Oh my god! Here Will, the first aid kit. Will, get us some water, or snow, or something. Use the tea pot to heat it up. And keep it coming.

Will hands her the first aid kit and she opens it on the bed as he rushes out of the room.

NANCY (CONT'D)

(to Tracy)

What happened? Where are the rest of them?

TRACY

I don't know. He won't talk. I think he's in shock.

Will comes back in with a glass of water and hands it to Tracy.

She takes the glass and puts it to The Stranger's lips and he drinks a little.

NANCY

I got the jeep dug out and got to the lodge but I never got a hold of anyone.

Nancy takes the scarf off the Stranger's shoulder and wipes it with a swab from the first aid kit.

The Stranger winces but doesn't make a noise.

He tries to sit up but Tracy puts a gentle hand on his chest.

TRACY

No no, lie down.

(Turning to Nancy)

What do you mean?

NANCY

I mean I tried everyone I could think of on that damn radio and none of them answered. It's just static.

TRACY

Well there has to be something we can do, someone way to call someone.

NANCY

We should have Will go back up and keep trying.

WILLIAM

But I don't wa...

TRACY

No, your mother's right Will. We have this under control here.

NANCY

Please Will?

WILLIAM

Okay. But call me as soon as Dad gets back.

TRACY

Of course, thank you Will.

Nancy hugs him, kisses his forehead, then looks him in the eye.

NANCY

I want you to take the car. I know we've practiced driving but I want you to be very careful okay?

Will nods and she hands him the keys.

He runs for the door.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

It's still snowing as John and Ted speed along on the snowmobiles.

Carl is on the back of Ted's and Brian's body is on the back of John's.

John signals for Ted to stop and gets the walkie talkie off his hip.

JOHN
(yelling)
I think I can get a signal from here. We should let them know we're coming.

Ted nods.

John switches on the walkie talkie and puts it up to his mouth.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Hello? Tracy? Nancy?

There is no answer.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Damnit!

TED
We can't keep stopping. Give the radio to Carl and he can try calling while we drive.

Carl sticks out his hand for the radio and John tosses it over to him.

Ted takes off again and John follows.

EXT. LODGE - DAY

Will pulls up in the Forrester through the snow toward the lodge going a bit too fast.

He hits the brakes and starts to slide. He goes over a small hill and comes to a stop. He puts the car in revers but it just peels out in the snow. Putting it into drive does the same thing and he's just making it worse. It's no use, the car is stuck.

He gets out, runs to the big front doors and blasts inside.

INT. FRONT DESK OFFICE - DAY

Will runs into the office and turns the radio on. He grabs the receiver and puts it up to his mouth.

WILLIAM
Hello? Dad? Dad? Can you hear me?

There is a moment of silence.

TED (O.S.)
(fuzzy)
William!? Where are you?!

WILLIAM
Dad! I'm at the lodge. The walkie talkie's not working. Mom and Tracy are back at the cabin...

TED (O.S.)
(fuzzy)
William, go back to the cabin right now.

WILLIAM
But mom said to come call you 'cause when Brian showed up...

TED (O.S.)
(fuzzy)
Will! Brian is dead. Now go back to your mother. We'll be there soon.

WILLIAM
But Brian's at the cabin.

TED
Will!

INT. TED & NANCY'S CABIN - DAY

The bed is pulled out into the middle of the room.

The Stranger is lying on his back in between Tracy and Nancy. He has a fresh bandage on his shoulder and he is mostly cleaned up.

Nancy looks into his eyes and he just blinks at her.

Gabby is trying to distract herself by playing with Ms. Tinkles in the corner but she keeps looking over.

The Stranger starts to get up again.

NANCY
Brain no, you need your rest.

Just as she says this the walkie talkie on the night stand crackles to life.

Tracy and Nancy both go for it simultaneously.

WILLIAM (O.S.)
 (on the walkie)
 Mom!

The Stranger continues to get up slowly. Tracy puts a hand out as Nancy grabs the radio.

Gabby senses the tension and gets back behind the closet door.

NANCY
 Will? What is it?

WILLIAM (O.S.)
 Mom, where are you!?

NANCY
 We're here with Brian honey. What's the matter? Have you talked wi...

The Stranger is up on his feet now and Tracy is trying to get him to sit back down but he's not having it.

He grabs his shirt off the back of the chair.

TRACY
 Brain please sit down.

WILLIAM (O.S.)
 (on the walkie)
 Dad's been trying to...His radio signal is too weak! They're on their way!

NANCY
 William, calm down. What is the matter?

The Stranger has his shirt on and is heading for the door. Tracy is backing up in front of him trying desperately to sooth him back over to the bed.

TRACY
 Please Brian? We'll get you more help. You're going to be okay. Just get back to the bed.

WILLIAM (O.S.)
 (on the walkie)
 Mom, Brian is dead.

NANCY

What? What are you talking about?
Brian is right here.

Nancy finally looks over to see that The Stranger has Tracy backed up to the door and doesn't seem to be stopping.

Nancy finally looks over to see that The Stranger has Tracy almost backed up to the door and he doesn't seem to be stopping.

WILLIAM (O.S.)

(on the walkie)
That's not Brian.

TRACY

Brian please go back to bed.

She puts her hand up on The Stranger's chest and pushes him back a bit.

He reaches past her for the door knob and she grabs his wrist.

GABBY

Mom?!

Very quickly The Stranger twists his arm clockwise to get out of Tracy's grip and as he does so he brings the back of his hand across her face so hard it sends he back into the wall, and then down to the floor.

Tracy is out cold.

GABBY (CONT'D)

Mommy!

NANCY

Holy Shit.

Nancy drops the walkie talkie and runs over to Tracy as The Stranger opens the door into Tracy's limp legs and starts to step out.

Nancy pushes him in the back so that he stumbles forward just a bit.

The Stranger turns around.

Nancy just stands there shaking with fear and confusion.

The walkie talkie is sitting on the floor.

WILLIAM (O.S.)
(on the walkie)
Mom? Mom?

The Stranger takes a step toward her and she doesn't move.

Tracy's head sways a little.

GABBY
Mommy!

Nancy looks to the door that Gabby is hiding behind, then to Tracy, then back to The Stranger.

NANCY
(breathless)
Wait.

He doesn't listen. He takes another step and he is right on her.

He grabs her by her sides and lifts her up off the ground throwing her backwards into the bedside table.

The table breaks into pieces as does the lamp. Nancy drops to the floor in a heap.

She rolls onto her back and blood runs down the side of her face.

Gabby starts screaming.

The Stranger steps toward Nancy and his shadow covers her twisted writhing shape on the floor.

She manages to get a weak and up into the air.

NANCY (CONT'D)
(sputtering)
Wait.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

The door opens and Gabby's screaming pierces through the falling snow.

The Stranger steps out into the snow, covered in blood and resumes his walk.

He leaves bloody footprints in the snow as he moves off out of sight.

The sound of the snowmobiles coming up in the distance begins to mix with Gabby's continued screams.

Ted pulls up right in front of the open cabin door and shuts off the snowmobile, but he doesn't look inside. He is fixated on the bloody footprints leading off between the cabins.

Carl on the other hand looks directly into the room.

CARL

Oh my God!

John pulls up and shuts off the snow mobile just as Carl is bounding for the door to the cabin.

Ted's gaze is finally broken when the only sound left is Gabby's screaming. He looks over to the cabin.

Carl is already standing over Nancy's bloody corpse.

EXT. ROAD - EVENING

Will is running as fast as he can down the road that leads from the lodge.

Even though he plowed it the day before it's already got a good layer of fresh snow on it.

He has the walkie talkie in his hand.

WILLIAM

(into the walkie)

Hello!?

The snow combined with, the altitude, the cold, and the fact that he's basically has no idea what is happening, are making it hard for him. He falls down and it takes him a few seconds to get back up.

INT. TED & NANCY'S CABIN - EVENING

The cabin is covered in blood.

Nancy's throat is missing and her head is caved in.

John has Gabby in his arms, she is crying like crazy but not screaming like she was.

The walkie talkie is smashed to bits on the floor.

Tracy is standing next to John. Her face is red and swollen and there is dried blood on her nose. She is still a little wobbly.

Ted has completely lost it. He has Nancy's blood all over him. He is half crying half screaming in Carl's face as Carl tries to calm him down.

TED

And it's fucking getting away!

CARL

Ted no!

JOHN

He's right Ted. Just calm down.

TRACY

(basically crying)

But I don't understand, where is Brian?

TED

I'll show you Brian.

Ted pushes past Carl on his way to the door and Carl half-heartedly tries to stop him.

Ted grabs Tracy forcefully by the arm and shoves her into the doorway.

Brian sits slumped forward on the back of the snow mobile.

Tracy shakes her head in confusion.

Ted points to what is left of Brian.

TED (CONT'D)

See?

He kind of pushes her and goes and grabs the rifle off the back of John's snow mobile. He heads off in the direction that the bloody footprints lead

JOHN

Ted wait!

Carl steps over to John.

CARL

Let him go for now. C'mon, we need to go somewhere else to think.

Carl starts shuffling everyone out into the snow.

TRACY

Where is Will?

EXT. CABINS - NIGHT

The Stranger walks slowly between two of the empty guest cabins as the snow continues to fall all around him.

Ted runs up in the distance behind him about 100 feet away with the rifle in his hands.

When he sees The Stranger he stops and raises the rifle to his shoulder.

TED

Stop! Stop now or I'll shoot!

The Stranger just keeps walking.

Ted takes aim but he is shaking badly. He pulls the trigger anyway and a deafening bang echoes through the forest but he's missed his mark.

The Stranger stops in his tracks and slowly turns around.

Ted freezes for a second and then desperately tries to chamber another round in the bolt action rifle.

The Stranger begins to walk back toward him with his always methodical pace.

INT. GUEST CABIN - NIGHT

Carl is holding Gabby in his arms as she cries and cries.

Tracy sits on the floor crying.

John is pacing back and forth. Gabby turns in Carl's arms and reaches out for John.

GABBY

Daddy!

John rushes over and takes her in his arms.

JOHN

It's okay baby. It's okay.

CARL

Okay?

WILLIAM(O.S.)

Dad! Mom!

JOHN

Oh shit! Carl, don't let him find Nancy!

Carl runs outside as fast as he can.

EXT. TED & NANCY'S CABIN - NIGHT

Will is standing in front of the open door to the cabin breathing heavily but is otherwise motionless.

Carl runs up and steps in front of Will and slams the door shut, then looks at him.

WILLIAM

Carl?

Will starts to cry.

CARL

Oh fuck. C'mere. It's okay.

Carl reaches out but Will pushes him away.

WILLIAM

No! Fuck no! What is going on?!
Where's my dad!? What happened to
my mom!?

The sound of Ted firing the gun nearby makes both of them turn their head.

Carl looks back and grabs Will in a bear hug and lifts him off the ground.

Will is done struggling and Carl carries him back to the other cabin.

CARL

Fuck. It's not okay. It's so not
okay.

EXT. CABINS - NIGHT

The Stranger is closing in on Ted but Ted manages to get the gun reloaded and he fires without getting a chance to aim.

He hits The Stranger in the thigh, causing him to stumble but doesn't fall or stop moving and in three steps he is right in front of Ted.

Ted tries to get the gun up to hit The Stranger with it but he's too slow and in one smooth motion The Stranger grabs the barrel with his right hand and twists it out of Ted's hands.

His left hand is immediately around Ted's throat. He spins the gun around by the barrel and uses the butt of the rifle to smash Ted's mouth in with a nasty crack.

Ted's lips split open and his teeth drop out with a gush of blood that steams in the clod air.

The Stranger lets go of Ted's throat and Ted drops to his knees without a sound. Now The Stranger grabs the gun with both hands and takes a step forward past Ted and raises the gun high above his head.

He swings it backward down to his side where it meets very abruptly with the back of Ted's skull.

Ted falls face first into the snow but after a brief moment somehow finds the strength to push himself up with his arms.

The Stranger turns and looks down on Ted. He raises the gun again and Ted raises a shaking hand in a feeble attempt to stop the blow.

TED
(loud but almost
unintelligible)
No! No!

The Stranger brings the butt of the gun down right into the palm of Ted's hand and shoves it swiftly into the side of his head with a terrible cracking noise.

Ted hits the snow again and this time does not move.

His hand is basically embedded in his face.

The Stranger drops the gun, looks at his own leg and then starts walking.

INT. GUEST CABIN - NIGHT

John is holding Gabby who is still crying.

Tracy is holding and rocking Will.

Carl is pacing and stopping intermittently to look out the window.

JOHN
It had to be a gunshot. Did it sound like a gunshot to you? He shot something.

CARL
I don't know. Man, we gotta get outta here.

TRACY
What about Ted?

At the mention of his father's name Will turns his twisted face to look at John and Carl.

JOHN

He's gonna be back in just a...

Ted's last screams for mercy can be heard clearly.

Will tries to jump up but Tracy holds him tight.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Fuck this.

He shoves Gabby into Carl's arms and runs out the door.

TRACY

John no! Don't go!

GABBY

Daddy!

EXT. TED & NANCY'S CABIN - NIGHT

The snow is still falling as John runs over to the snow mobiles where Brian's corpse is still sitting.

He opens up the utility bag on the back of one of them and finds a hatchet then runs off in the direction of the footprints that Ted followed.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

It is getting dark quickly. The Stranger is just on the edge of the cleared area where the cabins are and is heading into the woods.

John comes running around the corner of last cabin taking The Stranger by surprise. The hatchet is raised above his head as he charges in.

JOHN

Aaaahhhhhh!

The Stranger turns and gets his arm up in time to block the hatchet from hitting his face.

The brunt of the blow is delivered by the handle into The Stranger's forearm but the curved corner does manage to bury itself firmly in his arm just below the elbow.

The Stranger reaches up and grabs John's hand and twists his arm around until it snaps.

John screams and stumbles backward.

Removing the hatchet from his arm without so much as a wince, The Stranger immediately swings it at John's face.

John ducks but falls backward into the snow.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Help!

Taking a step forward The Stranger swings at John but misses hitting only snow. John somehow evades another swing by crawling backwards in the deep snow.

INT. GUEST CABIN - NIGHT

Tracy, Carl, Will and Gabby are all still sitting in the cabin.

JOHN (O.S.)

Help! Someone help me!

Upon hearing John's screams Tracy jumps up and heads for the door but Carl blocks her.

CARL

No, stay here with Gabby and Will.
I'll go.

TRACY

He's my husband!

CARL

Goddamn it! Stay here! Carl puts Gabby into Tracy's arms and goes out the door. Tracy locks the door behind him.

EXT. CABINS - NIGHT

Carl moves along cautiously between the cabins not knowing exactly where to go or what to do.

The snow continues to fall. He makes it to the edge of the cabin and looks around just in time to see The Stranger swinging the hatchet into John's face repeatedly until the top of John's head just about comes off.

The snow all around is black with blood.

CARL

John!

The Stranger looks over but doesn't move.

Carl looks around for a weapon of some sort. When he looks up he sees several giant ice-cycles hanging from the drain spout on the corner of cabin.

He reaches up and breaks one off.

CARL (CONT'D)

Alright you mother fucker.

The Stranger doesn't move in any way. He merely waits for Carl to do something and bleeds silently into the snow.

Carl moves at him as quickly as he can in the deep snow. He is wielding the ice cycle like a knife in his bare hand.

He gets within about five feet of The Stranger and he finally moves. They begin to circle each other.

Carl takes a timid stab at him but misses.

The Stranger swings the hatchet quickly and Carl jumps back and falls down.

Carl scrambles back trying to hold the ice cycle up in front of himself as The Stranger takes a big step over to him.

The Stranger lunges at Carl and swings the hatchet down.

Carl rolls to the side and swings the ice cycle up at the same time.

The Stranger misses but Carl plunges the ice cycle deep into his side.

The Stranger falls onto his hands and knees and Carl jumps up. He starts to run but The Stranger grabs his ankle and he falls. Carl kicks several times and manages to get free and gets onto his feet again. The Stranger is up and after him in a flash.

EXT. GUEST CABIN - NIGHT

Will, Tracy, and Gabby see Carl through the window as he comes running around the corner and heads straight for the door of the cabin where they are.

By the time he reaches the door The Stranger is coming around the corner. Carl looks over his shoulder as he tries the door.

CARL
Oh shit! Open the fucking door!

Carl fights with the handle but nothing happens.

The Stranger is right on top of him now.

Tracy jumps up to unlock the door.

TRACY
(to Will and Gabby)
Hide!

They jump up and run to the closet.

CARL
Tracy unlock the fucking door!

Carl is pounding on the door when The Stranger kicks him so hard in the back that he smashes through the door and both he and the door fall onto Tracy.

The Stranger steps up and grabs one of Carl's flailing legs hoisting him up off the floor. Then he grabs a hold of the other leg.

Carl reaches out for Tracy and the lock hands forming a tug of war with The Stranger.

Tracy struggles from under the door to get to her knees.

CARL (CONT'D)
Tracy help me!

TRACY
Carl!

Instead of pulling harder, The Stranger takes a step forward so that he is bending Carl in half backward.

Carl lets out a scream.

The Stranger lifts his leg up and stomps his black boot down right at the base of his spine while he pushing Carl's legs forward.

There is a sickening crunch as Carl is essentially bent in half.

Tracy lunges toward The Stranger knocking him back into the wall.

Carl is writhing on the ground trying desperately to pull himself to somewhere, anywhere safe, but his legs aren't working at

Tracy is on top of The Stranger screaming and clawing at his face.

The Stranger swings his elbow and cracks her hard in the side of her face knocking her off of him.

He quickly stands up and kicks her in the stomach which incapacitates her just long enough for him to give a good stomp to the back of Carl's head.

Carl's wailing and writhing stop simultaneously.

INT. CLOSET

The door to the closet is barely cracked open letting in a tiny bit of light.

Will has one hand over Gabby's mouth and in the other hand he has a fire poker.

WILLIAM
(whispering to Gabby)
You remember the rock?

She nods with tears streaming down her face.

TRACY (O.S.)
Why?

Tracy lets out a moan.

WILLIAM
(whispering)
You remember how to get there?

Gabby nods again.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
(whispering)
When I open the door you run as fast as you can. Don't stop.

Gabby nods.

INT. GUEST CABIN - NIGHT

The Stranger turns his attention back to Tracy.

She is up on her feet but unstable.

TRACY

Why?

He grabs her by the hair and smashes her face into the nearest window shattering it into a mess and slicing her face into ribbons. He then proceeds to run her neck and face all over the broken glass that remains in the frame.

Once she's dead he lets her go and stands still for a moment.

The room is covered in blood and The Stranger is bleeding from his shoulder, his leg, and his side.

He turns slowly and takes a step toward the door. Will barges out of the closet holding the fire poker like a baseball bat.

He swings it as hard as he can into the back of The Stranger's head sending him down to the ground right in the doorway.

Gabby starts screaming again immediately.

WILLIAM

Gabby run!

Gabby sits in the corner of the closet not moving.

Will swings again onto The Stranger's back with the fire poker with a loud thump.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Now! Run now!

Gabby screams and scrambles out of the closet running out of the room into the snowy night.

Will stands straddling The Stranger with the fire poker raised, ready to stab it into the back of his head.

Just as he plunges it down The Stranger rolls over quickly knocking Will out the door and into the snow.

Will isn't hurt and jumps up quickly. The Stranger is on his feet in a flash as well.

Will just turns and runs.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Gabby is running and stumbling through the woods. She is crying and whimpering to herself. The snow is falling as hard as ever.

Gabby falls down and almost disappears in the snow. Will runs up behind her with the fire poker still in his hand and helps her up.

WILLIAM
C'mon Gabby.

William is basically dragging her along at this point.

The Stranger is not far behind.

The two kids make it to a clearing in the woods where there is a large area with no trees and the snow is completely undisturbed.

Will pauses and looks back over his shoulder and see that The Stranger is even closer, he tugs on Gabby.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
C'mon.

Since there are no trees to block it out, the snow is especially deep in this area which makes it even harder for them to move.

The Stranger is almost right behind them.

Will stops and turns around. Gabby hides behind him too scared to scream.

Will holds up the fire poker ready to swing it like a baseball bat. He is terrified and shaking.

Just as The Stranger gets within striking distance it stops snowing.

The clouds part a little bit just above them and the full moon which is directly overhead shines brightly down onto the stark white snow illuminating everything.

The Stranger reacts to the sudden brightness and puts a hand up to his face.

Will closes his eyes tightly and swings with all his might hitting The Stranger in the arm and head.

The Stranger is rocked but doesn't fall down. He just sways.

Gabby screams.

The clouds close back up and William opens his eyes.

Wasting no time he swings again but this time he loses his balance and only hits The Stranger in the side.

The blow is enough to drop him to the ground but it only puts him out temporarily.

Will turns and grabs Gabby carrying her away.

The Stranger lies in the snow for moment but then slowly gets up and starts after them again.

EXT. BIG FLAT ROCK - NIGHT

Will and Gabby trudge out from behind the tree through the snow onto the rock.

Gabby whimpers a little.

Will looks around at the canyon and it dawns on him that maybe the rock wasn't the best choice.

They stand in the center of the rock and he turns to face Gabby.

She is breathing heavily in a silent sob. Any tears she has left are freezing to her face as fast as they form.

WILLIAM

Are you okay?

She just shakes her head no.

There is a rustling noise that comes from behind the tree and they both turn to look.

The tree shakes a little and some snow falls off the branches as The Stranger plods around into view.

William steps in front of Gabby and holds the poker up, ready to swing.

The Stranger stands for a moment and stares at them.

He blinks, then turns and walks away leaving them on the rock all alone in the darkness.

The clouds are moving away to the west and the stars shine brightly in the night sky.