

THE GIRL SCOUT

Written by

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SUPER: *Twenty years ago...*

EXT. COLORADO ROCKIES - DAY INTO NIGHT

The majestic Rocky Mountains. We travel the peaks and passes, then down to the flora and fauna below the timberline.

TIME LAPSE:

The sun quickly sinks in a dazzling sunset, painting the snowy peaks with orange, red, and purple. Soon a bright moon appears over a cloudless sky, bathing snowcaps in pale light.

SUPER: *Welcome to the Adventure of Scouting!*
(Chapter 1, The Boy Scout Handbook, 10th Edition)

EXT. BOY SCOUT CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Under the supervision of SCOUTMASTER FRANK, 38 with a Marboro Man face and style, and his assistant, eight Boy Scouts roast marshmallows over the campfire.

YOUNG GREG, 11, peers off through the trees at the distant flames from another campfire. YOUNG DAVE, 12, notices and follows his gaze.

He pivots back to Greg with a smirk.

YOUNG DAVE

Aww, Greg, I guess the Scoutmaster wasn't enough supervision for you, huh? Did mommy send a chaperone?

YOUNG GREG

C'mon, just cut it out. This wasn't my idea.

SCOUTMASTER FRANK

Dave, pay attention! Your marshmallow's on fire.

Dave drops the stick and scrambles back as Greg sneaks a peek back at the other campfire. He looks worried.

EXT. BOY SCOUT CAMPSITE - DAY

A tent flap opens and Dave crawls out. He adjusts his olive green shorts in that "I-have-to-go-to-the-bathroom" way.

He scans the forest to find that other boys are already up and have the same idea. He lumbers off in search of privacy.

EXT. THE WOODS - DAY

Dave continues to look back at the campsite and the other morning relievers to see if he's far enough away.

He finds a secluded spot, unzips, and relieves himself on a tree. His face shows his growing sense of relief.

He zips up and pivots back to face a coiled up RATTLESNAKE.

YOUNG DAVE

Gaagh!

The snake, startled by the shout, goes on the defensive and whips forward, biting Dave just below the hem of his shorts.

The rattler rears back for another attack.

A stick swings in from nowhere, hits the snake below the hood, and flings it twenty feet away. It slithers off.

Dave turns to face his rescuer.

Backlit through the trees, stands - arms akimbo - YOUNG JANE, 9, with the attitude of a tomboy and conviction of a monk.

YOUNG DAVE

It- it- it bit me.

YOUNG JANE

Yeah, I see.

Jane drops the stick and roots through her massive backpack.

YOUNG DAVE

You- you gotta suck the poison out.

Jane quickly eyes the proximity of the bitemark to Dave's crotch and returns to her search.

YOUNG JANE

Yeah. Not happening.

YOUNG DAVE

I'm gonna die.

YOUNG JANE

Stay calm. Sit down against the tree, legs out.

Dave slumps down against the tree that he just urinated on.

Jane finds her snakebite kit and takes out a venom extractor. She checks the action on the pump.

YOUNG DAVE

What is that?? You know what you're doing?

YOUNG JANE

Yes, I'm going to be a doctor.

"Doctor" Jane applies the suction end to the bite and starts to pull back the plunger. Blood enters the tube.

YOUNG JANE

(sniffs)

Why does it smell like pee?

Dave's eyes grow wide as his blood fills the extractor. His eyes roll up and he passes out.

EXT. BOY SCOUT CAMPSITE - DAY

The Scouts are busy as they pack up camp, shovel dirt on the firepit, and search for garbage they might have dropped.

Scoutmaster Frank starts a headcount.

SCOUTMASTER FRANK

Has anyone seen Dave?

The boys stop and look around. A scraping noise comes from the outer edge of the clearing.

All eyes turn to see Jane enter the grounds with a sled of branches lashed together in tow.

Dave - still passed out - lies on the back of the sled.

YOUNG JANE

He was bit by a rattlesnake - once. I extracted the venom at the bite, applied an alcohol prep, and a sterile bandage. Pretty sure he only fainted because of the blood, but you should probably get him to the clinic for tests and treatment.

Jane unceremoniously drops the sled with Dave on it and heads back into the forest. She takes three steps and turns.

YOUNG JANE

Tell Dave I expect him to replace my lash-line and first aid supplies.

And now she departs, tromping off through the woods, leaving Scoutmaster Frank and his troop open-mouthed.

YOUNG BOB, 14, an Eagle Scout turns to Greg.

YOUNG BOB
Was- was that your sister?

YOUNG GREG
Yeah... yeah, it was.

Greg continues to stare after her, his face a mixture of embarrassment and pride.

SUPER: *Present Day*

EXT. ESTES PARK, COLORADO - PRESENT DAY

The sun sets on a medium-sized town nestled at the foot of the impressive mountain range.

On the outskirts of town, a small two story house sits before an abbreviated front lawn.

SUPER: *Growing From Boy to Man
(Chapter 3, The Boy Scout Handbook, 10th Edition)*

INT. JANE'S HOME - NIGHT

In the living room, GREG BEAUFORT, now 31, teaches his nephew, WILL, 11, how to tie a bowline knot.

WILL
You kidding me, Uncle Greg? My mom?

GREG
Not at all. She was pretty fierce.

WILL
What was she even doing there?

GREG
Dad would let her camp near us.
He'd drop her off and pick her up.
See, she wanted to join, but they
didn't accept girls back then.

WILL
What about the Girl Scouts?

GREG
Oh, I asked. Jane said "Selling
cookies and jamborees? Yeah, no
thanks." She had other ambitions.

WILL
She- Mom wanted to be a doctor?

GREG
Uh, yeah.

WILL
I guess I ruined that dream.

GREG
Now, Will...

WILL
Yeah, forget it. So, a bowline knot: the rabbit comes out of the hole...?

GREG
Goes around the tree and... My point is that my sister would be the better one to teach you knots.

WILL
If you say so.

GREG
I mean it. She would have been a better scout than me. She was a better scout than me. You should ask her. She might like that.

WILL
Have you met my mother?

GREG
Will...

WILL
She doesn't talk to me. Like not ever. Not really, anyway. Now I guess I know why. She was going to be a doctor. Instead she got a job as an ambulance driver. And me.

GREG
She's an EMT. Jane still practices medicine. She still saves lives.

JANE BEAUFORT, now 29, appears in the doorway. Still with the same attitude she had at 9 but a little less conviction.

JANE
Dinner's ready.

INT. EAT-IN KITCHEN - NIGHT

The meal is over, and Will collects plates to bring to the sink. He hesitates in front of Jane.

JANE

Yeah?

WILL

It's just- Well, Uncle Greg said that you might be a good teacher for all the knots I have to learn.

JANE

He did, huh?

GREG

That's right. I seem to remember you being better at knots than me.

Jane gets up from the table and walks out to the living room.

Will and Greg look at each other questioningly.

Jane returns with the 1972 Eighth edition of the Boy Scout Handbook and drops it on the table.

JANE

I learned from your grandpa's old manual. No one taught me but myself. Between cooking, cleaning, laundry, and work, I simply don't have time to... Maybe if you practiced more and played video games less, you'd learn too, yeah?

Will stares at her. He sets the plates back on the table, turns, and runs from the room.

Greg listens as Will goes upstairs and slams his door.

INT. WILL'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Even from upstairs, behind his closed door, Will hears his Uncle and Mother argue.

He rises from his bed with tears in his eyes and cracks the door so that he can hear better.

GREG (O.S.)

What's wrong with you? He was just asking for your help. And you—

INT. EAT-IN KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The argument is in full swing.

JANE

He's gotta learn that everything
doesn't get handed to him on a
plate.

GREG

What are you talking about? Will
just wants to do something with
you. He's looking for a connection
and you keep turning him away...
He's your son!

JANE

Yeah, he is, and we're doing fine.

GREG

Not from where I'm standing, and I
seem to be standing here an awful
lot lately.

JANE

That's your choice. No one's
forcing you to be here.

GREG

I know that, and I'm happy to be
here for him. Are you? Having Will,
being his mother, was your choice.

Jane contemplates her shoes.

JANE

Maybe... maybe that was a mistake.

GREG

(taken aback)

No, Jane, it wasn't. You might find
that Will is a great kid... if you
actually took the time to know him.

INT. WILL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Will, still at the door, listens.

JANE (O.S.)

Yeah, I'm a little busy taking
double shifts to pay the bills.
He's fine.

GREG (O.S.)
He's really not. That boy needs
you. He's never known his dad, so
he needs his mom. It'd just be nice
if she decided to show up.

Will quietly closes the door. Tears stream down his face.

EXT. GARDINER'S LUMBER YARD - DAY

SUPER: *Woodcraft*
(Chapter 2, *The Boy Scout Handbook*, 1st Edition)

BOB GARDINER, 34, Eagle Scout at 14, and no nonsense, steps
out into the yard.

He spots DAVE HASKILL, 32, snakebite victim at 12, now with
unwarranted optimism, forklift some lumber onto the racks.

Bob waits for Dave to finish.

BOB
Dave, you got a minute?

Dave turns off the forklift and hops out.

DAVE
Sure, Bob. What's up?

BOB
I wanted to talk to you about the
Scout camping trip this weekend.

DAVE
It's gonna be great, huh?

BOB
Sure, sure. The thing is, well, I
wonder if you feel up to the task
of being assistant Scoutmaster?

DAVE
Do I... But... Yeah, of course I
do. I mean, I went through the same
Scout training as you. With you.

BOB
It's just... You've made mistakes.

DAVE
I get it. I messed up the clove
hitch. It turned out okay, though.

BOB

Dave, if I hadn't checked it, the first kid would've dropped twenty feet instead of rappelling down.

DAVE

Trust me, Bob. That's not a mistake I'll be making again. Honest.

BOB

No. Look, tell you what: You have this trip to show me you can do it, okay? No mistakes. I'll double-check your scoutcraft and delegate to you. But if it doesn't work out, Javier will take the position.

DAVE

Okay, I get it, but I'll be great, you'll see. It'll be great.

BOB

Good. Now get back to racking.

DAVE

On it!

Dave jumps back in his forklift and whips over to the loading area. He wears a frown as he drops the forklift blades to grab a three-banded sixteen-foot-long stack of 2X8's.

A blade swipes across an end band, and accidentally breaks it.

Dave picks up the stack and raises his blades high. He slides the stack into the waiting rack, but off-center. One of the steel brackets breaks the middle band.

Dave backs away from the rack, hits a bump and his blades bounce up, whacking the 2X8's, and the last band breaks.

The whole stack starts to fall away from the rack - at Dave.

He backs up faster to clear the lumber slide. His cab cage hits the end of a 4X4 rack and violently shifts the timber.

...into Bob, who was checking stock at the other end.

A joist hits Bob in the head, knocks his hardhat off, and slams him to the ground. Bob starts to rise, but crumples.

Dave's shadow falls across Bob.

DAVE

Oh, no, no, no!

EXT. GARDINER'S LUMBER YARD BACK GATE - DAY

Jane and her Estes Park F.D. EMT partner, CARLOS, 33 and practically Zen compared to Jane, roll Bob on the gurney.

Carlos opens the ambulance doors as Jane checks Bob's straps on the immobilization board and neck brace.

JANE
You just found him like this?

DAVE
Yep. I dunno, he must have been
looking at his clipboard and just
walked into the end of the rack.

Jane spies the dumped 2X8 pile and eyes Dave suspiciously.

JANE
Uh-huh.

With a nod to each other, Jane and Carlos slide the gurney into the ambulance.

Jane follows, securing the gurney clamps. Carlos is about to close the doors when Jane holds out a hand.

JANE
I guess this means the Scout
campout is cancelled, yeah?

DAVE
Uh... No. In fact, Bob told me
earlier that he was gonna let me
take the lead on it. I guess, you
know, gearing me up to replace him.

JANE
Uh-huh.

Jane takes out a penlight and checks Bob's pupils.

DAVE
He's gonna be okay, right?

Carlos closes the doors.

CARLOS
He's in good hands.

Carlos goes around, hops in the cab, and starts the engine. He pulls out, siren blaring and lights flashing.

Dave just stands there and watches the ambulance drive away.

INT. JANE'S HOME - NIGHT

Jane sits at the kitchen table on the cordless phone.

JANE
I just don't know if I trust him to
take those kids up the mountain.

EXT. GREG'S DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

The back of Greg's SUV is open and he loads gear into it while he talks on his Bluetooth earbuds.

GREG
He said Bob was gonna have him take
the lead? Not Javier?

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JANE
Yeah. He said.

GREG
What does Bob say?

JANE
Bob has a grade three concussion.
He's in an induced coma until they
can get it under control.

GREG
Jeez. So Dave...

JANE
Yeah, Dave.

GREG
And this has nothing to do with the
fact that—

JANE
His brother knocked me up, and
three weeks after I told him, he...
Well, you know. Is that what you
were gonna ask?

GREG
I was going to ask if it had
something to do with the fact that
you saved Dave from dying of
snakebite twenty years ago. But,
sure, let's stir him being Will's
biological Uncle into the mix.

JANE

Yeah, no. It has to do with the fact that Dave's an idiot.

Greg tosses the last bag in. He closes the back hatch.

GREG

Sure, okay, he was an idiot. But if Bob planned on letting him take the lead then - who knows? - maybe he's grown in the last decade or two.

JANE

You think so?

GREG

I don't know. I do know that Will's been looking forward to this trip. To moving up. But it's your call.

JANE

Maybe I'll phone the other parents. See what they think.

Greg gets in the car and sticks his key in the ignition.

GREG

Sounds good. I gotta go. A hiker was attacked by a mountain lion and we need to chopper him out.

JANE

Excuse me?

GREG

Relax. It was well over twenty miles from where the scouts camp.

Greg ends the call. Jane looks at the Scout contact sheet on her fridge and enters a number.

JANE

Penny? It's Jane, Will's mother...

EXT. ESTES PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Will waits at the school bus pick-up area with his friends and fellow Scouts, MANNY and CEDRIC.

MANNY

My dad'll be assistant, but I still think it's gonna be easier.

CEDRIC
Maybe. But I think we woulda'
learned more from Mr. Gardiner.

WILL
Right? I was looking forward to the
challenge. Don't you want to feel
like you earned your rank?

MANNY
I'm okay with a chill campout.

WILL
I dunno. Can Dave even sign off on
making us First Class Scouts?

CEDRIC
Dave Junior says he can 'cause
he'll be like the provisional
Scoutmaster, or something.

WILL
So, can he award us our badges in
Nature, Camping, and Forest—

MANNY
Yo, Will, isn't that your mom?

Will turns to see Jane waving him to the truck.

Confused, he motions "hang on" to his friends and heads over
to the Land Cruiser.

WILL
What are you doing here?

JANE
I decided to pick you up myself.
Maybe we can stop by the diner for
a milkshake.

Will peers at her suspiciously.

WILL
No, really. What's going on?

JANE
Get in the car Will.

Resigned, Will waves goodbye to his friends and gets in.

JANE
Buckle up.

INT. JANE'S VEHICLE - DAY

Will, hunched down in the passenger seat, is visibly upset. Jane glances over at him.

JANE

So... How was school, today?

WILL

What is happening right now?

JANE

I just wanted to, you know, have a talk... before your camping trip.

WILL

Really? Have you actually decided to give me advice? I mean, other than some old Scout Handbook?

JANE

You're looking forward to it, yeah?

WILL

Understatement. This is my chance for moving up to First Class. And to start earning badges.

JANE

I thought you were a Tenderfoot.

WILL

No... Second Class. Two months ago.

JANE

I see... And if you... didn't go, when would be the next—

WILL

Wait! "Didn't go"? Okay, now I get it. This is about Mr. Haskill being the Scoutmaster, right?

JANE

Assistant Scoutmaster. And he wasn't a great Boy Scout.

WILL

But Mr. Gardiner was Eagle Scout at thirteen. He made Dave assistant.

JANE

Something I never understood.

WILL

And Manny's dad is going. This is really important to me, okay?

JANE

Yeah, I get—

WILL

You'd understand if they'd let you into the Scouts.

Maybe Will regrets saying it. They both stare straight ahead.

EXT. GERRY'S DINER - DAY

Jane turns the truck into the parking lot.

INT. JANE'S VEHICLE - DAY

Jane pulls up the parking brake and turns to Will.

JANE

I haven't decided anything, yet, yeah? I'm just not ready to trust Dave as the leader of anyone, much less eight boys. Even with Javier.

An uncomfortable silence fills the vehicle.

WILL

For a long time I thought you must've wanted a girl and got me instead. But now I get it: you just didn't want any kids at all.

JANE

Will.

WILL

Yeah, I'm not in the mood for a milkshake, and I've got homework. Can you just take me home?

JANE

Look... You know what? Okay. I have an errand to run, so I'll drop you off and be back in an hour, yeah?

WILL

Fine.

Jane releases the brake, shifts, and exits the parking lot.

EXT. JANE'S HOME - DAY

Jane's SUV pulls up in the driveway and barely comes to a stop before Will gets out and slams the door behind him.

Jane watches through the windshield as he runs to the front door. He hesitates before reaching for the knob.

Will turns back to Jane. They both look at each other, as if searching for a connection.

The moment passes and he goes inside.

Jane stares at the closed front door, sighs, puts the truck back into gear, and backs out.

EXT. ESTES PARK MEDICAL CENTER - DAY

The center is a rambling four-story structure of brick, stone, cement and tinted glass.

SUPER: *You and Other People*
(Chapter 4, *The Boy Scout Handbook*, 9th Edition)

INT. HOSPITAL RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

At Bob's bed, a steady hum of machines and electronic beeps monitor his induced coma vital signs.

He has electrodes attached to his head and chest, pneumatic compression sleeves on his legs, and IV lines in his arm.

Jane, in the chair beside Bob's bed, leans in.

JANE

I probably should have asked when you did it - you know - made him the assistant, but I thought as long as you were there, what could go wrong? And now that you're here and he's going ahead with the trip, well, the answer is everything. Everything could go wrong, yeah? I—

Jane realizes that Bob's wife, SHIRLEY, 33, is by the door.

SHIRLEY

They tell me that talking is good for him. Keeps his mind working.

Jane vacates the bedside chair for Shirley.

JANE

Yeah.

SHIRLEY

But I'm guessing that's not why you were talking to him.

Shirley walks to the chair and checks on her husband.

JANE

Well, you know, I suppose I was wondering...

SHIRLEY

(turns to Jane)

Jane, in all the time I've known you, you've never been anything less than blunt. Why start—

JANE

Shirley, what did Bob think of Dave?

SHIRLEY

Oh.

Shirley sits in the chair and gently takes Bob's hand.

Jane - almost absent-mindedly - picks up and reads the clipboard from the foot of the hospital bed.

SHIRLEY

The truth is, I don't know. I mean, they've been friends since grade school. Billy was his best friend. Then, after the accident... Well, I don't have to tell you about that. Anyway, I suppose Bob felt somehow responsible for him. Did you know it was Bob who got Dave the job at his dad's lumberyard when the plant laid him off?

JANE

I didn't.

SHIRLEY

And he made Dave assistant Scout-master, so... Well, I don't know.

JANE

Yeah. You know Dave plans to go ahead with the camping trip.

SHIRLEY
I heard that.

JANE
Is Mark still going?

SHIRLEY
I- I haven't decided. They plan to
take Bob out of the induced coma
later that day.

JANE
(glances at the clipboard)
Yeah, I see that.

SHIRLEY
The doctor says... You brought him
here. Did they tell you anything?

JANE
Huh? Oh. Yeah, no worries. He's
going to be fine.

SHIRLEY
Yes. That's what they say. Thank
you, Jane.

Jane nods, returns the clipboard, and steps to the door.

MARK, 12, arrives.

JANE
Hey, Mark.

MARK
Hey, Miss Beaufort.

JANE
I was just telling your mom how
your dad's gonna be fine.

MARK
Um, okay. Thanks.

He continues in as Jane leaves.

INT. JANE'S HOME/EAT-IN KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jane and Will sit in silence, as they eat mac 'n cheese with
breaded green beans.

Will gets up, puts his dishes in the sink, and heads upstairs
without once looking at his mother.

Jane watches him go and pushes her bowl away.

JANE

Yeah...

EXT. GERRY'S DINER PARKING LOT - DAY

Jane and Carlos, in full EMT uniforms exit the diner with takeout coffee cups.

CARLOS

I dunno. What is it you think is gonna happen?

JANE

Forest fire, earthquake, plague, zombie apocalypse, the usual.

They arrive at the ambulance and hop in.

INT. AMBULANCE CAB - DAY

Jane settles into the drivers' seat and starts the engine.

CARLOS

Sure, sure, but really, what?

JANE

If I knew - if I could anticipate it - then maybe I wouldn't be so worried about it.

She takes a sip of coffee and sets the cup in the dashboard holder before she buckles up. Carlos does the same.

CARLOS

This might be the most you've talked about Will since we started—

The RADIO UNIT cuts in with a dispatch.

DISPATCHER (ON RADIO)

We have caved-in house at 561 Aspen Road. People trapped inside. All services requested.

Jane shifts into gear as Carlos grabs the fist-grip mic.

CARLOS

This is EMT two-Charlie-one responding. We are ten minutes out.

He turns on the sirens and flashing lights as Jane does a backwards U-turn in the parking lot and peels out.

SUPER: *First Aid and life Saving*
(Chapter 7, The Boy Scout Handbook, 1st Edition)

EXT. HOUSE ON ASPEN ROAD - DAY

The ambulance rig is the first to arrive on scene. Jane parks it past the house to make room for the fire and rescue squad.

Jane and Carlos exit the cab with their Med-kits and stop to look at the damage to the house.

An Aspen tree has crushed the side of the house. Part of the ground floor is in the basement. The rest groans and shifts, ready to complete the collapse.

HELEN, mid-60s, appears in the upper window.

HELEN
 The stairs! The stairs are gone!

CARLOS
 You just hang on, okay? The ladder truck is on the way.

HELEN
 My husband Arthur... He was in the basement.

Jane and Carlos look at what's left of the base of the house.

JANE
 (dubious)
 Yeah? Do you know which side?

Helen wails.

CARLOS
 (low voice)
 We should really talk about your bedside manner.

EXT. BACK OF AMBULANCE - DAY

ARTHUR is on the gurney, as Helen holds his hand, while Jane uses a handpump to inflate an air splint on his leg.

HELEN
 Arthur, I was so scared for you.

JANE

It looks like a clean break. You're lucky, sir.

ARTHUR

I guess. My house not so much.

JANE

Yeah. Maybe next time, get a professional to cut your trees.

ARTHUR

Well, miss, it must be great to have the wisdom of hindsight.

JANE

(hand to chest)

Ow. Now I need medical attention.

INT. JANE'S HOME, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jane comes home in the afternoon to find Will at his homework on the sofa. He looks up.

WILL

You're home early.

JANE

Are you talking to me, now?

WILL

Uncle Greg called. I think he's stopping by.

Through the front window, a truck pulls into the driveway. Jane goes to the door and turns back to Will.

JANE

I need to speak with him alone, yeah? I'm gonna just step outside.

WILL

Sure. Whatever.

She steps out.

EXT. JANE'S HOME, DRIVEWAY - DAY

Greg starts to exit his truck when Jane comes up.

JANE

It's cold. Let's get in the car.

Greg looks at the front of the house and sees Will in the window. He nods to Will and gets back in his truck.

INT. GREG'S TRUCK - DAY

The doors close almost simultaneously.

Greg hands Jane a Garmin eTrex 10 with backpack tether.

GREG
The GPS Navigator Will asked for.
(eyes Jane)
So, what're you gonna tell him?

JANE
I don't know. What would you do?

GREG
I don't have kids.

JANE
You have a nephew. A Godson.

GREG
I do. And he keeps asking me if
you're gonna let him go camping.

JANE
Yeah, I don't know.

GREG
When's the last time you went out?
...On a date, that is.

JANE
I date.

GREG
When?

JANE
You know, like a month ago... Or
was that a year ago?

GREG
Uh-huh. You need to get, you know.

JANE
Sure. Because that's worked out so
well in the past.

GREG
I'm not saying get married.

JANE
I don't think a man is the answer.

GREG
Then a woman...

JANE
Yeah, right. In this town.

GREG
...Or a therapist.

JANE
Like I need someone to tell me how
I'm a Type-A, high-functioning
sociopath with trust issues.

GREG
No, can't have that.
(serious)
Jane, are you stopping him from
going because you don't trust Dave,
or because you don't trust Will?

Jane spots Will, hiding behind the front window curtains.

JANE
I'm... I do - kinda - trust Will.

GREG
So, what's the answer?

JANE
I guess... I guess I'm gonna let
him go. Against my better judgment.

GREG
I'll be by later to help Will pack
his kit. You know, Godfather stuff.

Jane looks at him, tilts her head, opens her mouth, closes it, opens the car door instead, and exits the truck.

EXT. JANE'S HOME, DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jane heads back to the house. In the window, Will looks at Greg, who gives a "Thumb's up." Will breaks into a grin.

INT. JANE'S HOME, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The coffee table has been shifted to the side and Will has his camping gear spread out on the floor.

SUPER: *Ready for the Great Outdoors!*
(Part 3, *The Boy Scout Handbook*, 11th Edition)

Greg stands next to Will and surveys the camping gear.

GREG

The trick is to pack it in the reverse order of what you'll need first, so spare clothes go on the bottom, mess kit on the top.

WILL

And the tent and sleeping bag?

GREG

Strapped to the outside. You still have my old scout knife?

Will takes it from his pocket and shows his uncle.

WILL

Is this what Grampa used, too?

GREG

It was pretty much the same. But your great Grandpa...

Greg takes a side knife, with a leather ringed handle in an embossed sheath, off the mantel and hands it to Will.

GREG

He used that. At some point, the Scouts switched to a pocket knife.

WILL

Wow. This was a Boy Scout knife?

GREG

Says so right on the blade.

WILL

Why is it here?

GREG

It was given to Jane for her camping trips.

WILL

Do you think I could—

JANE (O.S.)

Put it back.

Jane stands in the doorway.

JANE
That's mine and it's not a toy.

GREG
Will knows that.

Will hands Greg the knife.

WILL
Forget it. Let's just finish up.

Jane runs a critical eye over the gear laid out on the floor, perhaps doing her own mental checklist.

JANE
Dinner's in ten. You staying Greg?

GREG
No, I have to pick Amy up from her shift at the hospital.
(to Will)
So let's get to this.

They start to pack the gear in Will's backpack.

INT. JANE'S HOME, FRONT HALL - NIGHT

Will's pack leans next to the front door, ready to go.

Jane comes down the stairs with something in her hand. She glances back up the stairs before kneeling by the backpack.

She holds a soft shell case labeled "Snakebite Kit." With a quick peek up the staircase, she slips it into the pack.

EXT. ESTES PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL, PARKING LOT - DAY

Jane and Will sit in the truck watching as other Scouts say goodbye to their parents.

Dave and his son, DAVE JR., 10, wait over by a cargo passenger van with open doors.

Jane takes a breath and turns to Will.

JANE
Listen, I don't know how much you know and that's probably my fault.

WILL
Huh?

JANE

I just think that you should try to be... self-sufficient on this trip.

WILL

Because Scoutmaster Bob won't be there.

JANE

Yes, and because Dave... Well, let's just say remember what the handbook taught you, yeah? And if you get separated from the troop?

WILL

It's a mountain. I just head down.

JANE

No. In the Rockies, down isn't always down.

WILL

Huh? It'll be fine. I have the GPS navigator. I should go.

Jane holds his attention for a moment longer, then nods.

Will gets out of the vehicle and grabs his pack from the back seat. He goes around to her window.

WILL

And thanks for the snakebite kit.

JANE

Yeah. Try not to need it.

Now Will nods. He turns and walks over to the cargo van as the other kids pile in. Dave gets behind the wheel.

Jane pulls up alongside Dave's window.

JANE

Where's Javier?

DAVE

He woke up with a stomach bug. Still wanted Manny to go. It'll be great. Just the seven of us.

JANE

There's eight of you.

Dave pivots to look back at the kids fastening their seat belts. He turns back to Jane.

DAVE
Oh, sure, I meant just the boys.
Seven not including me.

JANE
(skeptical)
Yeah, okay.

She shifts into gear and slowly moves forward, looking over at Will in the backseat. He gives her a short wave.

Jane speeds up and pulls out of the parking lot.

EXT. TOP OF MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

SUPER: *Campcraft*
(Chapter 3, *The Boy Scout Handbook, 1st Edition*)

The van arrives at turnabout at the end of the road and pulls into the parking area off to the side.

The boys pile out, grab their backpacks, and look around.

Dave exits the vehicle with a frown.

DAVE
Hoo-boy! That took a little longer
than I expected.

DAVE JR.
Maybe we shouldn't have stopped so
long for lunch, dad.

DAVE
Heh, yeah. Well, you know, six boys
and one working bathroom...

DAVE JR.
Dad... Seven boys.

DAVE
Right. But only six needed the
restroom.

DAVE JR.
Uh...

DAVE
Anyway, it's gonna be great, right?

Large snowflakes begin to fall.

Seven young heads slowly turn to look at Dave.

EXT. GERRY'S DINER PARKING LOT - DAY

Jane and Carlos walk back to the ambulance from the diner.

Jane starts to open the driver's side door and stops when she notices the Rockies behind her, reflected in the window.

She turns to see the heavy cloud cover over the mountains.

Jane frowns.

EXT. SCOUT CAMPSITE - DAY

The snow really comes down now, as the troop marches into their camp area from the trail.

DAVE

Whew! We made it. Boy, there
shouldn't be this much snow.

One of the older boys, HENRY, drops his pack.

HENRY

Sir, did you check the weather
before we left?

DAVE

Uh, yeah. It said cloudy, no snow.

HENRY

For up here, not in town, right?

DAVE

Up... Look, This'll be over before
you know it. Let's set up camp.
Henry, you and Manny go find some
firewood. Dave Jr., you and Mike
dig us a fire pit. Lee, you and
Cedric clear snow for our tents.

Will, on the perimeter, hooks his backpack to a tree nub to keep it off of the snow-laden ground. He zips up his parka.

WILL

What should I do?

DAVE

Oh - uh - Will. Go help find some
firewood. I wanna be ready before
we start making dinner.

Will turns around, but Henry and Manny are already gone. He goes to follow them, but heads in a different direction.

INT. BOB'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Shirley sits by Bob's bedside with a magazine when, from the corner of her eye, she senses movement.

She turns as his eyelids flutter and start to open.

SHIRLEY

Bob...?

BOB

Where... What day is it?

Shirley grabs the call button and presses for the nurse.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - DAY

Henry and Manny trudge through snow, going up the mountain. Henry spots what appears to be a cave formed by rock slabs.

HENRY

Hey, let's check in there. Probably some dry kindling.

MANNY

Worth a look.

INT. BOB'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The NURSE checks Bob's blood pressure as Shirley stands by.

BOB

Saturday? It's Saturday??

Mark enters the room.

BOB

Mark! Oh, thank God! So the Scout trip was canceled, right?

MARK

Uh, Dad...

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Down the hall, NURSE #2 works at her Station,

BOB (O.S.)

He what?!

She leans over the counter to find where the shout came from.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - DAY

Henry and Manny arrive at the cave. Henry shines a flashlight around. Nothing. They look at each other and enter.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Not far in, the two boys come across some broken tree branches and start to gather them up.

Henry shines his flashlight over one of the larger sticks and realizes that it appears to have been chewed on.

He shines his light deeper into the cave.

Two pairs of EYES are reflected in the beam.

HENRY

Uh, Manny...

Manny follows the direction of the flashlight as two small BEAR CUBS rise and playfully toddle towards them.

MANNY

We gotta get outa here.

The cave quickly becomes darker. They slowly turn to see that MAMA BEAR has returned.

And she's not happy.

EXT. SCOUT CAMPSITE - DAY

The fire pit is dug and waiting for kindling. The snow is mostly cleared, but still comes down.

Dave Jr. And Cedric toss gear in one of the tents as Mike opens a can of Dinty Moore stew.

Dave surveys how it's going and smiles.

INT. CAVE - DAY

The mother bear lets out a roar and lumbers straight for the cubs. Unfortunately, Henry and Manny are in her way.

They dive to either side as she plows through to her cubs.

Seeing offspring unharmed, the bear turns the young scouts.

Henry and Manny scramble up and hotfoot it out of the cave.

EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The boys scream as they run back to the campsite.

Mama bear pauses at the mouth of the cave to let out another roar before she lopez after them with murder in her eyes.

EXT. OVER THE RIDGE - DAY

Will gathers kindling from the canopy under a tree. He hears a muffled shout. The snow has deadened sound from traveling.

Will stops and listens. He hears nothing but wind whistling through the trees. He shrugs and continues to gather.

EXT. SCOUT CAMPSITE - DAY

Dave struggles with his pop-up tent, which is bigger than the space where he opened it. He stops as he hears shouts.

HENRY (O.S.)
Bear! Bear! Bear!!

Dave looks up as Henry and Manny tear into the campsite, screaming their heads off.

MANNY
A bear's coming!

HENRY
Run! Bear!

And then Dave sees the black bear bearing down on them.

DAVE
Runrunrun! Everyone run!

Dave abandons his tent and runs for the path.

He glances back to see a boy go for his backpack.

DAVE
Leave it! Run!

Mama bear enters the campsite as the troop tears down the path. She lumbers to the edge of the path and roars.

The troop, Dave in the lead, picks up the pace.

The bear returns to the campsite, and she proceeds to angrily claw and chomp through all of it.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Dave frantically arrives at the cargo van first. He fumbles with the keys, then jumps in and starts the van.

The boys slam against the van and pound on it to be let in.

Dave realizes his mistake and leans back to unlock the sliding door. The boys immediately pile in.

DAVE JR.

Dad, go!

Dave needs no more encouragement. He shifts into gear and, sliding in the fresh blanket of snow, peels out of there.

SUPER: *Scouting Skills*

(Chapter 4, The Boy Scout Handbook, 5th Edition)

EXT. SCOUT CAMPSITE - DAY

Will, with an armful of kindling, walks out of the trees and up to the perimeter of the camp.

He scans across the campsite, registers the devastation, and promptly drops his bundle of sticks.

WILL

H- Hello?

He sees a movement in Dave's lopsided pop-up tent and takes a hesitant step forward.

A claw rips through the tent wall and the she-bear sticks her head through and looks right at Will.

Will backs up. He spies his backpack on the branch nub and slowly pulls it off. He continues to back up...

...opposite to the path down to the mountain road.

The bear tears away the rest of the tent and makes a beeline for Will, her growl builds to an enraged roar.

Will slips his backpack on, spins, and runs for a dense copse of saplings thirty feet behind the campsite.

EXT. TREE COPSE - CONTINUOUS

Will makes it into the trees as the bear slams into the copse behind him. Will turns to see if she can fit.

The bear rears up on her hind legs, using her forepaws to spread the young trees apart. She drops back down, a little too close to Will for comfort.

He continues to back away.

A vicious claw reaches into the copse and grazes Will's palm.

He falls back, dripping blood. His Canada Goose patch snags on a snapped branch and tears off of his left sleeve.

Will gets up and backs further away through the trees, clutching his gashed hand.

Mama bear continues to claw through the tight copse of trees.

Because he moves backwards, Will doesn't realize the trees sit at the top rim of an escarpment.

His next step back sends him over the edge.

WILL

Aaa-aah!

Mama bear simply watches Will disappear from view.

EXT. ESTES PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Jane exits the side, dressed in her civvies. Carlos follows.

CARLOS

You're off tomorrow?

JANE

Yeah, but still on call.

CARLOS

Cool. See you Monday?

JANE

Monday.

They both get into their SUV's.

INT. JANE'S VEHICLE - DAY

Jane starts the truck when her cellphone beeps.

INSERT: Group TEXT MESSAGE from Dave:

Camp trip off. Bear attack. All safe.
Gerry's Diner. 2 hrs.

EXT. JANE'S VEHICLE - DAY

She pounds on her steering wheel and curses. The sound is drowned out by a passing semi-truck.

EXT. SCOUT CAMPSITE - DAY

The bear, back at the camp, roots through the belongings. She cuts her paw on the partially opened stew can.

She drops to her haunches to lick the blood from her paw pad.

The blood drips into the snow.

EXT. GERRY'S DINER PARKING LOT - DAY

Jane leans on her truck and watches other parents wildly talk about the text. DAN, one of the fathers, steps up to Jane.

DAN

Not joining in the speculation?

JANE

I don't need any more reason to be pissed about this.

DAN

Whaddaya mean?

JANE

Bob came out of his coma. He said he expressly didn't want Dave to take the kids without him. He was yelling so much that they had to sedate him.

DAN

Well, we'll have them back soon.

JANE

Yeah.

The cargo van pulls into the parking lot and draws to a stop.

The kids all pile out as the parents rush to them.

Everyone talks at once. The parents ask what happened, and the boys describe their close call with being bear-mauled.

Jane, frowns. She walks over as she looks for Will. He hasn't exited the van, yet, and her concern grows with each step.

Dave comes around from the driver side. Jane steps into the back of the van and scans the empty seats.

He's not there.

Jane steps out and up to Dave.

JANE
Dave, where's Will?

MANNY
Wasn't he...?

HENRY
Omigod! Will!

DAVE
He's... What? Isn't he...?

JANE
You stupid son of a bitch! Did you leave my boy on the mountain??

DAVE
No- I- I thought I had them all...

JANE
In the two hours since you left, you didn't do a head count? Are you fu- Are you kidding me?!

DAVE
Look, it was pretty intense, and everyone was talking the whole way down, so I was sure that Will—

Jane turns and stomps off and pulls out her cell phone.

JANE
(mutters)
Should've let you die of snakebite.

She punches in a stored phone number.

JANE
Yeah, it's Jane Beaufort. Let me speak to Sheriff Keenan.

INT. GERRY'S DINER - DAY

The kids sip hot cocoa at a large table as the parents hover nearby when SHERIFF (Frank) KEENAN, 58 and grizzled, (former Scoutmaster Frank), enters.

SHERIFF KEENAN

Okay, I need to know exactly what happened.

Everyone starts to talk at once.

LATER:

The kids file out the front door with their parents. The Sheriff has a sidebar with Jane.

SHERIFF KEENAN

Jane, I tried. Rocky Mountain Rescue is out on six other serious calls. So's the fire department.

As if on cue, Jane's pager beeps. She ignores it.

SHERIFF KEENAN

If I pull my deputies off then others are gonna suffer. And, well... you know, frankly, we aren't equipped for this kind of thing. That's what—

He stops talking as Dave comes over.

DAVE

I just wanted to say... I really thought I had them all.

Jane looks like she's about to punch him when the Sheriff steps in. Keenan glances to where Dave Jr. waits by the door.

SHERIFF KEENAN

Dave, why don'tcha take your boy and get on home before Jane changes her mind about bringing you up on charges? ...Or I do.

Dave opens his mouth, thinks the better of it, nods, and beats a hasty retreat.

JANE

Damn it! I should never have let him go. Not with that idiot.

SHERIFF KEENAN

Now, Jane, that kind of thinking won't help anyone. If R.M.R.S. is still busy at first light, I'll personally round up some deputies and start the search, 'kay?

Jane looks at him for a moment, furiously thinking.

JANE

Frank, you're right. Your deputies aren't really set up or trained for this kind of thing. I shouldn't be asking them to go up there.

SHERIFF KEENAN

That's right. Now it seems the boys left their gear up on the mountain, so Will has plenty to keep himself fed and warm until morning. Hell, I seem to recall you camping all by yourself when you were younger than Will, so I'm sure you've prepared him well for this sort of thing.

Jane bites her lip and nods.

JANE

Yeah. Okay, see you in the morning.

Jane walks quickly out the door.

The Sheriff watches through the window as she gets in her truck and peels out of the lot.

He shakes his head and turns as a waitress passes.

SHERIFF KEENAN

Diane, could I get a coffee to go?

INT. JANE'S VEHICLE - DAY

As she drives, Jane places a call on speaker phone.

EXT. R.M.R.S. BASE IN BOULDER, COLORADO - ESTABLISHING

The Rocky Mountain Rescue Squad is in a wide one story building with a small hangar and a chopper pad on the roof.

INT. R.M.R.S.] BASE IN BOULDER, COLORADO - DAY

The locker room. A cell phone's muffled ring goes off. The source comes from a locker labeled "Greg Beaufort."

EXT. JANE'S HOME - DAY

Jane pulls up, runs into the house and throws the lights on.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

Dave pulls the van into a parking spot.

INT. DAVE'S VAN - DAY

Dave Jr. looks up from his Gameboy.

DAVE JR.

What're we doing at mom's place?

DAVE

I called her. I know this was our weekend, but I need you to stay with her tonight, buddy.

DAVE JR.

Why?

DAVE

I'm gonna go back and get Will.

Dave Jr. stares wide-eyed at his dad.

DAVE JR.

Really?

INT. JANE'S HOME, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gear piles up on the living room floor as Jane runs around the house grabbing everything she could possibly need.

"Be prepared."

There's her old compass, a cooking kit, and a canteen.

There's also some space blankets, a hank of rip cord, first aid kit, granola bars, chocolate, etc.

She tosses a rolled up sleeping bag next to her climbing rope and a small pop-up tent.

Jane stops at the mantel where her grandfather's old Scout side knife sits. She opens her belt and slips the sheath on.

Jane turns and eyes the items strewn across the floor, taking a mental inventory.

She stops, frowning.

Jane takes out her phone again and places a call.

EXT. ESTES PARK TRUE VALUE HARDWARE - DAY

Jane pulls up to the curb as the staff bring the sidewalk items back inside for the night.

A shop clerk sees Jane and yells into the open shop door.

The proprietor comes out almost immediately with a brand new folding shovel/pick-ax and hands it to Jane through her open car door window.

She nods her thanks and takes off.

SUPER: *Trail to Eagle*
(Part 5, *The Boy Scout Handbook*, 10th Edition)

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Jane ascends the winding road in her Land Cruiser.

EXT. TOP OF MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Jane reaches the end of the road, or so it seems. The snow has completely blanketed the turnabout/parking area.

She barely has the car turned off before she's out the door with her gear and runs/trudges through the snow up the path to where the campsite was.

EXT. SCOUT CAMPSITE - DAY

Jane arrives at the top of the path to see the mess. The bear has torn up what little had been set up of the campsite.

She comes across a dark stain under a layer of new snow.

Jane drops to her knees and sweeps away the snow, only to realize in the diminishing light that the blood is thicker and darker than human blood. She spots the open can.

JANE
Bear blood?

As she looks around the site, Jane attempts to reconstruct what happened, looking for a hint to help find her son.

After a thorough search, she comes to the bundle of sticks, now half-submerged in the snow.

She scans beyond them until she spots the copse of trees that are clawed and broken apart at the leading edge.

JANE

Smart boy.

Jane makes her way into the thicket of saplings and finds the torn-off arm patch from Will's parka.

It's lightly spattered with blood. She shakes off her worry.

But Jane sifts through the snow at her feet to make sure that there isn't a larger amount of blood. She doesn't find any.

Struggling through the copse, she arrives at the rim of the escarpment, looks over, and sees nothing but fresh snow.

Jane steps back to where the patch was torn off. She checks the patch on her on left arm and starts to back up until her patch snags on a snapped branch.

She takes two more steps back, stops, and turns.

Jane grabs a sapling and pulls herself back, breathing heavily. ("Why'd it have to be heights?!")

Jane gets her breath under control, inches forward, and looks down the steep cliffside. She quickly steps back again.

JANE

WILL!

Her voice neither carries, nor echoes, in the sound-baffled insulation of snow.

INT. DAVE'S VAN, MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Dave drives up. Even with the wipers on full, the snow makes it increasingly difficult to see.

He leans over to turn up the heat in the dashboard vents. When looks back up, there's a full-grown elk in the road.

Dave slams on the brakes and swerves toward the rockface side of the road, but the van just fishtails around the elk and skids to the edge, taking out the guardrail.

The back half of the van hangs off the road. Dave can see the elk through his windshield as it stares at him.

DAVE

No, no, no, no...

The van rocks on the brink as Dave claws at his seatbelt.

He manages to press the belt release.

EXT. DAVE'S VAN, MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

The elk, curious, takes a step closer.

The van goes over the edge and down the side of the mountain.

DAVE

Noooo!

The back end hits a boulder, shatters the side windows, cracks the windshield, and spins the van back around.

Dave bounces around and careens front-first down the slope.

The nose of the van crumples into a large tree.

Dave, seatbelt-less, slams his head into the front windshield, and is immediately knocked unconscious.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

The elk turns, and continues up the mountain.

EXT. ESCARPMENT BEYOND SCOUT CAMPSITE - DAY

Jane fashions a web-sling into a sit-harness with a carabiner through it, clipped into a figure 8 knot on a dynamic line.

The other end is wrapped twice around one of the sturdier saplings and trails down the drop. She begins her descent.

Over halfway down, however, she reaches the end of her rope.

Either twenty-five feet back up, or a ten foot slide down.

She closes her eyes in a wince and lets go of the rope.

The friction from the tree wrap slows her descent a little, but she gets the air knocked out of her at the bottom.

The other end of the rope whips down.

Jane takes a moment to get her breath back, then slowly stands and looks around.

The cliff creates shadows, so she pulls out her flashlight.

Her light plays across the shattered remains of Will's GPS unit scattered in the snow at the base of the escarpment.

JANE

Yeah, not great.

Behind her, and wrapping around to her left, is the small cliff. To her right it drops fast.

JANE

Where would you go, Will?

Jane slips out of her makeshift harness, coils up her rope, and goes straight, towards the gentle incline.

EXT. ESTES PARK MEDICAL CENTER, LOADING DOCK - DAY

Carlos sits on the rear of his ambulance sipping a coffee.

Sheriff Keenan leans against the dock, facing him.

CARLOS

And this was what? Three hours ago?

SHERIFF KEENAN

More like three-and-a-half. Now I can't reach her on the phone, and she ain't home.

CARLOS

Uh-huh.

SHERIFF KEENAN

Uh-huh, what?

CARLOS

Frank, she's gone. She's on the mountain. What'd you think she'd do when you told her to wait?

SHERIFF KEENAN

Yup. Damn.

They hear another call come in on the radio in the cab.

CARLOS

I gotta...

SHERIFF KEENAN

Yup. Me, too.

EXT. JANE'S SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - DAY

SUPER: *Nature*

(Chapter 6, The Boy Scout Handbook, 12th & 13th Editions)

Jane trudges through the snow when she hears something and stops to listen. Straining, she picks up a whimpering sound.

Jane spots the source a dozen yards up, nestled in the trees.

A Gray WOLF.

The two of them stare at each other across the distance.

Then, the wolf lifts its right hind leg, and Jane can make out the cable snare cinched above the paw.

JANE

I'm sorry, I don't have time for...

The wolf whimpers again and sits docilely.

Jane drops her backpack.

JANE

Yeah, fine. Let's do this.

Jane moves closer to the wolf. It stands up, expectantly.

JANE

Okay, let's be calm...
(she tilts her head)
...girl.

The wolf is at the end of her reach when Jane gets to her.

First, Jane holds out a gloved hand for the wolf to sniff. The wolf merely looks at it and back at Jane.

JANE

Okay, fine. But helping hand, yeah?
Not food.

She slips the glove off and now the wolf sniffs it and gives it a lick. She looks back at Jane, then her own hind leg.

JANE

Right to the point, huh?

Jane makes her way to the rear leg as the wolf regards her with interest.

JANE

Easy, girl, I'm just going to...

She picks up the leg, releases the slip and pulls it off.

The second the wolf is freed, it bounds off into the snow.

JANE

You're welcome!

EXT. FURTHER ALONG THE MOUNTAIN - DAY

The sun begins to set on a clearing of pure unadulterated snow.... until it's marred as a pair of boots wade into it.

They come to a halt.

The owner of the boots is Will.

He seems none the worse for wear, but he does look concerned.

In each direction, the ground slopes upwards.

WILL

"Down isn't always down." Okay, I get it.

Will looks up at the trees around him.

WILL

No GPS navigator, and no sense of direction, so...

He drops his backpack and proceeds to climb one of the fir trees with low starter branches.

Halfway up the tree, and Will still can't see through the branches to get his bearings. He reaches for the next limb.

...And hears a high-pitched growl.

He looks up into the tree and sees a BOBCAT staring back.

Will freezes as the bobcat heads straight down the trunk... right at him.

He quickly holds up an arm to protect his face.

But the bobcat veers, and jumps out onto a branch. It takes two bounds, and leaps onto the bower of a neighboring tree.

Will watches as the cat scampers down that tree and runs off.

Will stays there for a moment, as he tries to get his breath under control. Inhale, exhale.

He scrambles back down.

He slips off the last branch and lands on his rear-end.

WILL

Yep, just gonna stay on the ground.

He flops back in the snow, still breathing hard.

EXT. JANE'S SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - DAY

The sun is below the horizon and Jane uses her flashlight to move forward. The snowfall cuts down on her visibility.

It also covers any tracks that Will might have made.

She stops in frustration.

JANE
Will! Wii-iill!

She listens intently. Nothing but silence.

Jane tightens her backpack straps and forges ahead.

EXT. WILL'S SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

SUPER: *Camping*
(Chapter 9, *The Boy Scout Handbook*, 11th Edition)

Darkness falls and Will comes to a stop.

WILL
Yay. "Let's go camping."

He decides on a spot to set up and uses a pine branch to clear away the snow.

Will sets up his pup tent with some difficulty as the stakes don't easily accept going into the cold ground.

The ground is also too hard to dig a fire pit, but there are some rocks around, so he makes an enclosed fire area.

The pine branches burn well, but also snap and pop loudly.

WILL
Well, if the fire doesn't keep 'em
away, the sound of gunshots should.

EXT. JANE'S SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

On the other side of the ridge, Jane has come to the same conclusion and sets camp.

She uses her folding shovel/pickax, and has her fire pit dug with little difficulty.

And unlike Will, she has a pop-up tent.

Jane gets a feeling of being watched, and turns to find a pair of eyes reflected in the fire.

The wolf is at the perimeter of her encampment... with a dead hare in her jaws.

The wolf drops the hare, looks at Jane, then turns and leaps back into the darkness.

JANE

I guess you do know how to say
"thank you."

EXT. WILL'S SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Will sits by the fire, eating a few of his granola bars and taking small sips from his canteen.

The snow has let up, and he listens for the sounds of rescue, only to be rewarded by a particularly loud pop from the fire.

EXT. JANE'S SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Jane's hare roasts on a rough-hewn spit.

She stands up to stare out for any other signs of campfires, but it's still overcast and moonless. Any possibility of smoke from Will's campsite doesn't register in the sky.

EXT. WILL'S CAMPSITE - DAY

Morning. Will is halfway through packing up his small encampment. He carefully folds the tent, rolls up his sleeping bag, and repacks his backpack.

Last, he douses the embers with fresh snow and stands there ready to go, but not sure which direction.

Will slowly pivots 360 degrees. Each way leads him upwards.

He shrugs and sets off in the direction he'd been heading.

EXT. ESTES PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Carlos and Sheriff Keenan are in the parking area, sipping coffee from Thermoses, and bundled up for the mountain.

SHERIFF KEENAN

At least it's not snowing up there
this morning.

CARLOS
(shrugs)
Eh, snow.

SHERIFF KEENAN
Yup.

Two members of the Fire Department rescue squad and two more EMTs come out of the station.

They toss their gear in the back of a pair of SUV's driven by DEPUTIES and pile in.

INT. LEAD SUV - DAY

Sheriff Keenan buckles up in the passenger seat and turns to his Deputy.

SHERIFF KEENAN
A'ight, let's move out.

EXT. WILL'S CAMPSITE - DAY

All is quiet in the small dell where Will spent the night.

The solitude is broken by the sound of boots running/ crunching through the snow.

Jane enters the area and drops to her knees in front of Will's makeshift firepit.

She pulls off a glove and feels the stones around the pit.

Cold. Very cold. She brings her hand back to her face and blows some warmth into it.

Jane stands and surveys the site.

JANE
Okay, Will, this is you, yeah?

Jane walks the perimeter of the encampment, looking for any sign that her son was there.

She arrives at the outskirts where Will set off and soon finds a clear boot print in the packed snow. Jane firmly sets her Timberland boot next to it.

The treads match perfectly.

She looks off in the direction that he went, pulls the compass from her pocket, and unfolds the lid.

JANE
Wrong way, kid.

She hikes up her backpack, takes a step forward and stops.

A COYOTE stands in her path, feet set as if he has no intention of moving out of the way.

JANE
Hey, fella... What are you doing
all the way up here?

The coyote bares his teeth and takes a step forward.

Jane slowly backs away. She reaches behind, slips the folding shovel from her backpack straps, and wields it like a club.

JANE
I don't want any trouble, but—

She hears a movement behind her and glances back to see two more COYOTES begin to close in.

Jane swings the shovel at them and they back up a step, but immediately come forward again.

JANE
Yeah. Not good.

She quickly takes a look to see where the Alpha is, and he's moved closer, openly snarling now.

One of the Betas leans in and nips at Jane's ankle.

JANE
Hey!

The pain makes her drop to one knee.

Jane immediately realizes her mistake.

The Beta goes for her left arm and latches on.

Jane forces herself to stand, as the teeth cut through her coat. The coyote hangs on.

She awkwardly hits the scavenger upside the head with the curved back of the shovel. It lets go and backs off.

The other Beta steps in. She swings the shovel again, threateningly, and it takes a step back.

But, now the Alpha in her path leaps at her. Jane spins back too late, seeing the open jaws hurtling at her.

There's flash of gray and the coyote is just gone.

Jane turns to see the wolf had come from the side and caught the coyote's neck, mid-leap, in her jaws.

The wolf shakes the Alpha in her clamped mouth before she flings it at the two Betas.

The wolf jumps in front of Jane, takes up a protective stance and growls.

The three coyotes scamper off, tails between their legs.

The wolf looks at Jane with what appears to be a smile.

Jane breathes hard.

JANE

Yeah, thanks Virginia. Sorry, I'm
fresh out of dead rabbits.

The wolf tilts her head at Jane, then bounds off, again.

Jane shakes her head and smiles.

She continues on her way in search of Will, but this time, she has the folding tool in hand, opened to the pick-ax side.

EXT. BELOW MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Dave wakes, half covered in snow from the side windows.

He quickly realizes that his legs are trapped in the crushed front of the van.

Dave painfully reaches into a pocket for his phone, but it's not there.

He spots it in the passenger-side well half buried in the snow that built up overnight...

Just out of reach.

He's able to open the glove compartment for the ice scraper.

Dave cries out in pain as he uses the scraper to pull the phone close enough to pick up. He turns the phone on.

DAVE

Comeoncomeoncomeon.

No signal.

SUPER: *Let's Go Swimming!*
(Chapter 11, *The Boy Scout Handbook*, 10th Edition)

EXT. MOUNTAIN STREAM - DAY

The water is more like a rapids with the addition of the snowfall from the previous night.

Will stands at the bank, torn. A high, steep embankment keeps him from simply following the rapids downstream.

He turns to look upstream where some mossy stones poke out above the rushing water.

Will hikes back to them and awkwardly, but slowly, crosses.

He's halfway across when several brook trout leap over the stones around him on their downstream journey.

Will is startled and, with a twist of his ankle, slips off the rock and into the rapids.

WILL

Aagh!

He flails about and grabs at a low branch as he's carried away. The branch breaks away in his hand.

Will slides and bumps over the next section of rocks... and then he becomes submerged in the water.

EXT. MOUNTAIN STREAM/LAKE DELTA - DAY

The overflowing stream rushes into an iced-over mountain lake and takes all debris with it.

Will gets his head above water long enough to see a log get sucked under the ice ahead of him. With nothing to grab onto, he reaches behind and gropes at his backpack.

The delta comes up fast, and there's a few large branches caught near the outer edges.

Will manages to get his tent partially pulled out from the bungee tie-down, when he's sucked under the ice.

EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

Will is drawn further into the lake, clawing at the ice, when he comes to a jerky stop. The tent has caught on a branch.

He twists back, grabs the tent, and pulls against the onrush.

Will slowly drags himself back toward the delta and comes up gasping for air... when the tent rips away.

Wide-eyed and reaching out, Will's sucked back under the ice.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

The two SUVs drive past Dave's accident and pull up next to Jane's vehicle, now blanketed in a layer of snow.

Everyone gets out of the cars as Carlos and Sheriff Keenan walk over to Jane's Land Cruiser.

Carlos wipes the snow off from the driver side window and peers into the car.

He sees crumpled coffee cups and paper bags in the passenger footwell and some Avril Lavigne CD's in the divider.

CARLOS
Definitely hers.

Sheriff Keenan checks the depth of the snow on the roof against the snow on the road shoulder.

SHERIFF KEENAN
Yup, you were right. She prob'ly went not thirty minutes after she left Gerry's.

DEPUTY #1
I thought we were meeting a park ranger here.

SHERIFF KEENAN
Maybe they're already at the campsite. Let's get a move on.

The group gears up and heads to the snow-covered path that leads to the Scout Campsite.

EXT. MOUNTAIN STREAM - DAY

Jane arrives at the stream and takes off her backpack. She dips her canteen into the flowing water, letting it refill as she looks around, eying the mossy rock crossing.

JANE
Did you head back? No, always forward, right? So...

She drops a chlorine dioxide tablet into her canteen, recaps it, pulls her backpack back on, and heads to the rocks.

Jane smiles as she notes the muddy boot print in the bank.

She tightens her straps and sets off across the rocks.

Once across, Jane looks for corresponding boot prints in the opposite bank.

Nothing.

Jane frowns. She takes a few steps downstream and doesn't see any disturbances in the ground.

The same goes for the course perpendicular from the stream.

Jane doubles back and stares out at the rocks that she just traversed. Something looks wrong.

She steps back out onto the crossing and finds the spot where the moss has slid off from the stone.

Jane passes it and turns around. She places her boot in the same spot and slides it out. It matches.

She stands there, on a boulder in the middle of the rapids, and stares downstream.

JANE

Yeah, not good at all.

Jane returns to the opposite shore and sets off downstream with an eye on the rapids.

EXT. SCOUT CAMPSITE - DAY

Carlos is the first to arrive at the devastated campsite. He drops his gear and looks around.

Sheriff Keenan arrives with the rest of the group in tow.

He stops at the perimeter and lets out a low whistle.

SHERIFF KEENAN

This was one angry bear.

DEPUTY #1

Ya think?

CARLOS

No ranger, here, either.

SHERIFF KEENAN

She radioed. They're still all busy assisting mountain rescue on other cases.

CARLOS

I guess weather and hikers don't mix well.

SHERIFF KEENAN

Any sign where they might've gone?

CARLOS

Not really. The snow's pretty much obliterated any tracks.

SHERIFF KEENAN

Yup. I guess we're gonna have to spread out into pairs. See what we can see.

FIRE RESCUE #1

Sounds right. Radios on channel 3?

FIRE RESCUE #2

I'm sure they're doing fine.

DEPUTY #1

Really?

DEPUTY #2

A night on the mountain in this?

The Fire Rescue guys and EMTs look at each other and laugh.

CARLOS

You don't know this family.

EXT. MOUNTAIN STREAM/LAKE DELTA - DAY

Jane arrives at the foot of the stream, where the water enters the small, frozen-over, mountain lake.

She almost immediately sees the tattered remains of Will's tent snagged on the branch.

Jane falls to her knees.

JANE

No!

She drops her backpack and rushes over to where the ice meets the shore. Using a branch, she attempts to hook the tent.

After a few stabs, she gets it. Jane starts to pull it toward her. The branch, tent and all, gets sucked under the lake.

Jane falls back into a sitting position and drops her head into her hands.

Her face slowly transforms from sorrow to fortitude.

JANE

No.

She stands with her backpack and pulls the binoculars out.

JANE

C'mon, Will.

Jane scans right to left and spots a PUMA across the lake.

It appears to be stalking prey on the left shore.

She swings the binoculars around to where the Puma faces when, from halfway down the right shore, she hears:

WILL (O.C.)

Mom!?

Jane drops the binoculars and spots Will, alive. He quickly uses a walking staff to push snow over the embers of a fire.

He is the puma's prey.

Will steps out on the ice and starts to jog/limp to Jane.

JANE

No!

Jane drops her backpack - with the shovel/pickaxe - as she and the puma both spring into a run at the same time.

EXT. FROZEN MOUNTAIN LAKE - DAY

Jane quickly realizes that there's no way that she's going to reach her son before the puma does.

Will is confused to see Jane run at him with all out speed...

Until he turns to see the puma.

Then he really pours it on, ignoring his sprained ankle.

As the puma closes in, Will trips. He slides forward as his staff slips from his grasp and skitters across the ice.

The puma, in an effort to stop Will's forward slide, slams a paw down, ripping into his back calf.

WILL

Arrrgh!

Jane, almost there, goes into a foot-first slide while she snatches up the staff and slides back up onto her feet.

In a continued motion, she swings the staff, like a cudgel, onto the puma's hindquarters.

The puma pulls his claw from Will's calf, spraying blood across the ice, and turns his attention to Jane.

JANE

That's right, you bastard, look at me. Now it's a fight.

The puma takes a swipe at Jane with his front paw and she blocks it with Will's walking staff.

She baits it to put distance between them and Will.

JANE

Will, move away!

Will rolls over and pulls himself back. He pushes on his one good leg, leaving a trail of blood on the ice.

The puma turns to look at Will.

JANE

Over here, cat, c'mon!

The puma turns back to face Jane.

WILL

M-mom?

The puma leans back on his haunches and springs at Jane.

She's ready. She holds the staff parallel, moves it up the cat's open jaws and shoves it to the rear molars as she rolls back and kick-flips the puma over her.

A claw swipes her upper arm as he sails past, but Jane ignores it and spins around to face the puma again.

The cat, in an effort to flip to his feet, lands awkwardly on his side and there's a sharp "CRACK!"

The puma scrambles to his feet, but Jane stares at the ice: She spots a hairline fracture in the surface.

And now she's between the puma and Will.

The big cat shakes his head and sidles away from the crack in the ice, looking for an angle to take Jane down.

There's a flash of gray in the trees beyond the puma, and Jane searches the shoreline, keeping a wary eye on the cat.

Nothing is there. No wolf to save her this time.

Jane leans out with the staff and starts to rhythmically beat the knobby head on the ice where the crack appeared.

This seems to confuse the puma for a moment. He yowls at her in his frustration. She returns it with a...

JANE

Rroo-aarr!

The puma actually flinches at that, but quickly leans back on his haunches again.

Jane can't risk the same move with Will behind her, so she scampers to the side, hoping to get the puma back on the weak part of the ice.

She swings the staff wildly at the cat, still sidling over.

The puma doesn't take the bait. He leaps again as Jane brings the staff across her chest in a defensive position.

The cat's front paws slam into the staff, knocking Jane down to the ice.

The claws curl around the staff and slice into her coat. The puma brings his head to Jane's face and opens his jaws.

WILL

No!

Jane pushes the staff - and the large cat - away with all her might. The slashes in her coat pull up with the claws.

She risks a glance at Will, who tries to stand.

JANE

Stay back!

With an extra effort, Jane pushes the staff on one side, throwing the puma off balance. She twists and kicks at the same time and they slide apart on the ice.

They both jump quickly to their feet, the puma immediately takes a run at Jane.

She grips the staff like a batter waiting for a fastball and swings with all she's got.

The sound matches the loud crack from the ice moments before.

The puma continues on, but dazed. Jane easily sidesteps him.

The cat digs in with his front paws, allowing his haunches to swing around. He clearly doesn't want his back to Jane.

She in turn, spins with the staff, ready for another pitch.

But the puma needs to take a moment, shaking his head several times. This time, the blood on the ice is his.

Jane realizes that the crack in the ice is now between them.

JANE
Here kitty, kitty...

The puma still disoriented, tries to shake out the ringing in his ears... Something Jane takes advantage of.

The cat takes a tentative step forward.

Jane swings the staff down in front of the puma. Another "Crack!" The puma recoils and rears back on his hind legs.

She quickly pulls the stick up for another blow, and as the puma's forelegs come down on the ice, so does the staff.

His front paws hit the ice and keep going, plunging into the lake headfirst. He splashes frantically around in the icy water as he claws at, and breaks away, the edges of the hole.

Without missing a beat, Jane runs/slides over to Will.

JANE
Are you all right?

WILL
I... I think so.

Jane unties the Boy Scout bandana from Will's neck and reties it around the gash on his calf.

JANE
Okay, let's haul a- our butts.

She gets an arm around Will, helps him to his feet, and hands him back the walking staff.

They hobble back across the ice towards Jane's backpack, past the anguished roars of the struggling puma.

Will, who now really depends on the staff for support, glances down and sees the teeth marks embedded in the center.

He looks back at the determined face of his mother.

Something new for Will: He's in awe of her.

WILL

You were—

JANE

What I needed to be. Keep moving.
The cat'll get out and I'd prefer
not to go another round with him.

Will peeks back over his shoulder.

The puma, soaked and freezing, has, indeed, gotten out.

WILL

Uh, mom...

Jane looks back as the puma attempts to shake off the icy water. He gives Jane a look, before he turns away and slinks back to the other shore.

WILL

Looks like he didn't want a second
round, either.

They arrive at the edge of the lake and Jane takes a moment to look at Will before she pulls him into a desperate, and unexpected, hug.

JANE

Are you—

WILL

I'm okay, mom, really... Just...

Will passes out from his blood loss and, maybe, hunger.

EXT. R.M.R.S. HELIPAD IN BOULDER, COLORADO - DAY

The sun starts to go down on another day.

Greg and several other members of The Rocky Mountain Rescue Squad exit a recently landed helicopter and head toward the rooftop door for the main base of operations.

A woman comes out onto the roof and talks to Greg, unheard over the sound of the chopper blades winding down.

INT. R.M.R.S. BASE - MOMENTS LATER

Greg listens on a landline phone in the break room as he paces almost frantically. He stops.

GREG

Yesterday?! Who's looking for them?

SUPER: *First Aid*

(Chapter 11, The Boy Scout Handbook, 11th Edition)

EXT. FURTHER UPSTREAM - NIGHT

Will wakes up next to a crackling campfire.

He glances under the space blanket that now covers him to see that his leg wound has been properly dressed.

He finds that he's laid out on a travois sled, and runs his fingers over the expert knots that lash it together.

Will glances over at the fire, which is mostly embers now. A large trout is on a wooden spit, roasting over the firepit.

He hears a rustling in the woods and whips his head around.

Jane, unceremoniously, drops a new bundle of firewood.

JANE

Good. You're awake.

LATER

The trout dinner is finished, as evinced by the fish skeleton Jane tosses in the fire. She eyes Will curiously.

JANE

You were pulled under the lake,
yeah? How'd you get out?

WILL

It was pretty scary... I was under
for like a minute or more, I guess.

JANE

Yeah?

WILL

Yeah. The current took me toward
the lake shore, so I - well - stood
up. The ice was thinner there, and
broke easily.

JANE

Okay.

WILL

Yeah?

JANE

No, not okay. That could've gone a whole other way.

WILL

Yeah... Anyway, the first thing I did was start a fire to warm up and dry out my stuff.

Jane reaches into her backpack, breaks off a chunk of dark chocolate, and hands it to him.

JANE

Smart. Here, eat this.

WILL

Maybe later. I feel kinda sleepy.

JANE

You lost blood. The fish was for iron. This is for your blood sugar. You'll feel better.

Will takes the chocolate.

WILL

Good for both puma and Dementor attacks.

JANE

What?

WILL

How did you- I can't believe you found me.

JANE

You're my son.

WILL

I know, but this is maybe the first time it's felt like I am.

JANE

Well... You are.

WILL

Even if you resent me?

JANE
You heard that, huh?

WILL
Heard it. Felt it.

Jane stares at Will for a long moment, taking in the child she came so close to losing.

JANE
Yeah... The thing is, it turns out that - surprise! - you may be more important to me than I realized... Let's not make a big thing of it.

WILL
Sure. Okay.
(he rolls over to sleep)
I love you, too, mom.

JANE
Goodnight, Will. Get some rest.

WILL
(drifts off)
You were totally badass with that puma... I can't wait... to... tell... Uncle... Gr...

Jane steps over and makes sure that he's well covered by the space blanket. She brushes his hair back with a hand.

JANE
(quietly)
Yeah, you're pretty badass, yourself, kid.

EXT. HELIPAD IN BOULDER, COLORADO - DAY

The sun is barely up as Greg, his team leader, LARS, The medic, KELSO, and their trainee, BRENDON all walk to the chopper, which the CHOPPER PILOT spins up.

Lars gets situated in the co-pilot seat and puts on his helmet/headset while the rest buckle up in the back.

Greg is grim and distracted, so Kelso helps Brendon figure out the five-point seatbelt harness.

CHOPPER PILOT
Everyone set?

Lars turns to see three raised thumbs. He nods to the Pilot.

The chopper rises, and quickly heads towards the mountains.

SUPER: *Navigation*

(Chapter 11, The Boy Scout Handbook, 12 & 13th Editions)

EXT. FURTHER UPSTREAM - DAY

Will wakes up to see that his mother has mostly packed up the camp and now shovels snow and dirt on the fire.

She stops when she realizes that Will is awake.

JANE

It's granola bars and water for breakfast... and another piece of chocolate.

She hands him the bars and a canteen.

WILL

Yum.

JANE

How's the leg feel? Think you'll be able to walk?

Will stretches out his leg and tries not to wince.

WILL

Yeah, it's not so bad... I think.

Will starts when he sees the wolf staring at them from up on a ridge twenty yards away.

WILL

Uh, mom?

Jane turns to see what Will stares at.

JANE

Huh? Oh. She's okay. She's with me.
(yells at the wolf)
Hey! Virginia! Where were you when we had cat problems?

The wolf looks sheepish. She turns her head, as if hearing a sound, and bounds away.

JANE

Whuss.

WILL

Sure. A wolf. Why not?

Jane shrugs, takes out the sighting compass, and checks it.

JANE

Okay. From here we're gonna have to zigzag our way down.

WILL

Was that Grandpa's compass?

JANE

Yeah. From when he was a Boy Scout.

WILL

And it still works?

JANE

I re-magnetized the needle when you joined the Scouts. But then the GPS device was on your gear list.

WILL

About that..

JANE

Yeah, I found some of the pieces. We're gonna be using the sun, so why don't you hold onto this?

Will takes the compass and faces East, looking through the sight. He looks up from it and squints at the rising sun.

WILL

I guess it still works.

He folds the compass up and sticks it in his coat pocket.

INT. RESCUE HELICOPTER - DAY

They fly over a section of trees.

CHOPPER PILOT

We're coming up on where the campsite was. The team on the ground believe that Jane headed East from here.

LARS

What's that down there?

GREG

Not Jane's truck. It looks like...

They see an arm waving out of the drivers window.

EXT. BELOW MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Greg, in a harness, lowers down to the van wreck. He lands a few yards away, unclips, and spots Dave with a bloodied head and a weak smile.

DAVE

I- I- w- was gonna go get W- Will.

GREG

(into radio mic)

We're going to need the jaws of life and the gurney basket.

(to Dave)

Is there a single way that you haven't screwed this up?

SUPER: *Observing Nature*

(Chapter 14, The Boy Scout Handbook, 10th Edition)

EXT. MOUNTAIN STREAM/WOODS - DAY

Jane and Will walk along the stream. Will suddenly stops and clutches his mother's arm.

JANE

What is...

She sees a pair of black bears upstream from them.

JANE

Relax, we don't bother them, they won't bother us. But to be safe, let's head this way.

They leave the stream and head deeper into the trees.

WILL

Then why did that bear attack our campsite?

JANE

Yeah, turns out some of your pals stumbled into her cave with two of her cubs in there. She was just being an over-protective mama bear.

Will stops and looks at her.

WILL

Over-protective, huh?

JANE
(smiles)
Shut up. Let's keep-

They hear the sound of a helicopter through the trees.

WILL
Hey! Down here!

INT. RESCUE HELICOPTER - DAY

The team transports Dave back to the Estes Park Medical Center as Lars speaks into his helmet mic.

LARS
Slight concussion and hypothermia.
We're twenty minutes out.

GREG
We could be searching for Jane and Will right now. Instead we have to waste fuel and time on you.

DAVE
I just wanted to make it right.

GREG
Yeah? Maybe stop doing that.

The helicopter moves on.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - DAY

Will waves his arms wildly.

WILL
Come back!

JANE
Save it. We have to get to one of the clearings.

Will drops his arms resignedly and continues to walk with his mother. He looks at her several times.

JANE
What?

WILL
I was just... My- My father died up here, right?

JANE
Father in biology, only.

WILL
Because of the accident. Maybe if
he hadn't died...

JANE
Yeah... Will, honey, I'm sorry but
he was never gonna be your dad.

WILL
How can you know that?

JANE
Let's just keep moving.

Will comes to a deliberate stop.

WILL
Tell me.

Jane stops. She turns back to face Will.

JANE
Because he offered to pay for
the... the...

WILL
Oh.

JANE
Okay, listen up, Will. At eleven-
years-old, you are twice the man
Billy was at twice your age. Thank
God you have more of your Grandpa
in you than that fool. You really
want to know how he died?

Will looks at her and gives a determined nod.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

A group of college kids stand around a fire and drink beer at
the base of a cliff.

JANE AT 17 sits on a log off to the side. She drinks water
from a clear sports bottle.

BILLY, 22, former high school jock and current budding
alcoholic, is the center of attention.

Around the fire with him are BOB AT 22, DAVE AT 20, SHIRLEY AT 21 and their friend AARON, 22.

Billy sways with inebriation as he stares up the rock face.

BILLY
I swear, I'm gonna do it.

BOB AT 22
Billy, I will knock you silly if
that's what it takes.

BILLY
Ladies and gentlemen, I present to
you: my best friend!

Everyone - except Bob and Jane - laughs.

BOB AT 22
I'm not kidding.

Billy spots Jane sitting away from the group.

BILLY
I know, I know. 'Scuze me, folks.

Billy takes a last swig, tosses his beer bottle into the fire, and steps over to Jane.

BILLY
You don't wanna join the party?

JANE AT 17
I'm fine, here.

BILLY
But you ain't drinkin'.

JANE AT 17
Billy, I've got this- I've got our
baby inside me.

BILLY
Huh? I thought you took care of it.

JANE
God, you can be a real ass—

Billy moves to slap her but turns it into a pointing finger.

BILLY
Don't! Don't ever call me that!

JANE AT 17

Fine.

BILLY

Jesus. Who invited you, anyways?

Without waiting for an answer, he turns and rejoins the group by the fire, as Jane attempts to control her emotions.

DAVE AT 20

Heeee's back.

BILLY

Dave, I swear, dad'll be pissed if he hears I let you get drunk...

DAVE AT 20

Huh?

BILLY

...And didn't bring him any.

They all laugh again.

BOB AT 22

We good?

BILLY

Never better, Bob.

BOB AT 22

And no more crap about climbing?

BILLY

Absolutely not!

Billy turns and takes a running leap at the cliffside.

He quickly climbs out of reach of Bob's hands.

BOB AT 22

Billy, stop!

BILLY

No, you just watch me. It's gonna be great!

DAVE AT 20

Yeah, it's gonna be great!

AARON

Go! Go! Go!

Soon, Dave joins in on the chant.

DAVE AND AARON
Go! Go! Go! Go! Go!

Billy moves fast. He's already thirty feet up.

BOB AT 22
I'm out. C'mon Shirley, let's go
pick up the baby from your mom.

SHIRLEY AT 21
You coming, Jane?

Jane just stands there, staring up at the cliff.

JANE AT 17
I can't see him.

Bob and Shirley turn and look up. It's true, Billy has
climbed up past the glow of the fire, and into darkness.

Dave and Aaron still chant.

DAVE AND AARON
Go! Go! Go! G—

Loose rocks ricochet off the cliff, pelting the ground.

Everyone freezes as they see Billy fall, upside down, into
the light from the fire.

His head hits an outcropping and he bounces away from the
cliffside. He lands facedown in a heap at Dave's feet.

Dave starts to reach in to touch his brother, but recoils at
the bloodied sight of him.

DAVE AT 20
Omigod! Omigod! Do something!

Dave turns with a desperate look at Jane.

DAVE AT 20
Help him!

Jane snaps out of her shock and runs to Billy's lifeless
form, landing on her knees in front of him.

BOB AT 22
(to Aaron)
Go get help!

Aaron runs off toward the road.

Jane flips him over with an immediate look of horror.

Shirley steps back in shock. Dave wails in a sobbing mess.

DAVE AT 20
Please... fix him... Please...

Jane checks for a pulse and turns to Bob, shaking her head.
She starts chest compressions almost out of desperation.

JANE AT 17
Come on, Billy, come on!

Bob holds tight to Shirley, both of them in tears. He lets go of her and turns to Jane.

BOB AT 22
Jane, there's nothing—

Jane begins to slap and hit at Billy's chest.

JANE AT 17
You... You stupid son-of-a-bitch!

Bob grabs Jane under her arms and pulls her away. She starts to kick at Billy's dead body instead.

JANE AT 17
Was this so bad? Was it?! Was it so terrible that... that...

SHIRLEY AT 21
Jane...

JANE AT 17
...You can just go to Hell, Billy!

FROM ABOVE

Jane flails as Bob holds her back, Shirley's hands cover her face in tears, Dave sits on the ground rocking in his sobs...

...and, in the center, lies Billy's broken body.

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - PRESENT DAY

Jane and Will sit on a felled tree eating granola bars.

JANE
So, uh, yeah, it was a closed casket funeral.

They both stare at the ground in silence.

WILL

It's weird, but I guess I never thought of Dave as my uncle.

JANE

And thank God for that! You're nothing like those two idiots. You had the sense to stay alive up here. It was smart how you used the thicket to escape the bear. Look, Will, I know I can't take credit for how you turned out, but I gotta say, I'm relieved you didn't take too much from that gene pool.

Jane begins to reach out for Will, but stands instead.

JANE

C'mon, let's get going.

WILL

You can take some credit.

JANE

Yeah?

WILL

Yeah.

Jane turns to look at, maybe admire her son.

Will walks past her before he turns back.

WILL

You coming?

JANE

Yeah.

INT. ESTES PARK MEDICAL CENTER - DAY

Bob sits up in his bed eating a container of delicious hospital Jello when he hears...

DAVE (O.S.)

Hey, there he is!

Bob stops mid-spoon and frowns at the door.

Dave, with a head bandage that matches Bob's, is wheeled in on a gurney by NURSE AMY.

BOB

Nope. Sorry, Amy, you'll have to find another room for him.

DAVE

What're you talking about? We're best friends!

BOB

No, we're not.

DAVE

Of course we are.

BOB

Billy was my best friend. And a fool just like you. I only looked out for you 'cause I felt bad how you lost him.

(hard stare)

But no more.

DAVE

Huh?

BOB

You're done with the Scouts. And if something - anything - happens to Jane or Will, well, let's just say that you won't want to be anywhere near me.

DAVE

It wasn't my fa—

BOB

Don't say it! Don't you dare say it. You should never have taken them up the mountain in the first place. But when you did, you were responsible for those boys. For all of them. For Christ sakes, Will is technically your nephew.

DAVE

I... I... Okay.

BOB

"Okay"? Is that what you—

NURSE AMY

Right, then. Let's just find you another room.

She backs Dave's gurney out the door.

DAVE
I tried, Bob. I went back.

BOB
Are you for real?!

NURSE AMY
Okay, we're out.

Bob stabs at the rest of his Jello, then looks at the door.

BOB
And you're fired!

EXT. MOUNTAIN WOODS - DAY

Jane helps Will over a large fallen tree trunk.

WILL
Did you cry?

JANE
Huh?

WILL
At my... At Billy's funeral. Did you cry?

JANE
Have you ever seen me cry?

WILL
No. That's why I'm asking. I figure either you cry in the shower or there was a last time when you - I dunno - decided not to, anymore.

JANE
I don't cry in the shower.

WILL
Yeah, I didn't think so. Well...?

Jane stops and looks through the trees for the position of the Sun. She then alters direction to the left.

JANE
This way, I think.

WILL
Mom...?

Jane sighs and turns to Will.

JANE

When my- your Gram died. She, you know, had cancer. She wanted to stick around to- to meet you. But she didn't make it and it broke my heart. God, she would've loved you.

WILL

That's what Grandpa tells me.

JANE

Yeah, well, other than moving to Arizona, he's a smart man.

WILL

Hey, it's Monday, right?

JANE

Yeah. Yeah, it is.

WILL

I have a history test.

JANE

Will, maybe let's not worry about those things right now.

Will nods and limps/catches up to his mother.

INT. RESCUE HELICOPTER - DAY

Greg, in the back, searches the terrain with binoculars. He clicks on his headset.

GREG

We lost over three hours because of him. Jane's right, he is an idiot.

LARS

Let it go. We're here to rescue everyone, not just people we like.

GREG

I was ready to make an exception.

LARS

No you weren't. I think we went too far East. We should swing back.

GREG

Let's just go a little bit further.

EXT. TREE LINE - DAY

As Jane and Will make their way down, they arrive at a snow shelf that cuts into the tree line.

Jane comes to a quick stop, eyeing the sloping shelf and the drop-off at the bottom of it.

WILL

I thought we were done with snow.

JANE

Yeah... me, too. I think we should double back and follow the ridge.

WILL

Why?

JANE

I'm, I'm not so good with heights.

WILL

You're kidding, right?

JANE

(shrugs)

Not really.

WILL

I'm not scared. We can go this way.

JANE

No. Let's go back.

WILL

But this is shorter. I can see a road from here.

JANE

I said no.

WILL

Mother of No's.

JANE

What?

WILL

That's what I call you: The Mother of No's.

JANE

(touches her nose)

Nose?

WILL
No. The Mother of No. Plural.

JANE
That's not fair.

WILL
It's not? The only time you act like a parent is when there's something you can say "no" to. When the "yes" stuff comes around, you let Uncle Greg say it. Like - I dunno - you can't let me hear anything positive from you.

JANE
That's just not true.

WILL
Last summer at the waterslide.

JANE
At the- Are you kidding? That thing was like ten stories tall, with a three story drop.

WILL
It was like three stories tall with a ten foot drop. And plenty of other kids my age went on it.

JANE
Sorry, but flirting with death isn't my idea of fun.

Will stares at her open-mouthed.

WILL
Says the person who ran at a mountain lion empty-handed.

JANE
Yeah, well, that wasn't my idea of fun, either.

WILL
I'm tired, I'm hungry, and I don't wanna go hours out of our way just because you're the Mother of No.

JANE
Will, stop calling me that. I say "Yeah" all the time.

WILL
But not Yes." It's like you say
"Yeah" to ease me into the "No."

JANE
Yeah, I don't... Okay, maybe I do.

WILL
Trust me.

JANE
I do, Will. I trust you. It's other
people I'm not so sure of.

WILL
Well, there's no one else here.

Will starts off onto the snow shelf, walking across the
incline. Jane has no choice but to follow him.

JANE
Fine. Just be careful. And trust
me, this shelf doesn't look very
stable, and sun-hardened snow is
like a sheet of ice. So step-

Will slips and his feet go out from under him.

He lands on his backpack and begins to rapidly slide towards
the edge of the snow shelf... and the drop-off.

Jane dives at him, twisting her body around to go feet first.
She reaches back and pulls out the folding shovel/pick-ax.

WILL
Mom!

JANE
Grab my leg!

Will grabs onto Jane as she unfolds the pick-ax and slams it
into the ice-encrusted surface in hopes of stopping - or at
least slowing - their descent.

They hit a bump in the snow and Will slides off on one side
of it and Jane the other.

She pulls the pick out and can only watch as Will disappears
over the edge.

JANE
Nononono...

Then Jane, too, drops off the snow shelf.

INT. RESCUE HELICOPTER - DAY

Greg, almost desperately now, searches for Jane and Will.

CHOPPER PILOT
We have to go back and refuel.

GREG
I know, it's just...

LARS
Greg, we have other rescues.

GREG
Maybe, but I don't.

The Chopper Pilot changes course and heads for Boulder.

EXT. BELOW THE SNOW SHELF - DAY

Jane lies on her back, about four feet below the snow surface where the hard layer on top broke her fall.

She looks up behind her where the snow shelf is, twenty-five feet above her.

JANE
Will! Are you okay?

WILL (O.S.)
(moans)
Never mind. I don't want to go on the waterslide.

Jane lies there for a moment before she starts to laugh. Then Will joins in and the two of them, eight feet apart and four feet into the snow, share in their laughter.

A chunk falls off the snow shelf and Jane stops laughing. Will continues a little longer before he realizes that his mother no longer laughs with him.

WILL
Mom? You there?

Jane appears at the rim of his snow crater, her arm extended.

JANE
Let's keep it down, okay?

Will registers the look of concern on Jane's face, takes her hand, and climbs out.

WILL
(quietly)
What's...?

JANE
It may be nothing. Let's just make
our way over to the trees. Dig your
heel in with each step. Don't
release your back foot until the
front is dug in, yeah?

WILL
Yeah, okay.

They pick up Will's staff and slowly, tentatively, make their
way across the swath on a downward angle.

When they get to the middle...

A HELICOPTER comes loudly over the ridge.

WILL
It's Uncle Greg!

Jane just turns away and looks back up at the snow ledge.

EXT./INT. RESCUE HELICOPTER - DAY

It is, indeed, Greg in the chopper with Lars, Kelso, and
Brendon, their trainee.

BRENDON
I see them!

LARS
Everyone clipped in? We'll use the
heavy rope. Greg, open the door.

Greg slides the panel door back and waves to Will.

LARS
Good. Brendon, lower the rope down.

Greg looks at Jane, who faces the wrong way. He follows her
gaze up to the snow ledge.

GREG
Wait!

Brendon simply kicks the rope out of the chopper.

LARS
No!

EXT. THE SNOW SWATH - DAY

Will watches as the heavy rope hits the sun-hardened snow with a resounding...

THWACK!

Jane whips around at the sound and quickly looks back up at the ledge as she hears a corresponding...

CRACK!

A few chunks of snow start to break away.

JANE

Will! Run for the rope!

Will doesn't hesitate. He drops his backpack and staff and starts to haul ass.

Jane swings her backpack around, grabs the folding shovel, and lets the bag fall as she runs.

The sounds of their breath and the blades of the helicopter are soon drowned out by the low and building rumble as the snow shelf breaks away.

Jane looks up at the open door of the chopper to see the growing look of alarm on the faces of the rescue team and her brother Greg.

She doesn't look back.

INT./EXT. RESCUE HELICOPTER - DAY

The rescue team watch Will, ten feet ahead of his mother, up to Jane, and past her to the building avalanche of snow that quickly gains on them.

CHOPPER PILOT

I can't hold this position anymore.

GREG

Thirty seconds! They're almost here!

CHOPPER PILOT

I'm... I'm sorry.

GREG

Damn it! No!

The chopper starts to pull up and away.

EXT. THE SNOW SWATH - DAY

Jane sees the rope uncurl and leave the snow swath. She also sees small chunks of snow flying past her.

She pulls her hood up and snaps the neck enclosure.

JANE

Will! Stop!

Will slows to a halt and turns back to his mother.

Eyes wide, he's immediately frozen in a state of shock.

It looks like Jane trails the biggest wedding gown train in the history of the world... except bigger, and made of snow.

She slams into Will, wrapping her left arm with the shovel around him as she uses her right hand to pull his hood up and then raises her arm straight up above her head.

JANE

Deep breath!

The avalanche arrives.

INT./EXT. RESCUE HELICOPTER - DAY

Greg and the others can only watch in horror as Jane and Will are swallowed up by the tsunami of snow.

GREG

No!

Greg is literally at the end of his tether as Kelso holds him back from the open door.

SUPER: *Family*

(Chapter 21, The Boy Scout Handbook, 10th Edition)

BLACKNESS**EXT. IN THE SNOW - DAY**

From the absolute silence a voice calls out.

WILL

I... I can't move!

JANE

Will, stay calm. Small breaths.
Now... open your eyes.

As Will opens his eyes, their forms emerge in the darkness of being buried deep in the snow.

As if there's enough sunlight refracted to be able to see.

They're compressed together, and Will struggles to stay calm, taking the cue from his mother.

WILL

You're supposed to put an arm up -
I read - in an avalanche.

JANE

I know. I did.

WILL

Can- Can you feel the air?

EXT. THE SNOW SWATH - DAY

There's nothing but the mixed and crumbled mass of white and dirty snow in all directions.

EXT. IN THE SNOW - DAY

Will sees the look on Jane's face.

JANE

Listen to me. We're gonna get out
of this, huh?

WILL

I've read, though, every half hour
trapped in an avalanche lowers the
odds of survival. Every foot below—

JANE

For people alone, okay? Not us.
We're gonna work together to get
out of this, okay? ...Okay?

WILL

Okay.

JANE

Great. First, we're gonna need a
little more space for air. Try and
shake your head.

They both shake their heads back and forth, then nod and roll them, creating a larger air pocket.

JANE

That's good. Now we're going to push apart, hug, and push apart again. Got it.

WILL

Got it. Ow! There's something hard jabbing my back.

JANE

Something... Oh, right, the shovel. Listen, I can't - with only one arm down - I don't have as much leverage to push. As soon as we make some more room, I'll be able to bring the shovel around, and maybe bring my arm down. Okay?

WILL

Okay, Mom.

Will pushes and pulls. He tries not to grimace each time his back presses into the shovel.

JANE

Great. You did great. Now lean in. I'm gonna bring the shovel around.

Will hugs his mother, again. This time, he takes the moment to really hug her.

Jane gives into it, and closes her eyes for a few seconds before she pulls the shovel around and between them.

JANE

Okay, then. Now I'm gonna try and pull my right arm down. We may lose some of the space we made. Ready?

WILL

Mom?

JANE

Yeah?

WILL

We're gonna be all right, right?

Jane manages a comforting smile and nods.

JANE

Yes.

She carefully lowers her right arm, dislodging a surprisingly small amount of snow.

Now, using both arms in the foot of space between them, she locks the shovelhead into a right angle position.

JANE

Now we make some more room.

Jane uses the shovel like a battering ram.

She pounds and packs the snow, first to her right, then left.

WILL

How much room do we need?

JANE

Enough to displace the snow we dig out... Right after we figure out which way to dig. Which way is up.

WILL

Huh?

JANE

Well, we're on a slope. We can hang a weight on a thread to get a sense of up, but up isn't the shortest way out. We wanna dig perpendicular to the mountain, but unless we know which way we're facing, we could end up digging parallel to it.

Will smiles. With a little effort, he pulls the old compass from his pocket.

Jane smiles back at him.

EXT. THE SNOW SWATH SURFACE - DAY

The Mountain Rescue Team silently searches.

Lars checks his watch and looks at Greg, who ignores him as he searches for signs that his sister and nephew are alive.

SUPER: *Personal Development*

(Chapter 22, The Boy Scout Handbook, 10th Edition)

EXT./INT. IN THE SNOW - DAY

Jane clearly starts to tire, as she shovels upward.

The action of digging out also causes the icy mix to fall over them, making them wetter and colder.

She brings the shovel down.

WILL

D-do you w-want me to t-try?

JANE

Have at it.

Will makes a few weak stabs at the impacted snow above their heads and brings the shovel down.

WILL

I- I can't feel my arms.

JANE

Don't worry about it. I just need to get a second wind.

WILL

It's so much colder.

JANE

Harry Potter.

WILL

Huh?

JANE

The chocolate and Dementor comment. You were talking about Harry Potter. Funny.

WILL

I could go for a hot chocolate right now.

JANE

Sorry, the hot chocolate's in my other parka... But...

She pulls out her brandy flask. Will makes a face.

Jane uncaps it and passes it over.

Will takes a sip, frowns, but the warmth actually brings some color back to his face.

He passes it back to Jane.

JANE

Mother of the year award.

WILL
You're doing okay. The last couple
of days, anyway.

JANE
Thanks.

WILL
I- I get why you're so mad at me. I
mean, you wanted to be a doctor.

JANE
I did, but—

WILL
You said I was a mistake.

JANE
Yeah... That was a stupid thing to
say. The thing is, the act that
conceived you was a mistake, but...
When I found out I was pregnant -
with you, well, everybody - I mean
everybody - was telling me what I
should do. But then Greg came back
from college and asked me "Will you
keep the baby?" It was the first
time I was asked what I wanted.

WILL
And... And what did you say?

JANE
"I will." That's what I said. And
now I'm telling you: I'm right
where I was meant to be. Where I
want to be.

WILL
Please don't tell me that's how I
got my name.

JANE
Sorry, kid. Afraid it is.

WILL
But you told Uncle Greg that you
resented me.

JANE
Yeah. Shame on me. It's true, Will.
I may have resented you - even kept
you at arm's length. And that
wasn't fair.

WILL

To who?

JANE

To both of us.

WILL

Huh?

JANE

I mean, obviously not fair to you, but I was also robbing myself of the... the honor of being your mother. The thing is, even when I was taking you for granted, I knew I was cheating myself from seeing what an amazing kid you are. When—when I thought I might lose you, well, that was a pretty bright moment of clarity. So, yeah, it turns out that you may be the best thing that ever happened to me. Will, honey, I guess what I'm saying is, I'm sorry that I wasted so much time running away from being your mom.

WILL

Did that stuff make you drunk?

JANE

(laughs)

Not likely.

WILL

Are we going to get out of here?

JANE

You were born out of a sheer act of will, and that's how we're going to survive this.

WILL

Yeah... We will. And, hey...

JANE

What?

WILL

...At least I didn't need the snakebite kit, right?

JANE

Yeah, you got that going for—

The snow around them shifts and starts to cave in on them.

JANE
Deep breath!

And then, they're covered in white.

EXT. THE SNOW SWATH SURFACE - DAY

The sun lowers into the mountains as Greg and the other members of the rescue team continue the search.

Lars stares at his portable Ground Penetrating Radar and sees no signs of movement or heat signatures.

He looks up and shakes his head.

GREG
I think we should widen the search,
again. They could have been swept
even further down, or to the side.

LARS
Greg, it's been over two hours. You
know the odds of—

GREG
I know my sister.

LARS
We've got about half an hour of
daylight left. I have to radio the
chopper for pick-up.

GREG
Fine. Give me the GPR and first aid
supplies. I'll stay and—

KELSO
Uh, Greg?

GREG
(snaps)
What?!

KELSO
Look!

Greg and Lars turn to the direction where Kelso points.

Forty feet downhill of them, and off to their left, an arm
has broken through the surface of the snow.

Then Will's head pops out.

WILL
Uncle Greg! Can you give us a hand?

INT./EXT. RESCUE HELICOPTER - DAY

The last rays of the sun play across Jane and Will's faces. Their bodies now heavily wrapped in blankets, they savor the feeling of warmth on them once more.

Greg talks to them both, but we can't hear him. It's entirely possible that they don't hear him, either.

Jane's hand slips out from her cocoon of blankets and finds Will's hand, gently giving it a squeeze.

Will looks at her and leans his head against her shoulder.

Jane rests/nuzzles her head upon Will's, but still she refuses to let the tears come.

SUPER: *Advancement in Scouting*
(Chapter 27, *The Boy Scout Handbook*, 10th Edition)

SUPER: *Two Months Later...*

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

Will is onstage in his Boy Scout uniform with a brand new, but empty, sash. Strapped to his belt is Jane's side knife.

Bob, now fully recovered, presents Will with a patch.

BOB
...The Boy Scout rank of First
Class.

The audience, Jane and Greg in the middle, applaud.

BOB
But wait, there's more!

The audience laughs.

BOB
This is highly out of the ordinary,
but this is an extraordinary young
man. In addition to the rank of
First Class, Will Beaufort is also
to be awarded eight merit badges,
including Wilderness Survival.

As Bob hands him the badges, the audience really lets loose with applause. Jane stands and lets out a two finger whistle.

Bob shakes Will's hand and turns back to the packed auditorium, holding out his hands for quiet.

BOB

Now, this may be even more unusual for a badge ceremony, but we have a very special guest who insisted on being here. May I present the Boy Scouts of America, Chief Scout Executive, William Elroy!

WILLIAM, late 50s, comes out from the wings and immediately crosses over to Will.

He shakes his hand and leans in to say something.

WILLIAM

Well done, son.

He moves on to shake Bob's hand and steps up to the podium.

WILLIAM

(into the mic)

Good name; Will. I think that's what I'll ask people to call me from now on.

The audience laughs.

WILLIAM

I have to admit, this may be somewhat self-serving of me, but I wanted the honor of presenting this next badge, myself.

In the audience, Jane looks at Will, who just responds with a slight shake of the head and facial shrug.

WILLIAM

For embodying all the wilderness skills required of an exemplary Scout, for the high level of knowledge that goes beyond what is taught in our manuals, and - frankly - for unsurpassed stick-to-itiveness in the face of overwhelming odds... I would like to call Jane Beaufort to the stage.

All eyes turn to Jane as she just sits there, stunned and confused... until Greg nudges her out of her seat.

Jane climbs the side steps to the stage and turns to glance at the audience.

She spots Sheriff Keenan, Carlos, as well as many EMTs and Firemen, file into the back of the auditorium.

WILLIAM

Ms. Beaufort, first I would like to offer you membership in the scouts, pre-dated to - well - let's just say when you were nine. This, I believe, is long overdue.

He hands Jane a plaque-mounted certificate to the clapping approval of the audience.

William holds out his hands to call for quiet.

WILLIAM

And with that membership, I also officially award you the honorary badge and rank of Eagle Scout.

The crowd, again, bursts into applause and cheers.

Jane's face is mess of emotion as she pulls every trick she knows to not let herself cry.

She accepts the badge and holds it out to the audience, who leap to their feet as the applause becomes a roar.

Will runs over, hugs her, and whispers loudly in her ear.

WILL

I'm so proud you're my mom.

Jane takes a deep breath...

...and the tears come.

FADE OUT